

Annexe: Scenario 3

Materials to print for the workshop *Life stories during the exchange*

- Handout: Your choice – form to fill in – one for each participant
- For each of the ten personal stories:
 - o A portrait
 - o Photo or object
 - o A short biography of the person and information about the photo or object

We advise you to print each element from the historical biographies on a separate piece of paper and depending on the size of the group to make 2 – 4 copies of each. This allows students to start work with the person they have chosen.

If more than two (or four) students choose the same life story, encourage them to make a second choice.

These materials are also online. You can find all information to work with learning path 3 in the online tool

To prepare their presentations students will find sources, quotes and a timeline for their person

Your name:

Your choice.....

Why did you choose this person?

See-Think-Wonder

What do you see?

What do you think?

What questions do you have?

Reflection

Ágnes Bartha



Life-saving friendship

Ágnes Bartha



Ágnes Bartha – biography

Ágnes Bartha and Edith Kiss were Hungarian Jews who became friends during the Second World War when they shared a blanket on a forced march to Germany. As slave workers for Daimler-Benz, they gave each other the strength to survive.

Restrictions on Jews and their property were imposed by the Hungary authorities, from 1941, the year Ágnes married her childhood sweetheart. Antisemitism could be found everywhere in Hungarian society. Ágnes' marriage only lasted a year as her husband's Catholic parents didn't want a Jewish daughter-in-law. Ágnes moved to Budapest and worked for a Jewish photographer – until the Nazis occupied Hungary in 1944. Deportations began within weeks. She met Edith, an artist who was 18 years her senior, at the very start of their long journey to the Ravensbrück concentration camp. When Ágnes was selected for forced labour assembling aircraft engines, Edith managed to go with her. By sharing and looking out for each other they survived. In 1945, as the Allied forces advanced, they were marched to Ravensbrück, where the gas chamber had been destroyed. They escaped and survived six weeks on the run, but were not able to avoid sexual assaults by the liberators, Russian soldiers.

The friendship lasted all their lives, although neither women could talk about the war years. Edith killed herself in 1966. After her paintings were discovered, Ágnes began to tell their story in schools, keeping Edith's memory alive.

Camera

One of the handy Zeiss Ikon folding cameras which were being developed in Germany after 1926 following a merger of four of the country's biggest manufacturers. Roll film made photography more accessible, also for professionals such as the Jewish photographer Ágnes Bartha. She was working in Budapest before the German occupation of Hungary; it was no longer necessary to carry around boxes of heavy photographic plates and tripods. Ágnes studied photography and hoped to make a career of it.

Ilan Halimi



Wake-up call

Ilan Halimi



Ilan Halimi – biography

A young French Jew who was kidnapped and horribly murdered for money.

Ilan Halimi was a young mobile phone salesman from a Moroccan-Jewish family. In 2006, he was lured into a 'honey trap' meeting with a girl, and tortured for three weeks by a gang of French youths who believed 'the Jews' had money and would pay up. He was eventually dumped, dying, by a railway line in Paris.

During the whole three weeks Ilan was missing, the officers of the French serious crimes squad failed to follow up clues that antisemitism was a major motive. Twenty-seven people were eventually put on trial, but not all were jailed and more are thought to have known about the kidnapping. The leader of the gang, Youssouf Fofana, 28, was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life in prison. The criminals had used the same technique several times before, the police discovered, and all the victims of these failed attempts were Jewish. The French minister of justice demanded a retrial and seven of Fofana's accomplices had their sentences increased.

The barbarity and antisemitism shocked France. Politicians and church groups joined tens of thousands of people in Paris protesting against racism and antisemitism, and lighting candles in Ilan's memory. A park was named after him, and an award was launched. However, a year after Ilan's funeral, his family moved his body to Jerusalem, fearing attacks on his grave.

Park opening

Ruth Halimi and the mayor of Paris, Bertrand Delanoë, at the opening in 2011 of public gardens renamed in memory of her murdered son, Ilan, a young Parisian Jew who had played there as a child. He was tortured to death in 2006 by a gang trying to extort money. The plaque reads 'victim of antisemitism'.

Johann Trollmann



Forgotten champion

Johann Trollmann



Johann Trollmann – biography

A top German boxer known by his Sinto nickname 'Rukelie', from the Romanes word for tree, because of his height and lithe fighting style. He was robbed of his title and murdered by the Nazis.

