



Federal Ministry
of Finance

Measures to compensate for National Socialist injustice

A timeline

Statutory provisions, non-statutory
provisions and guidelines pertaining to compensation
for National Socialist injustice



Dear Readers,

This brochure provides a chronological overview of the compensation and restitution measures that have been adopted by Germany from the end of the Second World War up to the year 2020.

Many of the measures listed are accompanied by a brief description. Sources are also provided in order to facilitate more in-depth research.

For a more detailed overview of this important policy area, please consult the brochure “Compensation for National Socialist Injustice: Indemnification Provisions”, which can be downloaded or ordered from our website: www.bundesfinanzministerium.de.

Federal Ministry of Finance

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5 Mar 1947

British Military Government law granting accident and survivor's pensions to the victims of National Socialist repression
[in force in North Rhine-Westphalia]

10 Nov 1947

United States Military Government law no 59 on the restitution of identifiable property to victims of National Socialist repression
The restitution laws of the three Western powers governed restitution of and compensation for property unjustly confiscated between 1933 and 1945 as a result of racial, religious or political persecution.

10 Nov 1947

French Military Government ordinance no 120 on the return of stolen items of property

4 Mar 1948

(updated
3 May 1950)

British Military Government law granting pensions to the victims of National Socialism and their surviving dependants
[in force in Schleswig-Holstein]

24 May 1948

British Military Government law on special assistance pensions (small pensions granted mainly for social reasons)
[in force in Hamburg]

22 Sept 1948

British Military Government law granting special assistance to victims of National Socialist persecution (personal injury)
[in force in Lower Saxony]

11 Feb 1949

British Military Government law on compensation for detention on political, racial or religious grounds
[in force in North Rhine-Westphalia]

26 Apr 1949**Act on Compensation for National Socialist Injustice**

This is the most important restitution act during the occupation period. The subsequent Federal Compensation Act largely adopts its provisions.

[in force in the U.S. occupation zone; adopted in August 1949 as Land acts in Bremen, Württemberg-Hohenzollern, Hesse and Bavaria; Bavarian Act and Ordinance Gazette no 20/1949, pp. 195–204, 12 August 1949]

12 May 1949**British Military Government law no 59 on the restitution of identifiable property****4 July 1949****British Military Government law on compensation for imprisonment**

[in force in Schleswig-Holstein]

26 July 1949**Restitution order of the Allied Kommandatura in Berlin**

[in force only in West Berlin; 1949 Berlin Law and Ordinance Gazette I, p. 221, Federal Law Gazette III, annex to section 250 D-1]

31 July 1949

(updated
2 Nov 1949)

British Military Government law on compensation for detention on the basis of National Socialist measures (imprisonment compensation act)

[in force in Lower Saxony]

16 Aug 1949**British Military Government law on detention for political, ideological, religious or racial reasons**

[in force in Hamburg]

22 Aug 1949**Act on the Treatment of Victims of National Socialist Persecution in the Area of Social Security (enacted on 22 August 1949 with effect from 1 September 1949)**

[United Economic Zone Law Gazette, p. 263 and Federal Law Gazette I, 1950, p. 179f.]

10 Jan 1950

French Military Government law on compensation for victims of National Socialism

[in force in the Länder of Baden, Rhineland-Palatinate and Württemberg-Hohenzollern]

22 May 1950

(updated
19 Mar 1951)

20 Dec 1950

Federal War Victims Relief Act

Under section 1 (2) (d) of the Federal War Victims Relief Act, victims of military courts are given equivalent status to war victims if the disciplinary or coercive measures taken against them were blatantly unjust.

[Federal Law Gazette I, 1950, p. 791ff.]

10 Jan 1951

(updated
27 Feb 1952)

Compensation Act for Victims of National Socialism

[in force in West Berlin]

11 May 1951

(updated
15 Dec 1965)

Act on Compensation for Public Sector Employees Who Experienced National Socialist Injustice

[in force in the version of 15 December 1965; Federal Law Gazette I, 1951, p. 291; Federal Law Gazette I, 1965, p. 2073ff.]

