"I do appreciate from my whole heart [CCHR's] plan to openly discuss and to be active against abuse of human rights by psychiatry....It is important that these [abuses] are pointed out and all that is possible needs to be done to stop these crimes."

— Simon Wiesenthal, internationally renowned Nazi hunter, 1979

Psychiatrists developed the racial purity ideology used by Hitler which lead to the Nazi euthanasia program and, later, ethnic cleansing in the Balkans.
“Only through the Führer did our dream of over 30 years, that of applying racial hygiene to society, become a reality.”

— Ernst Rüdin,
Professor of Psychiatry Commissioner,
German Society for Racial Hygiene, 1940s

It is cold, hard fact that psychiatry spawned the ideology which fired Hitler’s mania, turned the Nazis into mass murderers, and created the Holocaust. German psychiatrists violated the core moral principles of the medical profession and the Hippocratic Oath in devising the “scientific” justification for euthanasia before World War II. In 1920, Alfred Hoche, a professor of psychiatry, and Karl Binding, a jurist, published Permission to Destroy Life Unworthy of Life, equating killing as a “healing treatment.” They advocated the outright killing of mental defectives, stating that, “For the idiots...the continuation of life for society as well as for the person himself has no value.”

In April 1940, psychiatrists established the euthanasia program known as “T4”; between 1939 and 1944, nearly 300,000 “mentally defective” persons met their deaths at the hands of psychiatrists.” In 1941, experienced psychiatrists from T4 were sent to the concentration camps to establish their liquidation program as the model for the mass extermination of Jews, Gypsies, Poles and others. Only a minority of those psychiatrists responsible for the Nazi killing program were ever prosecuted during the Nuremberg Trials or otherwise. Most returned to comfortable practice in the new German republic.” Only four psychiatrists were executed or sentenced to prison. This was in part due to the influence of Austrian born psychiatrist Leo T. Alexander, who assisted War Crime Tribunal prosecutors. According to a 1996 paper entitled “Medical Ethics at Nuremberg: The Nazi Doctors and the Hippocratic Oath,” Alexander wanted the psychiatric profession protected to ensure it regained “the respect and leadership” he believed it deserved.”

In 1974, when the Commission for Violations of Psychiatry against Human Rights (CCHR Germany) was formed, it embarked upon the courageous path of finding and exposing Nazi psychiatrists still practicing in Germany and Austria.
Psychiatry and the Holocaust

Psychiatrists must be examined "...as providers and refiners of the ideological and intellectual foundations for race theory and medical killing..."

— Ernest Hunter psychiatrist
"Dimensions of Medical and Psychiatric Responsibility in the Third Reich." 1993

1895: German psychiatrist Alfred Ploetz published his theories about race inferiority in the book, The Fitness of Our Race and the Protection of the Weak. In 1909, Ploetz founded the German Society for Racial Hygiene. Ploetz's theory was that destroying unworthy life was "purely a healing treatment."

Early 1900s: German psychiatrist Edwin Katzen-Ellenberg drafted a law allowing sterilization of epileptics, criminals and incurably insane for the state of New Jersey, USA. Sterilization was adopted throughout the U.S. and other countries.

1920: Psychiatrist Alfred Hoehn's book, Permission to Destroy Life Unworthy of Life demanded euthanasia be conducted on "mental defectives."

1921: Human Genetics and Racial Hygiene by Erwin Bauer, Eugen Fischer and Fritz Lenz, was published. These three books formed the "scientific" basis for the Nazi racial purity program.

1924: Hitler's Mein Kampf declared racial purity the mission of the German people.

1933: Psychiatrist Ernst Rüdin's Sterilization Law was passed; among the "hereditarily sick" were the feebleminded, hereditarily blind and deaf, physically handicapped and hereditary alcoholics. Hereditary Health Courts were established to make decisions on sterilization. Rüdin was also a co-founder with Alfred Ploetz of The Society for Racial Hygiene.

1933-1945: Up to 350,000 people were forcibly sterilized in Germany.

1939: Hitler's euthanasia decree was signed the same day Hitler invaded Poland; the first euthanasia used a handicapped child. The program was organized exactly as outlined in Hoehn's book.

1940: First "gassing" test was conducted at Brandenburg institution; 18-20 people were exterminated while psychiatrists and staff watched.

1941: "T4" psychiatrists established their killing machine in the concentration camps to kill Jews, Poles and others; more than 6 million people were exterminated.

1941: Hadamar psychiatric institution celebrated the killing of its 10,000th mental patient. Psychiatrists and staff who participated were given a bottle of beer.

1940: The "T4" psychiatric euthanasia program began with psychiatrist Werner Heyde as medical director; mental patients were transferred from institutions to extermination camps. 300,000 "mental defectives" were killed over the next four years.

