



Stiftung Hamburger Gedenkstätten und Lernorte
zur Erinnerung an die Opfer der NS-Verbrechen

KZ-Gedenkstätte
Neuengamme

Ausstellungen
Begegnungen
Studienzentrum

81st Anniversary of the Liberation of Prisoners of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp 2026

Events organized by the Foundation of Hamburg Memorials and Learning
Centres Commemorating the Victims of Nazi Crimes

Please note:

The printed programme is subject to change. Please check here for the latest information:

kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de/en

An overview of the commemorative events in Hamburg can be found here:

befreiung-in-hamburg.de

Registration:

For organizational reasons, we request that you register for the commemoration ceremony on
3 May 2026 at the Memorial: eveeno.com/200641763

There are additional offers for relatives of former prisoners of the Neuengamme concentration
camp. Please register here by April 24, 2026: eveeno.com/193760958

Sponsored by:



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
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Verantwortung
Zukunft

2 May 2026, 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

A Space to Remember: Printing Workshop for Relatives

During this period, all relatives of former prisoners of Neuengamme who have already designed a poster in memory of their persecuted family member for the Space to Remember can visit the printing workshop after registering in order to print their personal poster. They will receive instruction in the printing techniques employed by the resistance against National Socialism, and they will have the opportunity to talk with other relatives of persecuted individuals.

Venue: Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, Plattenhaus (near the bus stop 'KZ-Gedenkstätte, Mahnmal')

In co-operation with the AG Ort der Verbundenheit, the Freundeskreis der KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme, the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Neuengamme (AGN), and the Amicale Internationale KZ Neuengamme (AIN)

Event for relatives of former prisoners, register by 24 April 2026 at: eveeno.com/193760958

Information about the participatory memorial site: ort-der-verbundenheit.org/en

2 May 2026, 9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Meeting Tents

Opportunities to connect over cake and coffee

Venue: Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, on the path between the brick factory and the Plattenhaus (near the bus stop 'KZ-Gedenkstätte, Mahnmal')

2 May 2026, 1:00–2:30 p.m.

A Space to Remember: Public Poster Presentation

For the Space to Remember, family members design individual posters in memory of former prisoners of Neuengamme from all over the world. During the poster presentation, the family members will speak publicly about their family histories and jointly commemorate their relatives.

Programme:

Speech: **Magdalena Wajsen**, granddaughter of a Polish concentration camp prisoner: poster for Kazimierz Wajsen

für Kazimierz Wajsen

Speech: **Jacques Durif**, son of a former French prisoner: poster for Louis Durif

Moderator: **Karin van Steeg**

Musical accompaniment: **Jiahe Liu** (saxophone)

Afterwards we will put the posters up together.

Venue: Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, former brick factory (near the bus stop 'KZ-Gedenkstätte, Klinkerwerk')

In co-operation with the AG Ort der Verbundenheit, the Freundeskreis der KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme, the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Neuengamme (AGN), and the Amicale Internationale KZ Neuengamme (AIN)

Public event, no registration required.

Relatives who would like to actively participate in the commemoration and poster hanging should please register by 24 April 2026: eveeno.com/193760958

Information about the participatory memorial site: ort-der-verbundenheit.org/en

2 May 2026, 2:45–5:45 p.m.

Tours for Relatives of Former Prisoners of Neuengamme in German, English, and French

Three-hour tour through the grounds and exhibitions of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial covering the history of the concentration camp and its satellite camps

Relatives are requested to register by 24 April 2026 at: eveeno.com/193760958

Participation is free of charge.

Other languages can be requested through the registration form.

