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Foreword

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." Thus states Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which forms an essential cornerstone of our democracy. Yet it was just 80 years ago – no more than a human lifetime – that people were not all equal and human dignity was not inviolable: crimes were committed under Nazi rule that would previously have been considered unthinkable in the highly civilised, Enlightenment-shaped Europe. After 1945, a veil of silence was drawn over those crimes for a very long time in Austria.



It was not until 1991 that Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky acknowledged before the National Council the shared responsibility of Austrians for Nazi crimes. As a clear and enduring sign of Austria's responsibility, the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism was established in 1995 at the National Council, the "heart of the Republic".

Ever since, providing recognition and support to all Austrian victims of National Socialism, regardless of why they were persecuted, has been among that Fund's most important tasks: these victims include Jews, Roma and Sinti, victims of political persecution, Carinthian Slovenes, Jehovah's Witnesses and many others who fell victim to Nazi injustice.

When I was a Member of the National Fund Committee in 2003, under the National Council President of the time Andreas Khol, I experienced first-hand just how important this belated recognition is – not only for the survivors and their families, but also for the historical self-understanding of present-day Austria.

And when, as Federal President, I welcome survivors, their children and grandchildren to the Hofburg as part of the Jewish Welcome Service, I often sense their deep attachment to their ancestral homeland of Austria. The National Fund's ongoing efforts to build bridges have contributed significantly to this.

Over the years, the National Fund has taken many further steps to actively live up to its responsibility: for example, by funding projects that preserve memory and contribute to raising awareness in society; or through the Shoah Wall of Names Memorial, which has given the memory of Jewish victims a visible place in the collective memory of our nation; or with the new Austrian exhibition at the State Museum in Auschwitz-Birkenau, which underscores the importance of constantly learning from history anew.

Today, only a few contemporary witnesses are still with us – the memories and lessons learned from a bitter past are in danger of being lost again. When we look at the global situation in 2025, we cannot fail to recognise that racism and antisemitism have not been overcome in the new millennium – on the contrary:

the world has become a more violent and irrational place; democracy and the rule of law are facing mounting challenges.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights quoted above was adopted in 1948, while the Nazi atrocities, those "barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind", were still fresh in people's minds. It drew its strength from living memory.

Today more than ever, we need institutions such as the National Fund as guardians of memory: to remind us that the unimaginable can repeat at any time if we are not vigilant; to remind us that freedom and democracy cannot be taken for granted and that each generation must learn for itself to value, preserve and resolutely defend them.

Social change often occurs imperceptibly, through incremental steps that collectively and continuously shape our lives. Over the past 30 years, the National Fund and its dedicated staff have reached many people and made valuable contributions to changing our country for the better. In this sense, its work is not yet complete – there is still much to be done.

Alexander Van der Bellen

Federal President of the Republic of Austria

Foreword

Thirty years ago, the Republic of Austria sent a clear signal: on 27 April 1995, the 50th anniversary of its restoration, the Law on the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism came into force. This step marked a clear commitment to our country's historical responsibility. It was visible proof that Austria recognised the suffering, injustices and fates endured during one of the darkest chapters of our history. Above all, it was a mark of remembrance to which we continue to be bound to this day.

The National Fund recognises that it is not enough to simply look back. We must take proactive steps to keep remembrance alive. Behind every project supported by the Fund are life stories – stories of suffering and loss, but also of survival, courage and hope. The Fund has made a vital contribution to translating part of Austria's responsibility into concrete support. With the help of contemporary witnesses, it has also built a bridge between the past, present and future that cannot be found in any history book.

The 30th anniversary of the National Fund is an opportunity to look back and take stock of what has been achieved over the past three decades: the General Settlement Fund for Victims of National Socialism was established in 2001 on the basis of the Washington Agreement. Its purpose was to provide a comprehensive solution to open questions of compensation for victims of National Socialism in Austria.

In 2010, the Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish Cemeteries in Austria was established to ensure the long-term preservation of these important memorial sites.



I would also like to highlight the Simon Wiesenthal Prize, which was awarded by the National Fund for the fourth time this year in Parliament. It honours outstanding civic engagement to combat anti-semitism and promote Holocaust education.

With the amendment to the National Fund Law in 2024, the National Fund became even more focused on the future and on young people – it now also supports memorial servicemen and women and international exchange programmes, thereby promoting a culture of remembrance in an international context. It will take on further tasks in the future, such as creating a memorial for the Roma and Sinti victims of the Nazi regime and organising an annual conference for the exchange of knowledge about National Socialism, its aftermath and its consequences.

The National Fund has impacted the lives of tens of thousands of victims and their descendants. It has enabled projects to be realised that promote remembrance work, advance historical research and strengthen educational initiatives. In doing so, it has left its mark not only on the lives of individuals, but also on the culture of remembrance of our entire society.

But the 30th anniversary is more than just a number. It provides an opportunity to stop and reflect, and to look back on what has transpired – to say thank you and be grateful. Grateful to those who survived injustice and, despite everything, found the courage to share their stories. Grateful to the partner institutions and the dedicated staff of the National Fund. And grateful to all those who, through their work, have made the Fund what it is today: a living symbol of the Republic of Austria's responsibility, a pillar of its culture of remembrance and a promise for the future.

On the 30th anniversary of the National Fund, we honour the victims and, at the same time, the values that emerged from a very dark and barbarous time and today form the foundation of our democracy: human dignity, the rule of law and respect for diversity. These values must not be taken for granted. These values are non-negotiable. In my speech on 5 May, the Day of Remembrance against Violence and Racism in memory of the victims of National Socialism, I said: "Never again – remembrance without consequence is an empty gesture, and commemoration without integrity is meaningless." This must remain our guiding principle: we will never again be indifferent. Never again be silent. Never again look the other way.

Peter Haubner

Second President of the National Council

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Fund

Foreword

I am writing these words at a time of great crisis and conflict in the world, but also at a time of hope – just recently, a breakthrough was achieved in the Middle East conflict. What seemed inconceivable in the two years since the devastating terrorist attack by Hamas on 7 October 2023 is now becoming reality: the last surviving Israeli hostages are being released as I write. History never ceases to surprise us with its twists and turns. Sometimes things become possible because there are people who, against all odds, do not give up hope.

From the outset, the work of the National Fund has been a labour of hope, and the National Fund itself has grown out of a spirit of hope – the hope that it is possible to “plant the seeds of a better future amidst the soil of a bitter past”¹.

After seven years of inhumanity, violence and despair under Nazi rule, silence descended upon Austria. For many survivors of Nazi persecution, the peace of 1945 was akin to a graveyard, shrouded in silence about the injustices and the murder of millions. It took decades for this silence to lift and give way to something else: the questions of the new generations, the re-evaluation of historical dogmas, and finally an acknowledgement of shared responsibility of Austrians for the crimes committed. It was this development that made way for the creation of the National Fund in 1995.



Thirty years later, on 10 November 2025, the "birthday" of the National Fund will be celebrated with a ceremony in Parliament. We can now look upon the fruits of the seeds that were sown back in those early days:

We remember the "birth pangs", and the various tasks that have evolved over time. We were able to reach 30,000 survivors around the world with an expression of Austria's responsibility, and are grateful that so many accepted the Republic's belated gesture. In Austria, we were able to initiate, support and help shape processes of reflection and learning. The Austria of 2025 is different from the Austria of 1995 – it is a country with a more nuanced understanding of history and a new self-image, a country with a culture of remembrance and commemoration, in which both the light and the shadows of historical memory have their place.

Nevertheless, even after three decades, the work of the National Fund has not been completed. Each generation must learn for itself, ask new questions, and find new answers. We will continue to need hope.

Hannah M. Lessing
Managing Director

¹ From: Stockholm Declaration of the International Forum on the Holocaust, 28 January 2000.

Foreword

Remembrance is not just about looking back. It is also a mission to be carried forth responsibly into the present and the future. The tenth amendment to the National Fund Law has built on this mission and reinforced it. New tasks serve to emphasise the importance of education, international understanding and digital responsibility – with a special focus on the upcoming generations, who will shape the remembrance and democratic awareness of tomorrow.

Finding guidance for present and future developments from the experiences of the past is forward-looking and continues to gain in importance.

The National Fund sees itself as a place of active responsibility and shared learning, where historical reappraisal, education and social engagement are intertwined. Here, memory is not only preserved, but also perpetuated, so it can be drawn on as a source and a living process of actively shaping our democratic society.

Today more than ever, our work focuses on shaping the future of society in memory of the victims of National Socialism. Their voices and life stories remind us of what can happen when humanity and justice cease to exist. At the same time, they leave us with a legacy that entreats us to shape our future responsibly.



Politicians and the bodies of the National Fund – the Board of Trustees, the Committee, the Advisory Board of the Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish Cemeteries and the Simon Wiesenthal Prize jury – provide impetus to align the Fund's work with the challenges of the present and open up new perspectives for the future.

Especially at a time when disinformation and the distortion of historical injustice are on the increase in the digital realm, it is crucial to educate about National Socialism and its consequences. The Fund provides targeted funding for projects that make the culture of remembrance visible and comprehensible in the digital world.

As a living instrument of a modern culture of remembrance, the National Fund encourages new forms of encounter, social dialogue and learning. In this way, it combines the obligation to remember with the responsibility to actively shape the present and the future.

Thirty years of the National Fund are therefore more than just an anniversary – they are an expression of a firm stance and lasting commitment. Remembrance remains alive when it inspires responsibility, deepens knowledge and brings people together. It calls on us to look, understand and act – today and for future generations.

Judith Pfeffer

Managing Director

Beschluß des Nationalrates

Bundesgesetz über den Nationalfonds der Republik Österreich für Opfer des Nationalsozialismus

Der Nationalrat hat beschlossen:

Artikel I

§ 1. (1) Beim Nationalrat wird ein Fonds zur Erbringung von Leistungen an Opfer des Nationalsozialismus eingerichtet. Er trägt die Bezeichnung „Nationalfonds der Republik Österreich für Opfer des Nationalsozialismus“.

(2) Der Fonds hat das Ziel, die besondere Verantwortung gegenüber den Opfern des Nationalsozialismus zum Ausdruck zu bringen.

(3) Der Fonds besitzt eigene Rechtspersönlichkeit und dient ausschließlich gemeinnützigen Zwecken. Er ist von allen Abgaben befreit.

§ 2. (1) Der Fonds erbringt Leistungen an Personen,

1. die vom nationalsozialistischen Regime aus politischen Gründen, aus Gründen der Abstammung, Religion, Nationalität, sexuellen Orientierung, auf Grund einer körperlichen oder geistigen Behinderung oder auf Grund des Vorwurfs der sogenannten Asozialität verfolgt oder auf andere Weise Opfer typisch nationalsozialistischen Unrechts geworden sind oder das Land verlassen haben, um einer solchen Verfolgung zu entgehen, und

2. die

a) am 13. März 1938 die österreichische Bundesbürgerschaft und einen Wohnsitz in Österreich oder

b) bis zum 13. März 1938 durch etwa zehn Jahre hindurch ununterbrochen ihren Wohnsitz in Österreich gehabt haben bzw. in diesem Zeitraum als Kinder von solchen Personen in Österreich geboren wurden oder

c) vor dem 13. März 1938 die österreichische Bundesbürgerschaft oder ihren zumindest etwa zehnjährigen Wohnsitz verloren haben, weil sie wegen des unmittelbar bevorstehenden Einmarsches der Deutschen Wehrmacht das Land verlassen haben, oder

d) vor dem 9. Mai 1945 als Kinder von solchen Personen in Konzentrationslager oder unter vergleichbaren Umständen auch in Österreich geboren worden sind.

(2) Leistungen werden insbesondere an Personen vergeben, die keine oder eine völlig unzureichende Leistung erhielten, die in besonderer Weise der Hilfe bedürfen oder bei denen eine Unterstützung auf Grund ihrer Lebenssituation gerechtfertigt erscheint.

(3) Der Fonds kann auch Projekte unterstützen, die Opfern des Nationalsozialismus zugute kommen, der wissenschaftlichen Erforschung des Nationalsozialismus und des Schicksals seiner Opfer dienen, an das nationalsozialistische Unrecht erinnern oder das Andenken an die Opfer wahren.

(4) Der Fonds erbringt einmalige oder wiederkehrende Geldleistungen. Nähere Vorschriften über die Leistungen können in Richtlinien des Fonds erlassen werden.

6 229 der Beilagen

§ 3. (1) Organe des Fonds sind das Kuratorium

(§ 6).

(2) Der Fonds wird nach außen vom Vorsitzenden

(3) Die Leistungen des Fonds erfolgen im Wege der

(4) (Verfassungsbestimmung) Die Verwaltung des

Nationalrates bei der Parlamentsdirektion geführt. Der

des Fonds auch Bedienstete der Parlamentsdirektion bei

Leistungen, die von ihm anerkannt werden, auch dem B

§ 4. (Verfassungsbestimmung) (1) Das Kuratorium

insbesondere:

1. Die Erlassung der Geschäftsordnung des Fonds;

2. Die Erlassung der Richtlinien des Fonds über die

3. Die Beschuldfassung über die Finanzordnung;

4. Die Festlegung jener Leistungen, die durch das

5. Die Entscheidung über Leistungen, soweit diese

6. Die Beschuldfassung über die Veranlagung des

7. Die Kontrolle über die waldungsgemäße Veran

8. Die Genehmigung des Rechnungsbuchschlusses.

(2) Dem Kuratorium gehören an:

1. Die Präsidenten des Nationalrates,

2. der Bundeskanzler, der Vizekanzler, der Bundes

Minister für Arbeit und Soziales, der Bundes

minister für Unterricht und kulturelle Angelegenheiten (oder von diesen entsandte Vertreter aus dem

jeweiligen Ressort),

3. zwölf weitere Mitglieder, die vom Hauptausschuß des Nationalrates gewählt werden.

(3) Die vom Hauptausschuß zu wählenden Mitglieder sind dem Kreis der Mitglieder des Nationalra-

tes und des Bundesrates einschließlich früherer Mitglieder des Nationalrates und des Bundesrates, sonsti-

ger anerkannter Persönlichkeiten des öffentlichen, kulturellen und wissenschaftlichen Lebens Österreichs

sowie Vertretern der betroffenen Opfer zu entnehmen und werden für die Dauer einer Gesetzgebungspe-

riode gewählt. Sie bleiben bis zur Wahl neuer Mitglieder im Amt.

(4) Vorsitzender des Kuratoriums ist der Präsident des Nationalrates. Das Kuratorium wählt auf

Vorschlag des Vorsitzenden einen Stellvertreter des Vorsitzenden. Das Kuratorium faßt seine Beschlüsse

mit Zweidrittelmehrheit bei Anwesenheit von mindestens der Hälfte der Mitglieder.

(5) Das Kuratorium kann beschließen, zu einzelnen Entscheidungen Vertreter der betroffenen Opfer

oder andere Auskunftspersonen beizuziehen.

(6) Der Vorsitzende des Kuratoriums hat vor dem Beschluß von Richtlinien über die Gewährung

von Leistungen eine Stellungnahme des Bundesministers für Finanzen einzuholen.

(7) Der Vorsitzende des Kuratoriums erstattet dem Hauptausschuß des Nationalrates über jedes Ge-

schäftsjahr einen Bericht.

§ 5. (Verfassungsbestimmung) (1) Dem Komitee gehören der Vorsitzende des Kuratoriums oder ein

von ihm bestellter Vertreter als Vorsitzender, ein weiteres vom Kuratorium bestelltes Mitglied als Stell-

vertreter des Vorsitzenden sowie drei weitere Mitglieder an, die vom Vorsitzenden des Kuratoriums mit

Zustimmung des Hauptausschusses des Nationalrates ernannt werden.

(2) Das Komitee entscheidet im Umfang seiner Ermächtigung (§ 4 Abs. 1 Z. 4) über die Zuerk-

ennung von Leistungen.

(3) Der Vorsitzende des Komitees (oder sein Stellvertreter) hat dem Kuratorium in jeder Kuratori-

umsitzung über die in der Zwischenzeit vom Komitee getroffenen Entscheidungen zu berichten.

§ 6. (1) Der Generalsekretär dient der Unterstützung des Vorsitzenden des Kuratoriums bei der

Verwaltung des Fonds und bereitet die Beschlüsse und Entscheidungen des Kuratoriums und des Komitees vor.

(2) Der Generalsekretär wird vom Präsidenten des Nationalrates nach Beratung in der Präsidialkon-

ferenz des Nationalrates bestellt.

der Beilagen

gabe, die Verbindung zwischen Österreich und den im

aus zu pflegen.

ten Fonds erfolgen nach Maßgabe des jährlichen Bundes-

rates den Vorschlag auf Grund eines gemeinsamen

retenden Vorsitzenden des Kuratoriums erstellt und ihn

minister für Finanzen übermittelt. Die Zuwendungen sind

nächlichen Bedarf zu überweisen.

erhöhter,

als von der Erbschafts- und Schenkungssteuer;

Fonds erforderlichen Rechtsgeschäfte von den Rechtsg-

1995 in Kraft.

Artikel II

83, wird geändert wie folgt:

keitsricht und folgende Z. 25 eingefügt:

ung des Kuratoriums des Nationalfonds der Republik

aus beim Vorschlagsantrag 1/02186 bis zur Höhe je-

zweidigen Zuwendungen des Nationalrates an den Natio-

nalismus erforderlich ist."

2. Im Bundesvoranschlag (Anlage I) wird nach dem Titel 1/021 der Voranschlagsansatz „1/02106/43 Forderungen“ eingefügt.

Vom Nationalrat in seiner Sitzung

am bei Anwesenheit der verfassungsmäßig vorgesehenen Anzahl der Mitglieder mit Zweidrittelmehrheit in dritter Lesung angenommen.

Schriftführer/in

Präsident

From Repression to Remembrance

*"The fiftieth anniversary of our Second Republic should also be an occasion to reach out to all Austrians who were victims of National Socialism, to show them with a clear gesture that not only have they not been forgotten, but that they are still part of our Austria – and a very important part at that. For this reason, [...] the Federal Government and Parliament have agreed to set up a fund for the victims of National Socialism, which, fifty years on, is intended to show that the younger generation has not forgotten the injustices that were committed at that time. We want it to be understood as a sign of remembrance, awareness and reconciliation."*¹

These words were spoken by Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky when he announced the imminent establishment of the National Fund in his speech at the former Mauthausen concentration camp in May 1995.

I had the privilege of guiding the National Fund through these three decades and helping to shape its work – it was an eventful and moving journey that brought to the fore the change in the Republic's historical consciousness with regard to the Nazi era in Austria.

"Not least, I find this gesture by Austria gratifying because it shows that our old homeland is embarking on a new path."

Letter from a National Fund applicant

The establishment of the National Fund coincided with a shift in the national narrative about the Nazi era in Austria, evolving from silence to acknowledging injustice and from repression to remembrance, which has become one of the "central concepts of our time"².

Vranitzky's words became the National Fund's mission. One month after his speech, on 1 June 1995, the Federal Law on the Establishment of the National Fund was passed by the National Council. This law came into force retroactively and symbolically on 27 April 1995, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Although the road to the law was long, the steps towards implementation were swift. On 6 July, the National Fund Board of Trustees was constituted under its first chairman, Heinz Fischer. Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's personal attendance at this first meeting underscored the significance of the moment.

