

# #StolenMemory traveling exhibition

#StolenMemory is a campaign run by the Arolsen Archives that aims to return personal items – also called “effects” – that belonged to former concentration camp prisoners to their relatives. Funding provided by Germany's Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media under a program to promote culture in rural areas has enabled us to create a mobile #StolenMemory traveling exhibition in a shipping container. Thanks to support from the U.S. diplomatic missions in Germany and Poland, the traveling exhibition is also available in Polish and will tour through Germany and Poland. It is accompanied by a website, an app, and educational materials. The Arolsen Archives are an international center on Nazi persecution with the world's most comprehensive archive on the victims and survivors of National Socialism.

Would you like to show the exhibition in your town? You will find all the information you need below, including our contact details. We look forward to hearing from you!

# Traveling exhibition

Everything you need to know about the project



The **#StolenMemory** exhibition uses the personal belongings of concentration camp prisoners and their stories to raise awareness of Nazi persecution.

## #StolenMemory comes to you

- The exhibition is provided free of charge and can be realized with little effort
- The exhibition is easily accessible
- Because the container is set up in an outside space, it is easy to implement appropriate protective measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus
- The [stolenmemory.org/en](https://stolenmemory.org/en) website that accompanies the exhibition features short animated films and is especially appealing to young people
- Educational materials support the work of schools and non-formal education providers
- The materials are free of charge and can be downloaded from the Website

# #StolenMemory

## The exhibition

The Nazis took people's personal belongings away from them in the concentration camps.

### Wristwatches and wedding rings, letters and family photos

The Arolsen Archives still have around 2,500 envelopes containing the personal belongings – or “effects” – of former concentration camp prisoners. They belong to victims of Nazi persecution from over 30 countries, mostly to people from Poland, Germany, and the former Soviet Union. The effects were turned over to the Arolsen Archives in the 1960s, and the institution was charged with the task of returning them to those who had managed to survive Nazi persecution and to the families of those who were no longer alive. The decision to stop actively searching was taken in the 1980s because fewer and fewer families could be found using the means that were available at the time.

The items that have been returned are of immeasurable value to the families concerned. They make **remembering** and **remembrance** more tangible because they are often the last remaining traces of a loved one who fell victim to the Nazi regime.



## Maria Nanmova



We are looking for relatives of Maria Nanmova. A Russian, she was born on November 7, 1923 or 1925. Both dates appear on documents in the Arolsen Archives.

We have only a rough idea of the young forced laborer's fate. The Gestapo deported Maria to the Ravensbrück women's concentration camp on May 17, 1944. Her inmate number was 38639, and like the majority of foreign inmates, her category of imprisonment was "political". She arrived at the Neuengamme concentration camp on August 31, 1944. That is the last we know of Maria Nanmova. The surviving photos and the jewelry open a small window onto her life.

#StolenMemory

To find out more about the campaign and the poster exhibition, go to [aaoa.to/stolenmemory-en](https://aaoa.to/stolenmemory-en)

### A network of volunteers

Since its launch in 2016, #StolenMemory has met with a wave of support from volunteers around the world. Digital advances including social media and the online availability of archival holdings (the address books of municipal archives, for example) mean that there are now many more ways of conducting active searches than there were just a few years ago. The Arolsen Archives are working together with volunteers from Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Spain, Norway, and other countries to search for the owners of the items in their holdings. Since 2016, they have managed to return over 550 effects to families. As well as youth groups, many journalists, amateur researchers, and a large number of other private individuals have also participated in the search.



### The exhibition

The #StolenMemory exhibition container is accompanied by a website, an app, and a range of educational materials. All the materials are available in English, German, and Polish. The exhibition containers feature texts in English and German or in English, German, and Polish. The exhibition shows how much it means to people when personal belongings are returned to them and appeals to the public for help. The aim is to inform people today about the individual fates of victims of Nazism. At the same time, we hope to raise awareness of the work we do and motivate more people to join in the search.

