



# 2025

## ANNUAL REPORT

Sobibor Foundation

# COLOFON

**Sobibor Foundation, May 2026**

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# PREFACE

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**Dear donors and interested parties,**

We are pleased to present our digital annual report 2025 to you again this year!

It was a year in which Sobibor was often in the news. Books, a podcast, and a beautiful film were launched. You can read about this in detail in this annual report.

One of the highlights was the youth trip, which took place for the first time this year. On a small scale and well-prepared from an educational perspective, we embarked on a journey with 12 students from four provinces, using a structure that fostered cross-pollination between the students and teachers of the in-depth trip—a unique formula we maintain. The national student trip is also a wonderful complement to the International Youth Conference, which has been organized by the Province of Gelderland for so many years. Unfortunately, that trip could not take place last year due to unrest at the border with eastern Poland. ‘You learn more from it than from your history books at school,’ is the feedback we receive from all the students; this impact translates into the beautiful final projects that students present afterwards. You can read more about what we do with this later in this annual report.

We were pleased with the government's National Plan to Strengthen Holocaust Education. This allows us, as a foundation, to use our specific knowledge to align even better with all the institutions and organizations involved in this field. Together, we are stronger in bringing Holocaust education to the forefront and drawing lessons from it for today's society. The mirror is never far away.

This year, the Rachel Borzykowski Medal was awarded to Gerton van Boom of the publishing house Verbum. His Holocaust Library is more than impressive!

Our commemoration at the Sobibor Monument at the Vondelpark In Amsterdam on June 1st was once again a significant occasion. We wholeheartedly embrace the message conveyed by our speaker, Jaïr Stranders, emphasizing the importance of listening to others, even when the topic is uncomfortable or challenging.

This and more can be found in the annual report. With special gratitude to my fellow board members and our additional volunteers, I express, "We look forward to seeing you at one of our activities again this year."

Kind regards,

Christine Gispen-de Wied, Chair



# MEMORIAL TRIP 2025

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In late May 2025, we traveled with a group to Sobibor to reflect on the history and keep the memory alive.

Among them were relatives of victims and students from University College Utrecht, who are involved in the interview project of the Sobibor Foundation.

Three participants shared their personal experiences and impressions of this trip.

Their stories bear witness to the power of memory, the impact of encounters, and the value of lasting engagement.



# STUDY TRIP 2025

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## Introduction day

In preparation for the Deepening Journey, we were once again welcomed this year at the Goethe Institute on the Herengracht in Amsterdam. After lunch, we visited the only Stolpersteine workshop outside Germany.

To conclude, we walked towards the Monument of Names and the 'Schaduwkade' monument. Along the way, we paused at a few houses related to the Second World War, and particularly the Holocaust.

## Study trip

There were 22 participants, including eight teachers. Two of them teach history at the teacher training college of the Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences.

The following two additions were particularly noteworthy this week. On the day of the visit to Belzec, we first stopped by the village of Jozefow. In the woods surrounding this village, more than a thousand Jews were murdered by a police battalion consisting of relatively old men, who often had families. Christopher Browning wrote his famous book \*Ordinary Men\* about them. Central to the book is the question: How is it possible that men who are not necessarily known as fervent Nazis can still become mass murderers? In other words: how does one become a perpetrator? We visited not only the woods but also the village with its renovated synagogue (now a library) and the well-preserved Jewish cemeteries.


The second addition was on the day we visited Treblinka. Normally, we would have stopped in Siedlce, but due to practical considerations, we wanted to visit a different place, and that became Mińsk Mazowiecki. There, we visited the ghetto, a temporary prison (now a school), and the Jewish cemetery. On that day and during the preparation, we received help from a local guide.



## Reflections from one of the participants

Otto Nelemans: “It is interesting to see how the contaminated soil has been handled at the various locations. Belzec is now one large, impressive monument. The architecture is functional when it comes to impressing. The visitor feels insignificant, although the silence certainly helps, and we as a group must have felt a stronger sense of connection. I certainly did. Directed with incredible strength by Alwin and Menno, who had two bone-chilling fragments read aloud there. Sara’s text to her son and, before walking to the courtyard, the story of Rudolf Reder. In complete silence, we walked one behind the other through the Schlauch.”

For me, the most moving moment of the trip, because it was unexpected and took place around a monument unlike any other. And that in the vicinity of a small town where everyone knew what was going on. I would like to emphasize once again how pleased I am with the discovery of the loan of the testimonies by members of our group.

 [Read Otto's reflection in Dutch on our website.](#)

## Subsidy

After years of subsidies, their generous financial contributions have come to an end. We therefore extend our special thanks to NS and Stichting Laméris Foundation for their subsidy to our Teacher Program.



### Charity:

Support our teacher program. For one thousand euros, the Sobibor Foundation can take a Dutch teacher along on the eight-day Deepening Trip.

You can always support the teacher program through a donation. Please clearly indicate that it is for the teacher program, so that it will be earmarked as such.

Idea: Adopt a teacher! Are you celebrating an anniversary and asking your family and friends for money for a good cause?

Perhaps our teacher program is a good cause?

# YOUTH TRIP 2025

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## Introduction

In September 2025, the Sobibor Foundation organized the first student trip to Eastern Poland. This trip was established to encourage the active participation of young people regarding themes such as war, (un)freedom, discrimination, and polarization, and to increase knowledge about the Holocaust and specifically Aktion Reinhard and the Sobibor death camp.

