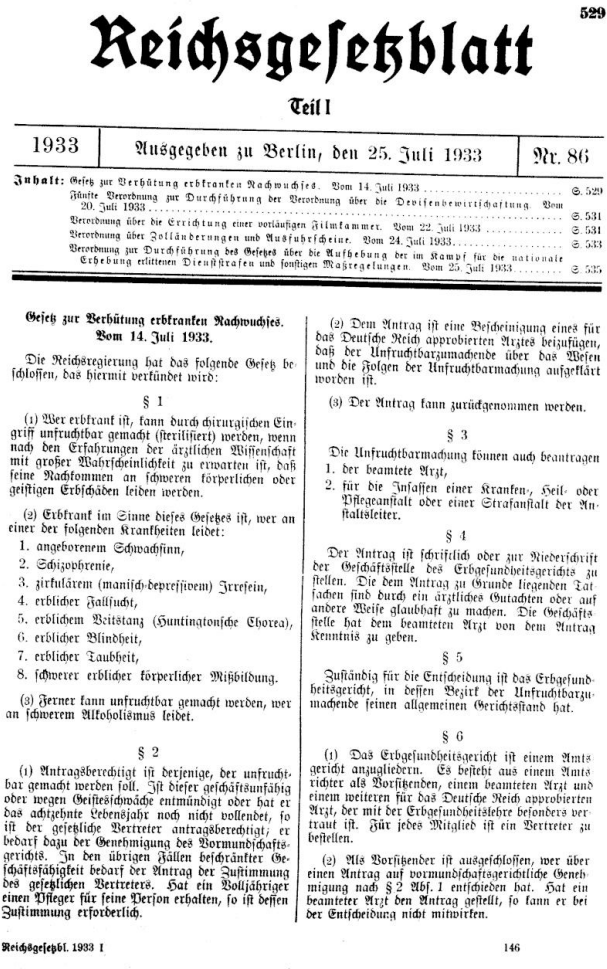


C5 Sterilised



529

1910

1951

1933

The 1933 Law for the Prevention of Genetically Diseased Offspring legalised the forced sterilisation of all men and women the Nazis considered undesirable to society, including people with physical or mental disabilities, members of allegedly “inferior races” and so-called “born criminals”. Between 1933 and 1945, more than 400,000 people were sterilised against their will, including many Roma and Sinti. For some men and women sterilisation meant they escaped being sent to the concentration camps, but others were forcibly sterilised after deportation to a camp. The law was not repealed until 1988! No compensation was ever paid to the victims.

💡 Did you know

... that similar laws existed in many other countries, including Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland and the USA? In some countries, Roma women continued to be sterilised against their will until the 1970s.

✍ For you to do

Can you name countries where forced sterilisation is still carried out? Make a record of recent cases. Think about what it means to be prevented from having children.

📷 The photo

A full version of the text of the law is to be found in the Austrian National Library's historical legal text database (ALEX), which can be accessed at <http://alex.onb.ac.at>



<https://www.romasintigenocide.eu/en/c>