### Mobile exhibition architecture

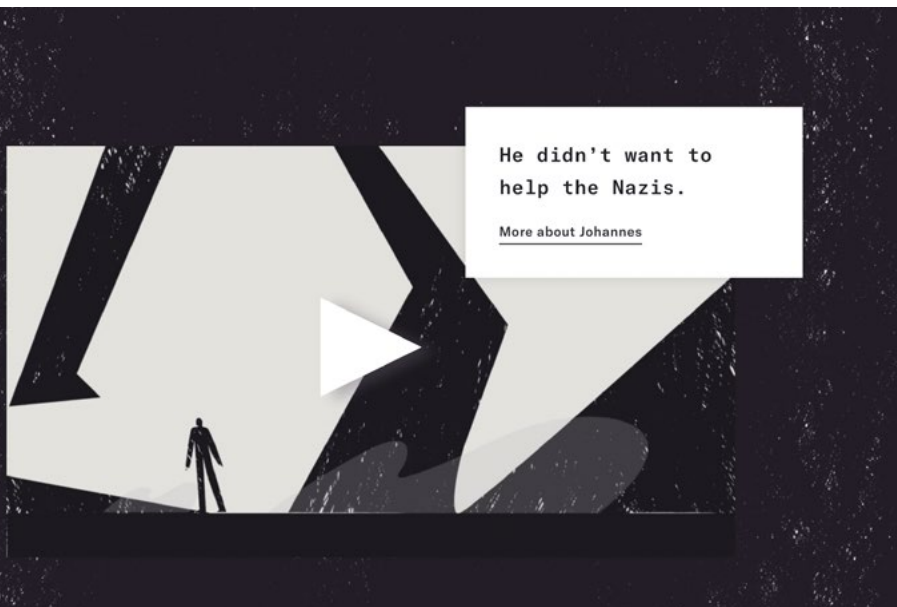
The exhibition is accommodated in a shipping container which is transported by truck and then set up in a central location that has a lot of foot traffic. Both the long outer walls of the container can be opened out to display posters that belong to the exhibition. These two “wings” of the container are devoted to two different themes of the exhibition: #Searching and #Found. #Found shows effects that have already been successfully returned to relatives, while #Searching presents personal belongings and specific individuals whose relatives the

Arolsen Archives are still searching for. This is where we invite visitors to join in and support the archive in the search by conducting research of their own. Inside the container, the walls display background information on the project, the historical context, and the Arolsen Archives.

You can get an impression of the exhibition container here in the video: [arola.to/wanderausstellung-en/](https://www.arolsen-archives.org/en/wanderausstellung-en/)

### Supplementary educational materials

To facilitate the preparation and follow-up of visits to the exhibition, free educational materials are available on the [stolenmemory.org/en](https://www.stolenmemory.org/en) website for use in schools or for projects in other educational contexts. Using scanned documents and effects, participants can reconstruct the paths of persecution of concentration camp prisoners and approach the topic of Nazi persecution through research-based learning. The teaching units can be used individually or can be combined for use in the context of a one-day project. They can also be used independently of a visit to the exhibition.



### **#StolenMemory interactive**

An augmented reality app has been developed to accompany the exhibition. Visitors can use the Play Store or the App Store to download the #StolenMemory app onto their smartphones while they are there. The app gives them access to video portraits featuring individual relatives who talk about what it meant to them when the personal effects of family members were given back to them. They also talk about the lives of their relatives. In addition, the website features web stories and animated videos on the fates of three concentration camp prisoners and 3D scans of more of the personal effects held by the Arolsen Archives. The website also provides information on the route of the traveling exhibition and includes educational materials which can be downloaded by teachers and other educators.

