

Central Union of German Citizens of Jewish Belief

(*Centralverein Deutscher Staatsbuerger Juedischen Glaubens, CV*), organization dedicated to protecting the civil and social rights of Jews in Germany, while at the same time, cultivating their German identity. The union, active from 1893 to 1938, was originally established in response to the rise of political antisemitism. Part of the union's platform was to view Jews as a religious group only—not a national group. Thus, it was anti-Zionist for a long time. However, its young leaders supported settlement in Palestine.

When the Nazi Party rose to national power in 1933, the union opened a legal office to fight for Jewish rights, and initiated an information campaign, which at first tried to calm German Jews. After the anti-Jewish boycott of April 1933, the union began organizing educational and religious activities, hoping to convince the Nazi government to recognize the Jews as a separate but equal group within Germany (see also boycott, anti-Jewish). After the racial Nuremberg Laws were issued in 1935, the union was forced to change its name to *Centralverein der Juden in Deutschland* (Central Union of Jews in Germany). The organization increasingly made emigration and job training its main priorities.

After the Kristallnacht pogrom of November 1938, the union was no longer independently active, and was assimilated into the new Reich Association of Jews in Germany.