From the outset, it was evident that the creation of the National Fund was attracting significant attention both at home and abroad. Even before the Board of Trustees had been constituted, the first letters from survivors had arrived, including 57 applications from people aged 95 and older,³ some of whom had been born before 1900. It soon became clear that the work of the National Fund would be a race against time, which made it all the more important to act quickly and unbureaucratically. By the time the Board of Trustees convened for the second time on 18 September 1995, the Chairman had already received 1,700 letters.⁴ It was the first meeting I attended as Secretary General.

I have always considered my family background to be a defining aspect that saw this work become my vocation. My family exemplifies the conflict that we so often find in Austria when it comes to the Nazi era: On the one hand, there is my father, Erich Lessing, who experienced the Nazi regime in Austria from a victim's perspective; as a Jew, he had to flee at the age of just 16 to what was then Palestine, and his mother and grandmother perished in the Holocaust. On the other hand, there is my mother, whose family, like so many Austrians, sympathised with the Nazi regime and went along with it.

"National Socialism and the Holocaust belong to people's family history in Austria, just as they do in Germany."⁵ This family history was long kept silent, both in the families of the perpetrators and those of the victims. It took decades to break this silence, even in my own family.

When I was faced with the decision whether to take on this task, I had a long conversation with my father. I asked him what he, as a survivor, would expect of the Fund. He phrased his answer as a question that has remained vividly in my memory over the years: "Can you bring back my mother, give me back my lost youth?" No, we cannot turn back the clock or undo what has been done. Nevertheless, the attempt to do so was an important step – it was belated, and therefore had to be taken all the more forthrightly. What I did not know at the time was that this decision would shape the rest of my life. What began in 1995 as a short-term undertaking became a decades-long commitment.

"My parents were murdered, and that is something you can never forget. But you can hope that a new generation will grow up to respect tolerance, justice and humanity."

Letter from an applicant

On 17 October 1995, the Board of Trustees approved the guidelines, and my team and I, which was still very small at the time – there were fewer than ten of us – were able to start work. We reached out to survivors all over the world. Many had had no contact with Austria for decades. The response was overwhelming. It still moves me to see how many survivors have accepted this belated gesture from the Republic. Some ties with the old homeland that had long been severed were re-established – also for the future, for the children and grandchildren of the survivors.

The first few years were all about providing recognition to the victims. What makes the National Fund Law special is that it encompasses all victims of National Socialism – not just Jewish victims, but also Roma and Sinti, Carinthian Slovenes, homosexuals, people who were persecuted on charges of "asocial behaviour", and many more. The reasons for persecution were as many and varied as the fates of the victims, each one of which is a piece of Austrian history. Some victim groups were only recognised as such and acknowledged as victims of National Socialism over time – on the basis of new research findings and a developing awareness in society. These include the "children of Spiegelgrund" and the *Wehrmacht* deserters, whose recognition was not without socio-political resistance.

Since 1995, over 30,000 people from a wide variety of victim groups have received symbolic recognition of their victimhood in the form of a "gesture payment". Even in its 30th year, people are still turning to the Fund. To this day, the National Fund provides support to survivors in Austria and more than 70 countries worldwide.

Beyond this original task of providing official recognition for the victims, the National Fund has been assigned a wide variety of additional tasks over the years, each in its own way an expression of Austria's historical responsibility.

In 2001, the Washington Agreement between the Republic of Austria, the USA and victims' organisations resulted in a large number of new tasks for the National Fund: in the years that followed, compensation for seized tenancy rights and other compensation and restitution measures were implemented within the framework of the General Settlement Fund, and the Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish Cemeteries in Austria was established.

In December 2002, Heinz Fischer passed on his chairmanship to Andreas Khol. The Fund taken on by Khol had been entrusted with the major task of establishing the General Settlement Fund. During those years, the team quickly grew to over 100 employees. Their work not only dealt with legal issues and payments – the in-depth historical research often gave survivors and their descendants back a piece of their lost family history.

In October 2006, Barbara Prammer became the first woman to chair the National Fund. When the National Fund was entrusted with coordinating the renewal of the Austrian exhibition at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, it marked the beginning of a highly symbolic project that the Fund accompanied for many years. After Barbara Prammer's premature death in 2014, Doris Bures prudently continued the Fund's work. A comprehensive amendment to the National Fund Law anchored the broader scope of its responsibilities in law.

In September 2017, Wolfgang Sobotka took over as Chairman of a fund whose priorities, like the challenges facing our society, had changed and evolved over the years – from recognising victim groups to stepping up the support for the often elderly survivors; from reappraising Austria's Nazi past to passing on memories as the voices of contemporary witnesses grow ever quieter.

Since 2021, the Shoah Wall of Names Memorial in Vienna has commemorated the approximately 65,000 Austrian Jewish victims of the Shoah, whose names have now finally found a home in Austria's collective memory there. Among them is the name of my grandmother. Today, the Wall of Names Memorial is a place of remembrance and learning for many people.

"What happened must never be forgotten, to serve as a warning to all future generations of the ultimate danger posed to humanity by inhuman actions."

Letter to the National Fund

We are currently witnessing an upsurge in anti-democratic forces and an increase in radicalisation and violence around the world. The growing and ever-changing nature of antisemitism is one of the most pressing issues of our time, particularly in the aftermath of the terrorist attack in Israel on 7 October 2023. The crucial need for remembrance work is more blatant than ever.

Remembrance, commemoration and education are communal tasks. In order to encourage civic engagement to combat antisemitism and educate the public about the Holocaust, the National Fund has been awarding the Simon Wiesenthal Prize annually since 2021. It shines a spotlight on engagement that transcends cultural and national boundaries.

In the 30th year of the National Fund, we are facing new and different challenges, some of which we did not foresee in this intensity or form. In view of these societal developments, it could be tempting to give in to despair and wonder whether the efforts of the past decades have had any effect at all. Does it even make sense to fight against this seemingly overwhelming tide of our age?

But then I remember a thought that Jagoda Marinić expressed in her speech at the opening of this year's International Bruckner Festival: "There must be something greater than resignation."⁶ This notion, which is so relevant to democracy at the moment, also applies to the National Fund: we need hope. Memory lives on in words, in encounters, in open dialogue. Learning is not a completed act, but a continuous process. In times when democracy faces new challenges, having an understanding of the past opens up an opportunity to find answers to burning questions of the present. We must continue to pursue this path – against all odds and with unwavering resolve.

Walter Rosenkranz has been President of the National Council since 24 October 2024; he asked the Second President of the National Council, Peter Haubner, to take over as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Haubner will now lead the work of the National Fund into its new decade. I would like to thank all of the National Council Presidents who have led the National Fund through these 30 years, as well as all the Members of the Board of Trustees who, often across party lines, have worked towards common goals and, above all, for the survivors. My thanks also go to our partners and supporters in Austria and around the world who assist and facilitate our work.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the employees of the National Fund, both current and former. The tasks of the past 30 years could only be accomplished together, and the same will apply to those of the future. In any case, the journey continues; the story of the National Fund is not yet over.

Hannah M. Lessing
Managing Director

- 1 Franz Vranitzky, "Auf uns kommt es an!", in: *Das Jüdische Echo. Zeitschrift für Kultur und Politik*, October 1995, pp. 10–11.
- 2 Martin Sabrow, *Erinnerung als Pathosformel der Gegenwart*. Lecture at the Helmstedt University Days, 28 September 2007.
- 3 Board of Trustees minutes from 6 July 1995.
- 4 Board of Trustees minutes from 18 September 1995.
- 5 Gerhard Botz (ed.), *Schweigen und Reden einer Generation. Erinnerungsgespräche mit Opfern, Tätern und Mitläufern des Nationalsozialismus*, Vienna 2005, p. 9.
- 6 Jagoda Marinić, writer, journalist and podcaster, in her speech at the opening of the International Bruckner Festival on 7 September 2025 in Linz. Source: www.brucknerhaus.at/content/download/22320/file/DS_Festrede%20Jagoda%20Marinic_BF25.pdf, accessed on 13 October 2025.

30 Years of the Austrian National Fund

The 11 and 12 March 1938 – six months before I was born – were fateful days for Austria. Adolf Hitler had sent an ultimatum from Berlin to Vienna, demanding that the Schuschnigg government stand down immediately and hand over power to the Nazi Party. Schuschnigg acquiesced and announced his resignation ("I yield to force"), but Hitler's *Wehrmacht* marched into politically deeply divided Austria anyway. The "*Anschluss*" was accomplished, the consequences were dire.

As part of Greater Germany, Austria also played a part in the Nazis' crimes, with some Austrians, such as Adolf Eichmann, in roles at the very forefront.

In 1939, the Second World War was declared, and despite some initial successes, Hitler's failures overwhelmed as the war went on. The war cost more than 60 million lives; Hitler evaded his responsibility by committing suicide.

On 27 April 1945, Austria was re-established as an independent democratic state within its 1938 borders, and the Austrian Republic was given a second chance, the so-called Second Republic. Although this opportunity was embraced, the issue of "reparations" for the victims of National Socialism remained unresolved for a long time, particularly for Austrians of Jewish origin, many of whom had been forced to emigrate or were murdered.

During my time as President of the National Council (1990–2002), I became increasingly convinced that the idea of Austria as "Hitler's first victim" had some historical basis. However, I also recognised that far too many Austrians had played a huge role in Hitler's crimes against the Jewish people.

Although these crimes (which were many and varied) could not be "made good again" in the full sense of the expression, there was a clear moral obligation to acknowledge their victims in word and deed and to make this visible through appropriate declarations, actions and concrete steps.



Bearing this in mind, preliminary work was carried out and some initial decisions were taken. Finally, a federal law was passed to establish an Austrian National Fund. The President of the National Council was also designated Chairman of the National Fund's Board of Trustees, and Hannah Lessing, an outstanding and capable individual, was appointed Secretary General of the National Fund. She has worked successfully for the National Fund since its inception.

During my years as Chairman of the National Fund's Board of Trustees, I have stopped talking about "making amends" because, as we all know, the worst of all crimes, namely death and murder, cannot be "put right" again. However, I am convinced that the National Fund has achieved a great deal, both in terms of ideas and in practical terms. I am proud of the Austrian National Fund.

With this in mind, I would like to congratulate the National Fund on its 30th anniversary, thank all its employees for their dedication and express my delight that it has succeeded – albeit with a considerable delay – in doing what is right and good.

This must be kept up in the future.

Heinz Fischer

Former Federal President

Chairman of the Board of Trustees 1995–2002

The National Fund Paved the Way for Austria's Belated Insight and Paradigm Shift

In 1945, Austria became a democratic republic once more. In 1955, the State Treaty came into force, granting Austria full independence. Why did it take so long for our republic to face up to its responsibility for the suffering it caused and meet its obligations under the State Treaty? It was not until 50 years after the war that the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism was established, and it was not until 45 years after the State Treaty that the first bilingual place-name sign was erected in Burgenland. This marked the beginning of a belated paradigm shift.

For too long, Austria relied on the Moscow Declaration of 1943, in which the four victorious powers declared Austria the first victim of National Socialism. It was only the campaign against Kurt Waldheim before and after his election as Federal President – triggered in Austria by Austrians for tactical electoral reasons, but taken up internationally, bringing a storm upon Austria – that brought about catharsis and a new beginning. Franz Vranitzky, confirmed by Erhard Busek, made it clear in 1991 that although the Republic of Austria was a victim, many Austrians were also perpetrators and that the Republic must take responsibility for them. In 1994, Peter Kostelka and I became club chairmen of the SPÖ (Austrian Social Democratic Party) and ÖVP (Austrian People's Party) parliamentary groups in the governing coalition. The hardest nut we had to crack was the one presented to us by Vranitzky and Busek: on the anniversary of independence and the State Treaty in 1995, a symbolic gesture was to be made and a "reparations fund" to be established. Negotiations on this fund had so far failed in parliament. The Greens and many in the SPÖ had insisted on enshrining Austria's collective guilt in the constitution, but the ÖVP and the FPÖ were not prepared to do so. A decision was only reached when the SPÖ dropped this demand – all factions agreed, just the Greens voted against it. This allowed the National Fund to commence its work. The ice was broken.

Another groundbreaking law was passed in 1998: this one concerned the restitution of looted art. The Federal Minister for Education, Science and Culture, Elisabeth Gehrer, took on the challenging task of implementing a measure that still has yet to be implemented in other countries. During the federal government under Chancellor Schüssel and Vice-Chancellor Riess-Passer, further steps were taken, such as the installation of bilingual place-name signs in Burgenland and the preparation of a corresponding solution for Carinthia. In 2000, the Reconciliation Fund (now the Future Fund) was created and compensation for forced labourers got underway.



This work will always be associated with the name of Maria Schaumayer, who, as Government Commissioner for the Compensation of Forced Labourers under the Nazi Regime, obtained the necessary funds from the business community. Then, in 2001, the Washington Agreement set out the terms for compensation of seized tenancy rights and new funds were provided for this purpose, closing a gap in the National Fund.

Ten years later, Stuart Eizenstat, then the US government's Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues and undersecretary in the US Treasury Department, praised Austria's policy. He said that Austria had shown that it had learned its lesson from history, honouring and remembering the victims. This would help prevent the kinds of developments that took place between 1933 and 1945 from happening again in the future, and Austria had played its part in this, Eizenstat acknowledged. From today's perspective, his appraisal still stands. The National Fund and the Future Fund continue to work in this spirit and on this task. Their work is essential for our republic!

Andreas Khol

Former President of the National Council
Chairman of the Board of Trustees 2002–2006

Without Knowledge of Our Own Past, We Will Not Be Able to Understand the Present or Shape the Future

*Excerpt from the Foreword by Barbara Prammer, in:
Renate S. Meissner (ed.), 15 Years of the National Fund.
Development, function, impact, Vienna 2010, pp. 8–9*

Established in 1995, the Federal Law on the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism created the first centralised institution for making payments to Austrian victims of National Socialism. Alongside the important task of providing lump-sum payments and compensation for lost tenancy rights to victims, the National Fund has another key role: to demonstrate Austria's special responsibility towards victims of National Socialism. This special responsibility towards all those who were persecuted on various grounds is explicitly stated in the law. For the first time, the law recognised groups of victims who had previously received little or no consideration, such as people persecuted for so-called asocial behaviour or those with physical or mental disabilities. The National Fund also has the legal mandate to support projects that benefit victims of National Socialism, contribute to scientific research on National Socialism and the fate of its victims, recall Nazi injustice or preserve the memory of victims.

The National Fund has contributed in many ways to actively addressing our country's recent past: previously unknown cases of persecution have been documented, and symbolic payments have been made to additional victim groups. This has been achieved by collaborating with historical researchers and, most importantly, by maintaining ongoing personal contact with survivors. Staff of the National Fund have often been the first to make official contact with victims.



In addition to a high level of personal dedication, our members of staff are known for their particularly sensitive and considerate approach. It was equally important for me, too, to express my appreciation. I therefore invited many applicants to Parliament in person to talk to them, hear their stories and take their suggestions on board. [...]

Without knowledge of our own past, we will not be able to understand the present or shape the future. In this sense, I am proud of the important contribution that the National Fund has made to date and will continue to make in the future in terms of the Republic assuming responsibility.

Barbara Prammer (†)

President of the National Council

Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees 2006–2014

Three Decades of the National Fund: Structures Provide Support, Humanity Inspires

People have always been at the heart of the National Fund – their stories, their dignity and their humanity. When I think back on my years as chairwoman, it is above all my moving encounters with survivors that I will always remember. The conversations I had were a testament to the fact that memory is not abstract, but deeply human, vulnerable and at the same time full of strength. Equally unforgettable for me is the untold empathy of the Fund's staff – their patience, preciseness and openness to the concerns of those affected. Their dedication has contributed decisively to making support provided by the Fund effective and perceptible.

What also made a particular impression on me was the way the National Fund never relented in its efforts to raise the profiles of previously unrecognised victim groups. Time and again, it took steps to give a voice to those who had long been overlooked or even forgotten. Such efforts were not an added bonus; they were part of the very essence of the Fund: it did not take a restrictive approach, seeking instead to achieve recognition in its full breadth. This created a space in which the many and diverse fates could be honoured – equally, respectfully and without a hierarchy of suffering.



I had the privilege of chairing the Fund during a period defined by a fundamental amendment to the National Fund Law. This reform signalled a commitment to addressing the concerns of the victims of National Socialism with renewed vigour and sensitivity in changing times. It was based largely on the experiences and ideas of the staff. And so, around the 20th anniversary, we opened up new avenues for promoting a culture of remembrance, supporting memorial initiatives and taking into account the diverse needs of those affected. In doing so, it was important to me not to think solely in terms of structures and processes, but in terms of people. Not to speak of "cases", but of fates. Because it is not only legal provisions that form the foundation of the Fund; our ethos does too.

For over ten years, I have witnessed the Fund's committees demonstrate their overwhelmingly uninterrupted commitment to finding consensus across party lines and building bridges between the past and the present, between the suffering of the victims and the awareness of our society. The Fund is a living promise to make the voices of survivors heard and to take responsibility for future generations. Because people's hearts remain at the core of our actions!

Doris Bures

Third President of the National Council

Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees 2014-2017

30 Years are a Renewed Mission

Thirty years ago, the motivations for establishing the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism and openly facing up to historical responsibility included creating a holistic and truth-based foundation for the cultural memory, compensating the victims of Nazi terror at least symbolically, and establishing a new and scientifically sound basis for Austria's culture of remembrance. Thirty years on, the Republic can look back and call it a success: more than 30,000 victims worldwide have received a symbolic "gesture payment".

During my chairmanship of the Board of Trustees and the Committee of the National Fund, I actively sought to grow and develop the Fund's agenda. An amendment to the law introduced new tasks and structures, such as international exchange programmes for school-children and financial support for memorial servants, and an amendment to the Cemeteries Fund Law was implemented, securing the future restoration of the Jewish cemeteries in Austria. The Austrian exhibition at Auschwitz concentration camp was renewed and now includes a stronger focus on the role of Austrians as perpetrators. In addition, the National Fund's first conference, entitled "Remembrance and Responsibility" was held to give interested members of the public a well-founded review and outlook on the efforts to come to terms with National Socialism.

In 2020, a landmark was set with the statutory establishment of the Simon Wiesenthal Prize, which honours outstanding grass-roots achievements in the areas of remembrance, coming to terms with the past and combating antisemitism and racism, and presents them to a broad public.



With all these projects, the National Fund has succeeded in diversifying its valuable work. Today, it is more vital than ever to come to terms with the period after 1945 and, in addition to the perspective of the victims, to show the motives of the perpetrators and sympathisers – in order to understand the base motives behind the unfathomable and to document how post-war society dealt with those issues. This examination of the darkest chapter in our history is sometimes painful, sometimes upsetting, but always necessary. My trips abroad as President of the National Council have also emphatically shown me this.

During my visits to the "*Café der Altösterreicher*" in Tel Aviv, Gideon Eckhaus, former President of the Central Committee of Jews from Austria in Israel, expressed his gratitude to me in very emotional terms for Austria's active reconciliation with its past. This and many other conversations with contemporary witnesses have strengthened my conviction that, in the future, Austria must continue to actively come to terms with its history and at the same time live up to the much-proclaimed "Never again" today. When support for the BDS movement has become socially acceptable even in liberal democracies, when people loudly chant "From the river to the sea" and when the official representative of the Palestinian Authority recently called for the destruction of Israel with impunity, then "Never again" becomes a farce. "Never again" is today.