Find out all you need to know about the traveling exhibition at [stolenmemory.org/en](https://stolenmemory.org/en)

### **Program of events and public relations work**

We are keen to cooperate with local institutions with a view to preparing an attractive opening event or an accompanying program in connection with the exhibition (e.g. schools, associati-

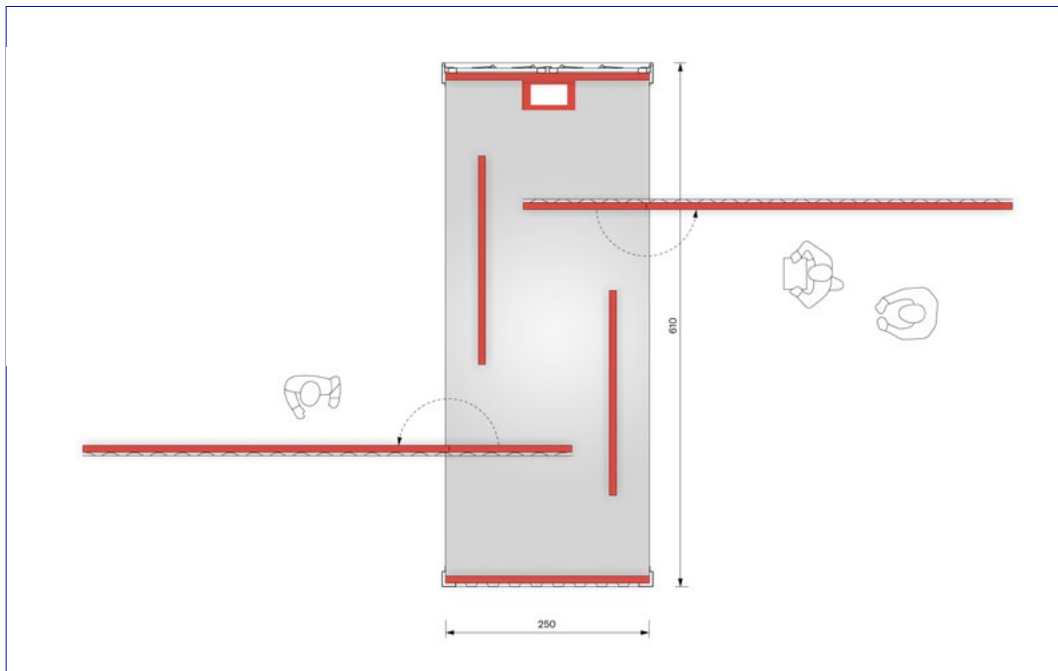
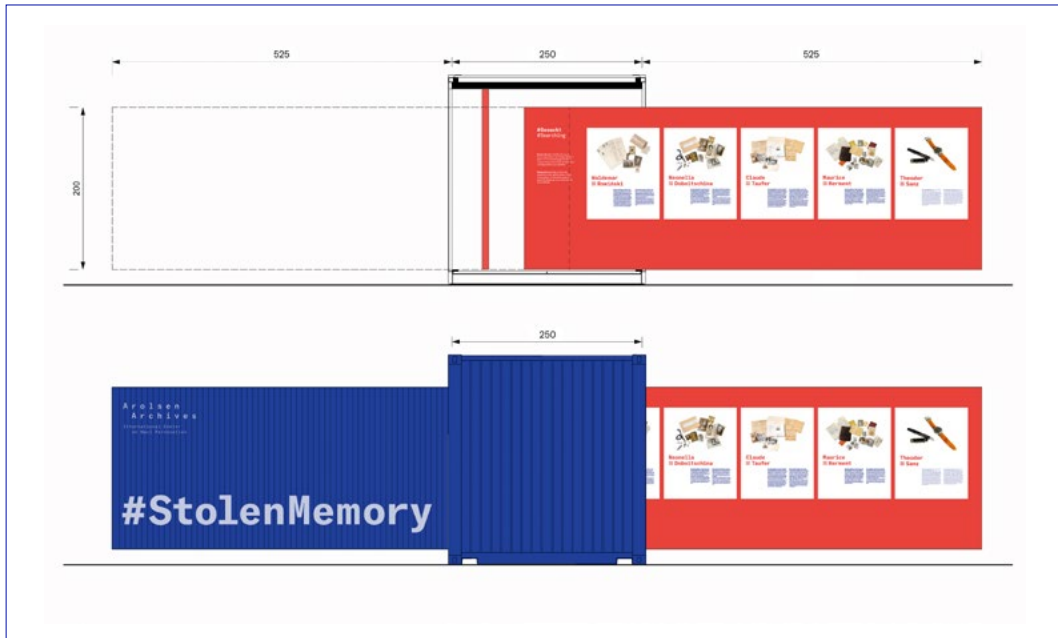
ons, memorial sites). We are also happy to provide information material and press releases to help you with press relations. If applicable, we will also provide you with information on Nazi persecutees from your region whose personal belongings are still stored in the Arolsen Archives. A local connection often motivates people to start searching for relatives and provides a wide range of different ways to participate. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to find a case with a regional link for every place that hosts the exhibition. Consult our geo-referenced map to obtain an overview of the places of birth and residence of the owners of the effects.