Johann Trollmann was born into a Sinti family in northern Germany and began boxing when he was eight as a way to escape poverty. But a 'Gypsy' champion was unwelcome in the Third Reich. He was persecuted, drafted into the army, forced out for 'racial political reasons', and died fighting for his life in a labour camp.

The Nazis came to power in 1933, the year 'Rukelie' won the German light-heavyweight boxing title. But he only held it for eight days. At his next match he was warned his license would be withdrawn if he continued with his 'un-German' fighting style – a dancing technique ahead of its time. Knowing his career was over, he turned up in protest with blond hair and his face covered in flour: the caricature of an Aryan. In 1939, he was drafted into the Wehrmacht and fought in Poland, Belgium and France before being sent to the Eastern Front. When the Nazis decided to remove all Roma and Sinti from the army many were imprisoned. Johann was deported to the concentration camp Neuengamme, where he was recognised and - weakened by hunger and forced labour - made to 'train' SS officers. He was murdered after defeating a brutal Kapo or prisoner 'officer' in 1944. His death was logged as 'an accident at work'. In 2003 – almost sixty years after Rukelie's death - the Association of German Professional boxers reinstated him as German middleweight champion 1933, and in 2010 a memorial was put up near the site of the fight.

Boxing championship belt

The replica German boxing championship belt awarded to Johann 'Rukeli' Trollmann in 2003 by the Association of German Professional Boxers – seventy years after he won against Adolf Wit but was stripped of the title by the Nazis, who didn't want a Sinto sports champion. Trollmann's dancing style of boxing – with energetic footwork later made famous by Muhammad Ali – was condemned as 'unmanly'.

Krystyna Gil



Voice for remembrance

Krystyna Gil



Krystyna Gil – biography

Child rescued by her Polish grandmother during a Nazi massacre of Roma.

Germany invaded Poland in 1939. Szczurowa, a village of some 2,000 souls, included about a hundred Polish Jews and nearly a hundred Polish Roma. The Jews were deported by the Nazis in 1942 and in July 1943 local farmers were ordered by the Gestapo to round up all the Roma. They were shot dead in the church yard and buried in a mass grave. It was not an isolated incident: there are more than 180 documented sites in the area of Nazi occupied Poland where Roma were executed in large groups. Afterwards, their houses were burned by the Germans, but the dead of Szczurowa were not forgotten. In 1956, a memorial stone was placed on the mass grave, the first monument in Poland dedicated to victims of the Roma genocide.

After the war, Krystyna settled in Nowa Huta, a district of Cracow, where many other young Polish-Roma also came to live after the communist authorities banned nomadic life in 1964. She married, raised a family and was one of the first women in Poland to drive a tram. After she retired, she took up social work for the Roma minority and she founded the Association of Romani Women, working for equal rights for women.

Communion candle

A baptismal candle is a special gift given to young Catholics. At their baptism or christening, a day when they are first accepted into the Church. The candle is a symbol of the light of Christ and a new life. It is decorated with various images, often including the dove, which symbolises the Holy Spirit. Baptismal candles are often kept for many years as cherished mementoes and are lit during the First Communion, another important Catholic ceremony.