Wolfgang Sobotka

Former President of the National Council
Chairman of the Board of Trustees 2017–2024



Victim Recognition and “Gesture” Payments

The National Fund is an expression of the Republic's responsibility towards all victims of National Socialism. It provides benefits to survivors from Austria, regardless of the reason for their persecution – whether for political reasons, on grounds of origin, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, on charges of so-called asociality, or because they were victims of other forms of injustice perpetrated by the Nazi regime.

Victims of the Nazi regime are officially recognised as such in the form of a symbolic payment, known as a "gesture payment", of 5,087.10 euros (originally 70,000 Austrian schillings) per person. Since 1995, over 30,000 people worldwide have received a gesture payment from the National Fund.

Since 2023, over 3,400 victims of National Socialism have received a further payment, the so-called "extraordinary gesture payment", in the same amount.

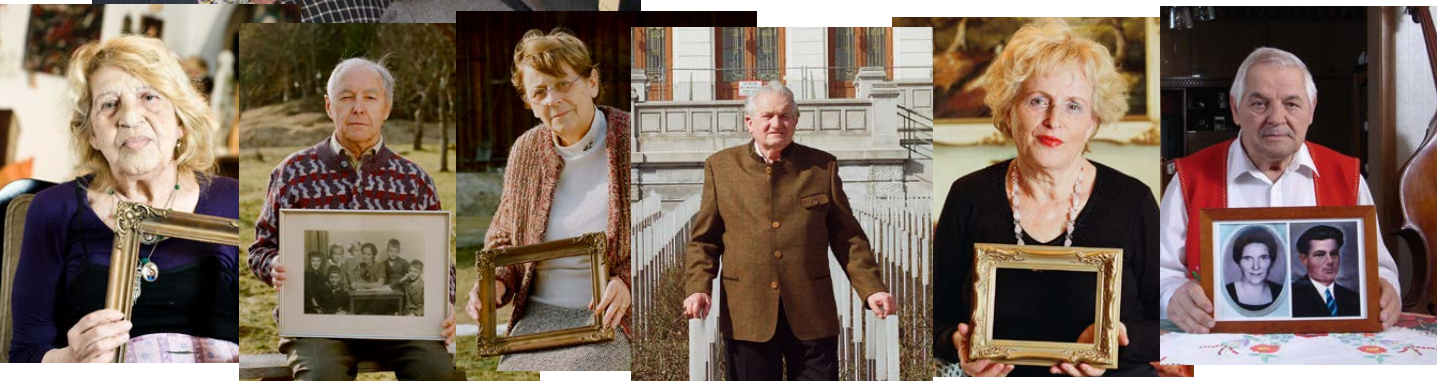
Survivors who are in need of extra support can apply to receive additional payments.



www.nationalfonds.org



Since 1995, the National Fund has been providing recognition to all those who were persecuted by the Nazi regime in Austria, whilst continually taking new historical findings into account.



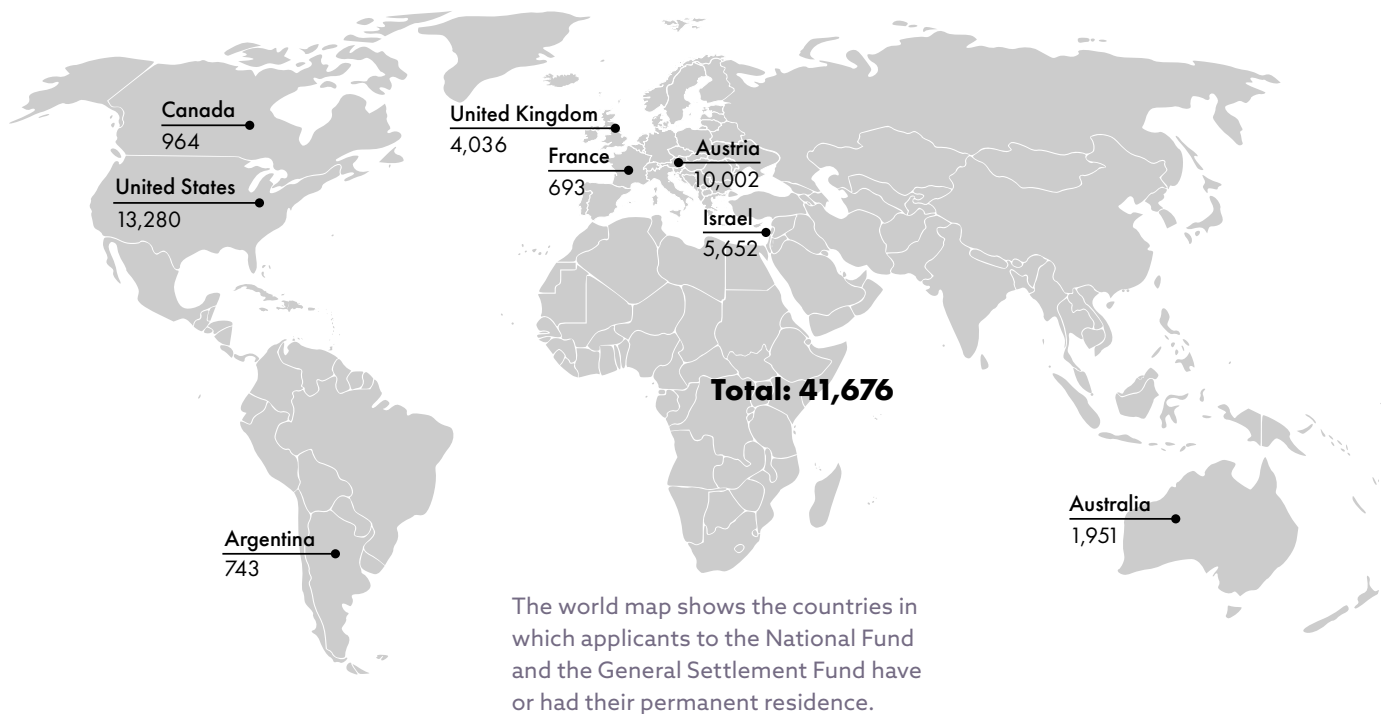
Recording and Preserving 40,000 Life Stories

Recording and preserving documentation of proceedings and persecution – digitisation of the file holdings

The National Fund's file holdings are an important part of the documentation and reappraisal of Austria's Nazi past. By coupling personal documents such as letters, biographies and photos with historical documents from various archives and collections, a comprehensive collection of personal documents and official source material has been created. It documents the history of persecution and expropriation in its entirety. The holdings comprise around 39,000 personal files with an estimated 6.2 million individual pages, which are being fully digitised. The aim is to preserve the documentation of the proceedings and the persecution in the long term and make it accessible for use.



The National Fund's archive documents persecution and bureaucratically recorded seizures, but also earlier compensation and restitution measures after 1945. Personal documents from applicants provide a compelling portrayal of the events and their significance for those affected and for Austria.



Since 1995, more than 34,000 people have filed an application with the National Fund. Around two-thirds of applicants to the National Fund also submitted an application to the General Settlement Fund: a total of 2,307 applications were submitted for *in rem* restitution and 20,702 applications for compensation of assets.

The applicants to the National Fund and the General Settlement Fund live or lived in over 80 countries around the world. The vast majority of Austrians who fled persecution in Austria during the Nazi era did not return, but remained in their respective countries of refuge and exile after the end of the war in 1945. The countries in which most applicants reside or resided are the USA, followed by Austria, Israel, Great Britain, Australia, Canada, Argentina and France.

30 Years of the National Fund – Responsibility Towards the Victims – Responsibility for the Future

From the outset, the National Fund's distinguished history has been associated with one concept: Austria taking responsibility for its part in the Nazi era. In recent decades, awareness of this concept has evolved from the notion of individual or generational Austrian responsibility for the crimes of the Nazi regime to a broader societal responsibility to prevent such occurrences from ever happening again.

Today, Austria has assumed its responsibility in a comprehensive and systemic manner. It subjects an entire generation of Austrians to scrutiny – Austrians who, due to a society lacking sufficient resilience, were unable or unwilling to prevent the establishment and sustainment of the inhuman Nazi system. The deeply rooted prejudices of many Austrians towards Jews, but also towards Roma and Sinti and other recognised victim groups before the Second World War also contributed to it.

A review of the National Fund's achievements over the past 30 years since its establishment demonstrates that its understanding of this responsibility will continue to underpin its future activities. Its systemic approach to manifesting this responsibility means that, alongside its commitment to supporting surviving victims and preserving Jewish cemeteries, Austria has a unique social responsibility at both the national and international levels: to bolster our society's resilience against the very same developments that led to the Holocaust in the past and that could have similar consequences in the future. The overarching goal is encapsulated by the mantra, "Never again!" The National Fund continues to be the key instrument here, partly in parallel with the Austrian Future Fund.

Concern for the survivors has led to a more versatile decision-making practice on the part of the Fund, for example amending the funding guidelines in 2021 to account for their advancing age and the associated rise in living costs.

Finally, the systemic concept of responsibility is particularly served by funding projects and initiatives that broaden and deepen knowledge about the Holocaust and by subsidising socially effective measures against antisemitism. The creation of the Simon Wiesenthal Prize in 2020 to honour outstanding achievements in this field has already provided a significant impetus here.

The amendment to the National Fund Law 2024 laid the foundations for a renewed adaptation to current developments in the form of a broadened and consolidated decision-making practice: this was initially achieved primarily by extending the Committee to include four experts from the fields of science, research and exhibition curation. At the same time, it became possible to set priorities for project funding, in order to better respond to specific challenges and recent developments. The first priority for 2025–2026 is combating online disinformation, which is spread, for example, by exerting influence, broadcasting propaganda and forming interest groups and leads to or can lead to Holocaust denial or distortion and to the cultivation and propagation of antisemitic narratives.

The expression of Austria's responsibility through the National Fund's project funding is now taking place in an environment that has been significantly impeded by recent political developments, which threaten to jeopardise the progress made so far. Fostering knowledge about the Holocaust and its origins and consequences therefore remains all the more important. Society's collective responsibility also means stepping up efforts to combat antisemitism and antigypsyism, as well as discrimination against vulnerable minorities.

The key here is to avoid and prevent people from viewing others as inferior, regardless of their perceived behaviour or their attitude towards them.



"Never again" also entails a commitment to a strong and secure Israel within internationally recognised borders as a point of reference and bastion of security for Jews around the world. "Never again" also means promoting resilience in society against all forms of extremism, despotism, aggression, territorial expansionism, crimes against humanity and massive violations of humanitarian law, without distinction, without exception and without justification. This is in line with the most important lessons learned from the Holocaust. In fulfilling the responsibility discussed here, the National Fund cannot influence international policy, but it can and will contribute to public awareness through its funding activities in line with the responsibility borne by Austria, also in the service of future generations.

Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff

Retired Ambassador

Member of the National Fund Committee

The National Fund without Contemporary Witnesses?

The establishment of the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism 30 years ago was accompanied by numerous criticisms. It was rightly pointed out that the expression of special responsibility towards the victims of National Socialism – as set out in the law – came very belatedly, 50 years after the Second World War and the Shoah had ended. For a long time, the Republic of Austria had focused on its victimhood as a state, ignoring the multitude of human Holocaust victims, the deportations to concentration camps, the mistreatment, expulsion and flight, and the unmitigated uprooting that often accompanied them. For decades, many of the exiles hoped for, indeed expected, invitations to return to their homeland, invitations that should have been symbols of respect for the suffering they had endured. But they did not come, and when they finally did, for many it was already too late.

That is why the establishment of the National Fund was also viewed with scepticism, despite the fact it was set up by Parliament. Many had previously tried and failed to receive official recognition as victims of National Socialism or to claim compensation for property losses. I vividly remember the summer of 1995, when those affected initially submitted their applications for the so-called gesture payment – tentatively at first, but then in ever-increasing numbers. At that time, the payment amounted to 70,000 schillings. Some came to Parliament in person and asked for help with filling in the application form. Hearing their life stories made me realise that persecution and war can shape a whole lifetime and that the pain and suffering experienced never end.

In keeping with this awareness, initial discussions between National Fund staff and contemporary witnesses made it clear that this would be a special undertaking. There was no precedent for the organisation and administration of the fund, but it was and is far more than a purely administrative task. It was an advantage that the young team at the National Fund could approach the work without any personal historical baggage.

The first step was to contact as many survivors as possible. Advertisements placed in newspapers worldwide helped in this endeavour, as did the Austrian diplomatic missions abroad. Of particular importance were the organisations representing the interests of the victims of National Socialism. However, over the years it was also necessary to broaden the scope of the victim groups mentioned in the National Fund Law, to include, for example, the Wehrmacht deserters and the Carinthian Slovenes.

This development was significantly supported by the Board of Trustees of the National Fund. The National Fund's success in building bridges with former Austrian citizens is largely thanks to the tireless efforts of individuals who have sadly since passed away, including Gideon Eckhaus, Leo Luster, Käthe Sasso, Marko Feingold and Dagmar Ostermann. With their tireless dedication, they emphasised the importance of the message "Never again" and the lessons learned from the horrific years between 1938 and 1945. These are important ethical, moral and political conclusions that must be drawn in the context of today's liberal democracy. Their legacy highlights the dangers of excluding parts of society and demonstrates that democracy is by no means guaranteed, as many current examples show. They experienced first-hand how people became disenfranchised and how their names became numbers. People with houses, shops or apartments were displaced. Ethnic, political and religious affiliation determined life and death.

Many who lived through those years have now passed away or no longer have the strength as contemporary witnesses to urge us to remain vigilant. However, we can draw on the rich treasure trove of their stories and experiences, which they have left to the National Fund and which have been published several times in the *Erinnerungen/Lives Remembered* series. We must seek to translate these memories and forewarnings into the present day for younger generations and strengthen knowledge about the Nazi past.

The comprehensive amendment of the National Fund Law in 2023 defined some of these tasks, such as the promotion of international exchange programmes for schoolchildren and apprentices, and the implementation of projects aimed at giving young people a better understanding of the present lives of the descendants of victims of National Socialism.

All these undertakings will require our continued efforts in the future, not only from the National Fund, but also from the memorial sites and organisations working in this field.



Susanne Janistyn-Novák

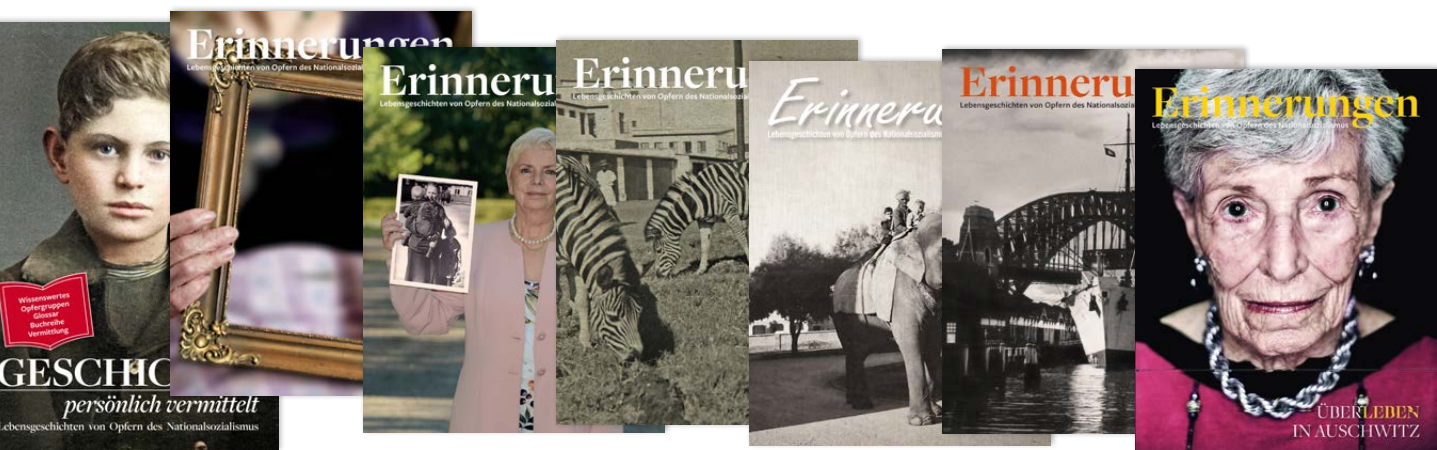
Deputy Director of Parliament

Member of the National Fund Committee

Documenting Life Stories

The National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism considers the documentation and publication of life stories to be of paramount importance. In view of the change in generations, it is particularly essential to document and share these biographical recollections with the public as a unique historical resource, and to preserve the memory of the Nazis' victims. For many of those affected, the publication of their stories is also an important form of personal recognition.

Since 2000, the National Fund has been publishing the life stories of survivors of National Socialism.





The online collection contains life stories in German and English as well as videos with personal accounts from victims of National Socialism.

Since 2011, the National Fund has been publishing the book series *Erinnerungen. Lebensgeschichten von Opfern des Nationalsozialismus / Lives Remembered: Life Stories of Victims of National Socialism*. The volumes in the series are distributed to libraries and archives in Austria and abroad, as well as to schools throughout Austria, and can be used in a variety of classroom settings.



[www.nationalfonds.org/
life-stories](http://www.nationalfonds.org/life-stories)

The Significance and Impact of Autobiographical Testimonies by Victims of National Socialism

"The fact that a later generation remembers the suffering of this period is perhaps more important than the amount of money itself."

From a letter by an applicant

The origins of the collection – creating space for memories

When I had the privilege of welcoming the first Holocaust survivors to a temporary office in Parliament in July 1995 as part of the preparatory steps in the run-up to the launch of the National Fund, it was impossible to predict that the National Fund would develop into a permanent institution with a large and ever-expanding range of tasks.

However, even during these first personal encounters with the survivors, it became clear how important it was that Austria had established a point of contact for all victims of National Socialism.

This is because the majority of those who visited our office in the course of applying for a symbolic gesture payment felt the need – so many years after the war – to tell an official Austrian authority about their persecution, their love for their homeland or their ambivalent relationship with Austria.

From the outset, one of the central aspects of the National Fund's work has been to listen and to provide an empathetic space for the individual fates of those who had to flee Austria or were persecuted in Austria.

Together with the gradual awakening of society's interest in the individual fates of those persecuted by the Nazi regime, this often sparked a need in these people to open up to the outside world and not only share their life stories after having remained silent for so many decades, but also to record them in detailed biographical reports for themselves, their families and posterity.

In addition to the important act of listening provided by its employees, the National Fund was keen to preserve the biographical accounts in an editorially prepared, published form for research and future generations.

Over the years, the various anniversary publications of the National Fund containing information on its various areas of activity as well as the first biographical accounts, developed into a standalone book series entitled *Erinnerungen. Lebensgeschichten von Opfern des Nationalsozialismus / Lives Remembered: Life Stories of Victims of National Socialism* which now comprises eight anthologies focusing on different themes and regions: the various groups of victims, the year 1942, survival in Auschwitz, and the various destinations of flight and exile, such as Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and Palestine/Israel.

The Year of Remembrance 2008 also provided the National Fund with an opportunity to publish autobiographies on its website. The online collection now comprises 130 life stories, some in German and some in English.