26 July 1951

Special arrangement for surviving victims of medical experimentation

[Cabinet decision]

18 Mar 1952

(updated
15 Dec 1965)

Act on Compensation for Former Public Sector Employees Now Living Abroad Who Experienced National Socialist Injustice

[in force in the version of 15 December 1965; Federal Law Gazette I, 1952, p. 137f; Federal Law Gazette I, 1965, p. 2092]

26 May 1952

Settlement Convention governing the transition of the Federal Republic of Germany from an occupied to a sovereign state (fourth chapter of the convention: compensation for victims of Nazi persecution)

This chapter sets out an obligation to supplement the existing legal provisions adopted by the occupying powers relating to compensation and restitution.

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1954, p. 57ff.]

15 July 1952

Hardship Fund for those not of the Jewish faith who were persecuted on racial grounds (HNG Fund) (revised guidelines issued 15 September 1966)

[235th Cabinet meeting on 15 July 1952]

10 Sept 1952

Luxembourg Agreement – known better in the German public sphere as the Reparations Agreement between Israel and West Germany – signed by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett in Luxembourg City Hall

Under the Luxembourg Agreement, the Federal Republic of Germany commits itself to delivering goods worth a total of DM 3bn to the state of Israel over a period of 12 years, for the support, integration and resettlement of Jewish victims of persecution who gained Israeli citizenship through immigration. In addition, the Agreement also brings into force an accord with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Jewish Claims Conference or JCC), an international Jewish organisation based in New York City. This accord obliges West Germany to provide DM 450m for the support, integration and resettlement of Jewish refugees living outside of Israel.

a) Compensation agreement with the state of Israel (the “Israel Agreement”)

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1953, p. 35ff.]

b) Special fund for the support, integration and resettlement of Jewish victims of National Socialist persecution living outside of Israel (Hague Protocols nos 1 and 2 adopted on the basis of consultations regarding the Israel Agreement; the JCC is tasked with executing the fund)

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1953, p. 35, 85, 94ff.]

27 Feb 1953

London Agreement on German External Debts

[London Debt Agreement, Federal Law Gazette II, p. 331]

8 Apr 1953

Act on compensation of damages caused by political, ideological, religious or racial persecution (General Compensation Act)
[in force in Hamburg; Hamburg Law and Ordinance Gazette no 9, 10 April 1953]

9 Apr 1953

Guidelines governing compensation for former employees of Jewish communities

3 Aug 1953

Act on Compensation for National Socialist Injustice through Pensions and Care Services for War Victims Provided to Eligible Persons Resident Abroad
[entered into force with retroactive effect from 1 October 1950; Federal Law Gazette I, 1953, p. 843ff.]

18 Sept 1953

Additional Federal Compensation Act for Victims of National Socialist Persecution (precursor to the Federal Compensation Act)
Federal supplements to the compensation provisions in individual Länder
[Federal Law Gazette I, 1953, p. 1387ff.]

10 Mar 1956

Treaty with Yugoslavia on economic cooperation, claims to compensation for unrealisable restitutions, and claims on Germany's settlement account
Payment of DM 300m; DM 240m of this amount takes the form of a loan

29 June 1956

Third Act Amending the Federal Compensation Act for Victims of National Socialist Persecution (Federal Compensation Act)
[entered into force with retroactive effect from 1 October 1953; Federal Law Gazette I, 1956, p. 559ff.]

19 July 1957

Federal Act for the Settlement of the Monetary Restitution Liabilities of the German Reich and Legal Entities of Equivalent Status (Federal Restitution Act)
This Act governs restitution claims against the German Reich and other German institutions involved in confiscating property.
[Federal Law Gazette I, 1957, p. 734ff., amended by Article 7 subsection 3 of the Act of 26 March 2007, Federal Law Gazette I, 2007, p. 358ff.; in force as of 1 January 1964, FNA: 250-1]

5 Nov 1957

General Act Regulating Compensation for War-induced Losses
 Section 5 of this Act in conjunction with general legal provisions provides for payments to compensate for loss of life, injury to body or health, and deprivation of liberty. Claimants are eligible if they do not possess the persecution status stipulated in the Federal Compensation Act.
[Federal Law Gazette I, 1957, p. 1747ff.]