1941: "T4" psychiatrists established their killing machine in the concentration camps to kill Jews, Poles and others; more than 6 million people were exterminated.

In 1978, Nazi psychiatrist Heinrich Gross was found working in the largest psychiatric facility in Austria and acting as a "court expert." Gross was forced to resign his position when CCHR reported his involvement in "mercy killings" during WWII. In April 2000, he was to be tried for his complicity in the murders of nine handicapped children during the war; however, at the time of writing, the case was suspended based on psychiatric testimony claiming Gross suffered from "dementia." 80

In 1980, CCHR and allied individuals forced the resignation of a former SS doctor, Heinrich Harrer, from the organizing committee of a "World Conference on Psychiatry." During the war, Harrer had injected pig brain fluid into the brains of human beings in the bizarre belief that it could "improve their intelligence." Additionally, in 1997, CCHR Switzerland exposed how the face of the 1,000 Swiss Franc bill was adorned by one of the founders of the ideology that spawned Nazism—Swiss psychiatrist August Forel. 81 Eight months later, Forel's face was removed from the currency.

After 20 years of in-depth research, CCHR helped write and publish Psychiatrists: The Men Behind Hitler, a book that prompted the President of the German Society of Psychiatrists to write to the Minister of Interior asking for his help to silence CCHR. CCHR increased its efforts and in August 1999, the German Society of Psychiatrists publicly admitted psychiatrists had been "active in and primarily responsible for the different euthanasia organizations." 82

Sterilization: A Contemptuous Crime Of Denial

In the early 1900s, psychiatrist Edwin Katzen-Ellenberg, later convicted of World War II war crimes committed as a doctor at the infamous Buchenwald concentration camp, drafted a law allowing sterilization of epileptics, criminals and incurably insane in New Jersey. 83 Twenty-two other American states enacted similar laws.

Sweden shortly followed suit in 1934 and by 1976, 60,000 people were diagnosed as "genetically inferior" and sterilized, including teenage girls from poor families. 84 In Canada, psychiatrists claimed that two-thirds of mental illness was inherited and sterilization was the only feasible solution. 85 Over a five-decade period, sterilization of 4,728 people was authorized by the province of Alberta alone. 86 Sterilization victims and CCHR independently campaigned for compensation and as usual, governments have paid dearly for their alliance with psychiatry. In 1998 and 1999, both Sweden and Alberta agreed to compensate survivors of involuntary sterilization. 87

Apartheid: Child Of Psychiatric Eugenics

In 1976, CCHR exposed psychiatric "slave labor" camps in South Africa where thousands of blacks were imprisoned in former mining camps.
1946: Nuremberg Trials—Only four out of dozens of Nazi psychiatrists were prosecuted; most escaped justice, others returned to psychiatric practice after the war. Assisting the Nuremberg prosecutors was Austrian born psychiatrist Leo T. Alexander who wanted psychiatry’s reputation protected.

Post War: British psychiatrist John Rawlings Rees and U.S. psychiatrist Frank Fremont Smith met with German Professor of Psychiatry Werner Villinger, a proponent of racial hygiene and consultant to the Nazi “T4” program. German psychiatrists were put in charge of caring for war-ravaged people and determining their degree of “psychic damage.” In 1990, the president of the German Society of Psychiatrists and Neurologists, Johannes Meyer-Lindenberg, said victims “had to encounter the very people who once inflicted their tortures” and “the grim phrase the ‘second road to sacrifice’ was coined.”

1995: CCHR released the book, Psychiatrists: The Men Behind Hitler, exposing psychiatry’s creation of the Nazi killing program and causing an uproar with the German Society of Psychiatrists (DGPPN).

1999: DGPPN publicly admitted in a Hamburg exhibition that psychiatry was responsible for the ideology behind euthanasia and for managing and carrying out the killing program.

The inmates were forced to labor for private companies and were treated so atrociously that media, decades later, dubbed it “mental genocide.”

CCHR referred its evidence to the United Nations, which led to the camps being investigated by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1977. WHO’s 1983 report concluded that, “in no other medical field in South Africa, is the contempt of the person cultivated by racism more concisely portrayed than in psychiatry.”

However, psychiatric and psychological groups were not mere passengers under apartheid; they designed, built and navigated the apartheid ship. South Africa’s Prime Minister, Hendrick Verwoerd, a psychologist, had studied in German universities in the 1920s when these institutions were energetically forwarding race betterment theories.

When apartheid ended in 1994, CCHR presented submissions to the government on the atrocities committed against blacks in psychiatric institutions. A Health Ministry inquiry into malpractice and racism in psychiatric hospitals found gross patient abuse.

