

## Grade 9

The Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre is pleased to offer a series of eight (8) units covering the following Grade 9 CAPS topic:

*Failure of the Weimar, the rise of Nazi Germany, outbreak of WW2 in Europe, the Holocaust, people's experiences and resistance.*

### Unit 5

- People's experiences: Other victims

**By the end of the unit Learners should be familiar with**

1. How the Nazis treated other people they considered inferior
2. The difference between "blood" enemies and enemies "of the state"
3. The effect of Nazi ideology on ordinary people

#### **BLOOD ENEMIES:**

Roma and Sinti  
People of Colour  
People with Disabilities

#### **ENEMIES OF THE STATE**

Gay men  
Jehovah's Witnesses  
Political opponents  
Asocials

Every Jew was a victim, but not every victim was a Jew.

- The Roma and Sinti, people of colour, people with disabilities, were considered **blood enemies**.
- We considered the Nazis view of "Jewish blood" now we are going into detail about how the Nazis saw the blood of others they considered inferior.
- Gay men, Jehovah's Witnesses political opponents, and asocials were considered to be **enemies of the state**

### **What was the difference between a blood enemy and an enemy of state?**

- A blood enemy, *can never be accepted* because **you can't change your blood**. You will always be an enemy
- If you're an enemy of the state, your blood was acceptable. Your ideas were not in line with Nazi ideology but **you could change your thinking and ideas**

## Roma and Sinti



Bamberger Family Berlin Germany early 1930s



Joseph Trollman German Middle Weight  
Champion 1933

- Roma and Sinti people are often referred to by the term “gypsy” which they consider to be an insult
- Along with the term gypsy comes a whole set of **stereotypes** such as gypsies drive around in caravans, gypsies tell fortunes and gypsies steal
- These were stereotypes that the Nazis used in their **propaganda**
- We know that Sinti who lived in Germany, were very settled
- Only two percent of the Roma and Sinti lived in caravans, most were settled
- For example, the Bamberger family who owned theaters in Berlin
- Joseph Trollman, was a Sinti man who became the German middleweight boxing champion of 1933
- The Nazis stripped him of his title and he perished in a Nazi labour camp

# People of Colour



Unnamed  
German girl:  
Father African,  
Mother German

- The Nazis said people of colour had “impure” blood
- Most African men in Germany came from French colonies and were in the Rhineland which was under French occupation after WW1 as part of the Treaty of Versailles
- Because there were not many people of colour in Germany, they sterilized every young German of colour so that they could not have babies. They did this forcibly and without consent
- Gert Schramm, the son of a German woman and an African American is one of the very few black people who was sent to a concentration camp
- He was sent to Buchenwald concentration camp
- He was also sterilized. He was never able to have children
- Gert spent many years traveling the world talking to students such as you about the evils of racism and stereotyping. He passed away in 2006

450  
KL: 49 419 **Negermischling 1. Grades** HSHL-Nr.: 49 419

**Gollwitz erfasst**  
**Häftlings-Personal-Karte**

Fam.-Name: <b>Schramm</b>	Überstellt	Personen-Beschreibung:
Vorname: <b>Gert, Lothar</b>	am: _____ an KL.	Größe: <b>169</b> cm
Geb. am: <b>25.11.28. Erfurt</b>		Gestalt: <b>mit</b>
Stand: <b>led.</b> Kinder: _____	am: _____ an KL.	Gesicht: <b>oval</b>
Wohnort: <b>Langensalza,</b>		Augen: <b>braun</b>
Strasse: <b>Marktfeld 2</b>	am: _____ an KL.	Nase: <b>eingeb.</b>
Religion: <b>ev.</b> Staatsangeh.: <b>D.R.</b>		Mund: <b>wulst.</b>
Wohnort d. Angehörigen: <b>Mütter: Marianne Sch. verb. Löcher, Langensalza, w.o.</b>	am: _____ an KL.	Ohren: <b>absteh.</b>
Eingewiesen am: <b>20.7.1944</b>		Zähne: <b>vollst.</b>
durch: <b>Stapo Weimar</b>	am: _____ an KL.	Haare: <b>schwarz</b>
in KL.: <b>Buchenwald</b>		Sprache: <b>deutsch</b>
Grund: <b>Politisch - Negermischl. 1. Grades</b>	Entlassung: _____	Bes. Kennzeichen: <b>Hautfarbe: Kaffeebraun</b>
Vorstrafen: <b>keine</b>	am: _____ durch KL.: _____	Charakt.-Eigenschaften: _____
	mit Verfügung v.: _____	Sicherheit b. Einsatz: _____
Strafen im Lager: _____		Körperliche Verfassung: _____
Grund: _____	Art: _____	
I.T.S. FOTO No 045077		 2074497

