

Impact Report 2023

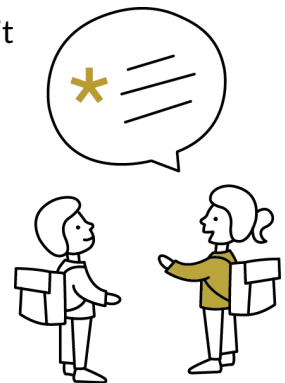
ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. – Passing on history

This brochure contains the English translation of a part of our ›Impact Report 2023‹. It was designed for those survivors and their families who do not speak German. We want to express our gratitude to you: You are the reason for and the source of our work.

Thank you for everything you have shared with us over the years. We value your trust in us and hope that you will be pleased and encouraged when you read about the latest results of the work that you enable us to do, now and in the future.

We hope that you appreciate the information we send you and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or feedback.

Yours sincerely,
your ZWEITZEUGEN-Team



THE MASSACRE OF 07 OCTOBER 2023 A TURNING POINT

The massacre of 7 October 2023 was a terrorist attack led by the radical Islamist Hamas, which was carried out from the Gaza Strip against Israel. Around 1,200 people were murdered, countless were tortured and raped and more than people were abducted to Gaza. The Israeli government responded to this attack with a war against Hamas in Gaza, which is still ongoing at the time of this publication. For Israelis and Jewish people around the world, this attack was a turning point that jeopardised their security and permanently changed their sense of security. For the Palestinian civilian population, a great deal of humanitarian suffering began, which will probably continue at least until the release of the Hamas hostages. The suffering we see in Israel and Gaza is hard to bear. We hope that the war will come to an end.

ZWEITZEUGEN E. V. STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE CITIZENS OF ISRAEL AND JEWISH PEOPLE WORLDWIDE. ANY TRIVIALISATION, RELATIVISATION OR EVEN GLORIFICATION OF HAMAS TERROR MUST BE CONDEMNED IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS. WE HOPE THAT ALL HOSTAGES WILL SOON BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR FAMILIES.

OUR THOUGHTS ARE ALSO WITH THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN GAZA, WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HAMAS TERROR, TOO. WE NOTICE AN INCREASING AMOUNT OF PEOPLE IN GERMANY SPEAKING ABOUT MUSLIMS AND PEOPLE OF ARAB ORIGIN IN A GENERALISED AND RACIST WAY, CONFRONTING THEM WITH SWEEPING ACCUSATIONS OF ANTISEMITISM. WE OPPOSE THIS, TOO!

The reactions in German society to the Hamas terror and its consequences, especially the sharp rise in antisemitism, were noticeable in our work. For us, this is all the more reason to talk to young people about what we can and must learn from the Holocaust and the experiences of the survivors! As second witnesses to the survivors and their stories, we see this as our task. On the following pages, we as a non-Jewish organisation would like to let our Jewish companions have their say and show what has changed in the education team since then.

SUMMARY

2023

- **8,509 young people** were reached in 382 workshops
- Turning point of **07 October 2023**
- **New connections:** football + inclusion + multipliers
- Transnational project launch with the **New York Museum of Jewish Heritage**
- Remembrance in **digital worlds**
- **Creative work** with a local focus
- **Nationwide training** for multipliers
- Young people **help design exhibition**
- Educational work at **14 special needs schools**

OUR VISION

What do we want for society in the future?

»Every person in Germany actively participates in an accepting, open and diverse society that no longer allows something like the holocaust to happen.«



OUR MISSION

What are we doing to achieve our vision?

»ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. encourages and empowers (young) people to actively stand up for themselves as "Zweitzeug*innen" against antisemitism and other forms of discrimination in today's world.«

Eyewitness Elie Wiesel once said, »Anyone who listens to a witness today will become a witness themselves.« Guided by this, ZWEITZEUGEN e. V. documents life stories of those who have survived the Holocaust in order to tell them to future generations as second witnesses of the eyewitnesses – as “Zweitzeug*innen”. We retell their impressive and courageous stories when the survivors themselves are no longer able to do so. Through educational projects, exhibitions, events and publications, we offer children and young people aged ten and over a personal approach to the abstract topics of National Socialism and the Holocaust.

The goal of our work is to encourage and enable (young) people to actively stand up against antisemitism and other forms of discrimination today. With the help of the life stories we sensitise for historical as well as current antisemitism. Together, we establish a connection to their own lives and encourage them to pass on the life stories as secondary witnesses – to become active themselves and to take on social responsibility.

