

# Count Their Names: The Nazi Persecution of LGBTQ People

## VIEWING GUIDE



When the names and numbers of Holocaust victims are commemorated and mourned, one group of victims is often uncounted – LGBTQ+ people. It is for the most shameful reason – the persecution of gay people in Nazi Germany successor states continued after World War II.

In observance of 2022 International Holocaust Remembrance Day, **Dr. Jake Newsome** (public scholar of LGBTQ+ history) joined in conversation with **Sophie Don** (Senior Manager of Program and Operations at the Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation) and **Galia Godel** (Program Manager at J.Proud) to commemorate the Nazis' LGBTQ+ victims.

**This viewing guide provides the questions discussed during the digital program as well as clickable timestamps that take viewers to the corresponding spot in the YouTube video.**

**Event Date:** January 27, 2022

**Full Runtime:** 1 hour 15 minutes

**Video Link:** <https://youtu.be/MLjcAhAHzf4>

Sponsored by: [pRiSm](#) (the Rodeph Shalom LGBTQ+ connection group), [The Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation](#) and in collaboration with [JProud](#), a program of Jewish Family and Children Services of Greater Philadelphia and the [William Way LGBT Community Center](#).

## **Welcome & Opening Remarks (0:00)**

Rabbi Eli Freedman (Rodeph Shalom)

## **Remarks from the Leo Brenner Fund (5:51)**

Ira & Roberta Brenner

## **Introduction of the Speakers (7:35)**

Rabbi Eli Freedman (Rodeph Shalom)

### **PART 1**

## **The Experiences of LGBTQ+ People Before and During the Holocaust**

*Moderated by Sophie Don (Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation)*

Can you tell us about how you became interested in this topic? ([9:01](#))

Can you tell us what life was like for LGBTQ people in Germany before the Nazis came to power? ([13:59](#))

Why did the Nazis see LGBTQ people as a threat to Germany? ([19:12](#))

You've talked to us about *why* the Nazis targeted LGBTQ+ Germans. Can you tell us *how* the Nazis persecuted this community? What tools of persecution did they use? Was it similar to other groups? ([23:50](#))

What was the situation like for LGBTQ+ people inside the concentration camps? ([29:13](#))

What would happen if a person fell into more than one category of concentration camp prisoner? ([34:29](#))

### **PART 2**

## **Continuing Persecution of LGBTQ+ People after the Holocaust**

*Moderated by Galia Godel (J.Proud)*

Can you tell us about the situation of LGBTQ+ people in the immediate aftermath of World War II? ([40:04](#))

How did the situation for LGBTQ+ compare or differ in West Germany versus East Germany? ([44:50](#))

What were some of the significant outcomes of West Germany's 1969 amendment of Paragraph 175 to finally get rid of the Nazi version of the law? ([46:01](#))

When and how did the history of the Nazis' LGBTQ+ victims begin to be included in the history books? ([49:28](#))

Did LGBTQ+ victims ever receive compensation from the German government? ([53:40](#))

### **PART 3** **Lessons for Today**

*Moderated by Galia Godel (J.Proud)*

Are there any memorials to the Nazis' LGBTQ+ victims? ([56:11](#))

In your opinion, what are the most important lessons that we today can draw from this history? ([1:03:30](#))

What are your thoughts about the commercialization of the pink triangle? ([1:09:42](#))

**Wrap Up** ([1:12:05](#))

**For educational resources on LGBTQ+ people during and after the Holocaust, visit [wjakenewsome.com/resources](http://wjakenewsome.com/resources).**

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Dr. Jake Newsome is an award-winning scholar of German and American LGBTQ+ history whose research and resources educate global audiences. His forthcoming book [Pink Triangle Legacies: Coming Out in the Shadow of the Holocaust](#) (Cornell University Press, Sept. 2022) chronicles the ongoing struggle for the acknowledgment and memorialization of the Nazis' LGBTQ+ victims. It also traces the transformation of the pink triangle from a concentration camp badge in Nazi Germany into a symbol of queer activism, pride, and community beginning in the 1970s. In addition to serving as a historical advisor for film projects, podcasts, and plays, Dr. Newsome has been invited by the French, UK, and US governments to speak about the important lessons that LGBTQ+ history has for all of us today. He now works as a museum professional in Washington, DC.

**You can find him online at [wjakenewsome.com](http://wjakenewsome.com) and on social media at [@wjnewsome](#).**