

## Survivors, Second Generation of

Children born after World War II to parents who survived Nazi persecution during the holocaust.

During the 1960s and 1970s, children of Holocaust Survivors began exploring what it meant to be "children of Holocaust survivors." Psychological studies were done on this "second generation of survivors," to determine how their parents' nightmarish experiences affected their lives. At the same time, awareness groups developed, in which children of survivors could explore their feelings in a group that shared those feelings. In November 1979 the "second generation" met nationally at the First Conference on Children of Holocaust Survivors, which generated the creation of support groups all over the United States.

Many members of the "second generation" have gone beyond the suffering they experienced as children of Holocaust survivors, to proactively commemorate the lives and way of life lost during the Holocaust. They do historical research on Jewish life in pre-war Europe and on the Holocaust itself; educate people about the Holocaust and combat Holocaust denial, racism, and Antisemitism; revitalize Yiddish culture; become politically active, whether with regard to finding and prosecuting Nazis, or by taking up some Jewish or humanitarian cause; and creatively explore the effect of the Holocaust on themselves and their families through art, literature, and theater. (see also Holocaust, Denial of.)