[arola.to/map](https://arola.to/map)



### **Dates, duration, and location of the exhibition**

The three #StolenMemory exhibition containers travel through Germany and Poland, visiting both small communities and large cities on the way. For a site to be suitable, it needs to be level, on firm ground, and in a central location. We plan for the exhibition to spend about three weeks at each individual stopping place.



#### Facts and figures

- Standard container (20 feet)
- Delivery and installation by forwarding agent
- Easy to set up and take away
- Lockable
- Stable and stormproof
- Suitable for wind load zones 1 and 2
- Static report
- Fitted with its own solar panel to supply power for the interior lighting
- Dimensions of the container (L×W×H)  
When closed: 6.10m × 2.50m × 2.00m  
When open: 6.10m × approx. 13.00m × 2.00m
- Weight of the container: 4.5t, with truck: 7-8t

# Arolsen Archives

## About the institution

»The exhibition vividly documents both the extent and the systematic nature of the crimes committed under Nazism while allowing visitors an intimate insight into individual fates at the same time. The documents give the dead their identity back, the identity the Nazis wanted to take away from them.«

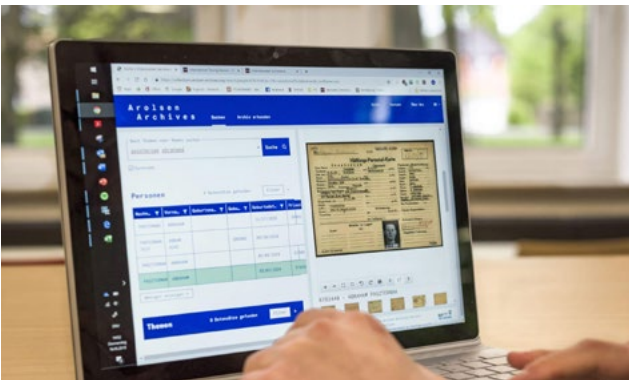
**Monika Grütters**, German Minister of State for Culture and the Media

The Arolsen Archives are an 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 victim groups targeted by the Nazi regime, on forced labor, and on Displaced Persons and migration after 1945. That makes the archive an important source of knowledge, especially for younger generations. To this day, the Arolsen Archives answer inquiries about 20,000 victims of Nazi persecution



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every year. For decades, the clarification of fates and the search for missing persons was the central task of the institution, which was founded in 1948 by the Allies as the "International Tracing Service." More important than ever are our offerings in the areas of research and education, which aim to bring knowledge about the Holocaust, concentration camps, forced labor, and the aftermath of Nazi crimes into the society we live in today. The Arolsen Archives are building a comprehensive online archive so that people around the world can access the documents and find out more.



The **archive** contains documents from concentration camps, Nazi penal institutions, and ghettos; about forced labor under National Socialism; about liberated survivors and the paths their lives took after 1945.

# Contacts

## **Would you like to show the exhibition in the place where you live?**

Please get in touch with us if you are interested in #StolenMemory. We will work with you to coordinate the timing and organize the exhibition.

### Contact

Nicole Lorentz and Charlotte Großmann

### **Arolsen Archives**

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