Twelve high school students from four different provinces in The Netherlands participated in the first edition of the youth trip. They came from Groningen, Gelderland, Zuid-Holland, and Zeeland. To participate in this trip, the students all submitted a statement of motivation. This motivation not only clearly explained why they considered it important to participate, but also how they intended to share the acquired knowledge and insights with their peers. With this approach, the Sobibor Foundation aimed from the very beginning to steer towards a sustainable impact of the trip and the ambassadorship of young people for the foundation and its goals.



## Preparation

In July 2025, the Sobibor Foundation organized a kick-off meeting for the participating students. The students received an introduction to Aktion Reinhard and the Sobibor death camp. Specific attention was paid to Stanton's 10 steps to genocide, which teach them to understand how exclusion, persecution, and murder came about step by step, and can still do so. This laid a foundation for the students to connect the past, about which they would learn much more, to contemporary forms of it.

Because the Sobibor Foundation, in its stories and activities, focuses not only on the victims but also on the perpetrators and bystanders of Aktion Reinhard, this was integrated into the youth trip. Prior to the trip, the students chose a perpetrator and a victim based on personal stories to travel to Eastern Poland with. This allowed them to personalize the extensive new knowledge and context they gained during the trip—which often deals with incomprehensible events and numbers. At the start of the trip, they also received a personal travel diary containing reflection questions and assignments to help them reflect on what they saw, felt, and learned during the journey.

This travel diary could help the students shape a creative final product that they had to submit two months after the trip, on the return day, in which their experiences, insights, and message to society had to be incorporated. In doing so, they had to choose at least one of the two perspectives (perpetrator or victim) or one of their two historical figures. The final product was intended to be a personal and powerful story that could also find a place at, for example, their school or at commemorations.



## Plan

The youth trip began in Warsaw, where the Dutch ambassador received the students for a discussion on Poland's complex relationship with its Holocaust past. A tour of the former ghetto districts subsequently provided the necessary historical introduction.

In Lublin and the nearby Majdanek concentration and death camp, the impact of exclusion became painfully palpable. The barracks and gas chambers made an indelible impression on the group. The journey continued towards Wlodawa and the old train station, eventually arriving in Sobibor. Here, a joint moment of remembrance took place with the participants of the Study Trip, during which names were read aloud and experiences were shared between young and old. The day concluded with a moving performance at the Grodzka Gate – Teatr NN. The final days focused on the roles of perpetrators and bystanders. Visits to Trawniki (a training camp for guards) and the Izbica ghetto added depth to these perspectives. The journey concluded at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

## Reflection and Responsibility

It was an intensive journey in which the mechanisms of Aktion Reinhard took center stage. In addition to commemorating the victims, the students reflected on how exclusion creeps into society today. The trip reinforced their sense of personal responsibility to actively continue standing up for humanity.



## **Follow-up day and results**

In November 2025, we gathered with the group at the National Holocaust Museum in Amsterdam. The students presented their creative final products, in which they had to incorporate their travel experiences. The final results on this day demonstrated the success of the trip. The products showed not a mere reproduction of acquired knowledge, but rather a profound understanding of the mechanisms behind exclusion, persecution, and genocide, and the desire to address and combat contemporary forms thereof. Examples of final products included a self-designed monument for the murdered women in Sobibor, an artwork about Aktion Reinhard, a spoken word piece about perpetrator and bystander roles, and a self-written song about the Aktion Reinhard camps. The Sobibor Foundation is very satisfied with this first edition of the student trip.

## **Some of the results achieved in the short term are:**

- Through discussions with provinces and other potential stakeholders, the Sobibor Foundation has generated additional awareness for the organization and the important societal themes it addresses. Disseminating the results through various channels, including the teachers' magazine of the Dutch National Committee for 4 and 5 May, can further expand this awareness.
- The chosen approach for the trip offers opportunities for it to be reproduced by other organizations, such as excursions and study trips. This can increase awareness of Aktion Reinhard, the Sobibor death camp, and attention to the associated societal themes, and strengthen the long-term impact of the trip.
- The approach of the trip has ensured that the final products created by the students can be distributed through various channels and appeal to a broad audience. For example, the young people can speak at commemorations, and artworks and performances can be displayed at the school or other local venues. This allows a young generation to make themselves seen and heard, which can help keep the commemoration of the Second World War, and specifically the Holocaust, engaging for younger generations as well.

## **Finances**

The 2025 student trip has been made possible by subsidies from the Dutch provinces of Gelderland and Zeeland and the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS).

