

Public Controversies



Neuengamme in May 1995. Detail. Foto: unbekannt. (ANg)

For a long time, the history of the Neuengamme concentration camp was almost consigned to oblivion. But in the 1970s, German society became increasingly ready to deal with its Nazi past, and youth organisations and the trade unions in Hamburg started campaigning for the site of the former concentration camp.

In the 1980s, Neuengamme was at the centre of numerous controversies. Only regular protests and persistent campaigning from many people made it possible for the site of the former prisoners' barracks to finally become part of the Neuengamme memorial 60 years after the end of the war.