

Biography Summary: Uri Hirsch | June 2025

Uri Hirsch, born in Hamburg, Germany, on January 7, 1938, is a Holocaust survivor whose life story offers a deeply personal lens into the atrocities of Nazi Germany and the resilience of the Jewish people. Though an infant during the rise of the Third Reich, his family's experiences—particularly those of his father, David Hirsch—form the backbone of his memoir and educational mission.

Uri's father, a cantor and community leader at Hamburg's Bornplatz Synagogue, was arrested during the November 1938 pogrom (Kristallnacht) and imprisoned in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. His survival and eventual release were contingent on the family's ability to secure emigration documents. The family fled Germany in stages, ultimately settling in England before the outbreak of World War II.

In adulthood, Uri became a passionate educator and speaker, committed to Holocaust remembrance. His return visits to Germany in 2024 and 2025—accompanied by his daughters—were marked by emotional encounters with historical sites, including Sachsenhausen and the remnants of the Bornplatz Synagogue. These visits were part of a broader effort by the Hamburg Senate to acknowledge and reconcile with its Jewish past.

Uri's memoir, now in its second edition, combines historical documentation, personal testimony, and over 70 photographs. It serves as both a tribute to his family's survival and a call to future generations to remember, reflect, and resist hatred in all forms.

Uri returned 2007 from the USA to Israel where he still lives today, based in Jerusalem.