# COMMEMORATIONS PARTICIPATED IN BY BOARD MEMBERS

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- January 26**      **National Holocaust Remembrance Day in Amsterdam**  
Christine Gispen-de Wied, Naomi Koster-Levie
- 6 april**      **Stumbling stones dedicated to Jules Schelvis and Rachel Borzykowski in Amsterdam**  
Christine Gispen-de Wied, Naomi Koster-Levie, Bernolf Kramer, Marijke Sterman-Vleeschdraager, and Menno Visser
- 19 april**      **Liberation of Camp Amersfoort**  
Christine Gispen-de Wied, Marijke Sterman-Vleeschdraager
- May 2**      **Unveiling of the Han Hollander statue in Deventer**  
Christine Gispen-de Wied, Menno Visser
- May 4**      **National Remembrance Day in Amsterdam**  
Bernolf Kramer
- June 15**      **Commemoration of the Children's transports at NM Camp Vught**  
Christine Gispen-de Wied, Bernolf Kramer, Naomi Koster-Levie, and Marijke Sterman-Vleeschdraager
- October 21**      **Stumbling stones dedicated to Jozeph Jacobs in Castricum**  
Menno Visser



## Sobibor Commemoration

On June 1, 2025, the Sobibor Foundation held a commemoration for the fourth time at the Sobibor Monumen at the entrance to the Vondelpark on Van Eeghenstraat in Amsterdam. [This memorial](#) – a mirror the same size as the sign reading ‘Forbidden for Jews’ – is located at the spot where this sign hung at the time of WW2.

In an impressive commemoration, framed by music, testimonies, and theater, we looked not only back—but also in the mirror. For commemoration is not only remembering; it is also acknowledging, questioning, and passing on.

Prior to the commemoration, the youth theatre company Garage TDI performed their play ‘Behind the facade’. In this performance, stories are told of people who were imprisoned in Transit Camp Westerbork during the Second World War and were ultimately murdered in Sobibor death camp.

The commemoration itself began with a word of welcome by the Chair of the Sobibor Foundation, Christine Gispén-De Wied. In her welcome address, she welcomed and introduced Jaïr Stranders (philosopher, theatre maker at Theater na de Dam), who, in his speech, gave words to what is sometimes barely comprehensible.

Tess Sluijs, Oscar Visser, and Isabelle Schröter, who each read a testimony, and Mirjam van Dam and Ed Boekee, who provided the musical accompaniment for the program. To conclude the gathering, stones were laid at the monument. Afterwards, there was an opportunity to chat at the Blauwe Theehuis in the Vondelpark.

On this beautiful sunny Sunday morning, about 150 people attended the commemoration. This Sobibor commemoration will take place again on Monday, June 1, 2026. We will, of course, inform you about this in our newsletters.



### Terugblik Sobibor herdenking 2025

Stichting Sobibor hield op 1 juni 2025 voor de vierde keer in haar bestaan een herdenking bij het gedenkteken bij de...

Stichting Sobibor / Jun 29, 2025

## Children's Transports Vught

On June 15, 2025, the annual commemoration of the Kindertransports took place on the grounds of NM Kamp Vught, organized by NM Kamp Vught in collaboration with the Sobibor Foundation. On June 6 and 7, nearly 1,300 Jewish children were deported with one or both parents to Sobibor in occupied Poland and murdered there.

## Speeches & poem

[Speech by Jeroen van den Eijnde, Director of the National Monument Camp Vught.](#)

[Speech by Christine Gispén, Chair of the Sobibor Foundation.](#)

[Speech by Selma and Esther Huffener, grandchildren of Lotty Huffener-Veffer \(1921-2018\), one of the initiators of the children's monument.](#)

[Poem by Emma van der Voort and Lizz Gelinck, Youth Village Poets of Vught.](#)

*Photo: Jan van de Ven*



# ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

## Biography of Jules Schelvis – witness of Sobibor

In the past year, the impressive biography *Jules Schelvis – Getuige van Sobibor* [in Dutch] was published. The man who survived nine camps, written by Cees Banning. While Jules Schelvis became known worldwide as the chronicler of Sobibor, this book now also sheds light on the previously lesser-known years of his life: from his Amsterdam youth to his tireless struggle to give a face to the victims.

On April 8, the author presented the first copy to Marianne Schelvis, Jules's daughter.

This took place at the National Holocaust Museum in Amsterdam, exactly 80 years after Jules was liberated from Camp Vaihingen by French troops in 1945. Through this life story, Schelvis's mission lives on: transforming deep personal pain into a collective historical responsibility.



[Looking back at our website \[in Dutch\].](#)

## 'Interview' with Jules Schelvis

Issue 6 of the Dutch magazine Kleio for History teachers featured a unique 'self-portrait' of Jules Schelvis, based on a questionnaire by Marcel Proust. Because Jules was never able to fill in the answers himself, his biographer Cees Banning stepped into his shoes for this article. Menno Visser asked the questions.

The impressive interview not only highlights how Schelvis survived nine camps and a death march, but also reveals a part of his personality, his love for music, and his deep humanist convictions.

[Read the article in Dutch here.](#)



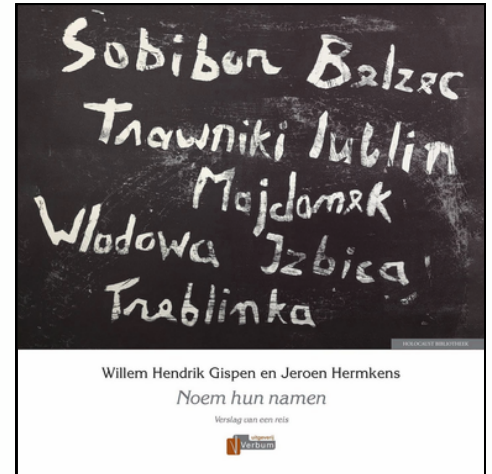
## Identify their names.

In 2023, Willem Hendrik Gispen and Jeroen Hermkens, accompanied by participants of the Study Trip, visited the former Nazi death camps of Aktion Reinhard.

