

UNC Asheville Center for Diversity Education

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945



Study Guide Scavenger Hunt

Introduction

1. In addition to Jewish people and gay men, who else was targeted for imprisonment, slave labor, and murder by the authority of the Nazi regime?
2. Name two forms of punishment for gay men.
3. How was the element of fear used on non-targeted groups to further control the population?

The New Order

4. As part of a call for “law and order” and “traditional values”, what were some of the ways that gay men were targeted?
5. What was the role of law enforcement in the targeting of gay men?
6. Describe the intent of Paragraph 175?

Nazi Ideology of Persecution

7. What is eugenics and how did it connect to the Nazi decision to target gay people?
8. What was the rationale behind the persecution of gay people?
9. Do you think the civilian population honestly believed these rationales, or did prejudice against the gay community have deeper roots?

Crackdown, Surveillance, and Police Lists

10. How did new policies disrupt the lives of LGBT people?
11. What was the significance of Magnus Hirschfeld’s institute?
12. What actions did the police take against the gay community?

Paragraph 175

13. How long had Paragraph 175 been law?

14. In what ways did the Nazi courts change Paragraph 175?
15. What was the punishment imposed upon those whose sexuality was criminalized by the law?

Denunciations, Arrests, Convictions

16. Why was there such a large wave of accusations from the population made against people suspected of being gay?
17. How were those who were arrested treated by the police, and what sort of experience did being arrested entail?
18. Why were most of the victims of these arrests from the working class?

“Protective Custody” in Concentration Camps

19. How many gay men were imprisoned in concentration camps?
20. Why do you think other prisoners shunned them?

Persecution and the War

21. How did conscription in Germany affect gay men?
22. In what ways could gay men reduce their sentences?

Persecution in Nazi Occupied Territories

23. How were gay people in territory occupied by the Germans treated?
24. Why were the Nazis less concerned with homosexuality outside Germany?

The War and the Camps

25. What did it take for a gay man to be sent to a concentration camp?
26. How did those who were sent to the camps usually die?

“Extermination Through Work”

27. In what way did the purpose of concentration camps shift?
28. What is a “punishment company” and how does it relate to the concept of “extermination through work”?

Aftermath

29. How were gay people treated after the war? How long did it take for them to be memorialized?