
Holocaust Survivors of South Jersey Project - Teaching Resources

Center 6 Directions

In this activity, you will be analyzing the immigration policies established at the Evian conference and learning about the Righteous Among Nations. During the second world war, many countries faced a high influx of refugees fleeing persecution in Nazi occupied territories. In 1938, thirty two countries sent delegates to meet and discuss policies relating to immigration into their countries at the Evian Conference. Split the following articles up within the group and assign one to each person. If there are more people than articles, double up.

- Read the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's information on the conference:
<https://www.ushmm.org/learn/behind-every-name/franz-professors-plea>
- Review the information located in the Facing History & Ourselves resource library about the conference: <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/evian-conference>
- Read the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's information on immigration through Latin American countries: <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/refuge-in-latin-america>
- Review information about the Righteous Among Nations, the non-Jewish people that are honored by Yad Vashem for risking their lives to save lives during the Holocaust:
<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/righteous-among-the-nations>

After you've read the articles, discuss with your group one at a time the content of the articles and emphasize some key details included in it.

The next thing you'll do is as a group, watch this animated video about the story of Dr. Franz Goldberger, a professor from Vienna, Austria who was desperate for help, and found someone willing in America:

<https://www.ushmm.org/learn/behind-every-name/franz-professors-plea>

Discuss these questions with your group and write a short response to each:

How did government policies and international decisions shape the fates of Jewish refugees during the Holocaust?

What type of restrictions did these countries place on immigration in their respective regions?

What was the process of immigrating out of Nazi occupied territory to places of refuge?

How can one person's act of compassion or assistance change the course of another's life during a time of crisis?