The significance of publishing life stories for the survivors

While the symbolic “gesture payment” by the National Fund was perceived by its recipients as an (initial) act of recognition of their painful experiences under the Nazi regime, the publication of their own life stories and their experiences of persecution was seen as a further meaningful gesture of recognition. In the context of the National Fund, one could, if one wished, speak of a second act of recognition by the Republic. This is substantiated by the many responses in a similar vein.

One of them was from Antonia Sabotnik, a Carinthian Slovenian: *“I am delighted that you have chosen my story for publication. Actually, I can’t believe that after so many years, my story is being recognised for the first time as the story of a victim of National Socialism.”*¹

Global contact with the second and third generations of survivors

The intensive re-examination of their own experiences of persecution while putting their autobiographies to paper not only led them to carry out a detailed appraisal of their experiences and pass them on to their children and descendants, often for the first time, but also to wonderful encounters and moving exchanges between National Fund employees and the second and third generations of Holocaust survivors and others persecuted for other reasons from all over the world. This opened up an opportunity for the National Fund to forge ties between Austria and the descendants of the survivors as well.

Life stories as a “textual place of learning”

What can biographical texts achieve as a place of learning for the present and for future generations? Aleida Assmann answered the question about their educational role as follows: An approach is needed where “work on history strives to make a past that has become alien accessible” to future generations as well.²

Life stories are particularly well suited to this purpose, as they tell history in a personal, lively and touching way on the basis of the many and varied fates of individuals; this also enables a connection to the present and its issues.

The autobiographies published in the National Fund's book series are illustrated with historical documents, graphic depictions of escape routes, historical and recent photographs, and detailed volume-specific annotations on historical figures and events, making them valuable and multifaceted testimonies to a painful past. In this way, they provide a vivid, nuanced view of history and can make history more tangible and understandable.

In the long term, the "textual memorials" – as they were termed by Manfred Müller³ – that are collected in the volumes in the book series *Erinnerungen/Lives Remembered* can make a valuable contribution to collective and cultural memory.

Renate S. Meissner

Former Deputy Secretary General and Scientific Director of the National Fund
Editor of the book series *Erinnerungen/Lives Remembered*

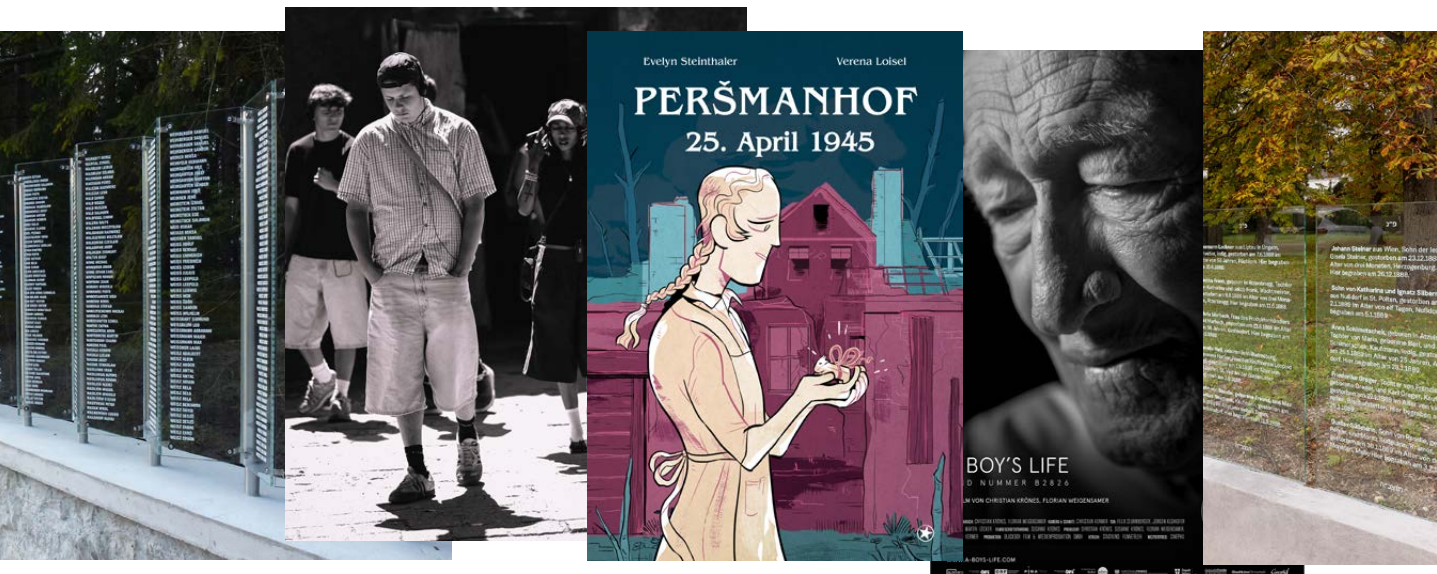


- 1 Antonia Sabotnik, *Zwischen den Fronten*, in: *In die Tiefe geblickt. Lebensgeschichten*, published by the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism, Vienna 2000, pp. 49-50, here p. 49 (translated from German).
- 2 Aleida Assmann, *Geschichte im Gedächtnis. Von der individuellen Erfahrung zur öffentlichen Inszenierung*, Munich 2007, p. 194 (translated from German).
- 3 Manfred Müller, *Life Stories as Textual Memorials. The Collection of Memories from the Archives of the National Fund of the Republic of Austria*, in: *Victim groups. Lives Remembered. Life stories of Victims of National Socialism*, Vol. 1, ed. by Renate S. Meissner on behalf of the National Fund, Vienna 2011, pp. 15-20.

Project Funding

Since its establishment, the National Fund's project funding programme has been one of its central activities. The funded projects address all victim groups of National Socialism.

Funding is provided for social and medical programmes for survivors from Austria, as well as for projects that carry out scientific research into National Socialism and the fate of its victims, recall Nazi injustices or preserve the memory of the victims – such as school projects and workshops, exhibitions, art projects, film productions, academic projects, publications, opera and theatre projects, and memorial sites.

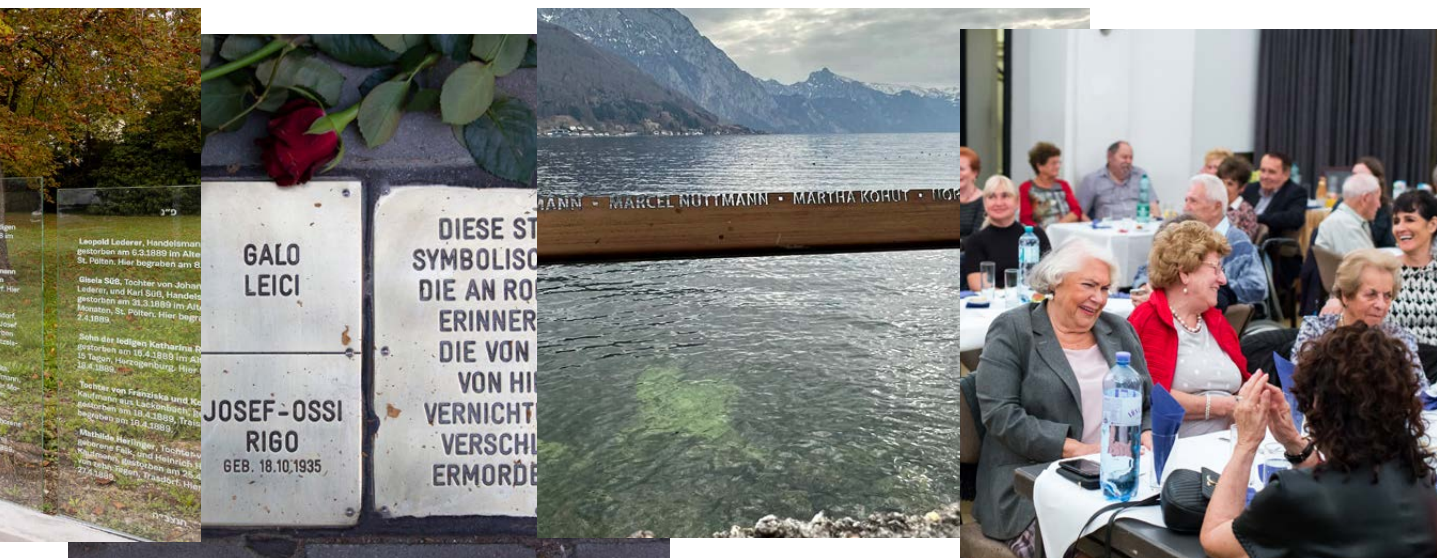




[www.nationalfonds.org/
project-funding](http://www.nationalfonds.org/project-funding)

In 2025/26, particular emphasis will be placed on promoting projects that seek to identify and combat disinformation in online media. The focus will be primarily on projects with the objective of counter-acting disinformation that relativises the Holocaust or undermines the culture of remembrance.

The fund has an annual budget of around 1.5 million euros to fund projects and social and medical programmes for victims of National Socialism. To date, the National Fund has subsidised over 3,000 projects and programmes in over 20 countries worldwide.



The Expanded Committee – a Comparatively New Perspective on Project Funding by the National Fund

In 2024, the National Fund Committee was re-constituted with four additional members in accordance with an amendment to the National Fund Law. Brigitte Bailer and Gerald Lamprecht were appointed by the Austrian Universities Conference, Otto Hochreiter by the Austrian National Committee of the International Council of Museums, and Ljiljana Radonić by the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Since then, we have been involved in the decision-making process regarding project applications.

Since its establishment, the National Fund has been committed to supporting survivors and their families, including those belonging to previously unrecognised victim groups. Over the last 30 years, it has played a pivotal role in promoting commemorative projects for these groups and those people who still remain somewhat outside the mainstream of remembrance. This gives the National Fund a unique position, particularly within the field of remembrance projects. It has become one of the central backers in Austria of projects, events, publications, exhibitions and conferences that address this subject, with special focus on the fate of victims of the Nazi regime – also beyond the academic domain.

The submitted applications provide an excellent insight into Austria's vibrant and diverse culture of remembrance. Many of the applications are from well-known institutions such as universities, museums and archives, that play a key role in commemorating the victims of National Socialism. However, it is primarily grassroots initiatives from all over Austria that approach the National Fund to support their diverse remembrance projects. This results in a diverse mix of scientific, educational, and local approaches to remembrance work. Given the limited budget, it is not always easy to make a decision.

The few surviving eyewitnesses and their descendants are at the heart of both the National Fund's payments to Holocaust survivors and the project applications. It is these individual biographies and personal approaches that make the applications to the National Fund so unique. Although the Fund can only contribute comparatively small sums to each project, it still makes an indispensable contribution towards promoting a diverse approach to remembrance and, above all, to fostering a critical attitude towards Austria's Nazi past and complicity. Therefore, it is important for members of the newly enlarged Committee to strike a balance between funding commemorative trips, for example, and research and education projects focusing on perpetrators, individual victims, and the complex involvement of third parties.

Due to the 80th anniversary of the war's end and the large number of applications, the year 2025 is proving to be a challenge. The Committee has taken on a new role, supporting the National Fund in the sometimes challenging task of rejecting some exciting and important applications due to the high volume of high-quality submissions. Decisions are based on the founding objectives of the National Fund, on the National Fund Law, and the project's scientific and educational quality and feasibility, given the limited budgetary resources. Finally, the committee must also consider issues of remembrance policy and social sustainability. Another important factor in the selection process is promoting diversity among projects in terms of the different victim groups. In an age where the victim groups are vying for attention and funds, this diversity enables the National Fund to encourage people to recognise the unique characteristics of the various groups' stories of persecution and extermination, while also acknowledging their shared history.

Today, the Republic of Austria considers its critical stance on its role during the Nazi era intrinsic to its identity. This has not always been the case, and political trends clearly show that it cannot be taken for granted. Austria's identity and official remembrance policy aside, however, it is crucial to adopt a critical stance towards right-wing extremism, the proliferation of conspiracy theories, racism,

antigypsyism, and the alarming surge in antisemitism in the wake of the Hamas attack on 7 October 2023. These challenges underscore the ongoing and increasing importance of the National Fund's work. It is therefore an honour for us to be able to make our modest contribution to this cause.



Brigitte Bailer

Former Director of the Documentation
Centre of Austrian Resistance
Member of the National Fund Committee



Otto Hochreiter

Secretary General of the Austrian National Committee of the International Council of Museums
Member of the National Fund Committee



Gerald Lamprecht

Director of the Centre for Jewish Studies
at the University of Graz
Member of the National Fund Committee



Ljiljana Radonić

Deputy Director of the Institute of Culture
Studies at the Austrian Academy of Sciences
Member of the National Fund Committee

The 2001 Washington Agreement

On 17 January 2001, representatives of the Republic of Austria, the United States of America, and organisations representing Nazi victims signed the Joint Statement in Washington, D.C. This document formed the basis of the agreement between the Austrian Federal Government and the Government of the United States of America concerning the Settlement of Open Questions of Compensation for Victims of National Socialism. This international

January 17, 2001

Joint Statement

The Governments of the Republic of Austria ("Austria") and the United States of America ("United States"),

Austrian companies,

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims (including the Central Committee of Jews from Austria in Israel and the American Council for Equal Compensation of Nazi victims from Austria),

The Austrian Jewish Community,

As further participants, the undersigned attorneys,

Noting that through the General Settlement Fund (providing for a Claims Committee and an Arbitration Panel), to be established under Austrian federal law and funded by contributions from Austria, including Austrian companies, Austria and Austrian companies acknowledge in accordance with the declaration of the Austrian Federal Government of February 3, 2000 the moral responsibility arising out of the tragic history of the 20th century and the horrendous crimes and injustices of the National Socialist era and reaffirming the commitment to a self-critical scrutiny of the National Socialist past,

Noting that in the same declaration the Austrian Federal Government committed itself to ensure unreserved clarification, exposure of the structures of injustice, of National Socialism and the transmission of this knowledge to coming generations as a warning for the future, as well as to Austria's facing up to the light and dark sides of its past and to the deeds of all Austrians, good and evil, as its responsibility,

Noting the statement by Federal President, Thomas Klestil of October 24, 2000 at the occasion of the signing of the Agreement to settle the forced and slave labor issue,

Taking into account all measures of restitution, compensation and social welfare benefits for victims of National Socialism that have already been carried out by Austria in the past, while at the same time acknowledging that there were certain gaps and deficiencies in such measures,

Recalling the statement by Federal Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel, on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Republic of Austria, at the meeting of the Council of Ministers on April 28, 2000, affirming that Austrians stand by the onerous heritage of their country and acknowledging that, when it comes to questions of restitution, compensation, and material reparation, the Second Republic was often too hesitant,

Considering Austria's legal status during the period of occupation by Nazi-Germany in 1938 and liberation by the Allied Powers in 1945, and

For the Government of the Republic of Austria

For the Government of the United States of America

For Austrian Companies and Private Sector

For the Austrian Jewish Community

For the Conference on Jewish Material Claims (including the Central Committee of Jews from Austria in Israel and the American Council for Equal Compensation of Nazi victims from Austria)

Lawrence Kill
for Anderson, Kill, & Olick, P.C.

Edward Fagan
for Fagan & Associates

Carey D'Avanzo
for D'Avanzo & Associates

Barry Fisher
for Fleishman & Fisher

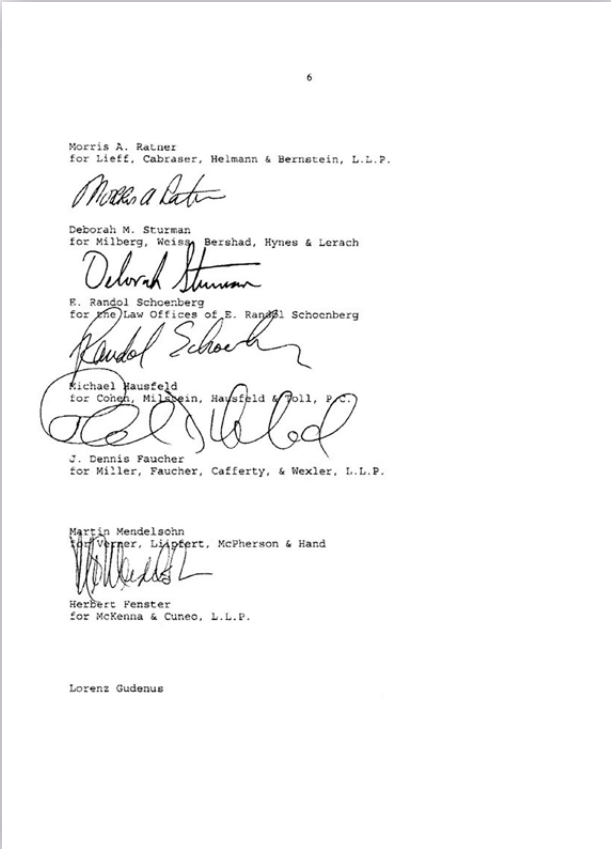
Robert Swift
for Kohn, Swift & Graf, P.C.

The first and last three pages of the Joint Statement.

treaty included a ten-point appendix outlining specific measures to benefit victims of National Socialism. Many of these measures are being or have been implemented by the National Fund of the Republic of Austria, the General Settlement Fund, and the Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish Cemeteries in Austria.



An historic moment: US chief negotiator Stuart Eizenstat and representatives of the *Conference on Jewish Material Claims*, Israel Singer and Gideon Taylor (from right to left), at the signing of the *Joint Statement* on 17 January 2001 in Washington.

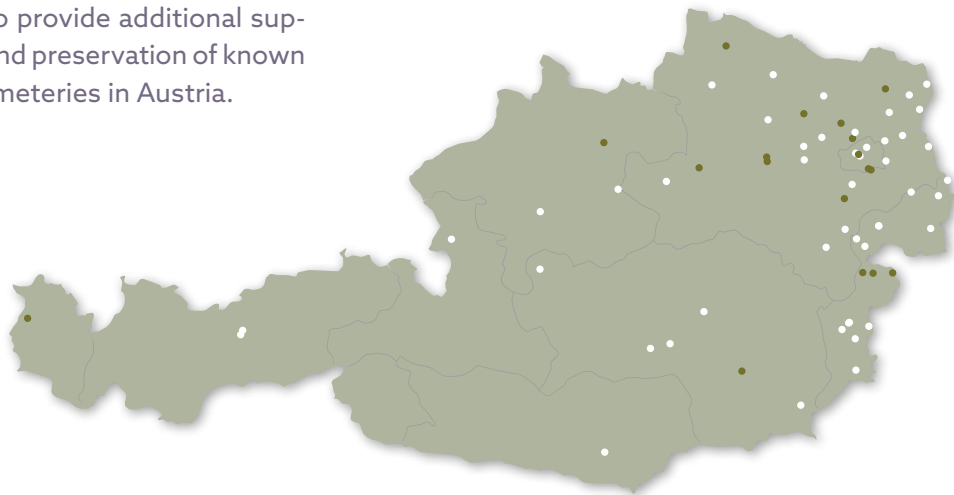


The Restoration of Jewish Cemeteries



Jewish cemeteries are special places of remembrance, many of them have significant cultural and historical value. During the Nazi era, countless graves were destroyed and the names of the dead erased. Following the expulsion of the Jewish communities and the murder of their members, Jewish cemeteries in Austria were left to fall into decay for many decades.

In the Washington Agreement with the United States, Austria agreed to provide additional support for the restoration and preservation of known and unknown Jewish cemeteries in Austria.



