

Press Release

#StolenMemory premieres in Ukraine: Poster exhibition about personal belongings of concentration camp inmates begins in Lviv

The international exhibition #StolenMemory is being presented in Ukraine for the first time. In cooperation with the NGO Kyiv Educational Center TolerSpace and the Ukrainian Catholic University's Sheptytsky Center, the Arolsen Archives opened the exhibition on January 8, 2026.

The exhibition tells the stories of inmates in the concentration camps of the Nazi period and the personal possessions taken from them at the time of their arrest. The archive in Bad Arolsen (Germany) still has the stolen mementoes of some 2,000 people in its holdings. About 70 of these keepsakes that shall be returned to their rightful owners originally belonged to Nazi persecution victims from Ukraine.

Search for the families of Ukrainian victims of Nazi persecution

Since the beginning of the Russian war of aggression, it has hardly been possible to search for their families actively. "The new exhibition in the Ukraine marks a fresh start for this important on-site research work," says Anna Meier-Osiński, Arolsen Archives' Outreach Manager for Central and Eastern Europe. "We focus especially on inviting teens from Ukraine and all over Europe to join the growing network of volunteers. They not only help in the search for families and the return of the objects, but also contribute to keeping the names, faces, and stories of the persecution victims alive. And they serve as a reminder that peace in Europe cannot be taken for granted."

With the aid of the exhibition and the #StolenMemory campaign, the Arolsen Archives and volunteers from all over Europe are working to return these objects to the families of the original owners. More than 1,000 families have been found since the campaign got underway in 2016.

The exhibition's aims: To draw attention and gain support

Now in Ukraine for the first time, the exhibition presents photos of those personal belongings and recalls the fates of six Ukrainian victims of persecution. After beginning its tour in Lviv, it will be shown at other venues including Kyiv, Dnipro, Chernihiv, and Mykolaiv. The tour is being organized in cooperation with the NGO Kyiv Educational Center TolerSpace, which organizes trauma-sensitive educational offers and provides psychosocial support. The German Federal Foreign Office is funding the exhibition.

A comprehensive accompanying program

Online seminars, a social media campaign, and international educational projects are accompanying the exhibition. Since 2019, the Arolsen Archives have been organizing international youths' meetings in cooperation with and funded by the German-Polish Youth Office (GPYO). Ukrainian students have also participated in the seminars held at the International Youth Meeting Center in Oświęcim/Auschwitz. The website

A r o l s e n A r c h i v e s

International Center
on Nazi Persecution

Page 2/2

stolenmemory.org offers interesting material which has been translated into Ukrainian in particular for young people. Short animated films with supplementary web stories recount individual fates.

Find press photos [here](#).

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About the Arolsen Archives

The Arolsen Archives are the international center on Nazi persecution with the world's most comprehensive archive on the victims and survivors of National Socialism. The collection has information on about 17.5 million people and belongs to UNESCO's Memory of the World. It contains documents on the various victims' groups targeted by the Nazi regime and is an important source of knowledge for society today.

The Arolsen Archives in Social Media

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