

## Second Generation Survey

### Background

This survey seeks to explore the lives and experience of the effects of Nazi persecution during the Holocaust on the families of survivors. We are asking the “Second Generation” 2G - the children of survivors - to share highly personal topics and hope not to cause offence. There are many limitations to a survey like this, notably only individuals with a deep interest in the topic are likely to be prepared to invest time in completing a lengthy and, possibly, intrusive document. Please encourage any 1.5 or 2G you know to take part.

For this survey the definition of 2G is the children of “First Generation” (1G) individuals who lived during National Socialism and directly experienced the effects of Nazi persecution and the Holocaust. Child survivors may identify as 1.5 G. It is likely that 1.5 and 2Gs were born between the 1930s – 1950s.

There are no right or wrong answers.

We all have different histories, lives and experiences. It is impossible to capture such richness with a survey. The aim of the survey is to identify common themes, similarities and differences in response to our parents’ experience of the Holocaust and how this, in turn, has affected our upbringing and lives. Please only answer where you are willing and able to, if not move to the next question.

Questions explore both previous and current generations covering a long time-scale. It is inevitable that you may not know answers to some questions whilst others rely on memory and information passed on by those who are no longer able to tell their own story. Please give the information you have – for example you do not know exactly where or when your grandmother was born but believe it to be around 1920 somewhere in what is now called Poland that information would be helpful.

Much of this survey relies on how individuals remember and report aspects of their lives rather than how it was experienced. Indeed, some questions rely on memory and stories passed across generations that are likely to have changed over time. Please give your current understanding.

We may not share the same language. Jew/Jewish covers a continuum from an observant believer who attends services most days to someone with no religious understanding but shares the culture. Not all victims of National Socialism were Jews – please respond if you do not have Jewish origins or simply do not feel Jewish. Given there is a spectrum of beliefs and attitudes, where questions offer options, please select the one that you agree with most strongly. Many questions ask you to type a response giving the opportunity to write freely. (You may find it easier to prepare text with a word processor and copy/paste it into the form). Please move to the next question if there is anything you do not wish to answer or do not know.

These questions probe the consequences of a turbulent period spanning over a one hundred years (nineteenth century to today). Over that time, countries, cities and towns have changed jurisdiction, names, languages and information has been lost. People have moved, often in response to trauma. You may only have an incomplete history of even your close family – for example, although you believe that your family may have moved from Russia to Poland early in the twentieth century, you may well not know each person’s name, or these names appear in multiple forms each with different spelling. People moved around, place names and countries have changed so you probably do not know the exact place they lived. Please add a summary or simply move to the next question.

Many refugees' formal education was cut short by circumstances, please explain your parent's experience (and possible return to education at a later date) in the section asking about their education.

Supplementary sections ask about your relationships, health, children, political views, inherited objects, restored nationality and writing family histories.

Hopefully, this information will be valuable to researchers.

Please skip any questions that are irrelevant or you do not want to answer

Please omit any question that is either irrelevant or might cause distress - though it would be helpful if you could comment on this at the end of the survey. We seek to tease out difficult experiences.

Vivien Sieber, January 2025