

Bad Arolsen,  
January 27, 2021  
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## “Anyone can make a real contribution”

### Three questions for Floriane Azoulay, Director of the Arolsen Archives, about the #everynamecounts initiative

*Why is digital commemoration important?*

Right now, digital commemoration is the only option we have if we want to join with others to remember the victims and honor their legacy. In the future, commemoration events will be hybrid, like almost every other type of social interaction today. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated digital transformation and has opened up valuable new opportunities for us to reach audiences that we have never been able to reach before.

*What is special about #everynamecounts?*

#everynamecounts is a crowdsourcing initiative of the Arolsen Archives that aims to build a digital memorial for the victims of Nazi persecution. The project builds bridges between remembrance of the past and civic engagement today. Young people who have no personal connection to the Holocaust are grateful for this opportunity to make a personal and lasting contribution to a meaningful initiative whose aim is to ensure that the names of these victims will not be forgotten, and that their stories will be told.

*What are your goals?*

We want to make all the names of the victims from our archive available online. This is a big task and we need the help of many people, to help us index all the historical documents from concentration camps and prisons that are held in our archives. We are grateful that many international partners have agreed to support the initiative. They are leading by example and are encouraging their staff and other partners to join in. We also see that many schools are very interested in participating in #everynamecounts. We will become even more active here in order to reach as many students as possible.