In their book, *Noem hun namen* (in Dutch), the authors recount their personal experiences and emotions throughout this remarkable journey.

Gispen, emeritus professor, and Hermkens, visual artist, merge text and imagery to preserve the memory of the millions of Jews who were murdered.

Through striking imagery and moving narratives, they draw the atrocities of the Holocaust nearer, from the gas chambers of Majdanek to the farewell letters of Belzec.

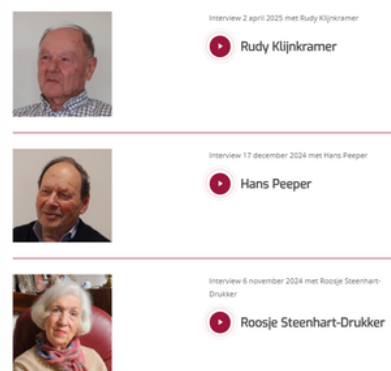


## Stumbling Stone Joseph Jacobs

On October 21, a Stolperstein was installed in Castricum in memory of Jozeph Jacobs. He was partially responsible for the conception of the mass uprising. However, Jacobs did not witness the uprising himself. Following rumors of an impending revolt, the Nazis inquired about those involved in its preparation. It is reported that Jacobs stepped forward at that moment. He was subsequently subjected to severe torture but remained silent. Consequently, he and numerous Dutch individuals were executed in retaliation. Because Jacobs refrained from identifying the Polish and Russian resistance leaders within the camp, they were able to orchestrate the most successful uprising in an SS camp on October 14. The stumbling stone was installed in the sidewalk in front of the residence at Nuhout van der Veenstraat 40 in Castricum. Rosanne Kropman and Rabbi Spiero spoke to the numerous local residents and interested parties in attendance, which included two representatives from the Navy. Menno Visser represented the Sobibor Foundation.

## Interview project

Since September 2020, students from University College Utrecht, in collaboration with the Sobibor Foundation, have been interviewing first-generation relatives of victims of Sobibor. The war story and the impact of the war are captured on video, making them available to family and friends. Some interviews can be viewed on our [website](#) with the permission of those involved. In 2025, three interviews were recorded on video.



## Statue of Han Hollander



On Friday, May 2, the statue of Han Hollander was unveiled at the Go Ahead Eagles stadium in Deventer. Hollander was a Jewish working-class boy, born on October 5, 1886, in Deventer. In 1902, he founded the soccer club

Go-Ahead together with some friends.

Govert van Brakel spoke about Han Hollander in connection with his [book](#) about him. Following this, our board member [Menno Visser](#) spoke. Hollander was murdered in Sobibor on July 9, 1943, together with his wife Leentje Hollander-Smeer.

Visser: “Let this statue therefore also be a symbol of the democratic constitutional state, where honesty and justice are held in high regard, and where people live freely.”

## Rachel Borzykowski Medal 2025 for Gerton van Boom

With his unwavering commitment, Gerton van Boom, the initiator behind the Verbum Holocaust Library, brings to light stories that must not be forgotten.

For his exceptional contribution to the remembrance of the victims of Sobibor, Gerton van Boom received the Rachel Borzykowski penning 2025.

On our [website](#), you can read the story behind this special award and the significant role that Gerton van Boom plays.



## De Echo's van Sobibor - Let's Say Goodbye to the Night

On November 28, 2025, the Dutch premiere of the documentary 'Let's Say Goodbye to the Night' took place at the National Holocaust Museum in Amsterdam.

The documentary is a sequel to the work of Jules Schelvis, who interviewed twelve participants in the uprising at Sobibor camp in the 1980s.

The documentary is a poignant story about the courage of the insurgents and their long struggle to build a new life in the shadow of an unimaginable past. The film shows how the survivors and their descendants in different parts of the world deal with their shared history.

Survivors in America, Ukraine, and Israel reflect on the lives of the survivors. The horrors of the death camp, the organization behind the uprising, and the way the traumas of the Holocaust continue to resonate in the present. For the survivors, too, Sobibor is never far away.

The screening was followed by a discussion with the makers of the documentary, Piet de Blaauw and Jan Pieter Tuinstra, and several key figures, including Rena Blatt (daughter of Thomas Blatt) and our former board member Jetje Manheim.