Miep Gies



Trusted helper

Miep Gies



Miep Gies – biography

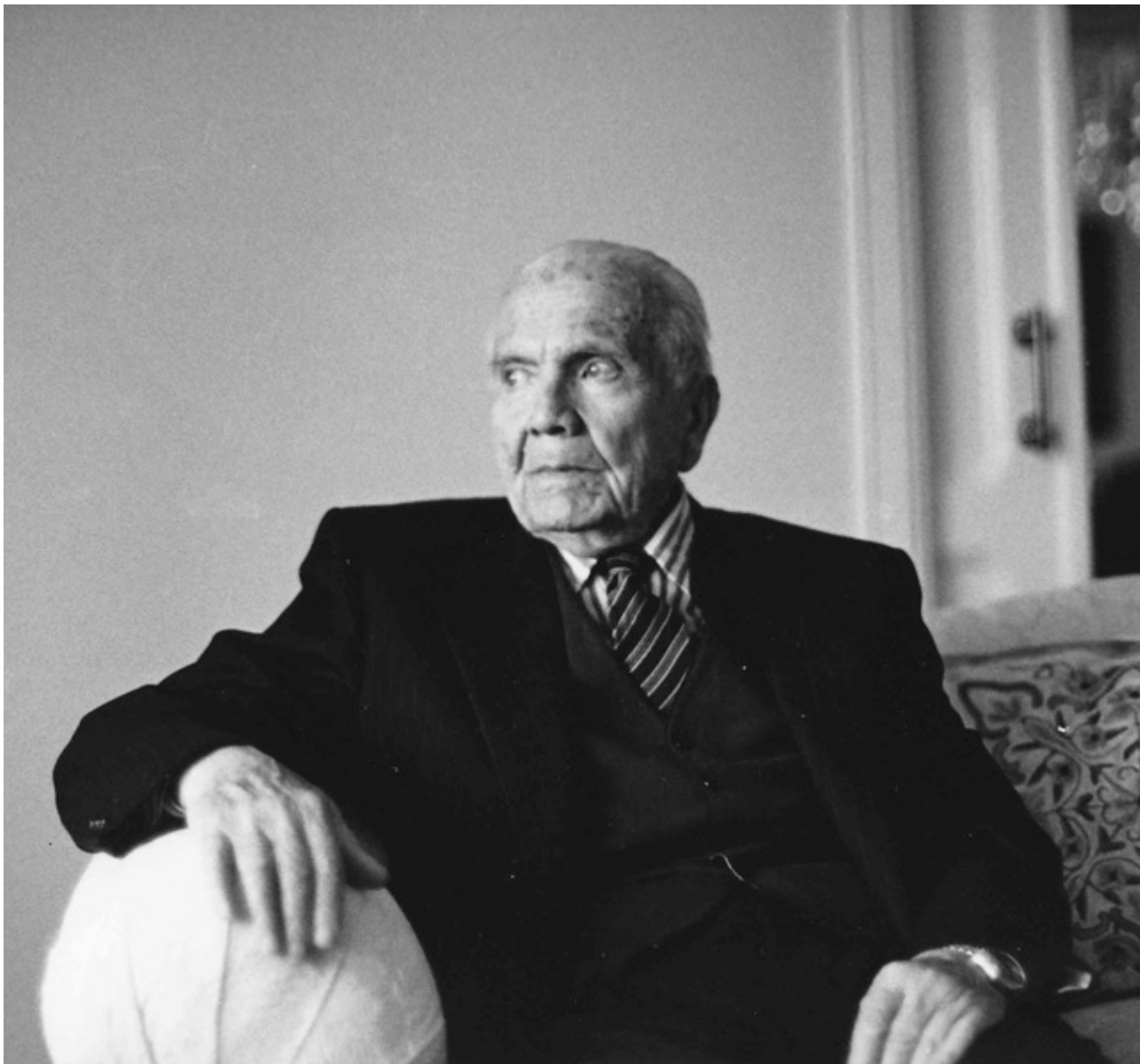
Miep Gies was born in Austria and was sent to the Netherlands as a child to recover from malnutrition caused by food shortage after the First World War. She lived with a foster family, first in Leiden then Amsterdam. In 1933, she got a job in Otto Frank's jam company and she and her future husband, Jan Gies, became friends of the family.

Germany invaded the Netherlands in May 1940, and the first antisemitic measures were introduced. Jews had to register, they couldn't own businesses, and Jewish children had to go to separate schools. In May 1942 they were ordered to wear yellow stars, marked 'Jew'. Otto asked Miep if she would help his family go into hiding at the jam company, and she agreed. She continued to work for Opekta and ensured that Otto, his wife, Edith, their daughters, Margot and Anne, and four other Jewish refugees from the Nazis were supplied with food and essential provisions daily. After the hiding place in the annexe of Prinsengracht 263 was raided in August 1944 and the eight Jews were arrested, Miep found the pages of Anne's diary on the floor in the attic and hid them.

Rucksack

This is the rucksack that 11-year-old Hermine Santruschitz carried with her from Vienna in 1920 when she was sent to the Netherlands with a group of other Austrian children to recover their health after wartime rationing and malnutrition. She settled with a Dutch foster family and is better known as Miep Gies, one of the helpers who risked their lives trying to hide Anne Frank and her family.

Selahattin Ülkümen



The wily diplomat

Selahattin Ülkümen



Selahattin Ülkümen – biography

Turkish consul-general in German-occupied Rhodes who saved 50 Jews.

