



## German History in Documents and Images

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The Führer's Decree on Preserving the Purity of the SS and the Police (November 15, 1941)

In Himmler's eyes, homosexuality was a "plague" that harmed the race and cheated the German *Volk* out of valuable offspring. Starting in 1936, he pursued its eradication through his Reich Central Office for Combating Abortion and Homosexuality. For members of the SS, which Himmler conceived of as an elite racial group, homosexuality was cause for expulsion and severe punishment. It was not until 1941, however, that Himmler was able to extract from his Führer a formal decree that made homosexuality within the SS punishable by death.

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