Visit the German Bundestag

Exhibition "Shared History - 1,700 years of Jewish life in German-speaking countries"

An exhibition in the German Bundestag on the occasion of the commemoration day of the victims of National Socialism

January 27th to April 23rd, 2021

In 1996, Federal President Roman Herzog proclaimed January 27 a national day of remembrance. In memory of those persecuted and murdered by the Nazi regime, the German Bundestag has been holding the commemoration hour on the day of commemoration of the victims of National Socialism. 2021 will mark the 25th anniversary of the commemoration. At the same time, this year has another very special meaning for German-speaking Judaism: 2021 marks the 1700th anniversary of the earliest document that mentions a Jewish community in the German-speaking area. In an edict from the year 321, a copy of which is now kept in the Vatican Library, Emperor Constantine allowed the Cologne city councilors to oblige Jews to exercise public offices.

To portray the multifaceted narratives of Jewish history in this time and language area, the Leo Baeck Institute - New York | Berlin has launched the project Shared History - 1700 Years of Jewish Life in German-speaking countries. It’s a shared history, in the truest sense of the word. The history of Jews was and is for centuries deeply interwoven with the history of the majority population in the regions and countries of this area.

The exhibition in the German Bundestag is part of the Shared History project. It highlights the individual and collective experiences that shaped Jewish life in German-speaking countries for centuries: discrimination, exclusion and disenfranchisement on the one hand, acceptance, acculturation and social advancement on the other.
This is shown using selected objects that are shown on glass exhibition boards. It becomes clear that it can sometimes be the most inconspicuous things, like a pair of eye glasses, which impressively report the hardships and physical exertions that are hidden behind emancipatory acts of strength.

Today, Jewish life in all its diversity is once again an integral part of German society. But as a look at the exhibits and their stories shows, the way there was anything but easy. It was marked by setbacks and breaks, but also by times of lively togetherness and dynamic exchange.

The exhibition, embedded in the context of the annual project Shared History, invites you to explore these historical dynamics, but also to address current issues. It depicts the polyphony of German-Jewish life as well as the shared history of the social minority and majority both in their heyday and in their most terrible moments. At the same time, it sharpens the eye for current opportunities and challenges in the multicultural worlds of Germany, in which family biographies are increasingly characterized by migration, multilingualism and multi-layered identities.

An exhibition by the Leo Baeck Institute - New York | Berlin on behalf of the German Bundestag on the occasion of the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of National Socialism

Design : Fernkopie and Lendler exhibition architecture

More information about the exhibition and the work of the Leo Baeck Institute - New York | Berlin can be found at www.sharedhistoryproject.org.

sightseeing

The exhibition, which will be presented from January 27, 2021 to April 23, 2021, can be visited in the German Bundestag from Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. after the pandemic-related visit restrictions have been lifted and prior registration:

Paul-Löbe-Haus, West Entrance,
Konrad-Adenauer-Straße 1, Berlin-Mitte

registration

Registration is only possible after the pandemic-related visit restrictions have been lifted. Current information can be found here and on this page. No information can currently be given on the resumption of visitor traffic. We ask for your understanding.

Virtual kick-off

Due to the pandemic-related contact restrictions, the exhibition has been opened in virtual form. The opening video recorded for this purpose provides insights into the exhibition and shows excerpts from the opening address by Bundestag President Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble and from the greetings of the President of the Leo Baeck Institute - New York | Berlin, David G. Marwell, and the President of the Central Council of Jews, Dr. Josef Schuster. The recorded speeches can also be called up separately in full length.