2 May 2026, 3:00–6:00 p.m.

Memory Matters! Diverse Remembrance for the 81st Anniversary

As part of the event entitled 'Memory Matters! Diverse remembrance for the 81st anniversary', the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial has invited local individuals, clubs, schools, and initiatives to play an active role in shaping the commemoration on site. You can expect a varied programme of activities, including discussions and lectures, musical performances, artwork, project presentations, and video screenings. These activities address the historical events associated with National Socialist persecution and the Neuengamme concentration camp as well as the contemporary relevance of this history. Prepare to be surprised by the diversity that Hamburg's civil society brings to its memory culture!

The programme will be published in the week before the event on the Memorial's website:

kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de/en

Venue: Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, foyer of the main exhibition (near the bus stop 'KZ-Gedenkstätte, Ausstellung')

Public event, no registration required.

2 to 31 May 2026

'Perhaps I Will Experience Peace Yet': Survivors of Nazi Persecution in Ukraine

This exhibition presents portraits of ten survivors of Nazi persecution in Ukraine. These individuals were transported for forced labour when they were young or deported with their parents, while some were born into forced labour. There are also portraits of Roma people who survived the German occupation. The Ukrainian photographer Kostyantyn Chernichkin visited these people, whose everyday lives are shaped by war, in 2024 and 2025.

The exhibition was developed by the Aid Network for Survivors of Nazi Persecution in Ukraine, which involves 47 memorials, foundations, and civic remembrance initiatives. Its goal is to provide local support to survivors of Nazi persecution and their families with the help of NGOs. Employees of the aid network will present the exhibition in the context of 'Memory Matters! Diverse remembrance for the 81st anniversary'.

Venue: Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, foyer of the main exhibition (near the bus stop 'KZ-Gedenkstätte, Ausstellung')

Donations can be made through the website of the aid network: hilfsnetzwerk-nsverfolgte.de/en

3 May 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Commemorative Event to Mark the 81st Anniversary of the Bombing of Prisoner Ships in the Bay of Neustadt

International commemorative event with descendants of victims of the ship bombings

Speakers:

Dr Martine Letterie, President of the Amicale Internationale KZ Neuengamme (AIN)

Philippe Cosnay, President of the Amicale française de Neuengamme et de ses Kommandos

Heinrich-Anton Holtfester, Head of the Town Council of Neustadt in Holstein

Eka von Kalben, Vice President of the Schleswig-Holstein State Parliament

Students of the Küstengymnasium Neustadt and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Neuengamme

Musical accompaniment: **Choir of students from Neustadt**

Venue: Cap Arcona Cemetery in Neustadt in Holstein, Stutthofweg

Event organized by the Amicale Internationale KZ Neuengamme (AIN) and the town of Neustadt in Holstein

Public event, no registration required. Seating is limited.

3 May 2026, 12:00 p.m.

Boat Trip to the Sites of the Sinking of the Prisoner Ships for Descendants of Former Prisoners of Neuengamme

Venue: Neustadt in Holstein harbour, meet at the boat dock in front of Klüver's Brauhaus

Event organized by the Kinder- und Jugendnetzwerk Neustadt e. V. in co-operation with the Amicale Internationale KZ Neuengamme (AIN)

Private event. For information and registration please contact Rike Pietrzyeniuk (email: rike.pietrzyeniuk@gedenkstaetten.hamburg.de).

3 May 2026, 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Public Boat Trip to the Sites of the Sinking of the Prisoner Ships

Venue: Neustadt in Holstein harbour, meet at the boat dock in front of Klüver's Brauhaus

Event organized by the Kinder- und Jugendnetzwerk Neustadt e. V.

For information and registration please contact Danny Seidel (email: dseidel@stadt-neustadt.de).

3 May 2026, 12:00/1:00/2:00 p.m.

Short Public Tours (German/ English)

Brief introduction to the history of the Neuengamme concentration camp and its satellite camps

Venue: Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, meet at the Service Point (near the bus stop 'KZ-Gedenkstätte, Ausstellung')

Participation is free of charge. No registration required.

