

## Dutch railway to compensate Holocaust victims

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Holland's national railway company is going to compensate victims of the Holocaust. World War II ended over 70 years ago, but the Dutch railway has decided to give compensation to people who were taken to Nazi

concentration camps on their trains. The company is known as NS. After Germany invaded Holland in 1940, NS trains transported thousands of Jews and other minorities to Nazi death camps. By the end of 1943, most Jews in the Netherlands had been removed and deported. Seven decades later, NS will pay tens of millions of euros to about 500 survivors and to members of their direct family. The company will pay between 5,000 euros to 15,000 euros to each victim.

The company said the payments were part of the company's historical responsibility. It said the company was paid by the Nazis to take the victims to the border. The victims were put on German trains and taken to concentration camps. A spokesman said this was "a black page in the history of the company". He added: "There is no reasonable or appropriate amount of money that [we can pay to] compensate in any way for the suffering inflicted on the victims." The committee said the payments were "a moral gesture". It added: "NS wishes to express the recognition of its share in the individual suffering inflicted by the occupying forces on those involved and their direct surviving relatives."

Sources: [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com) / [jpost.com](http://jpost.com) / [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk)

## Writing

Compensation should be paid to all victims of past horrors. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

national / railway / compensation / Holocaust / minorities / survivors / victim / euros / payment / responsibility / border / history / appropriate / committee / moral / gesture

## True / False

- a) A private Dutch railway company will compensate Holocaust victims. T / F
- b) The article said Germany invaded Holland in 1941. T / F
- c) The railway said it would pay hundreds of millions of euros. T / F
- d) The railway will pay up to 15,000 euros to each victim or direct family. T / F
- e) The company said it had no historical responsibility. T / F
- f) The railway company's trains took victims as far as the German border. T / F
- g) The company suggested the compensation amount was not enough. T / F
- h) The company recognized its role in the suffering of the victims. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>national</b>       | a. action    |
| 2. <b>compensate</b>     | b. expelled  |
| 3. <b>invaded</b>        | c. duty      |
| 4. <b>deported</b>       | d. repay     |
| 5. <b>victim</b>         | e. hardship  |
| 6. <b>responsibility</b> | f. sensible  |
| 7. <b>reasonable</b>     | g. state     |
| 8. <b>suffering</b>      | h. sufferer  |
| 9. <b>gesture</b>        | i. relations |
| 10. <b>relatives</b>     | j. occupied  |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the Holocaust?
- b) Why has the compensation taken 70 years to come?
- c) Should the railway company or the government pay?
- d) Who else in World War II should receive compensation?
- e) What other countries or companies should pay compensation?
- f) What do you think of NS for paying the compensation?
- g) What do you think about the compensation amount?
- h) What advice do you have for the victims?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Holland's national railway company is going | a. other minorities          |
| 2. The company is known                        | b. occupying forces          |
| 3. thousands of Jews and                       | c. euros to each victim      |
| 4. NS will pay tens of millions of euros to    | d. the border                |
| 5. pay between 5,000 euros to 15,000           | e. as NS                     |
| 6. payments were part of the company's         | f. of the company            |
| 7. take the victims to                         | g. to compensate victims     |
| 8. a black page in the history                 | h. on the victims            |
| 9. suffering inflicted                         | i. about 500 survivors       |
| 10. suffering inflicted by the                 | j. historical responsibility |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Should compensation also be paid to victims of slave trades?
- Should the company do anything else for the victims?
- What other companies have black pages in their history?
- Is a 'moral gesture' enough?
- Should there be a time limit for paying compensation?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- What questions would you like to ask NS bosses?

## Spelling

- vstciim of the Holocaust
- thousands of Jews and other nestiimro
- removed and eperdtod
- seven aecdeds later
- about 500 ruorvssiv
- members of their tircde family
- the company's ihitcosral responsibility
- take the victims to the robrde
- There is no reasonable or proppirtaae amount
- the payments were a moral seegutr
- rfusiefng inflicted by the occupying forces
- their direct surviving areilvets

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. c	7. f	8. e	9. a	10. i

## Role Play

### Role A – Prayer

You think prayer is the best way to remember tragedy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ways aren't as effective. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): a memorial day, a minute's silence or a school lesson.

### Role B – A Memorial Day

You think a memorial day is the best way to remember tragedy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ways aren't as effective. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): prayer, a minute's silence or a school lesson.

### Role C – A Minute's Silence

You think a minute's silence is the best way to remember tragedy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ways aren't as effective. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): a memorial day, prayer or a school lesson.

### Role D – School Lesson

You think a school lesson is the best way to remember tragedy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ways aren't as effective. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): a memorial day, a minute's silence or prayer.

## Speaking – Remembering

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways of remembering tragedies at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Prayer           | • Lessons in school  |
| • A memorial day   | • A minute's silence |
| • A global museum  | • A website          |
| • An Internet site | • Other _____        |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.