**»I'm 85. I can't do this much longer.
But the secondary witnesses will do it for me!«**

*[witness Eva Weyl on the necessity of the work
of the ZWEITZEUGEN association]*

OUR WORK BEHIND THE SCENES

- Maintaining contacts to eyewitnesses and/or their families
- Training and further education of our team
- Development of methods and didactical concepts
- Editing of interviews
- Scientific examination/debate

Basis

- Public Relations
- Administrative Management
- Support of Volunteers
- Networking & Fundraising

Resources

- An interdisciplinary, enthusiastic team of 101 volunteers
- and 21 staff members (full-time equivalent: 11.53)
- 14 years of expertise and experience
- Material and financial means (675,400 €)

CONCEPT AND DATA GATHERING

We put all our love, time, experience and financial resources into achieving our mission. Every year, we take a critical look at how we can use these resources for our target groups best. When it comes to children and young people these are above all our didactic offers.

In order to fully reach out to them our concept is a holistic one. Our method addresses

- the heart (getting a personal access to history),
- the mind (gaining knowledge and connecting it to one's own lifeworld)
- and the hand (finding ways of standing up against antisemitism and other forms of discrimination).

In order to determine whether the didactic concept on which our work is based is adequate and contributes to the achievement of the set impact goals, we surveyed the participants of our educational projects (among others).

In 2023, a total of 939 online questionnaires were completed, 860 of them by children and young people and 79 by educators.

Evaluation showed that 34 % of the children and teenagers we worked with graded us with a 'very good', 49 % with a 'good'.

95 % of the educators would unreservedly recommend a workshop to others.

Of course the surveys also revealed what can be improved and we already work on various aspects of our workshops and materials. Our work is a constant process of developing and evaluating and we are continually striving for improvement.

STUDENTS' REFLECTIONS ON THE WORKSHOP

The impact field *HEART*:

»I liked the way it was told to us. From the point of view of someone who went through it all and survived, and not just broadly in general, how it was for everyone, but how it was explicitly for this ONE person. Thank you for that.«

(Student, 14 years old)

»It was easy to empathise with how Jews felt during the Nazi era, for example when they had to go into hiding, or how they must have felt in uncertainty about their friends or family members.«

(Student, 13 years old)

The impact field *MIND*:

- 92 % of young people think it is important to talk about antisemitism in the present. 94 % of educators emphasise that the content taught creates a connection to today.

»I hope that something bad like this never happens again and that we learn from our mistakes.« (Student, 15 years old)

This year, we were particularly struck by the number of teachers who stated that their students recognise the dangers of prejudice. 96 % fully or partly agreed with this statement. In addition, 79 % of teachers stated that they assume that participants question their own prejudices.

The impact field *HAND*:

91 % of participants want to tell the life stories they got to know to other people, e.g. their friends or family, as second witnesses. This means we can maintain the good result from 2022 (92 %) – a success that can be attributed to the sharpening of our didactic concept. In 2021, this figure was significantly lower (81 %, although 16 % of these were unsure whether they were able to tell others).

»I particularly liked the fact that we were able to mix our creativity with commitment.«
(Student, 16 years old)

NATIONWIDE TRAINING COURSES FOR MULTIPLIERS

After implementing a pilot project in cooperation with Yad Vashem in 2022, we were able to expand the area of multipliers, test new formats and get to know different target groups in 2023 thanks to funding from the Federal Agency for Civic Education. We were able to conduct four training courses with local partners – the Centre for Practical Teacher Training in Bonn, the Caritasverband Westerwald-RheinLahn e. V., the Historical Institute of the Ruhr University Bochum and the Catholic University of Applied Sciences Berlin. A total of 103 multipliers took part in the training courses organised.

ZWEITZEUGEN IN FOOTBALL: A PILOT PROJECT IS BEING STABILISED

Our work in the football context was indispensable for us and many of our cooperation partners, and yet it was initially unclear how we would continue to be funded.

Two funding commitments followed, which made us breathe a sigh of relief: Aktion Mensch and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) are funding ZWEITZEUGEN education in extracurricular learning centres in NRW for three years each. Thanks to the Ministry for Children, Youth, Family, Equality, Refugees and Integration of the state of NRW, we are able to bring together four important aspects of ZWEITZEUGEN.