This map shows the geographical location of Jewish cemeteries in Austria. The green dots mark Jewish cemeteries that have been or are being restored with monies from the Cemeteries Fund.



In December 2010, the Federal Law on the Establishment of the Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish Cemeteries in Austria marked a decisive step towards the domestic implementation of this obligation under international law.

With the support of this Fund, more than 60 Jewish cemeteries throughout Austria will have been saved from decay by 2050. The federal government allocates an inflation-adjusted sum of 1.2 million euros annually to this end.

To date, 13 cemeteries have been fully restored and handed over to the local communities.

The two upper pictures show the tahara house at the Baden cemetery before and after restoration. Below are the fully restored cemeteries in Waidhofen an der Thaya (left) and St. Pölten (right).



www.friedhofsfonds.org

On the 30th Anniversary of the National Fund

When the biblical Ruth decided not to let her mother-in-law Naomi return to Israel alone, but instead to accompany her on her journey, she performed an act of utmost kindness, a pure act of love, known in Hebrew as *Chessed shel Emet* ("a true act of love"). This decision was not just indicative of unimaginable selflessness – giving up her Moabite royal family and thus her entire promising future in exchange for an uncertain existence in poverty and without prospects in a foreign country – her act of selfless kindness not only extended to the living, but also to the dead.

The *Midrash Tanchuma* describes how Ruth not only showed compassion to the living – Naomi – supporting her in poverty and misery; but also to the dead – her late husband Kilion. Not in the form of burial clothes and a funeral, but by creating a memorial and preserving his name, keeping it alive. This act of compassion was rewarded by the respected judge Boaz, who married her, providing her with a secure future. From this union came forth the kings David and Solomon, whom Ruth lived to see as a great-grandmother and a great-great-grandmother, and she sat at their throne as the “king’s mother” (1 Kings 2:19). Boaz himself attested that this final act of love was even greater than the first, i.e. the act of love bestowed upon the dead was deemed more important than that bestowed upon the living. Naomi, her mother-in-law, also recognised that G-d had shown compassion to the living and to the dead (Ruth 2:20), rewarding Ruth for her act of love by providing for her.

According to the Talmud (Bab. Talmud Sota 14a), compassion towards the living and the dead is a divine attribute. The Torah begins with G-d’s act of kindness towards Adam and Eve, and ends with G-d burying Moses. The Torah is thus embedded in acts of love towards the living and the dead.

According to the *Midrash* (Ruth Rabba), this forms the basis for future redemption. Ruth's actions laid the foundation for the establishment of the royal House of David, from whose lineage the Messiah, the Redeemer, would emerge – achieved through selfless love and compassion towards the living and the dead.

This jubilee publication celebrates 30 years of valuable work by the Austrian National Fund. As part of its remit, the Fund not only cares for Shoah survivors but also administers the Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish Cemeteries in Austria, thereby carrying out work in memory of the dead.

It is an institution that champions compassion for both the living and the dead. It is not concerned with burial clothes or funerals – those buried in cemeteries have already received those – but with preserving their names and memory with dignity, and ensuring that their past is held sacred. It is a tremendous act of respect not only for the past, but also for the legacy of 1,000 years of Jewish history and the many notable figures who emerged

from it, as well as for Austria's present. It is, above all, an act of "true compassion", as nothing can be expected in return from the dead. Its work fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah (54, 4-5): "For thus says the Lord: I will give them a memorial and a name... I will give them an everlasting name that can never be erased."

May the National Fund's important and meaningful work continue to have a positive impact for many years and decades to come. This will benefit the victims of National Socialism and help preserve the memory of those buried in the cemeteries. It shows compassion to both the living and the dead.

With G-d's blessing



Jaron Engelmayer
Chief Rabbi of the Jewish
Community of Vienna

The Austrian Exhibition at Auschwitz-Birkenau

Block 17 houses the new exhibition "Far Removed. Austria and Auschwitz".

In October 2021, the new Austrian national exhibition opened in Block 17 of the former concentration and extermination camp, now the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum.

The exhibition depicts the fate of Austrian victims at Auschwitz, as well as the involvement of Austrians in the atrocities committed there. As a place of remembrance and learning, it aims to promote understanding and dialogue between generations, as well as between people of different religions, nationalities and ethnic backgrounds.



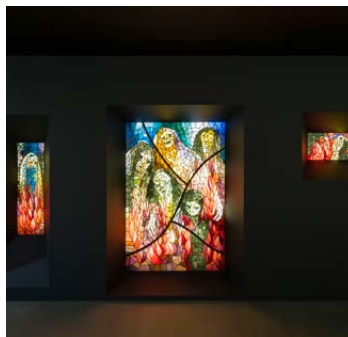
The first Austrian national exhibition, which opened in 1978, largely ignored the involvement of Austrians in Nazi crimes. The Austrian Federal Government therefore entrusted the National Fund with the task of renewing the exhibition's content and design, as well as renovating the listed exhibition building in which it was housed. Following a Europe-wide call for tenders, the National Fund appointed a team led by Hannes Sulzenbacher and Albert Lichtblau to curate the new exhibition, and commissioned architect Martin Kohlbauer to design it.



The National Fund is responsible for the content of the exhibition, ensures its smooth operation and runs the exhibition website.



www.auschwitz.at



Impressions from the new exhibition. Bottom right: Items hidden by prisoners, found during renovation work on Block 17 in April 2020.

Thirty Years of Serving Austria's Conscience

The National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism offers much more than just support for survivors, more than participation in various events, anniversaries and celebrations, more than its legal duties as an institution, which are listed in detail on its website.

Personally, I have associated the National Fund with Hannah Lessing's work and approach for at least twenty years, as well as her enormous, life-long commitment to remembrance. I know this was true not only for me, but also for Marian Turski and many other survivors active in this challenging and painful area of remembrance.

The post-war perception of Austria was often problematic. Many accused it of failing to fully denazify, particularly in comparison to Germany, and of being unable to face up to its history. This manifested itself in peculiar solutions for remembrance at Mauthausen and the long-standing, almost complete inconspicuousness of Gusen and many other places of torture. Whether or not this criticism is justified is less important; I have heard it in many countries around the world.

Hannah Lessing has been a saving grace on numerous occasions. Whenever her name came up in discussions, Austria's critics would suddenly find themselves at a loss for arguments. She is highly regarded at Yad Vashem, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the *Mémorial de la Shoah* and many other important institutions around the world. This is no coincidence. I expressed my appreciation for this by delivering a laudatory speech in German in Vienna – the only time in my life I have ever done so – when she was awarded the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

Having observed the activities of the National Fund for 25 years, I know very well that it has always acted according to certain principles, repeatedly managing to save both the historical memory and the reputation of the Republic of Austria. Often under difficult and unpleasant circumstances.

The National Fund played a pivotal role in shaping the permanent Austrian exhibition in Auschwitz. Considering the composition of the committee that deliberated on the design of this exhibition, this was an almost insurmountable task. Representatives from virtually all political parties, universities, scientific institutions, foundations, associations and state and municipal institutions were involved. Some even demanded that the motto of the previous exhibition be preserved:

“Austria as Hitler’s first victim”. In such a situation, it seemed impossible that this could succeed. And yet it did – thanks to Hannah Lessing and her dedicated team at the National Fund. They engaged in dialogue with great strength, wisdom and conviction, believing that only the truth could make sense in a place as difficult as Auschwitz.

Now more than ever, we need to remember. No one knows what the world will look like in two or five years’ time. Nor do we know what the work of the National Fund will look like then. There are almost no survivors left. However, one thing gives me great hope for the future. The National Fund and its employees have demonstrated that significant achievements are not dependent on organisational structures, administrative apparatus, statutes, or legal regulations.

The great history of remembrance is founded on the courage of individuals who sacrifice their lives, their emotions and their time. These people almost always act against the tide and awaken the conscience of our societies by asking difficult questions and saying, "Stop! That is not the right way." This should continue to guide the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism in future. This is especially important in times of great uncertainty.



Piotr M. A. Cywiński

Director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau
State Museum

Fostering and Sharing Knowledge about National Socialism

Fostering and sharing knowledge about National Socialism, its consequences and the fate of its victims can take many forms – from the preservation of historical documents and the publication of life stories to providing information about the Nazi era and subsequent compensation and restitution measures and communicating it to the public, and facilitating access to the relevant materials.

The *Findbuch* for Victims of National Socialism

The National Fund's *Findbuch*, or "finding aid", enables people to search Austrian archives online for materials on Nazi property confiscations and Austrian restitution and compensation measures. It contains over 215,000 data records from the Austrian State Archives and the provincial archives of Burgenland, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Carinthia, Tyrol and Vienna.

The *Findbuch* boasts the most comprehensive collection of personal data in these subject-areas. Its purpose is to encourage and support people in coming to terms with National Socialism and its aftermath in Austria, both in a genealogical context and at an academic, educational and societal level.



www.findbuch.at

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Left: The property notice filed by Margit Lessing (born 22 July 1895) in 1938. Right: Margit Lessing's home address in the "Official Directory of Telephone Subscribers in Vienna, May 1938" (telephone directory).

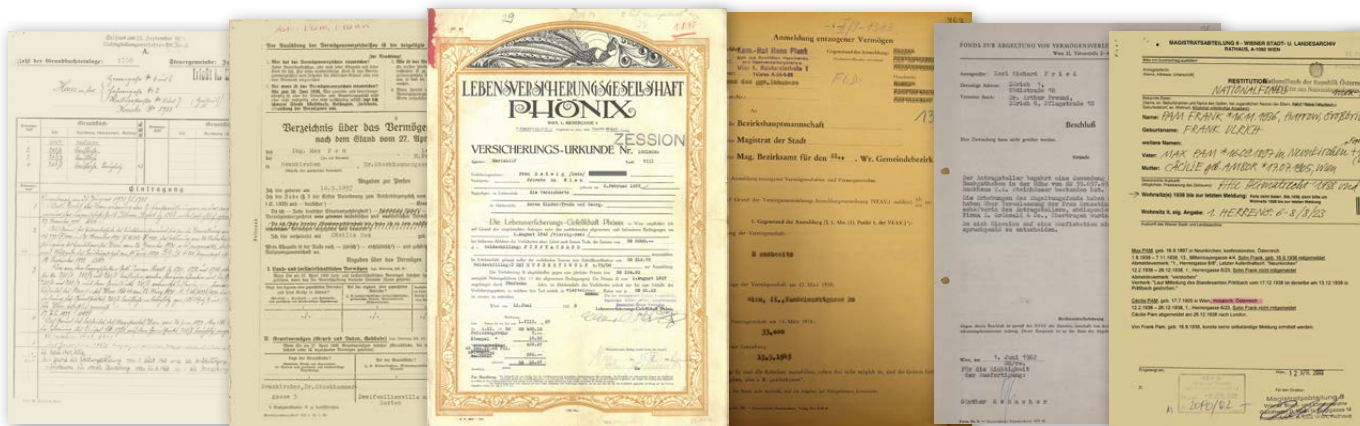
sky, Dr. Hannibal, Gen.
Hl. Fasang. 49 a. U-19-804
sky, Dktm. Herbert
IX/1, Liechtensteinstr. 24. U-19-801
Fraderike, Reg. R. W. 14-901
sir. 318. U-24-2-78
Ludwig, I., Kärntnerstr. 51.
R-23-6-49
ky, Ing. Jos. (Hak. Ing.
eschtzky), Heizungs- u. Lüf-
gen, V., Am Hundsturm 3.
A-30-4-30
ky, Ing. Norbert I., kant.
unstatk., V., Am Hundsturm 3.
B-23-7-98
ky, Thérèse v. Woskres-
sensprof., XVIII/1, Martin-
str. 3. A-30-6-78
Franz, Schneidermeister.
Anna Franzg, 7. B-49-208
P. C. & Co., Kommanditisten-
bankleider u. Maklerakt. I.
R-29-0-50
Risa, F. Heinrich Leschik
us f. Damenkonfektion, XVII/2,
Friedrichstr. 27. A-29-0-85
ky Artur, Bmlr. d. Wiener-
gerleske, Inzersdorf b. Wien.
Nr. 13. R-14-6-72
Lesowsky, Dr. Josef, Professor, Hl.
Klopsteinkl. 6. B-54-304
Lessacher Louis, Arrangeur, VII-10
str. 119. B-37-1-73-2
Lussen, Carl v., Schauspieler, XVIII/1
Strichg. 21. R-62-6-94
Lustner Theresia, Hl., Invalidenstr.
U-12-7-12
Lessaer & Liman, Auskunftsbiro. 1.
Zellnkap. 13. U-24-1-60
Lesser Walter, „Lady“, gesetzl. gesch.
Ärmerstütze, IX/1, Biederg. 11. R-55-2-42
Lessiak Felix, Auto-Rep. Werkstätte,
IX/2, Meyerstr. 3. A-25-800
Lesiak Franz, Dir. d. Großkaufma-
ns, oster. Consumvereine. XIII-1.
Haidg. 32. A-56-5-63
Lessina Adolf, Weine, Liköre u. Spiritu-
tosen en gros, XVI/1, Hasnerstr. 148.
U-34-3-31
Lessing Margit, VIII., Altheim 13.
A-25-1-54-B
Lessing, Dr. Max, Zahnarzt, VII-1,
73-6, Sa. 9-11, VIII., Baumg. 8.
A-44-5-91
Lessing, Dr. Paul, Rechtsanw. I.
Maria Theresienstr. 8. A-10-5-62
Wobnoy, VIII., Meisg. 23. A-24-109-B

Historical and Genealogical Research

Support and advice for Holocaust survivors and their relatives

The National Fund supports victims of National Socialism and their descendants by conducting historical research into their families' whereabouts and experiences during the Nazi era. Additionally, the Fund acts as an expert advisor to authorities and prepares expert opinions in proceedings on the restoration of Austrian citizenship under Section 58c of the Citizenship Act.

The fates of Nazi victims are often little known, yet they frequently represent an important part of subsequent generations' family history. For this reason, many descendants turn to the National Fund to find out more about their ancestors' lives before and during the Nazi persecution, or to obtain information about assets confiscated under the Nazi regime.



Historical land register extracts

Property notices

Enquiries to insurance archives

Files on Ordinance on the Notification of Seized Properties

Files of the Compensation Fund

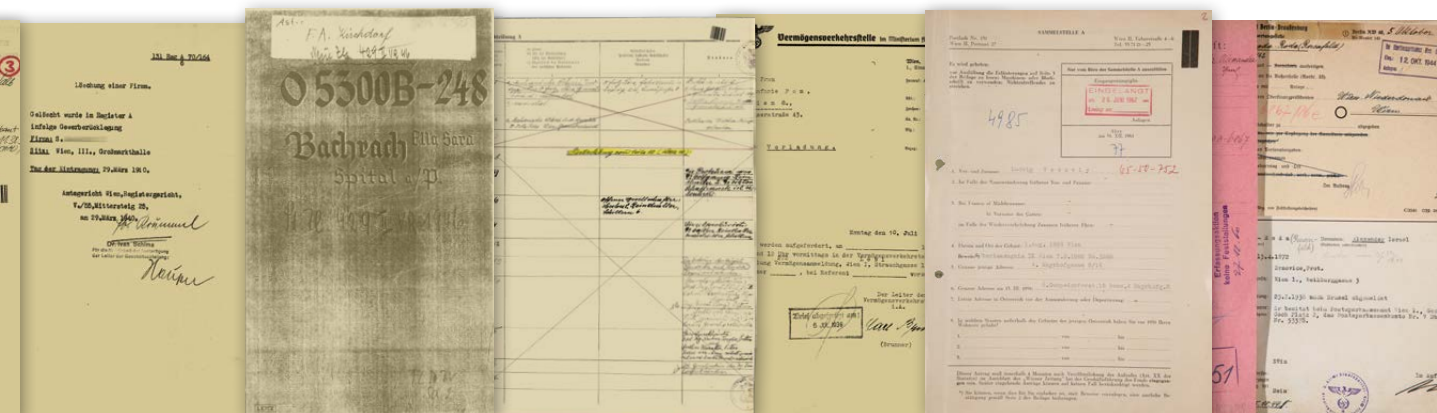
Registration queries

Many descendants use their visits to Vienna as an opportunity to arrange a personal appointment with the National Fund. For many, the opportunity to recount their family history and corroborate it with archival and other data is a profound experience.

Since 2020, the Austrian Citizenship Act has made it easier for victims of National Socialism and their descendants to obtain citizenship. Citizenship authorities can consult the National Fund to assess whether the requirements in the proceedings are met.



The historical research of the National Fund and the General Settlement Fund covers a wide range of holdings in Austrian and international archives and databases. Here is a selection of file types that form part of the collection of both Funds and are archived at the National Fund.



Trade register extracts

Files from other holdings of the provincial archives

Commercial register extracts

Property Transaction Office files

Files from collection Agencies A and B

Files from the provincial Financial Directorates

Compensation of Seized Assets and *In Rem* Restitution

The General Settlement Fund for Victims of National Socialism was established in 2001 on the basis of the Washington Compensation Agreement of the same year and endowed with 210 million US dollars (Federal Law Gazette I no. 12/2001). The Fund's purpose was to acknowledge moral responsibility for property losses suffered by victims of Nazi persecution in Austria by making voluntary payments. Rather than being lump sums, these payments were calculated based on the actual value of the individually-determined property losses, and were made in proportion to the total amount available in the fund (*pro rata* payments).

People personally affected by Nazi property confiscation, as well as their legal successors, were eligible to file an application. A total of 20,702 applications were received and decided upon by an independent Claims Committee. An Arbitration Panel for *In Rem* Restitution was also set up at the General Settlement Fund to decide on applications for the return of publicly-owned property. Real estate or movable assets belonging to Jewish communal organisations that had been confiscated from them during the Nazi era could be eligible for restitution if the assets were owned by the federal government on the statutory cut-off date of 17 January 2001, or by the provinces and municipalities that had joined the proceedings before the Arbitration Panel. A total of 2,307 applications were submitted to the Arbitration Panel.

Receipt of the Final Report of the Claims Committee was officially acknowledged by the Main Committee of the National Council on 4 April 2017, whereupon the Claims Committee was dissolved. On 29 June 2021, the Main Committee of the National Council officially acknowledged the Final Report of the Arbitration Panel for *In Rem* Restitution whereupon the Arbitration Panel was also dissolved. Then, on 26 April 2022, the Board of Trustees formally determined by resolution that the Fund had fully completed its tasks and that the General Settlement Fund was therefore dissolved.



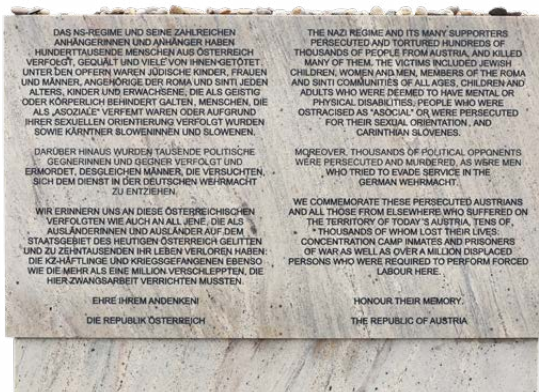
General Settlement Fund for Victims of National Socialism (ed.), *Final Report of the Claims Committee of the General Settlement Fund*, Vienna 2020.

Josef Aicher, Erich Kussbach, August Reinish (eds.), *Final Report of the Arbitration Panel for In Rem Restitution*, Vienna 2025.

