

Chronology

14 July 1933	“Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring” as a result of which Roma and Sinti became victims of forced sterilisation
15 September 1935	Nuremberg Race Laws which were also extended to Roma and Sinti
1935/1936	Labour camps set up, including those at Berlin-Marzahn and Magdeburg / Holzweg
14 December 1937	“Basic decree on preventative crime fighting by the police” under which people could now be transferred to concentration camps on grounds that their “antisocial behaviour” was a “danger to the general public”
November 1937	The “Racial Hygiene Research Centre” is set up in Berlin
April and June 1938	Arrest of over 10,000 so-called “work-shy” people, including thousands of Jews, Roma and Sinti, declared “anti-social” and sent to concentration camps
1 October 1938	The “Reich Centre for Combating the Gypsy Plague” is set up
8 December 1938	Decree by “Reichsführer SS” Heinrich Himmler on “settling the gypsy question with regard to the existence of the race”, registration and so-called racial assessment
17 October 1939	Himmler’s “settlement order”, which forbade all Roma and Sinti from leaving their homes on pain of imprisonment in concentration camps
27 April 1940	Himmler orders the first deportation of “2,500 people – in closed tribes”
May 1940	First mass deportation into occupied Poland, to Łódź and Chełmno
1941	Murder of Sinti and Roma by means of systematic mass shootings in the occupied Soviet Union and other occupied territories in eastern and south-eastern Europe
16 December 1942	Himmler’s “Auschwitz Decree” orders the police to commit all Roma and Sinti to concentration camps
From February 1943	Deportation of 23,000 Roma and Sinti from across almost the whole of Europe to the extermination camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau
23 March 1943	First mass extermination campaign in the “gypsy camp” at Birkenau
From April 1944	Selections for forced labour in the armament industry in the German Reich
16 May 1944	Roma und Sinti in Auschwitz resist impending murder
2/3 August 1944	The “gypsy camp” at Auschwitz-Birkenau is closed and all the 2,900 remaining men, women and children are killed