Public Campaigns

While many parts of the former concentration camp were used by the prisons and different companies, the other camp buildings increasingly fell into disrepair. Starting in the late 1970s, various groups campaigned for their preservation. Plans by the Senate to transform or demolish former camp buildings in the first half of the 1980s led to a protest campaign organised by survivors and other concerned citizens. The public criticism of the Senate's plans both in Germany and abroad eventually led to success for the campaign: in 1984, large parts of the former camp grounds were placed under a preservation order. The brickworks was restored and made into a place of remembrance, learning, research, exchange and public discourse within the Neuengamme memorial.