



Names Recovery Campaign

Working with Survivors

- Your goal in meeting with the survivor is help them submit as many names as Holocaust victims as he/she remembers, including acquaintances, friends and family. When you call to make an appointment, ask survivors to prepare a list of family, friends and acquaintances that perished and collect all photos and documentation so they have it ready for your session. If you are unable to collect all the names in one sitting, please arrange additional visits.
- Call the survivor/interviewee the night before the interview to confirm the appointment and the morning of your appointment.
- Get a good night sleep the night before the interview.
- Allow enough travel time to ensure prompt arrival.
- Try not to schedule any appointments during the few hours following the interview.
- Make sure you have enough of Pages of Testimony (we suggest bringing 20 or more).
- If the survivor asks why Yad Vashem is doing this, answer: to **preserve the memory and legacy of every victim of the Holocaust for future generations**. Remind them that this is an opportunity for them to bear witness.
- Many survivors are grateful for assistance with registering names and appreciate a listening ear. They expect to be asked to provide information in order to register names. Don't be afraid to ask questions because you think they are too direct or may be hurtful to the survivors.
- If survivors are reluctant to talk about individuals who perished, acknowledge the difficulty and encourage them. Help them realize that this is their chance to memorialize individuals' legacies, which will otherwise be forgotten.
- If a survivor becomes emotional express your support by listening. To keep focused, you can say: "I'd love to hear more about your story, but first we have a lot of work to do."
- Before you begin filling out Pages of Testimony, assemble a list of names of victims. As a memory aid in creating the list, assemble Holocaust era photos that belong to the survivor. Ask: Who was the head of your family? What happened to your mother, father, siblings, grandparents, friends and acquaintances? Who lived on your neighborhood, your street and what happened to them?
Group photos are especially helpful. You may also create a family tree to jog their memories.
- Ask one question at a time, specific questions corresponding to the fields in the form, to help the survivor remember the relevant facts you need to fill out the Page of Testimony.



Remembering the Past, Shaping the Future

- When possible, before you begin, search the online Database for each of the names on the list of Holocaust victims to make sure that they have not been submitted yet. If a name has already been submitted, there is no need to register again. However, you may add information to a particular record by using the “Feedback forms for comments” on the site.
- At minimum, the family name (or maiden name) and/or the first name, as well as the place of permanent residence (or place of birth) should be registered. Additional details are welcome. **Family names, first names and names of places** should be registered as close to their original spelling as possible, preferably **in Latin characters**.
- Begin by filling out the bottom part of the Page of Testimony with the survivors’ details. For multiple submissions, get their details **ONCE**, then fill out the additional victims’ information, have them sign at the bottom and fill in their details, as well as the time and place, later on.
- **Write clearly in block letters**, using a **pen** and not a pencil.
- **Fill out a separate Page of Testimony for each Holocaust victim**. This includes children. If a child’s name is not known please specify “child/girl/boy” under marital status and gender; and state the parents’ names.
- Here are some answers for the Family Status section on the Page of Testimony: Adopted Child, Orphaned Child, Baby, Child, Teenager, Single, Engaged, Married, Common-Law Wife, Deserted Wife, Divorced, Widow, Widowed, Widower
- Ask if there is a photograph of the victim available to attach to Pages of Testimony. If you are submitting online, you can submit a scanned copy. If the survivor does not want to part with the photo, either scan it into the computer or make another print of it when possible.
- If you do not know the circumstances of death, specify that the victim perished during the Holocaust.
- In the "Region" field fill in the town if you do not know the region.
- Please make sure that each Page that you submit is signed and dated.
- Collect Pages of Testimony and return to *(organization or individual coordinating the campaign in your area)*.
- If you see the survivor is getting tired, suggest a break. At the end of the break, remind them where they left off.
- Bring survivor registration forms and help survivors register with Yad Vashem.
- (If you are interested in submitting more names) Ask the survivor to refer you to other survivor friends who may be interested in submitting names. Make contact after the survivor friend does so first.