
The Untold story of Honourable'Irena Sendlers

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**"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others"-
Honourable'Mahatma Gandhi-The Father of our Nation**

The World War II (1939-1945) encompassed massive catastrophe including massacres, genocide ,medical experimentation in the utmost unethical manner, diseases ,starvation and the first time use of nuclear weapons in the history .It involved more than 100 million people from over 30 countries. During this period German physicians conducted extremely barbaric and painful experimentations on thousands of concentration camp prisoners or prisoners of war in the most horrendous and brutal manner to an extent that even children were also not spared.Jews were systematically murdered in one of the deadliest genocides in history, which was part of a broader aggregate of acts of oppression and killings of various ethnic and political groups in Europe by the Nazi regime.

Experimentation included placing subjects in pressure chambers, testing drugs on them, freezing them, attempting to change eye color by injecting chemicals into children's eyes, and amputations and other surgeries. During the battle of Mahabharata, Lord Krishna preached Arjuna that when the sins dominate the world, innocent people are tyrannized in the name of religion, when the religion is humiliated, atrocities and oppressions increase abundantly then at that critical time, I come to this world as incarnate of God in order to remove all the evils, sins and atrocities. Similarly to protect the innocent buds especially the children of Jewish community, an angel came in this world named as **Irena Sendler**.

Her mission of life was "*Every child saved with my help is the justification of my existence on this Earth, and not a title to glory.*" **Irena Sendler** (15 February 1910 - 12 May 2008) was a Polish nurse, humanitarian, and social worker who served in the Polish Underground during World War II in German-occupied Warsaw, and was head of the children's section of Żegota, the Polish Council to Aid Jews which was active from 1942 to 1945.Assisted by some two dozen other Żegota members, Sendler smuggled approximately 2,500 Jewish children out of the Warsaw Ghetto and then provided them with false identity documents and shelter, outside the Ghetto, saving those children from the Holocaust. Sendler was born Irena Krzyżanowska on 15 February 1910 in Warsaw, to Dr. Stanisław Krzyżanowski, a physician, and his wife, Janina. She grew up in Otwock, a town about 15 miles (24 km) southeast of Warsaw, where there was a vibrant Jewish community. Her father, who was a humanitarian treating the very poor free of charge, including Jews, died in February 1917 from typhus contracted from his patients. After his death, the Jewish community leaders offered to help her mother pay for Sendler's education, though her mother declined their assistance.

Sendler studied Polish literature at Warsaw University, and joined the Polish Socialist Party. In August 1943, Sendler, was nominated by Żegota, the underground organization also

known as the Council to Aid Jews, to head its Jewish children's section. As an employee of the Social Welfare Department, she had a special permit to enter the Warsaw Ghetto to check for signs of typhus, a disease the Germans feared would spread beyond the Ghetto. During these visits, she wore a Star of David as a sign of solidarity with the Jewish people.

Under the pretext of conducting inspections of sanitary conditions within the Ghetto, Sendler and her co-workers smuggled out babies and small children, sometimes in ambulances and trams, sometimes hiding them in packages and suitcases, and using various other means. Jewish children were placed with Polish Christian families, the Warsaw orphanage of the Sisters of the Family of Mary, or Roman Catholic convents such as the Little Sister Servants of the Blessed Virgin Mary Conceived Immaculate. Sendler worked closely with a group of about 30 volunteers, mostly women, who included Zofia Kossak-Szczucka, a resistance fighter and writer, and Matylda Getter, Mother Provincial of the Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary. The children were given fake Christian names and taught Christian prayers in case they were tested. Sendler was determined to prevent the children from losing their Jewish identities, and kept careful documentation listing the children's fake Christian names, their given names, and their current location.

According to American historian Debórah Dwork, Sendler was "the inspiration and the prime mover for the whole network that saved those 2,500 Jewish children." About 400 of the children were directly smuggled out by Sendler herself. She and her co-workers buried lists of the hidden children in jars in order to keep track of their original and new identities. The aim was to return the children to their original families when the war was over. In 1943, Sendler was arrested by the Gestapo and severely tortured. As they ransacked her house, Sendler tossed the lists of children to her friend, who hid the list in her loose clothing. Should the Gestapo access this information, all children would be compromised, but her friend was never searched.

The Gestapo beat Sendler brutally upon her arrest, fracturing her feet and legs in the process. Despite this, she refused to betray any of her comrades or the children they rescued, and was sentenced to death by firing squad. Żegota saved her life by bribing the guards on the way to her execution. After her escape, she hid from the Germans, but returned to Warsaw under a fake name and continued her involvement with the Żegota. During the Warsaw Uprising, she worked as a nurse in a public hospital, where she hid five Jews. She continued to work as a nurse until the Germans left Warsaw, retreating before the advancing Soviet troops.

After the war, she and her co-workers gathered all of the children's records with the names and locations of the hidden Jewish children and gave them to their Żegota colleague Adolf Berman and his staff at the Central Committee of Polish Jews. Almost all of the children's parents had been killed at the Treblinka extermination camp or had gone missing. Her contributions were recognized and in 1965, Sendler was recognized by the State of Israel as Righteous among the Nations. Late in life, she was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest honour, for her wartime humanitarian efforts. All accolades are less for her and a Commemorative coin with Sendler and fellow Holocaust rescuers Zofia Kossak-Szczucka and Matylda Getter was also released.



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My salute to this living legend of 21st century and I wish I could emulate her few qualities and certainly make a difference in the lives of people especially the young fragile buds around me .