The Shoah Wall of Names Memorial



In November 2021, the “Memorial to the Jewish Children, Women and Men from Austria Murdered in the Shoah” was opened in Ostarrichi Park, situated in the heart of Vienna. The stone walls are engraved with over 65,000 names and form a central and peaceful place of reflection where the murdered can be remembered and their lives honoured.



The idea and the impetus for the memorial came from Kurt Yakov Tutter, a survivor from Vienna, and his Association for the Establishment of a Shoah Wall of Names. The National Fund backed this idea for many years and helped see it through to completion – not only by coordinating its construction, but also by funding the database in which the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DÖW) gathered and recorded the names for the memorial: the “List of names of the Austrian Holocaust victims”.

In the entrance area, a stone plaque commemorates all other groups of victims and persons persecuted under National Socialism.



Due to the historical significance of this memorial, the City of Vienna and the National Fund share responsibility for the upkeep and running of the memorial.

The Shoah Wall of Names Memorial is a place of remembrance and learning from history, and guided tours are held there regularly. These tours also establish links to other memorial sites in the vicinity of the memorial walls.



Kurt Yakov Tutter, initiator of the memorial, pictured left as a child in a car with his nanny and sister in Vienna's Prater, circa 1935, and at the inauguration of the Shoah Wall of Names Memorial in Ostarrichi Park on 9 November 2021.



[www.nationalfonds.org/
shoah-wall-of-names-memorial](http://www.nationalfonds.org/shoah-wall-of-names-memorial)

A Quiet Place of Contemplation

I was born in Vienna in 1930. In 1939, I fled to Belgium with my family. My parents were deported from Brussels to Auschwitz in September 1942. A Belgian family in Ghent sheltered me and my younger sister Rita illegally from January 1943 until the end of the war, saving our lives. In 1948, I emigrated from Brussels to Canada.

In 1974, I travelled to Israel for my son Benno's bar mitzvah. On the way there, we visited my sister in Paris. I also planned to spend a few days in Brussels. A cousin from Vienna, who like me had survived the Nazi era in Belgium, picked me up at the station. "Before I take you to my place," he said, "I want to show you something." He took me to the square in front of the town hall in Anderlecht near Brussels. In a small park opposite the town hall, I noticed a complex surrounded by a two-metre-high wall. It was evening and the gate at the entrance was already locked. Through a grille in the wall, you could see what lay inside. I made out a flood of letters on the walls, which upon closer inspection turned out to be a collection of Jewish family names. "Look," said my cousin, "the names of your blessed parents are also engraved on the plaques."

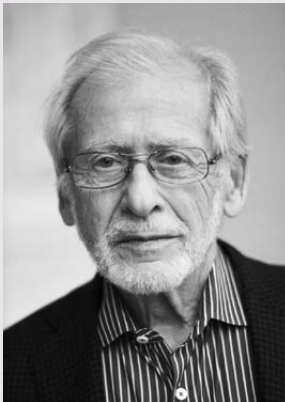
The next day, the gate was open. Engraved in large letters on the wall next to the gate were the words: *Mémorial National aux Martyrs Juifs de Belgique*. Here, under the open sky, the walls enclosed a quiet place of remembrance. Plaques were attached to the walls, engraved with the names of the approximately 25,000 Jews who were deported from Belgium to Auschwitz by the Nazi authorities and murdered there. I soon found the names of my parents, B. and E. Tutter.

The memorial was initiated by members of the Association of Deported Jews of Belgium. The official inauguration took place in 1970. Since then, the memorial has been an important place of contemplation, mourning and remembrance. The children and grandchildren of the deportees come here from all over the world. In June 1995, nine Belgians were honoured here as "Righteous Among the Nations", including posthumously Emélie Ocket from Ghent, who had illegally taken in my sister and me and also saved the lives of ten other Jewish children. This memorial left a deep impression on me.

In 1997, I came to Vienna to order a gravestone for our grandmother Ruchel Tutter, who had died here in June 1941. Her grave at Vienna's Central Cemetery was marked only by a number on a wooden beam. During my stay in Vienna, I came across an article in a newspaper that immediately caught my attention: Simon Wiesenthal had proposed a memorial, "a stone wall engraved with the names of all Austrian Jews who died as a result of Nazi rule".

At that time, the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance was already working on a project, "List of Names of Austrian Jews murdered in the Shoah". Each name represents the identity of an individual. People who once lived, started families, went to school or taught here in Austria, worked in workshops, ran businesses, served in the military, wrote books, composed songs and contributed to the welfare of the country in many different ways. With all this in mind, I formulated a plan.

In March 2000, I published an article in a Viennese newspaper in which I advocated the idea of engraving the names of all murdered Austrian Jews on the walls of a memorial. The article received little response. However, I believed that it was not enough to simply propose such a project without making further efforts to realise it. And so, I instigated an initial meeting of an initiative, which took place on 15 June 2000 with the Austrian ambassador to Canada, Walther Lichem, the director of the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance, Wolfgang Neugebauer, and the Secretary General of the National Fund, Hannah Lessing. It was the formal beginning of a long journey, on which the example set by the *Mémorial National aux Martyrs Juifs de Belgique* constantly accompanied, inspired and encouraged me...



Kurt Yakov Tutter

Holocaust survivor, initiator of the Shoah
Wall of Names Memorial

In order to realise the memorial, a proponents committee was formed on which public figures and the "Association for the Establishment of a Shoah Memorial Wall" sat. As Secretary General of the Association, Kurt Y. Tutter worked tirelessly on the planning and implementation of the memorial until it was finally inaugurated on 9 November 2021.

The Simon Wiesenthal Prize

Concentration camp survivor Simon Wiesenthal (1908–2005) made it his life's work to hunt down Nazi criminals and bring them to justice. Wiesenthal also served as a voice of warning and was a tireless fighter against antisemitism. Austria has a special historical responsibility and must remain vigilant against the resurgence of antisemitism. For this reason, and in recognition of Wiesenthal's life's work, the Parliament created the Simon Wiesenthal Prize in 2020 for outstanding civic engagement to combat antisemitism and educate the public about the Holocaust. The Prize is awarded annually by the National Fund of the Republic of Austria and is endowed with 30,000 euros.

The Prize can be awarded to individuals, but also to groups such as school projects, associations etc.

The winners are selected by the Board of Trustees of the National Fund from a shortlist compiled by a jury. The Simon Wiesenthal Prize has been awarded since 2021.

Prize winners

2024

Main Prize: Gamaraal Foundation (Switzerland)
Prize for Civic Engagement to Educate the Public about the Holocaust: RE.F.U.G.I.U.S. (Austria)
Prize for Civic Engagement to Combat Antisemitism: Community Security Trust (United Kingdom)

2023

Main Prize: LIKRAT (Austria and Switzerland)
Prize for Civic Engagement to Educate the Public about the Holocaust: Centropa (Austria)
Prize for Civic Engagement to Combat Antisemitism: Asociación Cultural Mota de Judíos (Spain)

2022

Main Prize: Zikaron BaSalon (Israel)
Prize for Civic Engagement to Educate the Public about the Holocaust: Waltraud Barton (Austria)
Prize for Civic Engagement to Combat Antisemitism: Mohammed S. Dajani Daoudi (Palestinian Autonomous Territories)

2021

Main prize: Lily Ebert (Great Britain), Zvi Nigal (Israel), Karl Pfeifer (Austria) and Liliana Segre (Italy)
Prize for Civic Engagement to Educate the Public about the Holocaust: Austrian Research Centre for Post-War Justice (Austria)
Prize for Civic Engagement to Combat Antisemitism: Jewish Forum for Democracy and Against Antisemitism (Germany)



Around 200 applications from all over the world are submitted to the National Fund each year. At the award ceremony, which is held at the Austrian Parliament, tribute is paid to the contemporary witnesses and they are honoured for their dedication.

Paying tribute to contemporary witnesses

2024

Heinrich Ehlers (Austria), Erich Finsches (Austria), Don Jaffé (Germany), Felix Lee (Austria), Ludwig Popper (Austria), Josef Salomonovic (Austria), Kitty Schrott (Austria), Adolf Silberstein (Austria), Stanislaw Zalewski (Poland)

2023

Helga Feldner-Busztin (Austria), Jeno Friedmann (USA), Octavian Fülöp (Romania), Naftali Fürst (Israel), Maria Gabrielsen (Norway), Viktor Klein (Austria), Otto Nagler (Israel), Katharina Sasso (Austria), Liese Scheiderbauer (Austria), Marian Turski (Poland)



Group photo with contemporary witnesses and award winners 2023

2022

Wanda Albińska (Poland), Lucia Heilman (Austria), Tswi Herschel (Israel), Jackie Young (Great Britain)



www.wiesenthalpreis.at

The Simon Wiesenthal Prize: Strengthening Civil Society at the Heart of Democracy

Since the Shoah, antisemitism has reached alarming new heights – in Austria, Europe and around the world. Since Hamas' horrific attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, antisemitic incidents have increased dramatically. Jews are being physically and verbally attacked – online and offline; Holocaust memorials and cemeteries are being desecrated, synagogues and kosher restaurants vandalised or set on fire. For many Jews in Europe, antisemitic incidents have become part of everyday life.

This intolerable state of affairs is diametrically opposed to the European Union's firm commitment to a future for Jewish life in Europe and beyond: a Europe that is free from antisemitism and all forms of discrimination; an open, inclusive and equal society that will keep the memory of the Shoah alive even after the last Holocaust survivors have passed on.

Antisemitism is profoundly anti-democratic. It therefore requires both an institutional and a societal response. By creating the Simon Wiesenthal Prize in 2021, the Austrian National Council, chaired by Wolfgang Sobotka, has responded to both: from the very heart of Austrian democracy, civic engagement is being nurtured and people are honoured who – often under difficult circumstances – oppose antisemitism, contribute to Holocaust education, keep alive and pass on the memory of the victims of the Shoah, thus bolstering democracy.

In his fight to bring the crimes of the Nazis to justice, Simon Wiesenthal was subjected to numerous acts of hostility, including an assassination attempt. Still, he refused to be intimidated. Indeed, he believed that it was the fundamental duty of every democracy to fight injustice and the suppression of its own history with all means available. Today, Wiesenthal's conviction is more relevant than ever; in the wake of Israel-related antisemitism, historically and politically unacceptable parallels are being drawn with the Shoah, fuelled by content on social media that trivialises or completely denies the atrocities.

How can we keep the memory of the Shoah alive despite this, and forge the all-important links to the present? How can we expose antisemitic undercurrents in public and private discourse while remaining in dialogue? How can we create structures that prevent antisemitism and help us grow as a society in the process? The recipients of the Simon Wiesenthal Prize provide answers to these questions.

As chair of the jury, I never fail to be impressed by the creativity and diversity of the projects submitted, which now come to us from all over the world. The winning projects serve as role models and encourage others to also raise their voices against antisemitism and exclusion, thus enabling Jewish life in the public domain.

The fact that the award ceremony takes place at the Austrian Parliament carries strong symbolic significance. This is true in terms of its impact on society, and particularly for contemporary witnesses of the Shoah, who were once deprived of their rights and persecuted by the Nazi state, but are now honoured by the Austrian state. However, the Prize also demonstrates how civil society and the state can interact: civil society is an important driving force for state action and needs the state's protection and support – not least financial support – to flourish despite coming increasingly under attack.

To bring about lasting change, a legally regulated framework and financial basis are needed. Austria saw to this by establishing the National Fund in 1995, the year it joined the EU, and a few years after the fall of the Iron Curtain. At that time, the rise of extremism was already becoming apparent.

Implementing the prize in its current form would not have been possible without the conceptualisation, experience and tireless support of the National Fund team, led by Hannah M. Lessing and Judith Pfeffer. The National Fund has made a significant contribution to Austria by confronting its Nazi past and helping to bring about a change in social attitudes with concrete measures. The Fund is now playing a pioneering role in the Europe-wide fight against antisemitism.



To continue this work in the future, I wish the National Fund continued creative force, and I wish our generation's political decision-makers the same vision, moral compass and courage that led to the National Fund's foundation in 1995.

Katharina von Schnurbein

EC Coordinator on Combating
Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life
Chair of the Simon Wiesenthal Prize Jury

The Future of Remembrance: New Tasks for the National Fund

Following the amendment to the National Fund Law in 2024, the National Fund is looking to the future. Building on more than three decades of experience and expertise, the scope of its activities has once again been expanded. This signals the Fund's ongoing commitment to further develop its work dealing with the consequences of National Socialism and promoting remembrance in Austria.

Since 2024, the National Fund has been providing financial support to memorial servicemen and women, who make a significant contribution to the Republic's commemoration and remembrance work. This support recognises the hard work and dedication of these volunteers and gives more young people the opportunity to participate in memorial service.



Conversation with memorial service participants – Moritz Gemel, Philipp Auberger and Tabea Chaharlangi in conversation with Managing Director Judith Pfeffer at the National Fund's first conference in Parliament on 15 October 2024.

Funding international exchange programmes for youngsters

Following the 2024 amendment, the National Fund was also tasked with funding international exchange programmes for school pupils and apprentices. These programmes aim to foster mutual understanding between young people in Austria and other countries, particularly Israel, and to enhance awareness of Jewish life. They also seek to promote intercultural dialogue and combat antisemitism.

A memorial for the victims of National Socialism from the Roma and Sinti communities

In 2024, the planning and construction of a memorial for the Nazis' victims from the Roma and Sinti communities by the National Fund was enshrined in law. This step demonstrates a clear political commitment to this important remembrance project, and to ensuring that previously overlooked victim groups are treated with dignity and afforded a place in Austria's collective memory.

In addition, the National Fund supports individuals who are responsible for a grave of a *Porajmos* survivor from the Roma or Sinti communities. This measure is an expression of shared historical responsibility for the suffering of the Austrian Roma and Sinti communities during and after the Nazi era and also serves to preserve their memory.

Preserving biographical testimonies of Nazi victims and their families

Collecting and documenting the life stories of victims of National Socialism is another of the National Fund's key priorities. In future, the Fund's remit will be extended to include the life stories of not only the victims themselves, but also their families and descendants.

As in the past, the National Fund will continue to take all groups of victims of National Socialism into account in its projects and activities.

Exchange of information and international cooperation

The amendment also provides for the establishment of a platform to deepen the exchange of information and international cooperation with organisations and institutions. Since 2024 the National Fund has been holding an annual conference to inform the public about its activities. This conference is aimed at reaching organisations and institutions that are active in educating the public about the Nazi era and the fate of its victims, as well as preserving their memory and carrying out prevention work.

The National Fund's structure

The amendment also refined the organisational structure of the National Fund. Four additional members were appointed to the Fund's Committee to bolster its scientific expertise. Furthermore, the Main Committee of the National Council was responsible for appointing a new two-member Managing Board.

Accelerated restoration of Jewish cemeteries

The amendment to the Law on the Fund for the Restoration of Jewish Cemeteries marked another significant step forward. This amendment enables the restoration of Jewish cemeteries in Austria to continue at an accelerated pace for a further twenty years. At the same time, annual funding was increased to 1.2 million euros, demonstrating a strong commitment to ensuring the lasting preservation of Jewish cultural heritage in Austria.

The addition of these new tasks underscores the National Fund's mission to preserve memory, assume responsibility and ensure that remembrance of the victims of National Socialism is firmly embedded in society's awareness. This will enable the National Fund to continue fulfilling its responsibilities towards victims of National Socialism and their descendants.

Carrying Responsibility into the Future

The 30th anniversary of the National Fund is an opportunity to look ahead; to shape the present and the future based on the bitter lessons of the past. This mission has been borne of the reflection on our history, and compels us to assume responsibility to pass on our knowledge, to be ever vigilant against new dangers and to take resolute and uncompromising action against worrying trends.

The National Fund was established in recognition of the suffering experienced by people persecuted under the Nazi regime. As well as providing material support, it has become a place of open dialogue and active responsibility. Its work combines historical reappraisal with contemporary social action. The National Fund's achievements over the past three decades provide a solid basis for shaping a positive future, even in times of change.

The future of remembrance will be shaped by the younger generations. They are growing up in an era in which the voices of survivors are becoming increasingly scarce and will ultimately fall silent. This makes it all the more important to preserve their legacy and create new opportunities for dialogue, learning and understanding. The National Fund will therefore continue to support projects that empower young people to take responsibility, think critically, and contribute actively towards strengthening a democratic society. For them, remembrance should be both a warning and an encouragement: to take a closer look, play an active role and take action.

At the very heart of this remembrance are the victims of National Socialism. Their life stories show what can happen when humanity and justice become lost. Alongside their experiences of suffering and death, their legacy is a remarkable testament to dignity, courage and resilience. Honouring this legacy means more than just commemorating the victims; it also involves taking responsibility. Involving future generations in the work of the National Fund will help to ensure that this legacy is not forgotten. The memory of the victims must not be allowed to fade; their fate must continue to influence the thoughts and actions of future generations.

Following the tenth amendment to the National Fund Law in 2024, the Fund's remit was significantly augmented and re-aligned. The Fund's duty to foster a modern culture of remembrance was reinforced, with a greater emphasis being placed on engaging with the younger generations. The unspeakable aftereffects of National Socialism pose a real danger, today and in the future, and the National Fund's recently expanded range of activities aims to make this clear to future generations.

A significant new task is the establishment of a memorial for the victims of National Socialism from the Roma and Sinti communities – a step that closes a long-standing gap in the Austrian remembrance landscape.

The planned memorial symbolises the recognition of an injustice that was barely perceivable for decades. The fate of the Roma and Sinti people during the Nazi era and during its aftermath went largely unnoticed. Tens of thousands were deported from Austria and murdered, and many survivors also struggled to gain recognition in the post-war period. Only

gradually did their history find its rightful place in the public consciousness – as an indispensable part of our shared memory and as a reminder to remain vigilant against all forms of exclusion and racism.

The planned memorial to the victims of National Socialism from the Roma and Sinti communities will become a visible place of remembrance. Its aim is to permanently anchor awareness of this victim group in the public domain and contribute towards living remembrance as an active responsibility.

Another new task lies in providing financial support for memorial servicemen and women. Their dedication is a vital contribution to the Republic's remembrance work. Young people performing their memorial service at home or abroad – in archives, museums, or memorial sites – have become important ambassadors for a living culture of remembrance. They build bridges between generations and nations, deepen knowledge of the Nazi atrocities, and promote international understanding.

Memorial service is currently offered by two recognised associations: the Austrian Foreign Service and the Memorial Service Association. With the support of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, they send memorial service personnel to over a hundred locations worldwide each year, providing young people with an opportunity to engage with society in a unique way. This important work of the memorial service is recognised and encouraged through the support of the National Fund.

Since 2024, the National Fund has also been supporting international exchange programmes for young people. Programmes such as these have a lasting impact on personal development: they promote cosmopolitanism, language skills, teamwork and self-confidence, help to understand the challenges of a globalised world and encourage social engagement. At the same time, they deepen awareness of shared values and responsibility.

The importance of such initiatives is particularly manifest in the Austrian-Israeli student exchange programme, which the National Fund is currently setting up in partnership with *OeAD GmbH*, Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation. The exchange programme strengthens dialogue and understanding between young people, raises awareness of Jewish life, facilitates intercultural exchange and seeks to counteract the rise of antisemitism. Each of these encounters provides the opportunity to build bridges, break down prejudices and keep the memory of the Shoah alive as a mission for the future.

