

Schonfeld, Solomon

(1912--1982), English Rabbi and educator who rescued Jews during the Holocaust.

In early 1938 Schonfeld created a rescue organization called the Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council, whose purpose was to bring Orthodox rabbis and teachers to England who were not sponsored by other refugee organizations in Great Britain because they were considered to be "unproductive" citizens. That winter, Schonfeld brought to London 250 children from Vienna who were not receiving support from the Jewish community there. Until he could find permanent homes for them, he housed them in his own home and in his schools. Next, he instituted a rabbinical academy as a way of bringing some 120 refugee students into England.

By appealing to various prominent British figures and government officials, Schonfeld was able to procure entry permits for some 3,700 Jews, who arrived in England before and right after World War II. During the war, Schonfeld also came up with several rescue plans that were not implemented by the authorities.

After the war, Schonfeld worked with Jewish displaced persons in the British zone of Germany. He also traveled to Poland and Czechoslovakia to bring war orphans to England.