25 June 1958

Federal Act on Compensation for National Socialist Injustice by Providing Pensions and Care Services for War Victims
 (rescinded by the first Regulatory Reform Act of 24 April 1986)
[Federal Law Gazette I, 1958, p. 412f.; Federal Law Gazette I, 1986, p. 560ff.]

29 June 1959

Comprehensive accord on hardship compensation to Jewish members of the British Forces from the former British mandate of Palestine who were held as prisoners of war by the Germans in Greece

11 July 1959

Comprehensive agreement with Luxembourg
[Federal Law Gazette II, 1960, p. 2079ff.]

1 Aug 1959

Hardship provision on humanitarian grounds for persons living in Israel who suffered injury at the Vapniarka camp
 Applies to persons whom Romanian authorities incarcerated in 1942–1943 at the camp located in Transnistria and who suffered lasting damage to their health (paralysis) due to consumption of a toxic pea variety.
[Cabinet decision]

7 Aug 1959

Comprehensive agreement with Norway
[Federal Law Gazette II, 1960, p. 1337ff.]

24 Aug 1959

Comprehensive agreement with Denmark
[Federal Law Gazette II, 1960, p. 1334ff.]

18 Mar 1960

Comprehensive agreement with Greece
[Federal Law Gazette II, 1961, p. 1597ff.]

8 Apr 1960

Comprehensive agreement with the Netherlands

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1963, p. 629ff.]

15 July 1960

Comprehensive agreement with France

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1961, p. 1330ff.]

28 Sept 1960

Comprehensive agreement with Belgium

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1961, p. 1037ff.]

5 Oct 1960

Indemnification Fund for refugees who suffered persecution under the National Socialist regimes for reason of their nationality (agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

(Additional agreements on 17 and 24 November 1966 and accords on 2 and 26 November 1981, 10 September 1984 and 27 November 1984)

[Federal Gazette no 53, 1961, p. 3; Federal Law Gazette II, 1982, p. 80f.]

1 Feb 1961

Federal Ministry of Finance report to the Compensation Committee of the German Bundestag on the matter of compensation for persons who were sterilised between 1933 and 1945

Original can be found in the German Bundestag library under call no P 728969

24 Apr 1961 and

7 Sept 1963

Comprehensive agreement with Yugoslavia on the compensation of victims of pseudo-medical experiments (additional endowment made in 1963)

[not published]

2 June 1961

Comprehensive agreement with Italy

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1963, p. 793ff.]

29 June 1961

Comprehensive agreement with Switzerland

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1963, p. 156]

27 July 1961

Act on the Treaty of 15 July 1960 between the Federal Republic of Germany and the French Republic regarding compensation to French citizens who were affected by National Socialist persecution Agreement with France for the lump-sum compensation (totalling DM 11m) of French citizens' claims under the General Act on Compensation for War-induced Losses

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1961, p. 1029] [Section 102 (2) of the General Act on Compensation for War-induced Losses; not published]

27 Nov 1961

Comprehensive agreement with Austria (Kreuznach Agreement)

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1962, p. 1044ff.]

14 May 1962

Agreement supplementing the financial treaty signed by the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of the Netherlands on 8 April 1960

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1963, p. 664f.]

9 June 1964

Comprehensive agreement with the United Kingdom

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1964, p. 1032ff.]

3 Aug 1964

Comprehensive agreement with Sweden

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1964, p. 1402ff.]

17 Mar 1965

Act Governing the Liabilities of National Socialist Institutions and the Legal Status of Their Assets

[Federal Law Gazette I, 1965, p. 79ff.]

14 Sept 1965

Final Federal Compensation Act
Second Act Amending the Federal Compensation Act

[Federal Law Gazette I, 1965, p. 1315ff.]

