

From the tour team's journal

"Pupil, 17:

'I couldn't have stopped and taken off the headset. It would have felt impolite and disrespectful to the person. I couldn't have just stopped in the middle of the talk.'

"Visitor, around 60:

'I came yesterday but didn't see everything. That's why I came again today. It's important to me.'

"Visitor from Halle, 90:

'The foreigners cause a lot of trouble here. The AfD, that's not an option. But we don't want the foreigners here either.'

"A number of older people from the former GDR over the course of the exhibition, in a roughly similar tone:

'We were all brought to Buchenwald back then and had to see it ourselves. We were children. The photos, the videos, the sense of being right there – I'll never forget that. It was bad. And much too early.'

"Visitor, around 45:

'I don't need this. I'm right-wing. But not a Nazi. I couldn't shoot or gas you now. Wouldn't do that. But something's wrong here. That's why I'm right-wing. You're nice people, though, I don't have anything against you personally.'

"Pupil, 17:

'The headsets are rad. You feel like you're there with the person in a room and feeling what they feel.'

"Teacher, around 35:

...They seem a little shy and are grateful that one of us sits with them while they watch the interviews. After removing the headset, they cry and ask for support, which turns into a conversation. They say it's so horrible that something like that could happen to people, and that it must never happen again. Later, on their way back out of the city, they stop by to give us chocolate and thank us for our support.'

"Teacher from Düsseldorf, 41:

'I went to Israel as a young man. A friend my age there told me his father was killed by a bullet to the head. He just mentioned that in passing. And now to sit here with a VR headset and listen to the people – it's exactly the same feeling. So close and overpowering. I'm really worked up right now!'



"A great many visitors expressed a desire for the project to keep going and travel to more cities and so on..."

"Christian, around 40, enters the truck when we happen to be there alone. He has an aggressive air, asks what it is we want to show him, and makes such an unpleasant impression that I, in the background, call Johanna and ask her to come over. Then he wants to put on the headset and is very impressed by the technology. We now realize he's been drinking. When he removes the headset at the end, he is very affected and carefully cleans it and the headphones because he'd been crying. He really wants to put something on the feedback board, but it seems he could be illiterate. We help him write something, and part on good terms. He emphasizes once again that he was really struck and that he thinks the project is important and good."

"Visitor, around 60:
'I've no idea what you're doing here. You should be dealing with what's happening here and now. I can't even get a doctor's appointment because the foreigners have more rights than me. Deal with that, instead of the old things.'"

"Visitor, born in 1951, crying:
'I'm ashamed to be German. My mother remembers the night of the pogrom and the destruction of Jewish shops and told me about it. It's incomprehensible to me how people can close themselves off to this topic.'"



"Visitor, around 90:
'I lived through all this, I don't have to see it again with a headset. It's all here in my mind.'"

"A German-speaking visitor, who said they come from Benin, put on the VR headset. They watched everything. And then said, 'It was horrific.' They had heard the term Holocaust but didn't know exactly what it was. And now they did. They said it reminded them of the history of slavery in Benin. People were treated in similar ways there too. They want to tell their people ('my people') about it. They thanked us several times. And said they now have 'a lot to think about.'"

"A group of boys at the evaluation station started talking among themselves about what their older family members might have done during the war. They didn't know some of the vocabulary, so I joined the conversation and gave some input on how they might ask more questions at home."

"Visitor from Halle, 90:
'[...] My father was a genuine Nazi, I have to say, unfortunately. But all of us were in the Party back then. Flags were hanging everywhere, the GDR was no-thing in comparison.'"