KL-B/XI, 43-500000 30419

Gert  
Schramm's  
Buchenwald  
personal  
details card



Gert Schramm in later years talking to students. (born 1928 died 2016)



## People with disabilities

“This is your burden also”



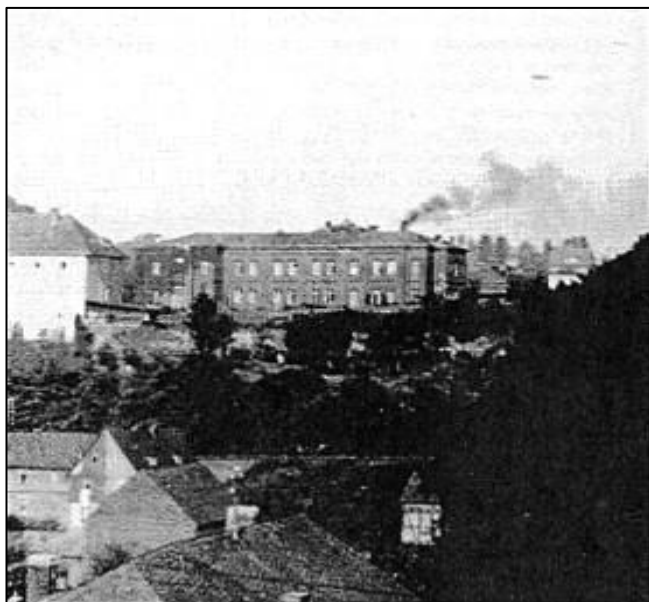
“This is also your money”



The Nazis said that people with disabilities had “diseased” blood

- The Nazis believed that if you had a disability, it was in your blood and you would pass it on
- They used major **propaganda** campaigns to get people to believe that it was right to get rid of people with disabilities because they were costing so much money
- The Nazi regime began with sterilization of the disabled. But when the war broke out in 1939, they moved to murder
- They called it a mercy killing but it was murder
- Who conducted these murders? The people who ran the hospitals – doctors and nurses
- Hadamar Hospital in Germany, before the Nazis came to power, was considered one of the most advanced hospitals for the treatment of people with disabilities
- Doctors from all over the world came to learn from doctors at Hadamar
- When the Nazis came to power Hadamar was one of the first to gas the disabled and then burn their bodies
- It became a place of death for those people, and it was here as well as in other German hospitals, that people with disabilities were murdered

Hadamar Hospital with crematorium chimney



## Enemies of the State

### Jehovah's Witnesses as enemies



**“Enemies of the State” were those citizens with what the Nazis considered “pure” blood who were not following the Nazi ideology**

- Jehovah's witnesses were considered enemies of the state because they would not do what state required of them
- They would not fight in the Army because in their religion, you do not shed another person's blood under any circumstances
- . They would not make straight arm Nazi racist salute. They would not see Hitler as their leader. They said only God is the leader
- Jehovah's Witnesses preferred rather to be imprisoned then to go against their beliefs

### Gay people as enemies



**Gay men were considered enemies of the state. Why might this be?**

- The Nazis wanted all people of so-called pure blood to make as many babies as possible
- Gay men were not doing what the Nazis considered to be their duty as “pure” Germans
- Gay men were targeted before the Nazis came to power. Gay men had a particularly difficult time in concentration camps and they were still targeted after the Nazis had been ousted from power. Laws against gay men were only repealed in Germany in the 1990s

### Political opponents as enemies



**Political opponents**

- When the Nazis came to power, anyone who opposed them politically was taken and thrown into jail, either to change their views or to die
- Political opponents were given no means whatsoever to indicate that they opposed the government
- The Nazis would brook no opposition

So from this you can see that the Nazis targeted people based on their beliefs, based on their lifestyle and based on how the Nazis viewed their blood.

## QUESTIONS

1. What did the Nazis see as the difference between a “blood enemy” and an “enemy of the state”?
2. What strategies did the Nazis use to get the population to accept their treatment of people with disabilities?
3. Who was Joseph Trollman and what happened to him?
4. Do you think there is such a thing as “criminal” blood, or “impure” blood or “diseased” blood? Give a reason for your answer
5. What does sterilization “without consent” mean? Would this be allowed in South Africa today? Give a reason for your answer.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre:

<http://ctholocaust.co.za/>

Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwVBUs5VqvsumuwDdzYIAaQ>

Yadvashem.org

<https://www.yadvashem.org/holocaust/about/nazi-germany-1933-39/non-jewish-victims.html>

ushmm.org

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/mosaic-of-victims-an-overview>