15 Sept 1966

Revised guidelines for ongoing assistance payments from the Hardship Fund for those not of the Jewish faith who were persecuted on racial grounds (HNG Fund)

[Federal Gazette no 178 of 22 September 1966; based on cabinet decision of 15 July 1952]

30 Oct 1969

Comprehensive agreement with the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on the compensation of victims of pseudo-medical experiments

[not published]

22 Dec 1970

Act Amending and Supplementing Provisions on Compensation for National Socialist Injustice in the Social Insurance System

[Federal Law Gazette I, 1970, p. 1846ff.]

22 Jan 1971

Comprehensive agreement with Hungary on the compensation of victims of pseudo-medical experiments

[not published]

20 Feb 1972

Capital assistance agreement with Yugoslavia in the amount of DM 300m

[not published]

16 Nov 1972

Comprehensive agreement with Poland on the compensation of victims of pseudo-medical experiments

[not published]

10 Dec 1974

Capital assistance agreement with Yugoslavia in the amount of DM 700m

German chancellor Willy Brandt and Yugoslav president Josip Broz Tito agree to settle unresolved questions from the past through long-term economic cooperation and cooperation in other areas.

9 Oct 1975

Agreement between Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany on pension insurance and accident insurance

Poland receives DM 1.3bn for the purpose of augmenting social insurance payments under Polish domestic law, including payments to former concentration camp inmates and forced labourers.

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1976, p. 396ff.]

3 Oct 1980

Federal government guidelines on payments to non-Jewish victims of persecution to compensate for individual hardships within the context of restitution (Hardship Fund)

The JCC is responsible for implementing these guidelines.

[Federal Gazette no 192 of 14 October 1980]

3 Dec 1980

Federal Ministry of Finance decree granting a one-time payment of DM 5,000 to victims of forced sterilisation

[BMF Decree]

31 Mar 1981

Agreement with France in which the Federal Republic of Germany pledges to contribute DM 250m to a foundation for “Franco-German Understanding” (Fondation Entente Franco-Allemande)

The foundation’s purpose is to help resolve the social problems of French citizens who were forcefully recruited into the Wehrmacht (applies to military service only, not to forced labour).

26 Aug 1981

(updated in 1988)

Federal government guidelines on payments to non-Jewish victims of persecution to compensate for individual hardships within the context of restitution

Section 8 of the guidelines of 26 August 1981 makes it possible, in certain exceptional cases, to receive ongoing assistance in addition to one-time assistance. Payments are made from the Compensation Reserve Fund.

These possibilities are expanded in 1988 through the revision of section 8.

[Federal Gazette no 160 of 29 August 1981 and amendment of 7 March 1988, Federal Gazette no 55 of 19 March 1988]

31 Oct 1986

Federal government report on restitution and compensation for National Socialist injustice and on the situation of the Sinti, Roma and related groups

[Bundestag printed paper no 10/6287]

24 June 1987

Hearing in the Bundestag’s Internal Affairs Committee on further restitution measures for National Socialist injustice

30 Nov 1987

Exchange of notes with Luxembourg

The Federal Republic of Germany makes a contribution of DM 12m to the Luxembourg “Assistance to the Elderly” Foundation, whose main task is to support individuals (and their families) who were forcefully recruited into the Wehrmacht.

3 Dec 1987

Bundestag resolution calling on the federal government to take additional compensation and restitution measures

[Bundestag printed paper no 11/1392]

26 Jan 1988

The Bundestag Committee on Legal Affairs issues a report recommending that the Bundestag adopt a decision to declare void the Act to Prevent Offspring with Hereditary Diseases of 14 July 1933, together with the rulings issued under this act.

[Bundestag printed paper no 11/1714]

7 Mar 1988

Federal government guidelines on hardship compensation to victims of National Socialist injustice under the General Act Regulating Compensation for War-induced Losses (AKG¹ Hardship Guidelines)

Eligible claimants are all persons who suffered injury as a result of National Socialist injustice, are not classified as victims of persecution as per the Federal Compensation Act, and, as per section 5 of the General Act Regulating Compensation for War-induced Losses, suffered deprivation of liberty or injury to health or body. A further requirement is the existence of financial need, measured against the income thresholds set out in section 34 (3) of the third ordinance on implementation of the Federal Compensation Act.

