

## Out of the shadow of the past

The fateful consequences of genocide and political violence are a major and aggrieving topic across the world today. Recent German history has been marked by the rupture of civilization in the Holocaust, and its sustained effects on the following generations have been recognized.

As descendants of survivors and perpetrators, accomplices and followers, we are confronted again and again with the emotionally unresolved experience of the generations of our parents and grandparents. Their speechlessness in the face of traumatic events and concealment based on guilt and/or shame that is not admitted place a heavy burden on the following generations and can plunge descendants into serious inner conflicts. This can endanger, again and again, the ability to interact respectfully with one another.

To strengthen and facilitate this ability, we strive to create a personal and public space where interested persons can (re-) discover a way of speaking about their experience and accessing their individual and collective histories. Such a space can promote trust by allowing dialogue and confrontation to unfold and making new developments possible.

## Aims and purposes of the association

The *Study Group on Intergenerational Consequences of the Holocaust*, formerly PAKH e.V. was founded in 1995 by Jewish and non-Jewish German members, most of them psychotherapists. It is open to all persons who are interested in a better understanding of conflicts in the context of politically and individually motivated violence.

It is the explicit aim of the association to counteract, through personal confrontation and public awareness raising, individual and collective tendencies toward forgetting the persecution that took place under National Socialism. Furthermore, the Study Group defines itself – building on interdisciplinary research and, in particular, on psychoanalytic insights – as an initiative against the reawakening of xenophobia, ethnically motivated hate, and anti-Semitism.

For several years now, in the course of international encounters and experience, the association has been engaged with other initiatives outside of Germany addressing conflict and peace research, and it continues to cultivate conceptual exchange with comparable project groups.

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## Activities and events

The **Literary Circle** meets monthly, focussing on literary and scholarly publications and films that seek to come to terms with the experience of the Holocaust and other politically motivated traumas.

The **Intervision Group** is open to psychotherapists concerned with the ramifications of the Holocaust for symptomatology, psychodynamics, and psychotherapeutic treatment.

The **Workshop** sees its role as the research group in PAKH, where theoretical concepts derived from experience are further developed.

The **Work Group “War Children / War Grandchildren”** address the consequences of being a child during the 2nd World War.

In the **Saturday Dialogue**, members and guests discuss current and historical topics relating to the content focus and the aims of the association. The invited guests are usually authors, directors of films or radio dramas, or persons personally affected. Information about events held to date can be found at [www.pakh.de](http://www.pakh.de).

The event **“About us”** offers a framework for dialogue and the exchange of personal histories.

## Registration

I hereby apply for membership in the **Study Group on Intergenerational Consequences of the Holocaust**, formerly PAKH e.V.  
Limburger Straße 12 · 50672 Köln · Germany

.....  
Last name, first name

.....  
Postal address

.....  
Town, postal code, country

.....  
Tel., Fax, e-mail

### I am willing to pay the

- annual membership fee of ..... €  
(minimum 46.– € can be reduced on request)
- reduced fee for family members, school  
and university students 23.– €
- institutional / company membership  
with an annual fee of ..... €

### I agree to having the membership fee booked from my account:

.....  
Account nr. / Bank identification nr. (IBAN)

.....  
Name and location of bank

.....  
Signature with place and date

In 1998, PAKH e.V. held an international symposium in Düsseldorf on the topic "The End of Speechlessness? The Effects of Traumatic Holocaust Experience over Several Generations".

## Cooperation partners

Since founded in 1995, PAKH e.V. has cooperated with the following institutions and persons, among others:

- **Clinic for Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy  
University of Cologne, Germany**  
*Director PD. Dr. med. Christian Albus  
emerit. Director Prof. Dr. med. Karl Köhle*
- **Center for the Study of Mind and Human Interaction  
Charlottesville, Virginia USA**  
*Prof. Dr. Vamik D. Volkan*
- **Institute of Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy  
Düsseldorf, Germany**
- **Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities  
at the Scientific Centre of North Rhine-Westphalia  
Essen, Germany**  
*Director Prof. Dr. Claus Leggewie  
former Director Prof. Jörn Rüsen*
- **State Agency for Civic Education North Rhine-Westphalia  
Düsseldorf, Germany**
- **Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, Cape Town, South Africa**  
*Professor of Psychology at the University of Cape Town  
and Senior Consultant for the Institute for Justice  
and Reconciliation in Cape Town*

**Arbeitskreis für intergenerationale Folgen des Holocaust**  
*Study Group on Intergenerational Consequences of the Holocaust*  
ehem. PAKH e.V. · Limburger Straße 12 · 50672 Köln · Germany  
**Tel.** +49 221/25 79 917 · **e-mail** contact@pakh.de · [www.pakh.de](http://www.pakh.de)

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**PAKH**