

NH's Holocaust and Genocide Education

Building Resiliency through Education



NH Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education



NH Department of Education



Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies



Why? (NH Ed 306.49)

- ✓ Criteria for an Adequate Education includes knowledge of civics and government, economics, geography, history, and Holocaust and genocide education to enable students to participate in the democratic process and to make informed choices as responsible citizens. **(NH Ed 306.49)**

“The things I saw beggar description...the visual evidence and the verbal testimony of starvation, cruelty and bestiality were so overpowering...I made the visit deliberately, in order to be in a position to give first-hand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations to propaganda.”

“We are told that the American soldier does not know what he is fighting for. Now, at least, he will know what he is fighting against.”

- General Dwight Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, Ordruf Concentration Camp, April 15, 1945.



- ✓ Antisemitism, bigotry and hate are toxic for democracies.
- ✓ Democracy must be defended. Education allows us to confront difficult topics while shaping civic behavior.



Holocaust and Genocide Education Builds Resiliency

Perpetrators recruit followers by convincing them that they are victims. Survivors often teach us survival and difficult resiliency.

When survivors **Hanneli (Goslar) Pick** (“Lies Goosens” in Anne Frank’s diary) and **Kati Preston** (hidden child from Hungary and NH resource) were asked, “How did you get your revenge”? They both responded, “We survived and we had children.”



Hanneli Pick and Katy Preston



Survivors: Vahiddin Omanović (Bosnia); Kati Preston (Hungary); Ambassador Sichan Siv (Cambodia).



Vahidin Omanovic

When Bosnian survivor Vahidin Omanovic was asked for his lesson, he replied, “You have the right to let hate go and forgive yourself.”



N.H. Statute on Holocaust and Genocide Education Key Points (NH Ed 306.49)

- ✓ “Holocaust and genocide education” means studies on the Holocaust, genocide, and other acts of mass violence.
- ✓ Implemented not earlier than 8th grade and continuing through grade 12.
- ✓ Each district shall incorporate instruction in Holocaust and genocide education into at least one existing **social studies**, world history, global studies, or U.S. history course required as a condition of high school graduation for all students.
- ✓ Nothing prevents developmentally appropriate instruction in Holocaust and genocide studies prior to 8th grade or as a component of other learning areas.

Rwandan survivor/musician
Jean Paul Samputu with
Keene High School teachers.





Which genocides can I teach in NH?

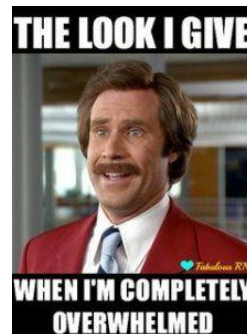
NH Ed 306.49:

- ✓ Atrocities against Native Americans during U.S. colonization
- ✓ The Holocaust during World War II
- ✓ Genocides determined by lawfully constituted courts including, but not limited to:
 - International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)
 - International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)
 - International Court of Justice (ICJ)
 - Any instances where the U.S. government has made public statements that genocide has occurred, including, but not limited to, Armenia, Bosnia, Rwanda, Iraq, Darfur, ISIS-controlled areas, and Uighurs.
- ✓ Instances of mass atrocities where application of the term genocide is contested including, but not limited to, Dekulakization, the Ukrainian terror famine, the Great Terror, Khmer Rouge atrocities and those directed at Cham Muslims and the ethnic Vietnamese minority.



Teaching Objectives | Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Opportunities for students to develop a knowledge and understanding of the impact of political repression, intolerance, and bigotry through developmentally appropriate activities that include concrete experiences and interactions with, but not limited to, primary documents, witness testimony, historical documents, and mixed media.
- ✓ Instruction and activities designed to enable students to:
 - a. Analyze and understand that democratic institutions and values are not automatically sustained, but need active civic responsibility and engagement.
 - b. Identify and evaluate how political repression, intolerance, bigotry, antisemitism, and national, ethnic, racial, or religious hatred and discrimination can evolve into genocide and mass violence, such as the Holocaust, and how to prevent the evolution of such practices.
 - c. Identify and evaluate the power of individual choices in preventing political repression, intolerance, bigotry, antisemitism, and national, ethnic, racial, or religious hatred.





Questions: Are these topics considered “divisive concepts”?

- **No.** The Department of Education has explicitly created the statute and the NH Legislature passed Ed 306.49.

January 12, 2023

The U.S. District Court rules to allow the lawsuit challenging New Hampshire’s “banned concepts” to proceed:

“In sum, the amendments’ vague terminology, their lack of a scienter [culpable state of mind] requirement, and the possibility that teachers could be found liable for teaching a banned concept by implication, leave both teachers and enforcers to guess at what speech the amendments prohibit. Given the severe consequences that teachers face if they are found to have taught or advocated a banned concept, plaintiffs have pleaded a plausible claim that the amendments are unconstitutionally vague.” (A violation of the 14th Amendment.)



Resources: Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College (www.keene.edu/cchgs)



- **Free classroom presentations** by Coordinator of Educational Outreach
- **Professional development**
 - Workshop series
 - Zoom presentations
 - In-service workshops, curricular development
- **Speakers' bureau**
- **Residential Summer Institute** for Teachers

- **Resources**

- Extensive film collection via inter-library loan (includes "Telling Their Stories: NH Holocaust Survivors Speak Out")
- Archives
- Visual History Archive
- Cohen Center You tube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYD6dXLyhw8k4afFVYIWwuw>

- **Professional community**

- Google classroom: <https://classroom.google.com/c/NTM2OTY1MTk0OTg4?cjc=mtqis2g>
- Cohen Center Facebook page for Teachers: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cchgsteachrs/>

- **Free public events**

- Holocaust Memorial and Genocide Awareness Lectures
- Kristallnacht Remembrance
- Cohen Center Community conversations

- **NH Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education**

<https://www.keene.edu/academics/cchgs/education/nh-commission/>



NH Genocide Awareness Month (April)

Statement from the Board of Education:

"As the month of April is recognized as Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Month, the State Board of Education announces the approval of new Holocaust and Genocide education rules for the State of New Hampshire. Clearly understanding how the Holocaust and other genocides occurred may be key to preventing similar violence in the future, which is why education on this sensitive topic is vitally important to promote peace among future generations. We take this moment to reflect on the millions of Jews and others whose lives were cut short through unimaginable pain, and remember how that hatred can still result in brutal consequences. Learning from this tragedy and remaining watchful is a step toward peace."

"How we remember the past constrains the possibilities we consider for the future." — Susan Neiman



September 3, 2014:
Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month signed by Governor Hassan at the Cohen Center.



June 2014: Holocaust survivor, immigrant, and "Ritchie Boy" **Stephan Lewy** receives the French Legion of Honor at the NH Capitol.



January 23, 2020:
Governor Sununu sits with Holocaust survivor **Kathy Preston** to sign the Holocaust and genocide prevention education act into law.



Thank you!

"To remember...and to teach."