Assistance consists of one-time payments of up to DM 5,000. In special cases, ongoing income-related assistance payments are possible.

This replaces the Finance Ministry decree of 1980 for victims of forced sterilisation under National Socialism.

[Federal Gazette of 19 March 1988]

1 AKG is the abbreviation for the German short title of the Act: Allgemeines Kriegsfolgensgesetz.

5 May 1988

Act to Prevent Offspring with Hereditary Diseases of 14 July 1933, and the rulings issued under this act, are declared void.

The Bundestag thus accepts the recommendation for a decision that was issued by its Committee on Legal Affairs on 26 January 1988 and adopts a resolution declaring that the forced sterilisations carried out on the basis of the Act to Prevent Offspring with Hereditary Diseases constitute National Socialist injustice.

[Stenographic record 11/77, p. 5185]

22 Jan 1990

Federal government report on private sector compensation initiatives that have been set up in connection with forced labour during the Second World War

[Bundestag printed paper no 11/6286]

25 May 1990

Act to Reverse Unjust National Socialist Judicial Rulings

[Federal Law Gazette I, 1990, p. 996]

27 June 1990

Revision of AKG Hardship Guidelines

[Federal Gazette of 30 June 1990, no 52, p. 3350]

Among other groups, victims of forced sterilisation receive, with no additional prerequisites, ongoing monthly compensation payments of DM 100 beginning 1 July 1990, along with additional ongoing payments.

Additional revisions include: elimination of the threshold indicating a “state of financial need” as a prerequisite for receiving one-time assistance, for all groups of victims; generalised assumption of injury to health without requiring information on level of disability; and an increase in the amount of ongoing payments. Under the revised rules adopted on 1 September 2004 and 13 September 2005 [Federal Gazette of 29 October 2005, p. 15698], ongoing compensation payments to victims of forced sterilisation amounted to €120 per month. See revised version of AKG Hardship Guidelines of 28 March 2011 [Federal Gazette of 30 June 1990, no 52, p. 3350; Federal Gazette of 1 April 2011, p. 1229; cabinet decision of 2 March 2011].

Bundestag Resolution of 26 January 2011 [printed paper no. 17/4543] calls on the federal government to grant ongoing monthly payments of €291 to victims of forced sterilisation and “euthanasia”, to apply retroactively as of 1 January 2011.

18 Sept 1990

Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic on the Implementation and Interpretation of the Treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic on the Establishment of German Unity (Unification Treaty, signed in Berlin on 31 August 1990)

Article 2 of this agreement states as follows:

“The contracting parties express their intention, in accordance with the resolution by the People’s Chamber of the German Democratic Republic of 14 April 1990, to ensure fair compensation for the material losses suffered by victims of the National Socialist regime. The Federal Government is prepared, in continuation of the policy of the Federal Republic of Germany, to conclude agreements with the Claims Conference that establish additional funding arrangements for the purpose of providing hardship payments to victims of persecution who to date have received little or no compensation under the legislative provisions of the Federal Republic of Germany.”

[Press and Information Office of the Federal Government, Bulletin No. 122 of 20 September 1990, p. 1177–1184]

23 Sept 1990

Act on the Treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic on the Establishment of German Unity (Unification Treaty Act) and on the Agreement of 18 September 1990

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1990, p. 885ff.]

23 Sept 1990

Act Regulating Open Property Matters

The act applies (as per section 1 (6)) to property claims by individuals and associations that were subject to persecution between 1933 and 1945 and lost their property as a result.

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1990, p. 1159]

30 Oct 1990

Bundestag decision declaring that all victims of National Socialist military courts are entitled to receive compensation within the scope of applicable law, and that therefore no new arrangements in addition to these provisions are required

[Bundestag printed paper no 11/8389]

13 Dec 1990

Extension of the AKG Hardship Guidelines to the territory of the former German Democratic Republic

11 Sept 1991

Ruling by the Federal Social Court pertaining to the scope of the Federal War Victims Relief Act

The ruling states that a rebuttable presumption of injustice will apply to death sentences issued under the National Socialist dictatorship.