1938: Elvira and sister, Lisa.

In September 1938, at the age of 7, Elvira and her 3-year-old sister, Lisa, were labeled a “public danger, congenitally feebleminded, abnormal, hereditarily diseased and ineducable” and incarcerated in a psychiatric institution under Germany’s Hereditary Act. On August 26, 1940, Lisa was murdered in the gas chambers. Elvira escaped, but it was not until after the Berlin Wall fell, through access to their medical records, that Elvira discovered the lie about her “genetic disability.” The discovery inspired a 12-year fight to have the false report retracted.

Mrs. Manthey helped get the German Government to enact legislation in 1998 that officially canceled all judgments by the Hereditary Health Courts, which had ordered sterilizations and transfers of the “hereditarily diseased” to psychiatric and other institutions. A major human rights achievement, it unfortunately did not apply to Elvira and Lisa. They were not sent to the institution by the courts but by an independent psychiatrist.

In August 1999, Elvira requested help from the German Society of Psychiatrists to have her stigmatizing records returned to her. The following year, she sought assistance from the World Psychiatric Association (WPA). Neither organization would help her. The fraudulent psychiatric diagnosis remains on her record today. Her fight for justice continues, with CCHR’s assistance.

“I want to also thank you for your interest and your sympathy for my message, and for the vital actions of the staff of CCHR. Throughout my journey to seek justice and to restore the human dignity deprived myself and [my sister] Lisa, I have met many honest and helpful people. You count among them. If people who strive for good and for freedom would unite and be watchful, and get others to be alert, then this horror can never happen again.”

— Mrs. Elvira Manthey
Holocaust Survivor, 2000
PSYCHIATRIC SLAVE CAMP DISCLOSURE:

In 1997, CCHR presented oral and written testimony to the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission about apartheid crimes committed by both psychiatrists and psychologists. The Psychological Society of South Africa finally admitted that psychological studies had aimed at discrediting blacks as intellectually inferior and, in 1998, called for legislation to scrap all racist psychological tests.

"It is a joy to work with CCHR and it is my fervent hope that we succeed in keeping the flame of freedom burning brightly for our children and our children's children so that some day we have a real future, without psychiatry," said Dr. Patience Koloko, national president of the Traditional Healers Association of South Africa, who attended the conference.

ARCHITECT OF APARTHEID:
Psychiatry and psychology designed, manned, navigated and advised the apartheid ship. First apartheid Prime Minister, Hendrik Verwoerd (above), was a psychologist who studied in Germany's nationalist universities in the 1920s. Tens of thousands of black South Africans were kept in abandoned mining compounds and abused by psychiatrists—all exposed by CCHR.

Bosnia & Kosovo: On The Trail Of psychiatric Genocide

Addressing the United Nations in 1994, Bijedic Mustafa, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, stated, "The only weapon we have in this war is truth, and you have helped us a lot by digging up evidence and spreading information on what's happening in Bosnia and Herzegovina on all possible lines internationally."

In 1999, the world looked on in horror at the chilling "ethnic cleansing" conducted in Kosovo and earlier, in
PERPETRATORS OF BALKAN CONFLICT: Psychiatrist Jovan Raskovic inspired racial and religious genocide in Bosnia. He and his patient, psychiatrist Radovan Karadzic, allowed the mass torture, rape and murder of the innocent. Prime Minister Slobodan Milosevic, a former Karadzic patient, then perpetrated and financed ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

However, very few are aware that this contemporary genocide was driven by the exact same psychiatric ideology that inspired Nazi Germany. In fact, psychiatrists also directed this latest bloodbath.

CCHR France investigations revealed that psychiatrist Jovan Raskovic was the architect of the genocidal program. In 1991, he appointed his devoted student of ten years, Sarajevo psychiatrist Radovan Karadzic, to lead his Serbian Democratic Party. The following year, CCHR presented its findings in a compelling submission to the WPA, the World Health Organization, and the Bosnia War Crimes Tribunal. In June 1993, CCHR also delivered a letter to the United Nations Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, demanding that those responsible for the deaths in the former Yugoslavia be prosecuted.

In September 1999, members of the Council of Europe signed a resolution recognizing psychiatrists Karadzic and Raskovic as the architects of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and Serbia. It recommended members study CCHR's material on this issue.

RESOLUTION 1999: Members of the Council of Europe signed a resolution recognizing psychiatrists Karadzic and Raskovic as the architects of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and Serbia. It recommended members study CCHR’s material on this issue.

Karadzic patient—perpetrated and financed the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. The resolution invited everyone to “study the material that has been put together and researched by the French chapter of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights (an organization established by the Church of Scientology in 1969 to expose the abuse of human rights by psychiatry).”