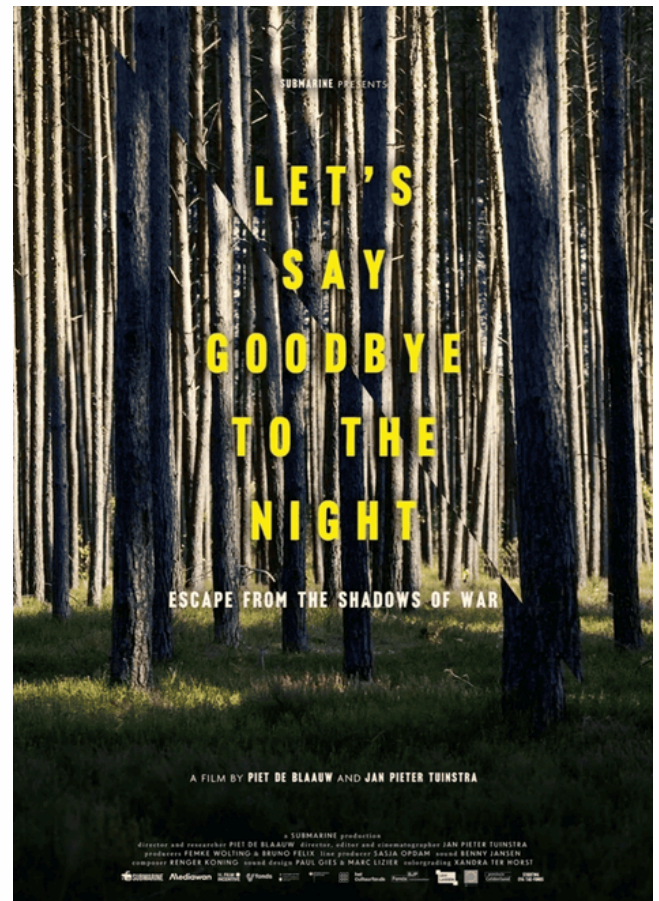
With producer Submarine a Dutch television broadcaster, BNNVARA, produced the three-part series *Echoes of Sobibor* as an adaptation of the film *Let's Say Goodbye to the Night*.



Kijk de documentaireserie 'Echo's van Sobibor' nu op npodoc.nl

Driedelige documentaireserie over kamp Sobibor, de opstand die daar plaatsvond, de overlevers en over hun kinderen én kleinkinderen die de gevolgen nog altijd meedragen.

 NPO Doc / Jan 7



## NCAB

The Holocaust Education Working Conference follows up on the National Plan to Strengthen Holocaust Education (in Dutch) which was published in 2024. In it, the ambition was expressed to strengthen knowledge of the Holocaust among the Dutch population.

Stichting Sobibor is one of approximately 15 civil society organizations, such as the Anne Frank Foundation, Camp Vught National Memorial and Camp Westerbork Memorial Centre, that participates in and contributes to putting Holocaust education on the map.

In 2025, the Sobibor Foundation participated in the national campaign ‘Learn about the Holocaust’ to draw attention to the importance of Holocaust education. During the month of January, extra effort was made to focus on and delve deeper into (the history of) antisemitism, the Holocaust, and Jewish life in the Netherlands, and an attempt was made to reach as many people and places as possible with this.

More information on the website [leeroverdeholocaust.nl](https://leeroverdeholocaust.nl).

The opportunities for the Sobibor Foundation lie in strengthening its network. At the same time, the Study Trip and the Youth Trip are one of the pillars of the National Plan to Strengthen Holocaust Education. Visiting authentic locations is an important means of passing on knowledge about the Holocaust to future generations. Both trips visit these locations in the Lublin region, where the ‘core of the Holocaust’ took place. The foundation hopes to bring these locations into the classroom, particularly through teachers.

*On April 9, 2025, the second Working Conference on Holocaust Education took place in The Hague. Policymakers, teachers, experts, students, and academics gathered to discuss strengthening Holocaust education in the Netherlands. Image: ©NCAB*

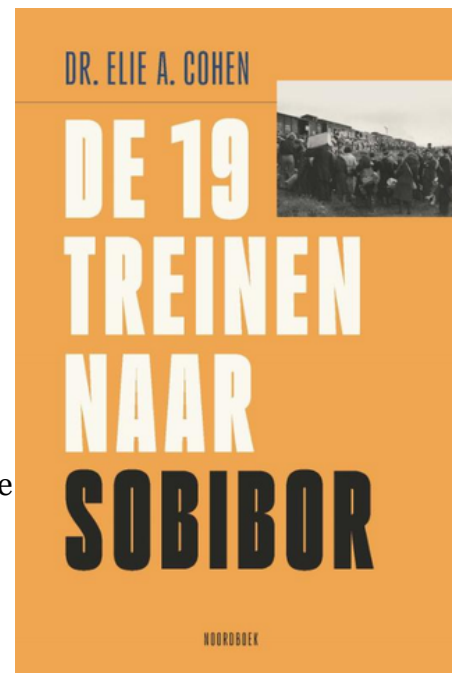


## The 19 trains to Sobibor

In April, a special book presentation took place in the Groningen Synagogue: the reissue of Dr. Elie Aron Cohen's impressive study on the persecution of the Jews and the Sobibor death camp: *De 19 treinen naar Sobibor*.

Originally published in 1979, this work is considered one of the most detailed Dutch studies of this dark chapter in history.

The reissue is a true tribute to Elie Cohen, a pioneer in the description of the Sobibor death camp, of which he had not heard even after the war.



The reissue was edited, updated, and provided with new explanatory notes by his son, Dan Cohen. With great respect for the original work, he brings to light new insights that deepen the historical context and strengthen the book's relevance for future generations.

## Stumbling stones - Stolpersteine

In Amsterdam, five Stolpersteine were placed for the Schelvis family. Surrounded by family and friends, we reflected on their lives and the indescribable loss brought by the Shoah. Stolpersteine were also placed at other addresses in the Netherlands in 2025 for those murdered in Sobibor. The stones make their lives permanently visible in the streetscape – as a tangible reminder and as a warning to future generations.



## Jules Schelvis Youth Award

The Sobibor Foundation awards the Jules Schelvis Youth Award annually. This honors Jules Schelvis's motto, 'you must continue to tell these stories'.