[BSGE 69, p. 211ff.]

16 Oct 1991

Exchange of notes between the Federal Republic of Germany and Poland

Germany grants DM 500m to the Foundation for German-Polish Reconciliation.

The foundation grants one-time assistance payments to persons who suffered serious injury to health during the Second World War due to National Socialist injustice and who are in financial difficulty.

22 Apr 1992

Act on Compensation for Victims of National Socialism in the Regions Acceding to the Federal Republic (Compensation Pensions Act)

[Federal Law Gazette I, 1992, p. 906ff., amended by the Act of 29 April 1997;

Federal Law Gazette I, 1997, p. 968ff.]

13 May 1992

Guidelines on supplementary compensation for victims of National Socialism in the regions acceding to the Federal Republic (pursuant to Article 1 (8) of the Compensation Pensions Act)

[Federal Gazette no 95 of 21 May 1992, p. 4186]

13 May 1992

Agreement between the government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the government of the United States of America concerning the settlement of certain property claims

[Federal Law Gazette II, 1992, p. 1223ff.]

9 Oct 1992

“Article 2 Agreement” with the Jewish Claims Conference based on Article 2 of the Agreement on the Unification Treaty of 18 September 1990

[not published]

30 Mar 1993

Exchange of notes between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine

The Federal Republic of Germany declares its willingness to pay a total of DM 1bn to foundations for “understanding and reconciliation” that have been established in these countries.

29 Apr 1994

The German Bundestag passes a resolution that calls on the federal government to focus on meeting the needs of individual victims in ongoing compensation negotiations with the Baltic states.

[Bundestag printed paper no 12/7467]

29 June 1994

(updated in 1997)

The German Bundestag reaffirms its 1988 resolution declaring that forced sterilisations constituted National Socialist injustice.

[Stenographic record 12/237, p. 20894]

27 Sept 1994

Act on Compensation under the Act Regulating Open Property Matters and on Corrective Payments for Expropriations Made on the Basis of Occupation Law or on the Basis of Sovereign Acts by Occupying Powers (Compensation and Corrective Payments Act)

[Federal Law Gazette I, 1994, p. 2624]

27 Sept 1994

Victims of Nazi Persecution Compensation Act

Compensation for persecution-related property losses between 30 January 1933 and 8 May 1945 in the regions acceding to the Federal Republic of Germany

[Federal Law Gazette I, 1994, p. 2632]

15 Mar 1995

The Bundestag decides to forward petitions from the Bundesverband Psychiatrie-Erfahrener e. V. (federal association of “(ex-) users and survivors of psychiatry”) to the federal government, with the aim of creating a legal process for reversing rulings by the former Hereditary Disease Courts.

[Bundestag printed paper no 13/818]

- 22 June 1995** Conclusion of a governmental agreement with Estonia on financing in the amount of DM 2m for specific social projects that aim to meet the individual needs of victims of National Socialism in Estonia
- 19 Sept 1995** Compensation Agreement with the United States
[not published]
- 29 Nov 1995** Hearing in the Bundestag Committee on Legal Affairs regarding the rehabilitation and compensation of victims of National Socialist military courts
- 9 May 1996** Rehabilitation, compensation and pensions for deserters, conscientious objectors and inciters of disobedience under the National Socialist regime
Interim report by the Bundestag Committee on Legal Affairs regarding the status of deliberations on petitions related to military courts
[Bundestag printed paper no 13/4586]
- 3 June 1996** Comprehensive report by the federal government on compensation payments made by German businesses to date
[Bundestag printed paper no 13/4787]
- 26 July 1996** Conclusion of a governmental agreement with Lithuania on financing in the amount of DM 2m for specific social projects that aim to meet the individual needs of victims of National Socialism in Lithuania
- 18 Oct 1996** Bundesrat decision on rehabilitation, compensation and pensions for deserters, conscientious objectors and inciters of disobedience under National Socialist tyranny
[Bundestag printed paper no 153/96]
- 14 Nov 1996** Decision by the Bundestag's Budget Committee on a commitment appropriation in the amount of DM 80m for the compensation of victims of National Socialism in central and eastern European countries (referred to as the Hirsch Initiative)