Selahattin Ülkümen was the Turkish consul-general on the occupied Greek island of Rhodes. In 1944, when the Germans began deporting Jews, he saved 50 people by falsely claiming they were all Turkish citizens.

Jews had been relatively safe on Rhodes until Germany occupied the island in September 1943. However, on 19 July 1944 they were all ordered to the Gestapo headquarters. The Turkish consul-general demanded that the Germans release all the Turkish Jews, adding non-Turkish relatives onto the list. When the Gestapo demanded identity papers he claimed that under Turkish law anyone married to a Turkish citizen became a Turkish citizen. No such a law existed. In the end, all those on Selahattin's list were released. All the rest of the Jews on Rhodes, some 1,700 people, were deported to Auschwitz. When Turkey broke off diplomatic relations with Germany in August 1944, Selahattin was deported to Piraeus and jailed. His home was bombed and his pregnant wife died of her injuries.

Selahattin remained in the Turkish diplomatic service for another 34 years and was honoured with the title 'Righteous Among the Nations', awarded by Israel to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.

Medal Righteous Among the Nations

Yad Vashem's medal honouring the Righteous Among the Nations, awarded by Israel to non-Jews who risked their lives during the Holocaust to save Jews. The medal shows hands plaiting a rescue line spun from strands of barbed wire and is inscribed: 'Whosoever saves a single life, saves an entire universe'. It has been awarded to more than 26,000 people from 51 countries since being set up in 1963.

Simone Veil



Determined pioneer

Simone Veil



Simone Veil – biography

She survived Auschwitz and as French minister of health revolutionised the lives of her women by legalising abortion.

Simone Veil is a Jewish lawyer and politician who survived Nazi persecution to become the first president of the European Parliament. Before becoming the president of the European Parliament Simone was Minister of Health in France. The law legalizing abortion is named after her.

Antisemitic laws, introduced in Vichy France 4 October 1940, obliged all Jews to register and increasingly eroded their rights as citizens. One of the first measures to effect Simone's family was the ban/prohibition for Simone's father to practice his profession as an architect. A few days after sitting her final exams in March 1944, Simone was arrested on the street during an SS check. She was sent to Drancy transit camp, outside Paris, with her mother and older sister Milou and put on transport 71 to Auschwitz. She was 16, but on arrival she claimed to be 18 – which saved her from the gas chambers. Simone, Milou and their sister Denise, who was in the Resistance, survived the war but their mother died in Bergen-Belsen and their father and brother were deported to Lithuania, and they never saw them again. After the liberation, Simone moved to Paris to study law and politics. She met her husband, Antoine Veil, worked as a magistrate and went into politics. In November 1974, she put through a controversial bill to legalise abortion. Comparisons were made with the Nazis and gas chambers, and swastikas appeared on her car. She later said it was her mother's bravery in Auschwitz that gave her the strength to bear the abortion debate. The law was passed in 1975.

Simone continued to be active in politics until 2007, fighting for women's legal rights, contraception and childcare. She also pressed for commemoration of the Holocaust, becoming president of the French Foundation for the Remembrance of the Shoah. In 2008, she was made a member of the Académie Française, a guardian of French cultural life.

Simone Veil and Jacques Chirac in front of Memorial

Simone Veil with former French president Jacques Chirac at the inauguration of the Shoah Memorial in Paris in 2005, reading names of the estimated 76,000 Jews – men, women and children – who were deported to their deaths from France between 1942 and 1944. Only 2,000 of some 78,000 deportees survived. The Shoah Memorial is a museum, archive centre and exhibition space as well as a place of remembrance.

Sophie Haber



Fleeing from danger

Sophie Haber



Sophie Haber – biography

Sophie fled Vienna as a teenager in 1938. Her parents were murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau, but she was helped to get into Switzerland with false papers after the border was closed.

Sophie was Jewish, born in Cracow in Poland to a Polish father and a Czech mother. In 1930, the family moved to Austria and Sophie was apprenticed to a Jewish tailor in Vienna when she was 14. She first experienced antisemitism in school in Vienna, when a classmate called her a 'Jewish pig'. In March 1938, after Germany annexed Austria, her home and the shop were taken over by the Nazis. Her three brothers escaped to Switzerland just before the border was closed. In October 1938 Sophie followed them, and managed to enter illegally with the help of a Swiss police chief, Paul Grüninger. Ordered to turn Jewish refugees away after the border was closed, he falsified papers to let them in. He managed to help hundreds of people, including Sophie. However, he was found out and sentenced to pay a penalty. Afterwards, he found it hard to get another job. He died in poverty in 1972.