Jules Schelvis focused primarily on young people to pass on the stories of the death camps. After all, the new generation is the future; they can create a better world by engaging in dialogue about exclusion, discrimination, and intolerance.

In 2025, the prize was awarded to students of the Ravensberger Gymnasium Herford for 'Schule ohne Rassismus' and to Isabelle Schröter for 'Waar waarheid wankelt'.

The prize winners received the award on October 12 during Sobibor: Resistance and Hope 2025. The jury consisted of Ellen Jansen, representative of the Province of Gelderland, Jeroen van den Eijnde, director of NM Kamp Vught, Oscar Visser, former winner of the prize, and Maarten Eddes, former chairman of the Sobibor Foundation.

[Read the jury report in Dutch here.](#)



## Sobibor: Resistance and Hope 2025

During the annual meeting ‘*Sobibor: Resistance and Hope. The Uprising That Made History*’ on Sunday, October 12, 2025, at the Resistance Museum in Amsterdam, the Sobibor Foundation presented the seven-part podcast series *The Silence of Sobibor*, featuring stories from survivors, relatives, and experts.

Karlien Metz, the new director of the Resistance Museum, welcomed everyone. Podcast makers Patty-Lou Middel-Leenheer and Richard Grootbod spoke about how they worked on the documentary series for a year and a half, together with our foundation, and which special stories they heard and incorporated into the podcast.

During the production of this series, previously unknown photographs of the Sobibor death camp were discussed, originating from the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation.

Although the images were discovered as early as 2018, they have remained unknown until now. During the meeting, Erik Schumacher (NIOD), Bernolf Kramer (Sobibor Foundation), and Richard Grootbod (Podcast maker) discussed this, moderated by Menno Visser.

Ben Oranje shared a spoken word, just like in the podcast.

More information on our website:





On October 13, 2025, an article appeared in the Dutch newspaper Trouw following the release of the podcast The Silence of Sobibor and the photo's.

**Vernietigingskamp Sobibor bleef langer overeenind dan gedacht**  
 onderzoeker Bernolf Kramer

Russische foto's | Zeventien foto's die in de vergetelheid waren geraakt, tonen dat de nazi's de sporen van Sobibor na de gevangenenopstand van 1943 toch niet volledig uitwisten.

**Eva Stam**  
 redactrice binnenland

de nog overeenind stonden, staan op beelden.  
 De foto's werden al in 2018 ontdekt in het Centraal Archief van het Russische ministerie van Defensie en vrijgegeven door de Russen tijdens de herdenking van 75 jaar na de opstand in Sobibor. Ze maken deel uit van documenten die in juli 1944 zijn opgesteld door Russische journalisten die met het Sovjetleger meereiden om de middeven van de nazi's vast te leggen. Wie de precieze foto's is, valt niet meer te achterhalen.

**Overlevenden**  
 Desondanks kregen de beelden nauwelijks aandacht. Pas enkele jaren later maakte Kramer op de foto's tijdens zijn onderzoek naar de geschiedenis van overlevenden van het kamp.  
 Hij ging ervan uit dat de beelden al bekend waren en sloeg geen alarm, maar bij het maken van de podcast De Stilte van Sobibor kwamen de foto's opnieuw ter sprake. Tot zijn verbazing bleek zelfs het

Ruim 170.000 Joden vermoord, onder wie 34.000 Nederlanders

uit van documenten die in juli 1944 zijn opgesteld door Russische journalisten die met het Sovjetleger meereiden om de middeven van de nazi's vast te leggen. Wie de precieze foto's is, valt niet meer te achterhalen.

**De opstand in Sobibor**  
 Vernietigingskamp Sobibor lag in Oost-Polen. Tussen 1942 en 1943 vermoordden de nazi's er zo'n 170.000 Joden. Vanuit kamp Westerbork werden ruim 34.000 Nederlandse Joden naar Sobibor gedeporteerd.  
 Op 14 oktober 1943 kwamen driehonderd gevangenen in opstand. Ze doodden een aantal wachters en wisten te ontsnappen naar de omringde bossen. Bij een daarop ingeslede klopplicht kwam een groot aantal van hen om het leven. Ongeveer zestig overleefden uiteindelijk de oorlog.  
 Na deze opstand besloten de nazi's het kamp te sluiten. De achtergebleven gevangenen werden vermoord.

**Ursula Stern keerde terug om verstopte kostbaarheden op te graven in Sobibor**

de Wereldoorlog was dit niet het verhaal dat de Sovjets naar buiten gingen brengen. De noem van het Sovjetleger ging voor op de Jodenvervolgving", legt Kramer uit. Het Jzieren Goud en de focus op Auschwitz hebben er mede voor gezorgd dat Sobibor in de vergetelheid raakte.