In addition to regular educational work and special formats, our exhibition can also be integrated. The project also explicitly expands the target group of children and young people to include multipliers: educators from the learning centres and fan projects and other interested parties will not only be given access to and inspiration through ZWEITZEUGEN education, but can also be trained as workshop leaders. The project was launched with a kick-off event at the German Football Museum, where we welcomed around 30 representatives from football clubs, learning centres and fan projects from NRW.

In future, Aktion Mensch will make it possible to organise ZWEITZEUGEN educational projects at football learning centres with fewer barriers. In particular, materials and concepts are to be (further) developed for children and young people with special needs in the areas of SIGHT and HEARING AND COMMUNICATION. A milestone for our inclusive secondary education and children and young people with special needs.

AN EXHIBITION TO TAKE PART IN

In 2023, we honoured our new travelling exhibition, which specifically invites children and young people between the ages of 12 and 16 to become secondary witnesses, and filled it with life. Young and old visitors came together again at the same place where our original exhibition found its first home in 2012 – the state parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia. Hedva Wolf Ben Moshe and Michael Brenner spoke on this occasion about growing up and living as children of survivors, reaching a large crowd with their touching speech.

ACCESSIBILITY

In 2023, we had the opportunity to reach over 300 young people with special needs in the areas of 'vision' and 'hearing and communication' on a total of 28 project days. Over the course of the year, we visited a total of 14 special needs schools sponsored by the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe and thus reached a whole new target group of participants in our ZWEITZEUGEN workshops. The collaboration with the special schools was characterised by intensive preparation in order to adapt as well as possible to the individual needs of the pupils. We held preparatory discussions with the teachers involved ahead of each workshop, provided workshop materials in advance and organised the booking of sign language interpreters. We were in close contact with all those involved even before the project was implemented, which contributed to successful workshops and lasting contact with the schools.

AWARDS

We are delighted to have been honoured with an Obermayer Award in 2023! The Obermayer Foundation and Widen the Circle (USA) honour individuals and organisations in Germany who have contributed to preserving Jewish history and culture in their communities and counteracting hatred, prejudice and antisemitism through creative and selfless commitment. The honoured individuals and institutions have built bridges in their communities and around the world, thereby establishing close relationships with former Jewish citizens and their descendants. At the same time, thanks to their work, younger generations are also able to learn the lessons of history.

FUNDING PARTNERS

Our strong network of support and cooperation partners, companions and friends, professional structures, determination and commitment are the basis for our effective and constantly growing work. We owe them and all of you our deepest gratitude: thank you for your cooperation, for your trust, for your encouragement and for breaking new ground with us! We remain committed to continuing to forge funding partnerships on an equal footing and ensuring stability and continuity for our work.

COOPERATIONS

In 2023, we greatly intensified our collaborations. In total, we worked with 179 schools and 36 non-school cooperation partners. The results are tailor-made programmes, for example in municipalities where we have joined forces with local stakeholders. Thanks to the cooperation with Rom e. V., children and young people went in search of traces of persecuted Sinti*^{Sintizas} and Roma*^{Romni} in their own neighbourhood in Cologne. In Dortmund, young secondwitnesses researched the stories of persecuted players and club officials at the German Football Museum.

KEY DATA

Name: ZWEITZEUGEN e.V.

Board of Directors

Ruth-Anne Damm, Chairperson
Sarah Hüttenberend, Chairperson
Phillip Tybus, Chairperson
Melanie Schaumberg, Treasurer
Janika Raisch, Assessor

Registered office

Essen

Legal form: Registered association

Foundation date: 15.02.2014

(registered as HEIMATSUCHER e.V. until 04.2020)

Register entry

Essen Local Court, Zweigertstraße 52, 45130 Essen

Registration number: VR. No. 5989

Tax number: 112 / 5743 / 1279

Postal address

ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. – P.O. Box 18 80 in 32218 Bünde, Germany

Homepage: www.zweitzeugen.de

Mail address: kontakt@zweitzeugen.de

Nonprofit status

The association ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. pursues according to its statutes exclusively nonprofit purposes in the sense of §§51 ff. of the tax code. The purpose of the association is the promotion of international spirit, tolerance in all areas of culture and the idea of international understanding.

Notice of exemption

dated 1st August 2023 by the Essen tax office.

Number of employees

21 (11.53 FTE, as of end of 2023)

Number of volunteers

101 (as of end of 2023)

Affiliation with third parties under company law

None