



## **FACT SHEET ON *HOLOCAUST EDUCATION INITIATIVE***

The *Holocaust Education Initiative* educational package comprises a pitch film, a main film and teacher guides.

Target group: Students and teachers at high-school and senior-high school

### **FILM FACTS about *WHEN THE VOICES FALL SILENT***

#### **PITCH FILM**

Duration: 3 minutes

Languages: Swedish, English, German

Subtitled: Yes

Production year: 2019

See the pitch at [www.riksff.se](http://www.riksff.se)

#### **DRAMA DOCUMENTARY**

Target group: students and teachers at senior-high school

The film can also be used in high-school, but is recommended from 15 years and up.

Subject: The Holocaust, anti-Semitism, human rights

Duration: 38 minutes

Languages: Swedish, English

Subtitled: Yes

Production year: 2021

The film was produced by Skaparkraft Film & Musikproduktion in cooperation with the Swedish National Organization for Holocaust Education (RFF).

Direction & Music: Roland Persson

Producer & Photographer: Andreas Gejke

Script: Mikaela Lund & Roland Persson

Based on the book *Escape from Genocide* by Maria Vajta Klamer

Participants: Ester & Leon Rytz, Pia Eklund Rosander, Sofia Hillbom, Jan Gezelius, Elin Ternström, Narav Salahaddin and others.

Animation: Gabriel Gumucio

See the film with English subtitles at [www.riksff.se/english](http://www.riksff.se/english) or [vimeo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

See the film in Swedish at [www.riksff.se](http://www.riksff.se) or [The Swedish Educational Broadcasting Company](http://www.svea.se) (UR).



## FILM PLOT

During World War Two the young Jewish mother Deborah lives in Warsaw Ghetto together with her son Adam. She soon realises they have no chance of survival if they remain there. They have to flee. A non-Jewish Polish woman, Helena, takes them into her home, putting her own life at risk. Helena hides them outside the Jewish Ghetto.

Leon and Ester were just children when they were forced into some of the most notorious concentration camps. They lost everything. They would never again see their families or their home, their country; they lost both their freedom and their youth.

Author Maria has written a book about Deborah and some of the other survivors of the Holocaust. She visits a school to discuss difficult issues about violence and vulnerability, as well as the equal value of all human life. One of the students is captivated by Maria's words and studies the issue in depth.

## TEACHER GUIDES

The film is accompanied by teacher guides that contain a brief description of the film's plot, links to the school's policy document, and a historical background to the Holocaust. There are five different themes with which to work.

### *Theme 1: Jewish Identity in Poland*

The first theme offers the teacher a unique opportunity to teach about Jewish identity, history, language and culture. In Sweden Jews are one of the country's recognised minorities.

### *Theme 2: Anti-Semitism – Hatred of Jews*

The second theme examines the roots, ideas and characteristics of anti-Semitism.

### *Theme 3: The Warsaw Ghetto*

In this theme the students delve into the situation and environment depicted by much of the film. The theme describes oppression and human suffering, as well as the life and the survival instinct that characterised the ghetto.

### *Theme 4: The Value of Democracy*

The aim is to show the students that democracy must constantly be protected, that rights can be taken away if they are not defended, that political freedom should never be taken for granted.

### *Theme 5: The Rescuers*

This last theme deals with a small but vital group from the Holocaust – the Rescuers. The students learn about key terms such as *perpetrator*, *bystander* and *rescuer*. The term "rescuer" refers to those people who chose to save, hide, protect, help or support Jews when they were at their most vulnerable. The aim is to show that there were people who acted on the basis of their conviction and who helped others even though this put their own lives at risk.

All the teacher guides are available from [The Swedish National Organization for Holocaust Education](http://www.riksff.se).

Pedagogic advice: The Living History Forum

A version shortened by the pedagogical issues editors of the Swedish Educational Broadcasting Company (UR) is available at [UR](http://www.ur.se).

## CONTACT

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