

# Part Four:

## Life in Nazi Germany 1933–39

### Nazi policies towards women

Nazi Germany promoted the traditional view of women as mothers and housewives, and their importance in raising loyal supporters of the Nazi regime, against the Weimar 'new women'. Nazi policies aimed at increasing the birth rate and removing women from the workplace.

**DO IT!**

Link each of the Nazi views on women below with a policy that helped encourage it.

**Appearance:** 'natural' look – long, tied-back hair and no make-up.

**Aryan:** blonde hair and blue eyes was the 'racially pure' ideal.

**Employment:** men were the breadwinners, so women need not work or study.



Nazi views on women and the family

**Clothing:** traditional and modest, with long skirts or dresses.

**Role:** to stay home and raise a family, domestic skills.

**The Three Ks:** Kinder, Küche, Kirche (Children, Kitchen, Church).

### Nazi policies towards women

In 1934, Gertrud Scholtz-Klink was appointed a Reich's Women's Leader to push Nazi views. The German Women's Enterprise incorporated all women's organisations under Nazi control, running courses on childcare, cooking and sewing for its 6 million members.

Nazi policies tried to ensure that women played the role in society the Nazis believed they should:

- The Law for the Encouragement of Marriage (1933) offered marriage loans to young couples, provided the wife gave up work. Every child the couple had reduced repayment by a quarter.
- The Mother's Cross medals were issued to women who bore four or more children. Gold-medal women were saluted by the Hitler Youth.
- Women were banned from working as teachers, doctors and civil servants (1933), and becoming a judge or lawyer, or even sitting on a jury (1936).
- Grammar schools for girls, preparing for university, were banned in 1937.

### STRETCHIT!

Research Himmler's Lebensborn programme. What does this reveal about Nazi attitudes?

Research Scholtz-Klink's life and career. In what ways did she live up to Nazi values?