

## Online store slammed for selling Auschwitz skirts

11th May, 2019



An online store has come under a storm of criticism for selling items with images of Auschwitz-Birkenau - the Nazi German concentration camp. The website Redbubble has apologized for selling skirts,

pillows, bags and other products that had photos of Auschwitz printed on them. The Auschwitz Memorial Museum tweeted that the products were "disturbing and disrespectful". It asked: "Do you really think that selling such products as pillows, mini skirts or tote bags with the images of Auschwitz - a place of enormous human tragedy where over 1.1 million people were murdered - is acceptable?" Redbubble quickly responded and said it was taking "immediate action to remove" the items.

It is estimated that at least 1.3 million people were sent to and incarcerated in the concentration camp in German-occupied Poland during World War II. Over 90 per cent of these were Jews. The Nazis murdered 1.1 million of the detainees between 1940-45. Poles, Romani, Russian prisoners of war and others were also killed. Most of the 1.1 million died in the gas chambers. Others died of starvation, hard labor and disease. Redbubble said it, "takes a strong stance against racism and violence, including the atrocities committed in Nazi concentration camps". A Twitter user wrote: "How very disrespectful to the memories of those murdered by the Nazis and the pain of their families."

Sources: [snopes.com](http://snopes.com) / [mirror.co.uk](http://mirror.co.uk) / [thejc.com](http://thejc.com)

## Writing

We should ban all products that contain images that are in bad taste. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

online store / storm / criticism / concentration camp / museum / images / tragedy / World War II / prisoners of war / starvation / hard labor / atrocities / memories / pain

## True / False

- a) There is a storm of criticism over photos of Auschwitz on goods. T / F
- b) There were pillows with images of Auschwitz for sale on a website. T / F
- c) An Auschwitz museum said the products for sale were disturbing. T / F
- d) The website is dragging its feet over removing the offensive items. T / F
- e) Just less than 90 per cent of those sent to Auschwitz were Jews. T / F
- f) Russian prisoners of war were also sent to Auschwitz. T / F
- g) The website said it will think more about racism from now. T / F
- h) The article says a Facebook user called the items disrespectful. T / F

## Synonym Match

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

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>storm</b>        | a. approximated   |
| 2. <b>products</b>     | b. huge           |
| 3. <b>disturbing</b>   | c. suffering      |
| 4. <b>enormous</b>     | d. worrying       |
| 5. <b>responded</b>    | e. extreme hunger |
| 6. <b>estimated</b>    | f. barrage        |
| 7. <b>incarcerated</b> | g. horrors        |
| 8. <b>starvation</b>   | h. reacted        |
| 9. <b>atrocities</b>   | i. goods          |
| 10. <b>pain</b>        | j. locked up      |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) How much does the store deserve the storm of criticism?
- b) Why did someone think bags with Auschwitz images would sell?
- c) What do you know about Auschwitz?
- d) Who would buy the products with the Auschwitz images?
- e) Should there be laws against using Auschwitz images?
- f) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- g) What advice do you have for the website?
- h) Do you think the website has done enough?

## Phrase Match

- |                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. An online store has come under a | a. concentration camp  |
| 2. other products that had          | b. human tragedy       |
| 3. the products were disturbing     | c. against racism      |
| 4. a place of enormous              | d. storm of criticism  |
| 5. taking immediate action to       | e. of the detainees    |
| 6. incarcerated in the              | f. and disrespectful   |
| 7. The Nazis murdered 1.1 million   | g. chambers            |
| 8. Russian prisoners                | h. remove the items    |
| 9. gas                              | i. of war              |
| 10. a strong stance                 | j. photos of Auschwitz |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How can the website fully make amends?
- How can we take a strong stance against racism and violence?
- What things do you take a strong stance against?
- Would you like to visit the Auschwitz Memorial Museum?
- Should people be prosecuted for selling Auschwitz images?
- How can we remember those who died in concentration camps?
- What questions would you like to ask the website owner?

## Spelling

- come under a storm of iccimrtsi
- the Nazi German ctionroatcnn camp
- the products were tigbsrdinu
- a place of enormous human dgrteay
- Redbubble quickly neeropsdd
- taking tdmmeaeii action
- 1.1 million of the tieeaesnd
- Russian oipsnsrre of war
- Others died of oratsanivy
- takes a strong stance against racism and veinoecl
- the cteisaitor committed
- cetlerpfsudis to the memories

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

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