

Episode 13: Holocaust Survivors in Israel

Guest: Anita Haviv-Horiner, author, education expert, and daughter of Holocaust survivors

Hosts: Philip & Mert

Bio: Anita Haviv-Horiner was born in Vienna to Holocaust survivors and immigrated to Israel at age 19. She studied literature in Tel Aviv and began her career at the Holocaust memorial Massuah in Tel Yitzhak, later working at the Museum of the Jewish People and Beit Terezin. She founded the independent education agency Israel Encounter Programs in 1992 and continues to work as a freelance educator on antisemitism, Holocaust remembrance, and Israeli society. Haviv-Horiner has conducted interviews with Holocaust survivors for many years. Her books include *Europa – nichts Neues?*, published by the Federal Agency of Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung) that has also featured *Heimat – vielleicht?*, and *Solidarität heißt Handeln* on the Israeli civil society's responses to October 7.

In this episode: According to the 2024 Global Demographic Report on Jewish Holocaust Survivors by the Claims Conference, 245,000 Holocaust survivors were still alive across 90 countries, with 49% living in Israel. This episode explores the lives and experiences of survivors and their descendants in Israel, and their lasting impact on Israeli society. Anita Haviv shares personal insights as a daughter of survivors and reflects on what she has learned through decades of interviews. Topics include the transmission of trauma and resilience across generations, the reception of survivors in Israel, the development of Holocaust remembrance and education, the social and economic realities of survivors today, and civil society's response to the October 7 attacks. The episode provides a nuanced perspective on memory, resilience, and the ways historical trauma continues to shape contemporary Israeli society.

Links:

Anita Haviv / Israel Encounter Programs: <https://www.anitahaviv.com/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Haviv-Horiner, Anita. *Solidarität heißt Handeln: Die israelische Zivilgesellschaft nach dem Massaker vom 7. Oktober 2023*. Schriftenreihe Bd. 11149, Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, 2024.

<https://www.bpb.de/shop/buecher/schriftenreihe/552455/solidaritaet-heisst-handeln/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Haviv-Horiner, Anita. *In Europa nichts Neues? Israelische Blicke auf Antisemitismus heute*. Schriftenreihe Bd. 10775, 2. erweiterte Auflage, Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, 2022.

https://www.bpb.de/system/files/dokument_pdf/SR10775_In_Europa_nichts_Neues_2022_web.pdf (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Israels Zivilgesellschaft macht weiter: <https://shorturl.at/KP47c> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

The 2024 Global Demographic Report on Jewish Holocaust Survivors of the Claims Conference shows: 245 000 Holocaust survivors were still alive in 90 countries at this time, 49% of them living in Israel, 16% in the US, 18% in Western Europe, and 12% in the former Soviet Union. The average age was 86 years. 95% of the survivors were children during the Holocaust. 61% of them are women. <https://www.claimscon.org/demographics/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

A phrase in which Anita Haviv distills the wisdom she gained from listening to Holocaust survivors is unfortunately only faintly audible due to internet issues during the recording: „Es lebe das Leben!“ - “Long live life,” an expression not easily translated but reminiscent of the Hebrew toast „L’Chaim!“ - „To life!“ <https://www.faz.net/blogs-1/blogbeitraege/kinder-des-holocaust-es-lebe-das-leben-13341236.html> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Further Resources Anita Haviv mentions:

Alfred Kantor, Holocaust survivor and artist, best known for *The Book of Alfred Kantor*, his powerful visual diary of life in Terezín/Theresienstadt, Auschwitz, and Schwarzheide.

<https://mjhnyc.org/blog/painting-the-holocaust-remembering-alfred-kantor-and-his-sketchbook/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

<https://www.suhrkamp.de/buch/alfred-kantor-das-buch-des-alfred-kantor-t-9783633540426> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

During the Holocaust, Jewish children imprisoned in the Terezín Ghetto created clandestine magazines to document their lives and preserve their voices. **Vedem** was founded by 13 to 15-year-old boys, including editor-in-chief Petr Ginz and Hanuš Hachenburg. *Vedem* (meaning: „We are leading the way“ in Czech) was a literary magazine featuring poems, essays, and illustrations. It was produced weekly from 1942 to 1944 and is considered one of the longest-running underground publications in a Nazi camp. **Kamarád**, meaning „Friend“ in Czech,

was another secret magazine published by about two dozen Jewish boy prisoners in Terezín from October 1943 to September 1944. It included various creative works, reflecting the resilience and spirit of its young creators. *Domov* was a children's magazine produced in the Terezín Ghetto, showcasing the artistic and literary talents of its young contributors. These publications stand as powerful testimonies to the creativity and incredible courage of the children who created them. They offer invaluable insights into the lives of young individuals and their resistance during history's most harrowing period.