Nederlandse massagraaf  
 Een bijzonder detail op de foto's is de aanwezigheid van drie overlevenden van Sobibor, onder wie de Nederlandse Ursula Stern. Zij is samen met Selma Wijnberg en Jules Schelvis een van de achtien Nederlandse overlevenden van het kamp. Van de 41.000 Joden die vanuit Nederland naar Sobibor werden gedeporteerd, vonden er ruim 34.000 hun dood, waarmee het na Auschwitz het grootste Nederlandse massagraaf is. Volgens haar dochter keerde Stern na de opstand terug naar Sobibor, vermoedelijk om kostbaarheden op te graven die Joodse dwangarbeiders daar hadden verborgen.  
 Buurtbewoners hebben het kamp vermoedelijk volledig afgebroken. In gretigoverlevingsmaat dat mensen onder andere restanten sloopten en hout meenamen.  
 Toch zijn het niet de eerste foto's van Sobibor. In 2019 ontdekte een Duitse hobbyhistoricus foto's gemaakt door SS'er Johann Niemann. De "vernietigingsexperts" van het kamp had twee fotoalbums met 94 foto's, onder meer van het kamp, nagelaten aan zijn familie.

**Nobelprijs voor de Econ**

De Nobelprijs voor de Econonderzoekers die aantoonend voortdurende economische g

**Nobelprijs voor on**  
 aanhoudende ecc

**Waarvoor is deze Nobelprijs?**  
 "In het grootste deel van de menselijke geschiedenis bleef de levensstandaard van generatie op generatie hetzelfde", zegt het Nobelprijscomité. "Economische groei was gemiddeld nul en stagnatie de norm." Tot tweehonderd jaar geleden. Was gebeurde er toen? De winnaars zagen vanaf de industriële revolutie een 'oneindig cyclus' op gang komen van technologische innovatie en wetenschappelijke vooruitgang. Die verklaart volgens hen de stabiele en opvallend constante groei, en onze toegenomen welvaart. De prijs wordt uitgereikt voor onderzoek naar de voorwaarden die deze innovatie mogelijk maken, en de rol die de overheid en bedrijven daarin spelen.

**Wie ontvingen deze prijs?**  
 Die wordt gedeeld door drie onderzoekers: Joel Mokyr, in 1945 in Londen geboren, groeide op in Israël en ontworpen zijn wetenschappelijke carrière in de VS. Hij deed als historisch econoom veel onderzoek naar de industriële revolutie en legde onder meer bloot dat innovatie succesvol is als een maatschappij openstaat voor nieuwe ideeën.  
 De Franman Philippe Aghion en de Canadees Peter Howitt boordevol een wikkig model van het begrip creatieve destructie. Die term komt voort uit het werk van vroegere grote economen en draait om voortdurende vooruitgang: zo worden technologieën en producten steeds weer vervangen door nieuwe innovaties. Aghion en Howitt boordevol modellen die laten zien wat werkt als het gaat om investeren in innovatie, en hoe continue vernieuwing beloved kan worden, bijvoorbeeld in de vorm van een patent.

**Hoe zien we het resultaat van dit onderzoek terug in de maatschappij?**

**Door de airfryer en de steeftofzuiger worden producten afgedankt**

## Podcast De Oorlog Verklaard, season 1, episode 22

This podcast is about the Sobibor death camp and the story of Selma Wijnberg. At the monument in the Vondelpark in Amsterdam, where it all began with a simple sign: "Forbidden for Jews," Christine Gispens-Wied spoke about Aktion Reinhard, the death camp, and the unique story of one of the two Dutch survivors of the uprising.



Pocket Casts

SI E22 - October 8, 2025

**#22 Ontsnapt uit vernietigingskamp Sobibor - Het verhaal van Selma...**

De Oorlog Verklaard

0:00 / 26:27

#22 Ontsnapt uit vernietigingskamp Sobibor - Het verhaal van Selma Wijnberg

De Oorlog Verklaard

DEZE VROUW OVERLEEFDE SOBIBOR

Watch on YouTube

# PODCAST THE SILENCE OF SOBIBOR

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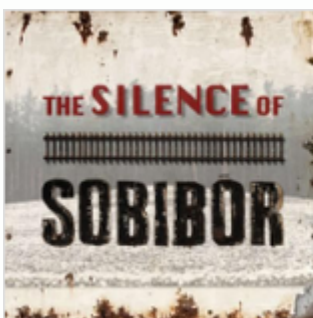
In an era when the final eyewitnesses are fading, it is crucial to discover innovative methods to convey the history of Sobibor. In 2025, we proudly made significant progress in our digital strategy with the launch and dissemination of our podcast: 'De stilte van Sobibor' and its international version 'The Silence of Sobibor'.

The podcast is produced by Audiodroom Podcastproducties in partnership with the Sobibor Foundation. Creators Patty-Lou Middel-Leenheer and Richard Grootbod dedicated a year and a half to developing the series, which shares stories about the lesser-known Sobibor camp.

## The strength of the individual narrative

With the podcast, we have attempted to make the layered nature of the camp and its aftermath tangible. Audio offers a unique form of proximity; through the voices of relatives, historians, and the reconstruction of survivors' testimonies, we take the listener to places where words often fall short.

The podcast serves not only as a historical archive, but as a living monument. It enables us to draw attention to the mechanisms of exclusion and the courage of resistance for an audience that is harder to reach through traditional commemorations, including the younger generations, who constitute the largest group of listeners.



### The Silence of Sobibor

Listen to the story of Sobibor. The extermination camp where more than 34,000 Dutch Jews were killed during the Second World War, yet today, hardly anyone knows the...

 [springcast.fm](https://springcast.fm)



### De Stilte van Sobibor

Luister naar het verhaal over Sobibor. Het vernietigingskamp waar ruim 34000 Nederlandse Joden tijdens de tweede wereldoorlog de dood vonden, maar...