Since 2024, a new thematic focus has seen part of the project funding budget earmarked for projects and initiatives aimed at identifying and combating disinformation in online media. Emphasis is placed on projects that seek to combat forms of digital manipulation that relativise the Holocaust or undermine the culture of remembrance.

In particular, social media is increasingly giving rise to and spreading narratives that distort historical facts, delegitimise remembrance and fuel antisemitic sentiments. This content primarily reaches young people, who rely heavily on digital sources for information. While it often remains below the threshold of criminal relevance, it has a considerable impact. It shapes perception and judgement, and undermines trust in historical truth.

The new funding priority aims to promote scientifically sound and easily accessible content that enables above all younger users to recognise, critically question and actively take a stance against disinformation. It is also important to maintain a culture of remembrance in the digital realm, where opinions are formed and social discourse now takes place.

This reflects the broader mission of the National Fund for the present and the future: to recognise the digital realm as part of the culture of remembrance. In an era when historical truth must be defended and memory actively shaped, it is crucial to open up new avenues of education and understanding, to consolidate democratic values and provide guidance to young people.

Another important step towards strengthening the culture of remembrance is the National Fund's new annual conference. The first of these meetings took place in Parliament in October 2024 and was entitled "Remembrance and Responsibility". The conference provided a historical review of Austria's efforts thus far to deal with its Nazi past, acknowledged the progress that has been made, and looked ahead to the future. Representatives from the areas of education, science, politics, and civil society discussed ways in which the culture of remembrance could be refined to continue fulfilling our responsibility towards the victims of National Socialism and their descendants.

The conference series is set to continue – the next conference will address the themes defined in the new funding priority. The aim of the conference is to engage in forward-looking discussions with experts about how to strengthen the role of the culture of remembrance in the digital realm and what strategies can be developed to promote historical truth and media literacy, especially among young people.

The conference aims to become an open forum for the exchange of ideas, mutual understanding, knowledge transfer and shared responsibility. All national organisations and institutions involved in spreading knowledge about National Socialism, its aftermath and consequences, and the fate of its victims, are welcome to attend, as are those involved in preserving the memory of the victims and related prevention work. The conference is emblematic of the National Fund's endeavours to preserve memory and continually revitalise it, fostering a lively dialogue between the past, present and future.

The past three decades have shown us that remembrance is about much more than just looking back. It is a duty that we all share and a responsibility that unites us. It is a mission that connects us. It compels us to learn from history and summon the courage to take a stand, on both a global and a personal level. Remembrance only remains relevant when it is translated into action; when it touches people, shapes their attitudes, and inspires them to take action.

For three decades, the National Fund has embodied this approach to remembrance as an active responsibility. The core of its work is carrying responsibility into the future through remembrance. Remembrance does not end with commemoration; it begins again and again wherever people look more closely, comprehend and get involved.

Thirty years are a milestone, but not a finishing line. They are a promise, passed from generation to generation, from voice to voice, and from person to person.

Judith Pfeffer

Managing Director

Timeline: 30 Years of the National Fund

1995

June: Establishment of the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism at the National Council (Federal Law Gazette I no. 432/1995)

October: Creation of payment guidelines

Commencement of "gesture payments" to survivors of Nazi persecution

1998

Establishment of the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund; administration of Austria's share of these "looted gold funds" by the National Fund

The Art Restitution Law (Federal Law Gazette I no. 181/1998) comes into force; the National Fund is commissioned with the sale of art objects transferred from Austrian federal museums and collections to benefit the victims.

Recognition of the "Spiegelgrund children" as victims of National Socialism

1999

Establishment of the Hardship Compensation Fund

2001

January: Washington Agreement signed

The General Settlement Fund Law (Federal Law Gazette I no. 12/2001) comes into force.

Austria becomes a member of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research (International Task Force, ITF, now the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, IHRA). The National Fund acts as the coordinating body in Austria.

Start of compensation for seized tenancy rights

1997

Recognition of widows, widowers or children of persons who were executed, died in prison or in concentration camps, as well as parents and children of persons who were victims of Nazi euthanasia.

1996

Recognition of "Spanish Civil War fighters" as victims of political persecution

Project funding commences

Family and friend reunification service introduced

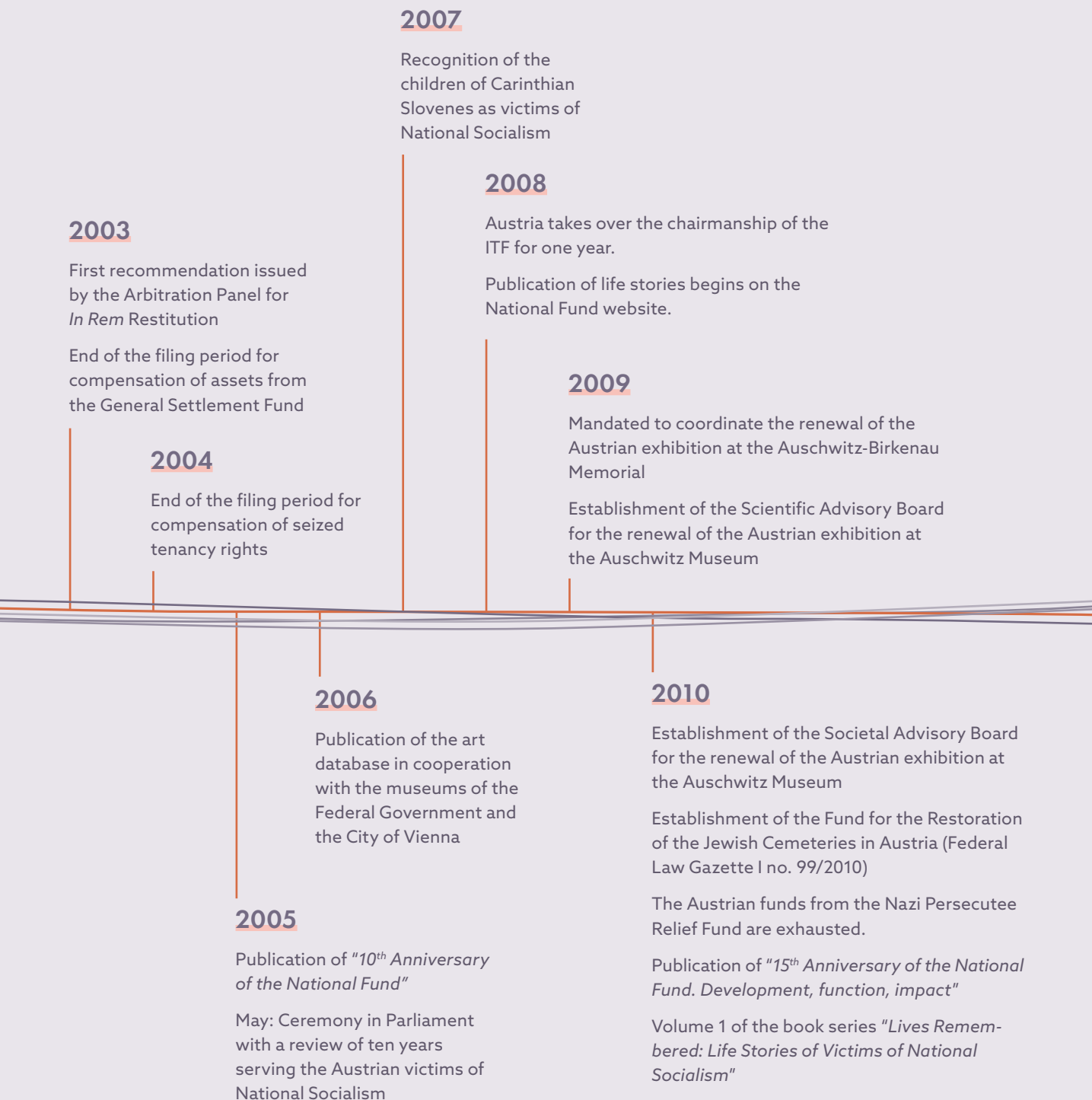
2000

"In die Tiefe geblickt": first publication of life stories of Nazi victims

Exhibition and ceremony in Parliament to mark the fifth anniversary of the National Fund

2002

Recognition of conscientious objectors and deserters from the German *Wehrmacht* as victims of National Socialism



2011

The Republic of Austria supports the preservation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial with 6 million euros (Federal Law Gazette I no. 128/2011).

Start of restoration work on the Jewish cemeteries in Deutschkreutz and Stockerau

2012

The National Council adopts a timetable for the dissolution of the General Settlement Fund.

Support for Jewish cemeteries: project to record gravesites and create a cemetery database

2015

20th anniversary of the National Fund: Publication of *"20 Years of the National Fund"*; ceremony in Parliament

Austrian exhibition at the Auschwitz Museum: Architect Martin Kohlbauer commissioned with redesign; presentation of the exhibition concept and the documentation volume on the previous exhibition at the Vienna Museum

Presentation of Volume 4 of the book series *"Lives Remembered"* with the theme *"Exile in Asia"* at the Museum of Applied Arts in Vienna

Start of restoration work on the Jewish cemeteries at Gate I and Gate IV of the Vienna Central Cemetery

2014

Scientific-curatorial team commissioned for the renewal of the Austrian exhibition in Auschwitz

Presentation of Volume 3 of the book series *"Lives Remembered"* with the theme *"Exile in Africa"* at the Globe Museum in Vienna

Start of restoration work on the Jewish cemeteries in Ybbs/Götttsbach, Graz, Kobersdorf and Lackenbach

2013

Launch of the *"Findbuch for Victims of National Socialism"*

Amendment to the National Fund Law: allocation of residual funds from tenancy rights compensation to programmes benefiting victims of National Socialism

Presentation of Volume 2 of the book series *"Lives Remembered"* at the ESRA Psychosocial Centre in Vienna

Austrian exhibition at the Auschwitz Museum: The previous exhibition from 1978 is closed down.

Start of restoration work on the Jewish cemetery in Hohenems

2016

Start of restoration work on the Jewish cemetery in Währing

Completion of restoration work on the Jewish cemeteries in Deutschkreutz and Stockerau

2018

Presentation of Volume 5 of the book series "*Lives Remembered*" with the theme "*Exile in Australia*" at the Australian Embassy in Vienna

Project start for the Shoah Wall of Names in Vienna

Start of digitisation of the file holdings

Completion of application processing by the Arbitration Panel for *In Rem* Restitution

First appearance at the "*Buch Wien*" book fair

Sale of books from the holdings of the Austrian National Library to the National Fund in accordance with the Art Restitution Law

2017

Start of restoration of the Jewish cemeteries in Klosterneuburg and Baden

The Jewish cemetery in Stockerau is officially released to the local community following renovation.

Amendment to the National Fund Law to redefine and extend its tasks, including: support and advice for victims of National Socialism and their relatives; fostering and communicating knowledge about National Socialism, its consequences and the fate of its victims, as well as preserving the memory of the victims

2019

Deadline for closing payments from the General Settlement Fund

The National Fund accepts civilian service workers for the first time

Restoration work on the Jewish cemetery in Mistelbach approved

Start of renovation work on Block 17 for the Austrian exhibition at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial

The FOGIS geo-information system goes online.

2020

Start of construction for the Shoah Wall of Names Memorial in Vienna

Entry into force of legal provisions facilitating the acquisition of Austrian citizenship for victims of National Socialism and their descendants; the National Fund can be called upon as an expert in the proceedings.

25th anniversary of the National Fund:
National Fund exhibition "From Repression to Remembrance" displayed at the *Maison Heinrich Heine* in Paris; presentation of an audio book with recollections of Nazi victims at the *Theater Nestroyhof Hamakom*

Start of construction for the new exhibition at the Auschwitz Museum

2022

Dissolution of the General Settlement Fund

Presentation of the Simon Wiesenthal Prize 2021 in Parliament

Restored Jewish cemeteries in Baden, Graz and Linz officially released to the local communities

National Fund exhibition displayed at the *Centro Sefarad Israel* in Madrid

Symposium on the Washington Agreement and the General Settlement Fund held at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna

2021

Presentation of the *Final Report of the Claims Committee of the General Settlement Fund*

Dissolution of the Arbitration Panel for *In Rem* Restitution

Guidelines updated to increase support options for needy Holocaust survivors

First call for entries for the Simon Wiesenthal Prize for outstanding civic engagement to combat antisemitism and educate the public about the Holocaust

Publication of the *"Visitors' Guide to the Jewish Cemeteries in Austria"*

4 October: Opening of the new national exhibition "Far Removed – Austria and Auschwitz" at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum

Presentation of Volume 6 of the book series *"Lives Remembered"* with the theme *"Survival in Auschwitz"* at the *"Buch Wien"* book fair

9 November: Inauguration of the Shoah Wall of Names Memorial in Vienna

Restored Jewish cemetery in Klosterneuburg officially released to the local authority

2024

The National Fund becomes a partner institution of EHRI-AT, the Austrian consortium of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI)

Presentation of the Simon Wiesenthal Prize 2023 in Parliament

Presentation of the anthology "*Houses of Eternity*" and the updated

"*Visitors' Guide to the Jewish cemeteries in Austria*" in Parliament

Restoration work at the Jewish cemetery in Mattersburg commenced

Restored Jewish cemetery in St. Pölten officially released to the local authority

Over 3,400 victims of National Socialism from Austria in 40 countries in receipt of the extraordinary gesture payment

15 October: First National Fund Conference: "Remembrance and Responsibility: The Future of Remembrance and the Work to Come to Terms with the Nazi Era in Austria. Outlook for the Year of Remembrance 2025: Eighty Years Since the End of the Second World War and the Founding of the Second Republic" in Parliament

New guidelines and priorities for project funding

National Fund exhibition displayed at the Austrian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

2023

Presentation of the Simon Wiesenthal Prize 2022 in Parliament

Restored Jewish cemeteries in Oberstockstall and Waidhofen an der Thaya officially released to the local authorities

Presentation of Volume 7 of the book series "*Lives Remembered*" with the theme "*Exile in New Zealand*" at the Austrian National Library

The Austrian Federal Government decides on a one-time extraordinary gesture payment to victims of National Socialism from Austria through the National Fund.

Following the terrorist attack on 7 October, the Board of Trustees of the National Fund decides to provide emergency aid to Holocaust survivors from Austria living in Israel

Study trip for teachers to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial in cooperation with [erinnern.at](https://www.erinnern.at)

Amendments to the National Fund Law and the Cemeteries Fund Law: new tasks and structures for the National Fund; renovation of Jewish cemeteries for a further 20 years

National Fund exhibition displayed at the Austrian Cultural Forum in New York

2025

Presentation of the Final Report of the Arbitration Panel and Volume 8 of the book series "*Decisions of the Arbitration Panel for In Rem Restitution*" at the Juridicum in Vienna

Presentation of Volume 8 of the book series "*Lives Remembered*" with the theme of "*Flight to Palestine/Life in Israel*" at the House of Austrian History

National Fund exhibition displayed at the Jewish Museum Peru and the Holocaust Memorial Centre Budapest

Simon Wiesenthal Prize 2024 presented in Parliament.

Figures, Data, Facts

National Fund

The National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism was established in 1995 to acknowledge the Republic of Austria's unique responsibility towards Austrian victims of National Socialism. The Fund makes *ex gratia* payments to victims of National Socialism, particularly those who have previously received no support or inadequate support, those in urgent need of assistance, and those whose living circumstances warrant additional support.

Individual payments:

The National Fund makes a "gesture payment" to surviving victims of National Socialism. This payment of 5,087.10 euros (originally 70,000 Austrian schillings) is intended to express recognition of the injustices suffered. The gesture payment is made to all Austrian victims of National Socialism, including those who have long been overlooked in Austria, such as the Roma and Sinti, the "Spiegelgrund children", victims of Nazi courts martial and homosexuals.

Statistical breakdown of individual payments made by the National Fund

Payment	Start date	End date	Quantity	Euros*
Gesture payment	1995	ongoing	30,332	154,282,400
Extraordinary gesture payment ¹	2023	ongoing	3,470	17,646,600
Additional payment in cases of special need	1996	ongoing	1,316	6,658,700
Hardship Compensation Fund ²	2000	2021	100	508,700
Looted Gold Fund ³	1999	2010	48	244,200
Proceeds from the sale of artworks ⁴	2012	ongoing	46	234,400
Total	1995	ongoing	35,312	179,575,000

As at 6 August 2025

* Totals rounded

Funding for projects and programmes:

The National Fund supports projects that benefit victims of National Socialism or commemorate Nazi injustice and preserve the memory of its victims. Additionally, the National Fund supports social and medical programmes that directly benefit survivors of Nazi persecution or their descendants. Funding comes from the National Fund's annual budget. Until 2010, the International Fund for Victims of National Socialism ("Looted Gold Fund") also provided funding, and until 2019, the residue from the compensation for seized tenancy rights was also used to fund projects and programmes.

Statistical overview of funding for projects and programmes

Funding source	Start date	End date	Quantity*	Euros**
National Fund budget ⁵	1995	Ongoing	2,972	31,069,800
Remaining funds pursuant to Section 2b of the NF Law	2013	2019	53	2,191,800
Funds from the "Looted Gold Fund"	1999	2009	197	8,371,500
Total	1995	ongoing	3,222	41,633,100

As at 6 August 2025

* Number of funded projects and programmes that have been approved and paid out.

** Totals rounded

Compensation of seized tenancy rights:

From 2001 to 30 June 2004, victims of National Socialism had the opportunity to apply for compensation for seized tenancy rights, household effects and personal valuables. Compensation was paid in the form of a lump sum of 7,630 euros or 7,000 US dollars, plus an additional payment of 1,000 euros per person. The application deadline was 30 June 2004. Payments under the tenancy rights compensation scheme have been completed.

Statistical breakdown of tenancy rights compensation

Payment	Start date	End date	Quantity	Euros*
Basic amount	2001	2019	20,351	154,793,800
Hardship cases	2002	2009	119	853,400
Additional payments	2004	2021	19,841	19,641,500
Total	2001	2021	40,311	175,288,700

As at 12 December 2022 (completion date)

* Totals rounded

Cemeteries Fund

In December 2010, the Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish Cemeteries in Austria was established to implement Austria's obligation under international law to restore and preserve Jewish cemeteries in Austria, as set out in the Washington Agreement. For this purpose, the federal government allocates an inflation-adjusted annual sum of 1.2 million euros to the Fund, which was established by the National Council and is administered by the National Fund.

