

What Rights Are Most Important to You?

I. **Directions:** Read the following list. Classify each according to the options below. Be prepared to use the “Pyramid of Hate” to identify where your rights would fall.

Scale:

1= Least Important 2=Lesser Important 3=Neutral 4=Somewhat Important 5=Most Important

1. Shop at businesses of your choosing_____
2. Live in a town or neighborhood of your choosing_____
3. Go to a school of your choosing_____
4. Live without a curfew_____
5. Marry a person of your choosing_____
6. Vote_____
7. Eat whatever you want or according to dietary/religious/ethnic rules_____
8. Go to a public park_____
9. Own a pet_____
10. Worship at a place of your choosing_____

These are just some of the “rights” taken away from Jews in prewar Germany. According to the USHMM:

“Nazi leaders began to make good on their pledge to persecute German Jews soon after their assumption of power. During the first six years of Hitler's dictatorship, from 1933 until the outbreak of war in 1939, Jews felt the effects of more than 400 decrees and regulations that restricted all aspects of their public and private lives. Many of those laws were national ones that had been issued by the German administration and affected all Jews.”

“But state, regional, and municipal officials, on their own initiative, also promulgated a barrage of exclusionary decrees in their own communities. Thus, hundreds of individuals in all levels of government throughout the country were involved in the persecution of Jews as they conceived, discussed, drafted, adopted, enforced, and supported anti-Jewish legislation. No corner of Germany was left untouched.”