 [springcast.fm](https://springcast.fm)

# COMMUNICATION

## Newsletter

8x sent a newsletter to  
991 newsletter subscribers.



You can register via our website.

## Social Media

X 7.017 followers

Bluesky 2.151 followers

Facebook 2.184 followers

Instagram 983 followers

LinkedIn 586 followers

Threads 358 followers

Followers come mainly from the Netherlands,  
Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom,  
and Poland.

## Website

In 2025, our website attracted 52.142 unique  
visitors.



## Sobibor Foundation

- Recap of 2025
- Echoes of Sobibor
- Coming soon: *The Silence of Sobibor*
- Calendar

### Recap of 2025

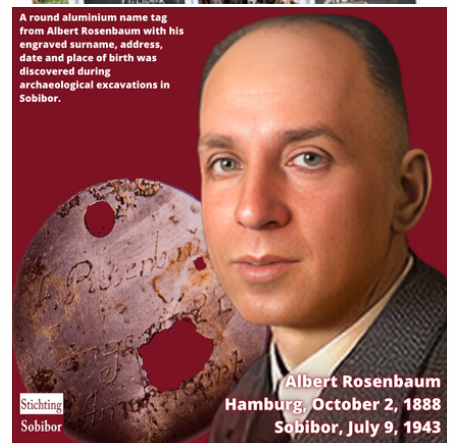
#### Sobibor Foundation



Dear friends of the Sobibor Foundation, As we wrap up the year, our chairperson, Christine Gispén, takes a heartfelt look back at 2025.

From the unforgettable first student journey to Eastern Poland to the release of Jules Scheiber biography and the launch of our podcast series *"The Silence of Sobibor"*—this year reminded us just how deeply remembrance can connect and inspire. Together, we have the power to keep these stories alive. Take a moment to read our year in review and discover how you can join us in 2026 to help build a future where remembering brings hope.

[Continue reading](#)





# FINANCES

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A total of 21,590 euros in donations has been received from individual donors.

Donations from funds for the Commemoration Trip, Student Trip, and Deepening Trip:



Stichting  
Laméris Foundation



Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,  
Welzijn en Sport



Door Geven Foundation

## Expenditure Accountability: Where do your donations go?

**Thanks to structural and one-off donations, bequests, and subsidies, Stichting Sobibor has been able to achieve its objectives again this year. We strive for maximum impact with minimal overhead. The funds received have been spent roughly in the following categories:**

### Commemorations

- Annual commemoration: Organizational costs (such as venue rental, technical equipment, and speakers) for the commemorative meeting(s).
- Facilitation: Enabling surviving relatives and those involved to gather in a dignified manner.

### Education & Information

- Podcast projects: The production, translation, and (international) distribution of the series 'De stilte van Sobibor' and 'The Silence of Sobibor'.
- Digital access: Maintenance, renewal, and security of the website and the online database, so that historical sources and personal stories remain publicly accessible.
- Teaching Materials and Lectures: Developing educational resources for education and facilitating guest speakers at schools and associations.
- Research: (Financial) support for archival research and verifying historical facts for publications.

### Trips

- Organization and logistics: The preparation, administration, and content coordination of the (annual) commemorative, in-depth, and student trip to the former extermination camps Sobibor and Lublin in Poland.
- Content-related guidance: Costs for expert guides, interpreters, and the compilation of specific travel and information booklets for the participants.

### Administrative and Organizational Costs (Overhead)

- Voluntary commitment: The board and working group members perform their duties without remuneration, ensuring that donations benefit the projects to the maximum extent.
- Administration & Transparency: Necessary costs for bookkeeping, the auditor's review, and bank charges to comply with the transparency requirements of the ANBI status.
- Communication & Relationship Management: Costs for preparing the annual report, printing, etc.

**The Sobibor Foundation is a volunteer organization. We are able to organize our activities with the help of grants and your donations. Stichting Sobibor regularly organizes activities such as lectures, trips, exhibitions, publications, etc. We are grateful for all support, big or small, that we receive. We would therefore be delighted to welcome you as a donor.**

There are several ways to financially support the Sobibor Foundation:

### **1. Regular donation**

We welcome any amount with which you are willing or able to support us. We use €25 per year as a guideline. You can also sign up for our newsletter via our website or by email. This way, you stay informed about our activities.

### **2. Periodic Donation**

A periodic donation is an annual gift for a period of at least 5 years and is financially very attractive. In the past, a periodic donation had to be handled through a notary, but now this can be done directly with the relevant foundation. Download the 'Periodic Monetary Gift' agreement from the Tax and Customs Administration website or contact us at: [info@sobibor.org](mailto:info@sobibor.org).

### **3. Legacy**

If you wish to support us with a legacy, you can include us in your will.



#### **Become a donor**

The Sobibor Foundation wants to keep the memory of the Sobibor extermination camp alive. To this end the foundation organizes various activities. These activities ar...

 Stichting Sobibor

**Account number / bank account details:**

**Sobibor Foundation**

**IBAN: NL03INGB0003302525**

**BIC: INGBNL2A**

**[www.sobibor.org/en/become-a-donor](http://www.sobibor.org/en/become-a-donor)**

**Sobibor** Foundation

**REMEMBERING THROUGH  
INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

**[WWW.SOBIBOR.ORG](http://WWW.SOBIBOR.ORG)**