Statistical overview of subsidised restoration projects at Jewish cemeteries

Jewish cemetery	Federal province	Start date	Completion date	Funding in euros*
Baden	Lower Austria	2017	2016	1,388,600
Deutschkreutz	Burgenland	2011	2016	78,300
Göttsbach an der Ybbs	Lower Austria	2014	2016	189,600
Graz	Styria	2014	2022	1,296,700
Hohenems	Vorarlberg	2013	2021	180,000
Klosterneuburg	Lower Austria	2017	2021	504,900
Kobersdorf	Burgenland	2014	2017	580,800
Lackenbach	Burgenland	2014	2017	424,500
Linz	Upper Austria	2020	2022	1,560,900
Mattersburg	Burgenland	2024	ongoing	682,000
Mistelbach	Lower Austria	2019	ongoing	80,200
Oberstockstall	Lower Austria	2020	2023	182,600
St. Pölten	Lower Austria	2022	2024	876,900
Stockerau	Lower Austria	2011	2016	123,000
Währing	Vienna	2017	ongoing	2,617,400
Waidhofen an der Thaya	Lower Austria	2020	2023	448,800
Central Cemetery Gate 1	Vienna	2014	ongoing	1,227,500
Central Cemetery Gate 4	Vienna	2014	ongoing	2,862,700
Total		2011	ongoing	15,305,400

As at 3 July 2025

* Totals rounded

General Settlement Fund

The General Settlement Fund for Victims of National Socialism, established in 2001, was dissolved in 2022 after fully completing its tasks. The Fund's objective was to comprehensively resolve open questions relating to compensation for victims of National Socialism and to acknowledge Austria's moral responsibility for property losses suffered by victims of the Nazi regime in Austria between 1938 and 1945 in the form of voluntary payments. People who experienced Nazi property seizures firsthand and their legal successors were eligible to apply.

Compensation for seized assets:

Of a total of 20,702 applicants, 9,650 (47 %) submitted claims as heirs of persecuted persons. 11,052 (53 %) also submitted claims for their own losses. The filing period for applying for monetary payments from the General Settlement Fund expired on 28 May 2003. The applications were decided by the independent Claims Committee, which was dissolved in 2017.

Statistical breakdown of compensation payments

Payments	Start date	End date	Quantity	US dollars*
Advance payment ⁶	2005	2009	18,169	161,519,000
Closing payment ⁷	2009	2019	22,322	53,525,000
Total	2005	2019	40,491	215,043,900

As at 14 November 2019

* Totals rounded

In Rem Restitution:

From 2001 to 2021, an Arbitration Panel for *In Rem* Restitution was established at the General Settlement Fund, where it ruled on applications for the restitution of publicly-owned property. A total of 2,307 applications were submitted to the Arbitration Panel.

The Arbitration Panel finished processing these applications on 30 November 2018, and the final deadline for applications to have proceedings reopened expired at the end of August 2020. In total, the Arbitration Panel for *In Rem* Restitution recommended 140 applications for *in rem* restitution. Every one of these recommendations was complied with by the respective public owner.

The total value of the assets recommended for restitution is estimated at 48 million euros, of which 9.8 million euros was paid out in the form of a "comparable asset" (i.e. monetary compensation).

35,000 individual payments to victims of
National Socialism

40,000 tenancy rights compensation payments

3,200 projects and programmes funded

13 Jewish cemeteries restored

40,000 property compensations

140 recommendations for restitution *in rem*

- 1 On 20 September 2023, the Austrian Federal Government decided to provide additional support to all living victims of National Socialism from Austria. Among other things, the decision provided for a one-time, so-called extraordinary gesture payment of 5,087.10 euros to all those recognised as victims of National Socialism from Austria under National Fund criteria.
- 2 In May 1999, the Board of Trustees of the National Fund established the Hardship Compensation Fund. It was endowed with 508,710 euros (then 7 million Austrian schillings) from the National Fund's project funding budget. The Hardship Compensation Fund enabled the National Fund to support individuals who had experienced harm under National Socialism and had applied to the National Fund but did not fully meet the eligibility criteria for receiving benefits, and whose rejection would have resulted in significant hardship.
- 3 In 1998, the National Fund was entrusted with distributing the money from the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund. This Fund was endowed with monies that had become available when various countries waived their claims to their remaining so-called looted gold. The National Fund administered the portion of the funds allocated to Austria. These funds were used to subsidise projects and make payments to Holocaust survivors in need. The funds from the looted gold fund were exhausted in 2010.
- 4 On the basis of the Art Restitution Law, the National Fund sells "heirless" art objects from public ownership and uses the proceeds to benefit victims of National Socialism. The National Fund uses the proceeds from the sale to provide benefits to individuals who suffered damage to their health or loss of freedom, property or income as a result of Nazi persecution directed against them, provided that they originate from Austria or were expelled from Austria or have a comparable connection to Austria.
- 5 This includes 2,913 funded projects and 59 social and medical programmes for victims of National Socialism.
- 6 Originally, it was planned to distribute the General Settlement Fund's funds after all applications had been decided upon. Only after the amount of all recognised claims had been determined would the 210 million US dollars be distributed proportionally (*pro rata*) among the beneficiaries. In view of the advanced age of many applicants, an amendment to the General Settlement Fund Law (Federal Law Gazette I no. 142/2005) was made when legal closure was established in 2005. This allowed for an advance *pro rata* payment to be made to those applicants whose financial losses had already been determined. This meant that, for the first time, "preliminary payments" (advance payments) could be made to applicants at the end of 2005.
- 7 Since a final determination of the compensation percentages required an overall assessment of all recognised losses, the General Settlement Fund Law was amended once again in 2009 (Federal Law Gazette I no. 54/2009) in order to avoid further delays in making closing payments to elderly applicants due to complex cases still being processed. This made it possible to make closing payments even before all applications had been decided.

Online Databases

The National Fund runs several online databases.

Projects Funded by the National Fund



The database documents the projects funded by the National Fund. It provides a brief description of each project, information on the submitting institution, thematic area and category, as well as photos and the location of the project. The contents of the database are available in German and English, can be searched in full text and filtered according to various criteria.

www.nationalfonds.org/projects-sponsored

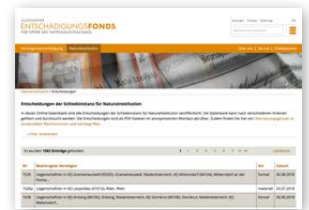


Decisions of the Arbitration Panel for In Rem Restitution



Database of the decisions of the Arbitration Panel for *In Rem* Restitution on applications for the restitution of publicly-owned real estate and assets of Jewish communal organisations. The database contains all decisions issued by the Arbitration Panel in full. The contents of the database are available in German and English, are published in anonymous form, and can be searched in full text and filtered according to various criteria.

www.entschaedigungsfonds.org/decisions



The Art Database



The National Fund's art database contains information on around 9,400 objects in 19 collections and museums belonging to the federal and provincial governments and other institutions. To date, restitution or transfer of ownership has been recommended for 2,826 objects in the art database.

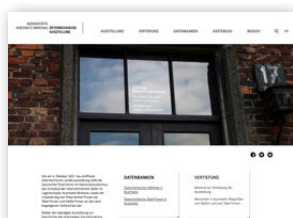
www.kunstdatenbank.at/home





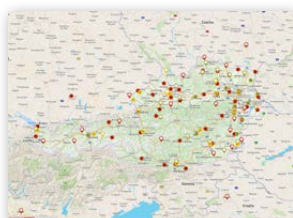
The National Fund's archive search tool, the *Findbuch* for Victims of National Socialism, currently contains over 215,000 data records from 35 file collections in nine Austrian archives – including the Austrian State Archives and almost all Austrian provincial archives. The *Findbuch* also contains over 50 digitised historical address books and official calendars, as well as printed source material comprising around 22,000 digitised pages.
www.findbuch.at

The Findbuch



The website accompanying the new Austrian exhibition at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum includes a database of Austrians deported to Auschwitz containing biographical information on 17,525 individuals, a database on Austrians in the guard unit and camp SS at Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and biographical information on 163 individuals, and 41 biographical articles on Austrian victims and perpetrators at Auschwitz.
www.auschwitz.at

Auschwitz – Perpetrators and Victims



The National Fund's FOGIS geo-information system georeferences all projects and programmes supported by the National Fund worldwide, all decisions of the Arbitration Panel for *In Rem* Restitution, all Jewish cemeteries in Austria, and the memorial stones for Nazi victims in Austria on an interactive map.
maps.nationalfonds.org

FOGIS



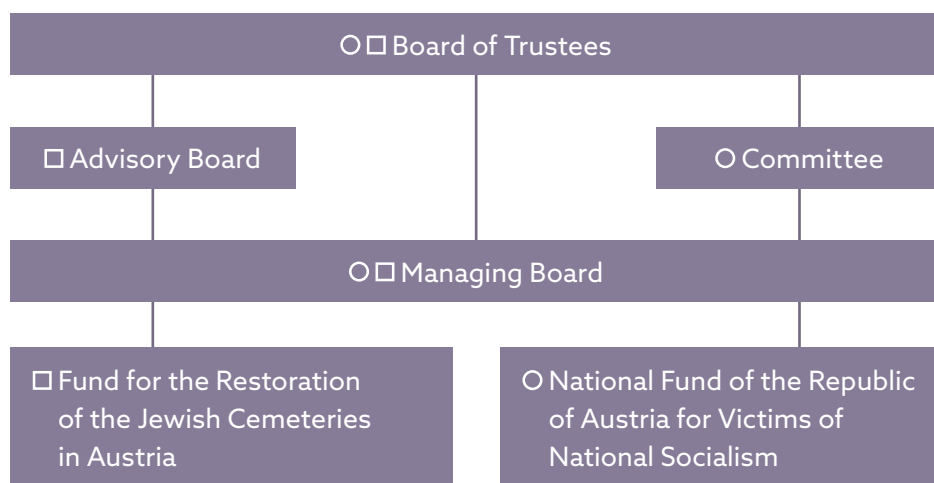
Bodies and Committees

As at October 2025

The bodies of the National Fund are the Board of Trustees, the Managing Board and the Committee.

The bodies of the Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish Cemeteries in Austria are the Board of Trustees, the Managing Board and the Advisory Board.

Organisational chart



The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is the supreme body of the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism and the Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish Cemeteries in Austria. Its responsibilities include creating the guidelines and financial regulations for the payments by the Funds. It is also in charge of deciding how to invest the funds and ensuring that they are used for their designated purpose.

Members

Listed in alphabetical order

- MMag. Dr. Karl-Arthur Arlamovsky, former Member of the National Council, Neos Parliamentary Club
- Andreas Babler, MSc, Vice-Chancellor
- Mag. Dr. Gerhard Baumgartner (Consulting Member)
- Mag. Eva Blimlinger, former Member of the National Council, The Green Party Parliamentary Group
- Doris Bures, Third President of the National Council
- Oskar Deutsch, President of the Jewish Community Vienna
- DDr. Barbara Glück, Director of the Mauthausen Memorial
- Peter Haubner, Second President of the National Council (Chair)
- Prof. Dr. Udo Jesionek, Retired President of the Vienna Juvenile Court
- Dr. Gerhard Kastelic (Consulting Member)
- Dr. Markus Marterbauer, Federal Minister of Finance
- Mag. Beate Meinl-Reisinger, MES, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs
- Willi Mernyi (Consulting Member)
- Andreas Minnich, Member of the National Council, Parliamentary Club of the Austrian People's Party
- Wendelin Mölzer, Member of the National Council, Parliamentary Club of the Freedom Party of Austria
- Dr. Gerald Netzl, Working Group of Nazi Victims' Associations and Resistance Fighters of Austria
- Fritz Neugebauer (Consulting Member)
- Dr. Walter Rosenkranz, President of the National Council
- Andreas Sarközi, Cultural Association of Austrian Roma
- Sabine Schatz, Member of the National Council, Social Democratic Parliamentary Club
- Dr. Manfred Scheuer, Bishop of the Diocese of Linz, representative of the Catholic Church
- Korinna Schumann, Federal Minister of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection
- Thomas Stern (Consulting Member)
- Dr. Christian Stocker, Federal Chancellor
- MR Mag. Terezija Stoisits (Consulting Member)
- Christoph Wiederkehr, MA, Federal Minister of Education
- MinR. Priv.-Doz. Mag. Dr. Helmut Wohnout, Director General of the Austrian State Archives

The National Fund Committee

The National Fund Committee decides on the award of payments within the scope of its authorisation (Sec. 4 (1) item 4 of the National Fund Law). The Chairperson of the Committee or his/her deputy must report to the Board of Trustees at every meeting of the Board on the decisions it has issued since the last meeting.

Members

Listed in alphabetical order

- Doz. Mag. Dr. Brigitte Bailer, delegated by the Austrian Universities Conference
- Doris Bures, Third President of the National Council (Deputy Chair)
- Peter Haubner, Second President of the National Council (Chair)
- Prof. Otto Hochreiter, MA, delegated by the Austrian National Committee of the International Council of Museums
- Prof. Clemens Jabloner, former Vice-Chancellor
- Dr. Susanne Janistyn-Novak, Deputy Director of Parliament
- Prof. Gerald Lamprecht, delegated by the Austrian Universities Conference
- PD MMag. Dr. Ljiljana Radonić, delegated by the Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Dr. Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff, retired ambassador

Advisory Board of the Cemeteries Fund

The Advisory Board advises the Board of Trustees on its decisions regarding the allocation of funding and lends its support to projects to restore Jewish cemeteries in Austria. The members of the Advisory Board serve in an honorary capacity.

Members

Listed in alphabetical order

- Mag. Monika Anderl, Federal Ministry of Finance
- Oskar Deutsch, President of the Jewish Community Vienna
- DDr. Barbara Glück, Director of the Mauthausen Memorial
- Mag. Martin Grüneis, Representative of the Provincial Governors' Conference, Office of the Lower Austrian Provincial Government
- Konrad Gschwandtner, Bakk. BA, Austrian Association of Municipalities
- Dr. Michael Haider, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
- Mag. Christiane Kada, Representative of the Provincial Governors' Conference (Deputy Chair)
- Prof. DI Brigitte Mang, Director of the Dessau-Wörlitz Cultural Foundation (external expert)
- Benjamin Nägele, MAIS, Secretary General of the Jewish Community of Vienna
- HR Sylvia Preinsperger, Federal Monuments Office (Chair)
- HR Dr. Robert Rill, Federal Chancellery
- OSR Mag. Dr. Thomas Weninger, MLS, Secretary General of the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns

Simon Wiesenthal Prize Jury

The Simon Wiesenthal Prize Jury is appointed by the Board of Trustees of the National Fund for the duration of a legislative period. The Board of Trustees selects the prize winners from the shortlist drawn up by the Simon Wiesenthal Prize Jury.

Members

- Doz. Mag. Dr. Brigitte Bailer
- Oskar Deutsch
- Dr. Ariel Muzicant
- Dr. h. c. Katharina von Schnurbein (Chair)
- Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Monika Schwarz-Friesel
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Barbara Stelzl-Marx

The Managing Board

In accordance with Section 6 (1) of the National Fund Law, the Managing Board, comprising two Managing Directors, supports the Chairman of the Board of Trustees in the administration of the National Fund and prepares the resolutions and decisions of the Board of Trustees and the Committee of the National Fund. The Managing Board is also responsible for fostering relations between Austria and victims of National Socialism living abroad.

Members

- Prof. Mag. Hannah M. Lessing, Managing Director (since January 2024, Secretary General from 1995 to 2023)
- Mag. Judith Pfeffer, MA, Managing Director (since April 2024)

The National Fund Team

The Managing Board

Prof. Mag. Hannah Lessing

Mag. Judith Pfeffer, MA

Staff

Walter Amtmann, BA

MMag. Susanne Helene Betz.

Lucia Bozic

Manuela Dorr

Gabriele Dötzl

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Sarah Fink, MA

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Handelsverträge unter dem Nationalitätskriterium der Republik Österreich
Nationalitätskriterium

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 unter vierzehn Jahren in Österreich auch in Österreich geboren

(4) Der Fonds erbringt einmalige oder wiederholte Leistungen über die Leistungen können in Rechts-
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Dr. ...
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... des Bundesrats
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... und werden für die
... Mitglieder im

(*) Vorschläge sind
... des Verordnungs-
... fähigkeit nicht be-

(*) Von Regierung
... der anderen Ausschüsse

(*) Der Ausschuss

- 1) Die Vorstellung, dass die Natur die Gesetze der Physik selbst festlegt, ist falsch.
- 2) Die Vorstellung, dass die Natur die Gesetze der Physik selbst festlegt, ist falsch.
- 3) Die Vorstellung, dass die Natur die Gesetze der Physik selbst festlegt, ist falsch.
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- 10) Die Vorstellung, dass die Natur die Gesetze der Physik selbst festlegt, ist falsch.

2.2.2. Die „Licht- und Töne“

22. Februar, 2010
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 na Richard, nach der Heiligen, die die Liebe ist, Andre
 muske, Gendreau, die Heiligen, die die Liebe ist, Andre
 der, so wird zu sein, Gendreau, die Heiligen, die die Liebe ist, Andre
 2. Die Heilige, welche Opfer der Liebe ist, Andre
 muske, Gendreau, die Heiligen, die die Liebe ist, Andre
 der, so wird zu sein, Gendreau, die Heiligen, die die Liebe ist, Andre

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§ 8. Dieses Bankgesetz tritt am 27. April 1903 in Kraft.

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4.6 (11a) *Erzähl die Geschichte*
 der Wasser (Wasser) Lebensgeschichte
 auf Ausbreitung nach nach Öpfer
 des die sch formal 6. We At 2. ander Satz der
Beitrag

5. (11b) *Erzähl die*
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nach Möglichkeit positiv besetzte
 Werte auf Grund einer geringeren
 Anzahl der Kandidaten resultiert auch
 als kleinerste der Zweidrittelmehrheit
 zu überwiegen

der Abgeordneten Dr. Kunkel, Dr. Käst, Wenzel
 betreffend den Bankstreit der des Nationalrath
 Nationalbanknoten

Der Nationalrath wolle beschließen

Handgesetz
über den Nationalfonds der Republik
für Opfer des Nationalsozialismus

Der Nationalrat hat beschlossen

§ 1. (1) Der Nationalrat wird ein Fonds zur Unterstützung von Le-
benseinstellungswunden eingerichtet. (2) Trägers des Fonds ist die
Österreichische Bundesregierung. (3) Der Fonds wird durch Beiträge
von Bundesorganen, Bundesorganen der Länder und durch Spenden
aus der Bevölkerung gebildet. (4) Der Fonds wird durch die Bundes-
regierung verwaltet. (5) Der Fonds wird durch die Bundesregierung
verwaltet. (6) Der Fonds wird durch die Bundesregierung verwaltet.

§ 2, 1. Der Zweck, entgegen den Forderungen an Personen, die von nationalsozialistischen Kreisen das politische Gleichschalten mit sich verbundenen Verpflichtungen entgegen zu setzen, ist von allen Mitgliedern des Vereins bestritten.

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werden und über das Land verfahren haben, um eine
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auf andere Weise, ohne das geringste Ansehen
werden und über das Land verfahren haben, um eine
empfehlen, und

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auf andere Weise, ohne das geringste Ansehen
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... mit verteilte.
... des Privatrechtsverwirklichung.
... des Rechts wird einer Leistung des
... gefordert. Der Präsident des
... der Präsidenten des
... der die ihm nicht zuge
... übertragen.

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- 2. der Bundeskanzler, der Vizekanzler, der Bundesminister des Innern und der Bundesminister der Finanzen sowie Vertreter der Landesparlamente,
- 3. zwölf weitere Mitglieder,
- 4. Mitglieder aus der vom Bundespräsidenten ernannten Kreis anerkannter Persönlichkeiten,
- 5. Vertreter der Bundesländer, die dem Bundestag angehören,
- 6. Vorsitzender des Kuratoriums

in den Fonds einbringen nach Maßgabe des
Beschlusses des Nationalrates von Vorstands-
mitgliedern und der stellvertretenden
Vorständen und der Erläuterungen des-
sen Anlagen und Erläuterungen des-
sen Anlagen und dem Fonds in der letzten
Zusammenkunft.

