

# The Kindertransport

The Kindertransport was a humanitarian rescue mission that took place between 1938 and 1940, prior to the outbreak of World War II. As anti-Semitic laws and violence escalated after Kristallnacht, also known as the Night of Broken Glass, the British government agreed to permit the temporary admission of unaccompanied Jewish children from Nazi Germany and its annexed territories. Over 10,000 children, primarily Jewish, were transported to the United Kingdom from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. These children were placed in British foster homes, hostels, and farms. While the program undoubtedly saved many lives, it also marked painful separations as most of these children never saw their parents again, many of whom perished in the Holocaust.

This rescue effort was characterised by remarkable acts of kindness and bravery from various organisations and individuals who coordinated the transports. The children travelled by train and boat, often carrying nothing more than a small suitcase and a label around their necks with their names. Despite the safe refuge they found, the trauma of separation and adaptation to a new life in a foreign land were profound challenges that many of the Kindertransport children faced throughout their lives.

1. What was the Kindertransport?

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2. When did the Kindertransport take place?

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3. From which countries were the children transported?

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4. How were the children accommodated upon their arrival in the UK?

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5. What were some of the major challenges faced by the Kindertransport children?

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Uses comprehension strategies to expand content knowledge.