In Switzerland, Sophie married another refugee from Vienna, Karl Haber, and became an activist against Nazism. They had two children. After the war they returned to Austria and Sophie was active in the Communist Party until the 1970s. She was especially committed to honouring Paul Grüninger and getting the Swiss government to recognise his heroism.

Austrian-Swiss border

The closed and guarded border on a bridge between 'Ostmark' (German-occupied Austria) and neutral Switzerland at Bangs, near Feldkirch, around 1939-1940. Some Jewish refugees managed to escape into Switzerland illegally thanks to a Swiss police chief, Paul Grüninger, who falsified documents for them after he was ordered to turn them away. An estimated 25,000 were refused entry. Switzerland apologised in 1999.

Stefan Kosiński



Lost lover

Stefan Kosiński



Stefan Kosiński – biography

Stefan Kosiński was a Polish youth who fell in love with an Austrian soldier during the German occupation of Poland. He was sent to a labour camp because homosexuality was illegal.

Stefan Kosiński's family home in Toruń in Poland was taken over by soldiers when Germany invaded in 1939 and his father was transported to Germany as forced labour. Stefan, then 14, was no longer allowed to go to school and found a job as a delivery boy for a German baker, which helped him feed the family. He met Willi Götz, a young soldier from Vienna, in November 1941, and fell in love with him. When Willi was sent to fight the Russians, Stefan wrote to him. The letter was opened by the Gestapo. In September 1942 Stefan was arrested, interrogated, beaten up and sentenced to five years imprisonment for homosexuality under Paragraph 175 of Nazi-German law. He was also convicted of 'demoralising the German military'.

He was sent to a number of Nazi labour camps. Before the end of the war he was deported to Hahnöfersand near Hamburg. In May 1945 he and three other prisoners escaped. In 1947 he returned to Poland. He had two years of his sentence left and if he had still been in prison when the war ended he would have been kept in prison, as laws forbidding homosexuality were not amended after the war.

Wehrmacht uniform

This is the kind of Wehrmacht uniform an ordinary soldier in the German armed forces during the Second World War would have worn. Stefan Kosinski's Austrian lover, Willi Götz, was serving in the Wehrmacht when they met. They lost touch when Willi was sent to the Russian front, where more than 2 million German soldiers and 11 million Soviet soldiers died.

Stephen Lawrence



Seeking justice

Stephen Lawrence



Stephen Lawrence – biography

Stephen Lawrence was stabbed to death at a bus stop in London by a group of white youths, but no one was charged. His mother fought for justice, exposing corruption in the UK police. Stephen Lawrence was 18 when he and a friend were attacked on their way home one evening. He was a good student, had set up his own small art business and even worked as a film extra in the movie *For Queen and Country*. He wanted to be an architect. But because he was black, the police treated his murder as a gang crime.

Within days of Stephen's death five local suspects had been named, but the police said there was 'not enough evidence'. His parents, Neville and Doreen, protested publicly and have continued to lobby for justice ever since. Eventually, in 1998, an official inquiry ruled that 'institutional racism' in the Metropolitan police meant that the investigation had not been handled properly. In 2011 new techniques revealed DNA evidence and in 2012 two men were finally convicted of Stephen's murder and jailed for life. Since then allegations of police corruption and even undercover spying on the Lawrence family have been brought to light, and are still being investigated in 2016.

Stephen's murder sparked deep investigation and reform of the British police, and it challenged racial attitudes across the UK. Doreen Lawrence, who campaigned tirelessly for justice for her son and other victims of racism, was made a baroness and is now a law maker in the House of Lords.

No Woman, No Cry

Painting by British artist Chris Ofili made five years after Stephen Lawrence's murder in 1993 as his mother campaigned for investigation of the way police had handled the racist killing. Each tear includes an image of Stephen. The title is from a reggae song released by Bob Marley & the Wailers in 1975 urging a woman in a poor area of Jamaica not to cry but to believe things can get better.