



# Lichtenbergschule-Gymnasium

Europaschule – Internationale Begegnungsschule

mit freiwilligen Ganztagsangeboten

NAME ggf. DIENSTBEZ./ AUFGABE/ FUNKTION

Lichtenbergschule-Gymnasium • Ludwigshöhstr. 105 • 64285 Darmstadt

31st May 2019

## SGVFD - Who we are and what we do

SGVFD short for 'Schüler Gegen Vergessen Für Demokratie' can be translated into English by 'Students against oblivion and for democracy'. We are a student project group at Lichtenbergschule Darmstadt (LuO) spreading awareness specifically referring to the Nazi-past of Germany and Europe.

Our work consists of researching the life of Jews during the Nazi era. By investigating their traces and following their deportation as well as considering their escapes to freedom in Europe and abroad, it is our wish to create awareness and spread enlightenment with the intention to prevent those atrocities from ever happening again.

We ask local experts about victims and their families before researching in archives. Students of our group also travelled to Krakau, Berlin and Rome to meet experts and international students involved in this topic.

In order to raise awareness for circumstances fraught with terror under which the Jews had to suffer, some students also visited the concentration camps Buchenwald, Natzweiler-Struthof, 'Auschwitz-I-Stammlager' and 'Auschwitz-II-Birkenau'.

In the course of our research, we discovered numerous individuals who could escape the Nazi regime. Some of them escaped to France, Great-Britain, Denmark, Sweden, the USA or Palestine. Some succeeded by taking a long and hazardous journey through Africa.

As part of our detailed research work we were able to retrace the life of Liese Juda. Liese Juda, a Jewish student at a school in Darmstadt, was deported along with her relatives and murdered at the young age of 21 in Auschwitz-II-Birkenau. We had to contact the Arolsen Archives (in Bad Arolsen in the north of the county of Hessen) to reconstruct her last traces. Moreover, we could establish a dialogue with her descendants Pierre Jablon and Robert Liebenthal. Pierre Jablon accompanied a group to visit the death camps in Auschwitz, whereas Robert Liebenthal travelled to Darmstadt to attend the exchange between French and German students about transnational history and its impact on European policy and future during the so called "Europe week" at our school.

Not only do we focus on Jewish physical, mental and psychological suffering, we also aim at future reconciliation by implementing the new app 'Traces of Jewish life in Darmstadt – a digital approach'. This app informs and elaborates on the Jewish cultural heritage before as well as after the Shoah and most importantly presents Jewish integration as well as persecution in Germany.

Our project started with guided tours around Darmstadt, including places of remembrance such as former synagogues destroyed by the Nazis and the last freely chosen residences of deported people.

Since 2015 we have regularly participated in the official International Holocaust Remembrance Day at the 'Centralstation' in Darmstadt organized by the town's magistrate. On this day, students and representatives of Darmstadt come together to present research assembled throughout the year.

Last year, we started a 'Digital Humanities'-cooperation with the Technical University of Darmstadt. Five IT students - together with LuO-alumni Ikira Schielke - programmed a website and an app for their Bachelor internship. After presenting our main intentions to them, they agreed to create a base for our knowledge gained on this subject. Since the university students only programmed an Android-version of the app, Niklas Huthmann, a 15-years-old member of our project group programmed the iOS-App to present our accomplishments on all digital platforms.

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Due to our efforts to make our results available to everyone, we recently won the 'Active Citizenship' Award in Berlin. Since some of the members of our project also have a background of migration or belong to Muslim communities, they are interested in an interreligious dialogue and are keen on learning about the successful stories of survival of Jewish families and how they created a second life in exile.

We would be glad to share our experiences and to exchange out ideas with students in Euroe and in Sambia about their perspectives on history.

Best regards,

Students against Oblivion  
Schüler Gegen Vergessen Für Demokratie (SGVFD)

Written by Niklas Huthmann, Fatima Haji, Sadia Haji, Abdia Haji, Chanet Tekeste and other members of the project group SGVFD. Special thanks to Ella Herron, Additi Kolturu, Hasset Gessese, Ayman Khattabi, Janosch Ott, Mrs. Heike Lenz-Uffmann, Mrs. Silke Nenke, Mrs. Katja Kahlig, Mrs. Stefanie Roßberg, Mrs. Konstanze Schaub, Ikira Schielke and many other supporters of the project.

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Picture: Dr. Ernst Jörg, Aktive Bürgerschaft Berlin, 25th May 2019

The picture shows the LuO-delegation (together with the students from the TU DA) who travelled to Berlin to receive the award.

Not all of us could travel to Berlin. Many more people are involved at our school and in our city.



Sadia and Chanet presented the biography of Liese Juda's life and fate at the remembrance day at the Centralstation in Darmstadt, January 2019

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