



Since the murder of her son, Stephen, Doreen Lawrence has campaigned against racism and exclusion. © Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust



The Warsaw Ghetto uprising in 1943 saw the deportations of Jews to extermination camps halted for over a month. © USHMM



Sophie Scholl is now recognised in Germany as a hero for her anti-Nazi activities © Lionsgate Films

Resistance

It can sometimes be difficult to challenge hatred and exclusion when we see it taking place. It can be especially difficult when you are the target of abuse.

Experiences of the Holocaust, genocide and hatred today in the UK show that even in the most difficult circumstances it is possible to **Stand up to Hatred**. During the Holocaust Jews and non-Jews resisted the Nazis. Jewish inhabitants of the Warsaw Ghetto staged a rebellion in the Ghetto to prevent the deportation of Jews to extermination camps such as Auschwitz. Fighters in the Ghetto were able to halt deportations for a month. The Warsaw Ghetto uprising, although ultimately unsuccessful, was a symbolic victory and the first urban uprising in German-occupied Europe.

Non-Jews also stood up to the hatred of the Nazis. Many risked their lives to rescue Jews and to date over 21,000 people have been honoured by the state of Israel with the title "Righteous Among the Nations" for their bravery. Some people hid Jewish children in their homes, others employed Jews in factories servicing the war effort. Some saved one life, some saved thousands. The Talmud states "He who saves one life saves the world entire" and as such everyone who rescued Jews is regarded as equally heroic whether they saved one life or thousands.

Ordinary Germans also chose to challenge Nazi ideology - Sophie Scholl and her brother Hans were members of a non-violent resistance organisation called the White Rose. Sophie, Hans and Christophe Probert were executed for distributing anti-war literature; however they are now recognised in Germany as heroes for their opposition to the Third Reich.

People in Britain today **Stand up to Hatred** by continuing to highlight the damage that it does to individuals, families and communities. Sir Ian McKellen was one of the founders of Stonewall which was set up by people who had been active in campaigning against Section 28 and now lobbies on a wide range of LGBT and equality issues. Doreen Lawrence, mother of Stephen Lawrence who was murdered in 1993 by a racist gang, now campaigns against racism.

Not all of us will face hatred in our lives. We can all make the choice to **Stand up to Hatred** by challenging exclusion wherever and however we see it taking place.