3 May 2026, 4:30 p.m., entry from 3:45 p.m.

Commemorative Ceremony to Mark the 81st Anniversary of the End of the War and the Liberation of the Concentration Camps

International ceremony at the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial with survivors and relatives of former prisoners of Neuengamme from all over the world.

The event will begin with a commemorative ceremony in the former Walther factory followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the former detention bunker.

Programme:

Opening remarks: **Prof Dr Oliver von Wrochem**, Director of the Foundation of Hamburg Memorials and Learning Centres Commemorating the Victims of Nazi Crimes

Welcome: **Carola Veit**, President of the Parliament of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

Welcome: **Maria Bering**, Deputy Department Head for the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media

Speech (video recording): **Judith Jaegermann**, Survivor of the Neuengamme concentration camp

Speech: **Katrin Duerinckx**, Board Member of the Amicale Belge de Neuengamme and the NCPGR Meensel-Kiezegem '44

Musical accompaniment: **Staatliche Jugendmusikschule Hamburg, Samantha Wright**

Venue: Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, former Walther factory (near the bus stop 'KZ-Gedenkstätte, Ausstellung')

In co-operation with the Amicale Internationale KZ Neuengamme (AIN)

Public event, but registration is requested for organizational reasons: eveeno.com/200641763.

Entry will also be possible without advance registration.

3 May 2026, 7:45 p.m.

Ceremonial Reception and Dinner

Venue: H4-Hotel Hamburg-Bergedorf

For invited guests

4 May 2026, 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Marketplace of Memories

A public Marketplace of Memories will be held on the morning of 4 May in Neustadt in Holstein. Various stands will display the results of projects carried out by different schools in Neustadt in advance of the commemoration days. Clubs, associations, and institutions dedicated to promoting democracy will also have the opportunity to present their work. Interactive stations will offer various creative, low-threshold ways for all Neustadt schoolchildren and residents to engage individually with the history of the *Cap Arcona*. Towards the end of the event there will be a closing presentation and a few brief words of greeting.

Among other things, activities are planned with the following artists:

Uli von Welt (music coach et al.): Music project

Sonja Knoop (painter): Graffiti project

Julia Kaergel (illustrator): Drawing and painting project

Danny Seidel (Lego Serious Play trainer): Lego project

Marius Schmidt (writer and illustrator): Comics project

Venue: Market square, Am Markt, 23730 Neustadt in Holstein

Event organized by the Kinder- und Jugendnetzwerk Neustadt e. V. in co-operation with the Amicale Internationale KZ Neuengamme (AIN)

Public event, no registration required.

4 May 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Public Talks for School Classes with Two Survivors of Neuengamme and Two Relatives of People Persecuted by the Nazis

The conversation with Barbara Piotrowska will be translated from Polish into German. The other three conversations will take place in English without translation.

Martin Liebl (Prague, Czechia) will talk about his mother, Dagmar Lieblová (née Fantlová, 1929–2018), who was the only survivor of a Czech Jewish family. She was a prisoner in the Theresienstadt ghetto as well as the Auschwitz concentration camp, three satellite camps of Neuengamme, and Bergen-Belsen, and she was a tireless fighter against forgetting. Throughout her life, she spoke especially to young people about what happened to her family. Today her son Martin continues her remembrance work in Czechia.

Helga Melmed (Venice, Florida) was deported from Berlin to the Litzmannstadt/ Łódź ghetto with her Jewish family at the age of 13. Her father was shot there. Her mother died of hunger and disease. Helga Melmed survived the Auschwitz concentration camp, several satellite camps of the Neuengamme concentration camp, and the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Today she lives in the USA.

Barbara Piotrowska (Warsaw) and her family were deported to the Neuengamme concentration camp in 1944 following the Warsaw Uprising. In Neuengamme, men were separated from the group. Barbara Piotrowska's father was murdered there while she and her mother were deported to the Ravensbrück concentration camp. They both survived and returned to Poland.

