



ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER

Jewish Resistance

What are some different forms of Jewish resistance?

Answers may include types of physical resistance (participating in armed uprisings in ghettos and concentration camps, or as part of a partisan group), spiritual resistance (continuing to observe Jewish law and practice, including celebrating religious holidays, engaging in daily prayers, observing Jewish dietary laws, studying Jewish religious texts, and so on), and educational resistance (continuing to teach children and provide schooling in defiance of laws forbidding such education).

How did survivors in the audio guide resist the Nazi regime?

Resistance took many forms:

Many survivors (including Ralph Rehbock, Lucille Wolf, and Walter Hesse) resisted by leaving Nazi-controlled Germany. Others (Joe Koek, the Starkopf family, Cipora Katz) resisted by going into hiding or living under false identities to avoid persecution. Some, including Aron and Lisa Derman, joined partisan groups and fought against the Nazis. All of the survivors resisted the Nazis by staying alive.

What were their motivations and pressures to resist the Nazi regime?

Overall, their primary motivation was to survive long enough for the Nazis to be defeated and World War II to end. The survivors resisted in order to regain the right to practice their religion and live their lives as they chose, as equal citizens, and to raise their families in peace.