<http://www.vedem-terezin.cz/kamarad/index-en.html> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

<https://www.ghetto-theresienstadt.de/lexikon/kamarad> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

<https://www.ghetto-theresienstadt.de/lexikon/vedem> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

<https://www.atlantajewishtimes.com/terezin-teens-fought-back-with-underground-magazine/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

More examples and context:

<https://www.artseverywhere.ca/zines-of-terezin/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

"I Never Saw Another Butterfly" is another powerful collection of poems and drawings by children imprisoned in the Terezín (Theresienstadt) concentration camp:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Never_Saw_Another_Butterfly (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

<https://orf.at/stories/3246703/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

The Eichmann Trial shaped awareness of the Holocaust and the stories of Survivors in Israel and worldwide:

<https://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/eichmann/awareness-of-the-holocaust.asp> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

In Israel, *Yom HaShoah ve HaGevurah*, *Yom HaZikaron*, and *Yom Ha'atzmaut* follow one another in the calendar within a week, connecting the memory of the Holocaust and the heroism of resistance, the mourning of fallen soldiers, and the celebration of independence into one shared story of loss, survival and resilience.

One beautiful grassroots civil society tradition of remembrance Anita Haviv points to is: ZikaronBaSalon: Erinnerung im Wohnzimmer / Rememberance in the Living Room. It brings Holocaust remembrance into living rooms, combining personal survivor testimonies, shared reflection, and creative expression to connect past experiences with lessons for the future.

<https://www.zikaronbasalon.com/en/home-2/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

<https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/asien/israel-holocaust-gedenken-104.html> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

The Parents Circle - Families Forum, an association of about 800 bereaved Israeli and Palestinian Families organizes The Joint Israeli-Palestinian Memorial Day Celebration on the Eve of Yom HaZikaron, the Remembrance Day for fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism, remembering civilian victims on both sides.

https://parentscirclefriends.org/2025memorial/?utm_source=chatgpt.com (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Anita Haviv mentions Silvia Dadusc-Bublil who was born in Tripolis/Lybia in 1960 and shares her experiences of antisemitism growing up as a Jew in Lybia. Her testimony can be found in the above linked *In Europa nichts Neues?*

Please also check out our other episodes to explore multiple perspectives.

On the history of Zionism: Michael Brenner (Episode 8)

On the Holocaust and Jewish refugees: Oren Kessler (Episode 11), Derek Penslar (Episode 12)

On the long history of Antisemitism and how it shaped the world: Magda Teter (Episode 22)

On Jews in Arab Lands: Norman Stillman (Episode 7 and 16)

On Experiences after October 7 in Germany: Michel Friedman (Episode 3)

On Experiences of the Hostage families: Udi Goren (Episode 1)

Dedication:

We dedicate this Podcast to all victims and survivors of October 7, the hostages and their families, to all innocent civilians killed in Gaza and their grieving families. To our dear guests Udi Goren, Khalil Sayegh, Sima and Mai who shared their losses so generously and so powerfully with us. To their families: Tal's wife Ella Haimi, their children Nir, Einav, Udi and Lotan, who never got the chance to meet his father. To Khalil Sayegh's mother and siblings, to Mai's and Sima's family, to her mother Bushra.

To the blessed memory of: Tal Haimi, Lara Sayegh, Jeris Sayegh, Mahmoud, Danny Darlington and Haim Perry.

Disclaimer:

In each episode of this podcast, the invited guests speak on their own behalf. They share their experiences, assessments, and expert perspectives. These contributions are central to the multiperspectivity of the project but do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or producers.

Legal & Historical Anchor Episodes:

This podcast may include controversial legal terms of specific technical significance. Their legal applicability requires a thorough expert contextualization; for this, we refer to our legal chapter. All relevant terms of international law, its institutions, current controversies, and the state of jurisprudence are explained in the anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Claus Kreß LL.M. (Cambridge) (Episode 36). He is co-author of the Rome Statute, Special Advisor to the International Criminal Court, and Judge at the International Court of Justice in the parallel Gambia vs. Myanmar genocide case.

Historical matters are discussed from multiple perspectives in this podcast. Please check the cross-references in the shownotes of the respective episodes for details. All historically contested issues are addressed in the history anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gudrun Krämer (Episode 21), author of the comprehensive work *A History of Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel* (Princeton 2008), a standard reference in the field. For her scholarly achievements as a historian, she was awarded the *Preis des Historischen Kollegs* in 2025, the highest distinction in her discipline in Germany.