Kristof Van Mierop (Dudzele, Belgium) will talk about his grandfather, the Belgian resistance fighter Roger Vyvey, who survived Bremen-Blumenthal, a satellite camp of the Neuengamme concentration camp, as well as the bombing of the prisoner ships in Lübeck Bay. Kristof Van Mierop has been involved in the Belgian Amicale since 2015 and has been secretary general of the Amicale Internationale KZ Neuengamme since 2019, actively campaigning against the forgetting of Nazi crimes.

Venue: Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, Centre for Historical Studies (near the bus stop 'KZ-Gedenkstätte, Ausstellung')

For information and registration (required!) please contact Ulrike Jensen (email: ulrike.jensen@gedenkstaetten.hamburg.de, phone: +49 (0)40 428 131 519).

4 May 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Conversation Café and Opportunity to Connect with Relatives of Former Prisoners of Neuengamme and Victims of Nazi Persecution

Descendants of prisoners of Neuengamme and other victims of Nazi persecution – **Johannes Abeler** (Hamburg), **Camiel de Kom** (Amsterdam), **Peter Hart** (Wheathampstead, United Kingdom), **Antje Kosemund** (Hamburg) – will commemorate their relatives to mark the 81st anniversary of the end of the war. These individuals came from different countries and were persecuted by the Nazis for different reasons. How did the families deal with the stories of persecution? Were these stories publicly acknowledged? To what extent were the lives and attitudes of the descendants shaped by this? How do these descendants want to pass on the memory of their relatives' fate? You can ask these questions and many others in personal

discussions with the relatives during a conversation café. Young people from Hamburg will prepare the project in advance and then moderate the discussions.

Venue: Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, Centre for Historical Studies (near the bus stop 'KZ-Gedenkstätte, Ausstellung')

For information and registration (required!) please contact Ulrike Jensen (email: ulrike.jensen@gedenkstaetten.hamburg.de, phone: +49 (0)40 428 131 519).

4 May 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Daughters of Female Survivors Talk About Their Mother's Influence on Their Own Lives

Titti Fränkel (Sweden), Yaël Yolande Bismuth (France/ Israel), and Nina Halden Rönnlund (Sweden) have one thing in common: their mothers Livia Fränkel (née Szmuk, 1927–2025), Teresa Stiland (née Matla Rozenberg, 1925–2022), and Mira Teeman (née Miriam Teeman, 1926–2008) were deported with their Jewish families from Hungary and Poland to National Socialist death camps. All of them survived and emigrated to Sweden and France after the Second World War to start a new life.

We will talk with the three daughters about the impact of their maternal histories on their respective families. Was their persecution discussed within the family? Were questions asked? Was there silence? What did they learn from their mothers? How do they remember them?

The conversation will be held in English without translation.

Moderator: **Ulrike Jensen** (Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial)

Venue: Patriotische Gesellschaft, Trostbrücke 4, 20457 Hamburg

In co-operation with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Please register at hamburg@fes.de.

7 May 2026, 12:00–1:00 p.m. and 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Readings: 'Voices of the Liberated'

To mark the 81st anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the liberation of people persecuted by the Nazi regime, readings will take place near the Hannoverscher Bahnhof Memorial on Lohseplatz and the Fruchtschuppen C Memorial. Quotes from victims of persecution will be read, giving back a voice to individuals who were persecuted under National Socialism in Hamburg for antisemitic or antiziganist reasons. The victims experienced the end of the war and their liberation in different places: in concentration camps, on death marches, in hiding, in Hamburg, or in exile if they had been able to flee before deportation. What was their experience of the moment of liberation and their return to Hamburg and northern Germany?

12:00–1:00 p.m., venue: denk.mal Hannoverscher Bahnhof, Lohseplatz, 20457 Hamburg

1:30–2:30 p.m., venue: denk.mal Fruchtschuppen C, New-Orleans-Straße 6

Public event, no registration required.

For more information, please visit: befreiung-in-hamburg.de