

Dear friends & friends to be,

today we would like to approach you with a rather special request. In 2020 we commemorate the end of World War II in Europe already for the 75th time. Only few of us have experienced this moment of global relief in person. Not only one of the most devastating wars in recent human history in Europe, but also the most inhumane and gruesome episode in all of German history finally found its end in the spring of 1945. Even though the Shoa, or the Holocaust, from today's perspective took place a lifetime ago, for most people it will always remain an identity-generating memorial of the "Never again!" For very few of us though, the Shoa is even something more. It is the personal experience of a terrible time of unimaginable suffering and horror. These very personal stories and memories are fading away and disappearing in front of our eyes. For people to be able to learn from them also in the future, they will hence have to be preserved and passed on today.

The Deutsche Schreberjugend Federal Association is therefore initiating a research project on communal gardening clubs and Schreberjugend in the time of National Socialism in Germany. We know that also in communal gardens humans tried to escape the grasp of the national socialist terror; also in communal gardens communists, enemies of the regime, gay & transgender people and many more found shelter; also in communal gardens they were betrayed; also in communal gardens crimes were committed. We would like to collect and work with those very personal histories, if possible. We want to remember and to be remembered.

Should you happen to know people, who were active in the communal gardens or Schreberjugend at this time in Germany, or who have images or stories to tell from those times, we would very much appreciate it, if you were able to establish a contact for us. We would be touched even more so, if you yourself were willing to tell us your own story from that time.

The results of the research will be arranged depending on the format of the feedback and made available to the public in various forms. Alongside a print-publication we would wish to establish public debates, exhibitions or, if possible, even meetings between young people and first hand witnesses in Germany and Israel.

We would already like to express our deepest gratitude to all of those, who take this call to their hearts or invest time and energy in researching people and their stories.

With warmest regards,

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