

Under the Nazi regime, the *brit milah* (ritual circumcision) became a target of persecution as part of wider efforts to systematically dismantle Jewish life and identify Jewish males. Practicing mohels were threatened, and performing the ritual became an act of defiance, forcing some families to hide their child's Jewish identity.

- **Targeting the Practice:** Mohels (trained circumcisers) like Rabbi Isaac Ossowski were forced to flee due to targeted persecution. SS forces questioned families, using the identification of Jewish males to advance their efforts to police "racial purity".
- **Act of Resistance:** Despite the danger, Jews continued to practice *brit milah* as an act of resilience.
- **Challenges in Occupied Territory:** Parents in occupied areas, such as the Netherlands, faced dilemmas because a circumcision would identify their child as Jewish, prompting some to forgo the tradition to save their children, as discussed in.
- **Aftermath:** Even after the war, in displaced persons' camps, evidence exists of mohels holding a glass of wine to celebrate a *brit milah*, showing the continuity of the tradition, as shown in the [collections of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#).

This persecution was part of a broader, systemic effort, including the Nuremberg Race Laws of 1935, to marginalize and eventually eliminate the Jewish population.