21 Jan 1997

Joint declaration by Germany and the Czech Republic agreeing to establish, among other things, a Future Fund with the aim of financing projects that serve the countries' common interests (Germany's contribution: DM 140m)

[not published]

17 Dec 1997

Instructions for the final settlement of the rehabilitation and compensation of individuals convicted during the Second World War for inciting disobedience, conscientious objection or desertion

[Federal Gazette no 2 of 6 January 1998]

Jan 1998

Central and Eastern European Fund (CEEFF)
Agreement between the federal government and the Jewish Claims Conference concerning Germany's financial contribution to a fund to be established by the JCC for the compensation of Jewish victims of National Socialist persecution in central and eastern European countries

[not published]

27 Aug 1998

Conclusion of a governmental agreement with Latvia on financing in the amount of DM 2m for specific social projects that aim to meet the individual needs of victims of National Socialism in Latvia

27 Aug 1998

Coalition agreement between the Social Democratic Party and the Green Party

The governing parties agree to create a federal foundation called "Compensation for Forced Labour under National Socialism" together with German industry.

2 Aug 2000

(updated in 2008)

Act on the Creation of a Foundation for Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future

On 2 August 2000, the Bundestag adopts legislation to create the Foundation for Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future, with universal party support. The act provides for individual humanitarian payments to former forced and slave labourers as well as to other victims of National Socialism. In this context, the Bundestag renews its avowal of political and moral responsibility for victims of National Socialism. The foundation is conceived as an institution for completing the settlement of compensation payments to former concentration camp inmates, forced labourers and other victims of National Socialism who suffered personal injury or property loss. By the end of 2006, the foundation had finished making these payments in cooperation with its partner organisations. The fund for making these payments was endowed with DM 10bn. Half of this amount was contributed by German industry, and half by the federal government. Payments of more than €4.37bn were made to 1.66m eligible claimants in almost 100 countries. Upon completion of these payments, the foundation's endowment is now being used to support projects that promote inter-cultural understanding, the interests of survivors of the National Socialist regime, youth exchanges, social justice, remembrance of the dangers posed by totalitarian systems and tyranny, and international cooperation on humanitarian issues.

[Federal Law Gazette I, 2000, p. 1263ff, most recently amended by the Act of 1 September 2008, in force as of 9 September 2008 (Federal Law Gazette I, 2008, p. 1797)]

20 June 2002**Act Regarding the Conditions for Making Pensions Payable on the Basis of Employment in a Ghetto (Ghetto Pensions Act)**

This act falls within the remit of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

Ghetto Work Recognition Guidelines were later adopted on 1 October 2007 as a solution for claimants whose ghetto work was not recognised under the Ghetto Pensions Act.

[Federal Law Gazette I, 2002, p. 2074]

1 Sept 2004**Further revision of AKG Hardship Guidelines**

[Federal Gazette of 23 September 2004, p. 20921]

29 Oct 2005

Further revision of AKG Hardship Guidelines

[Federal Gazette of 29 October 2005, p. 15698]

13 Dec 2006

Condemnation of Act to Prevent Offspring with Hereditary Diseases of 14 July 1933

[Bundestag printed paper no 16/3811]

26 Mar 2007

Revision of Federal Act for the Settlement of the Monetary Restitution Liabilities of the German Reich and Legal Entities of Equivalent Status (Federal Restitution Act)

This Act governs restitution claims against the German Reich and other German institutions involved in confiscating property.

[Federal Law Gazette I, 1957, p. 734ff., most recently amended by Article 7 (3) of the Act of 26 March 2007, Federal Law Gazette I, p. 358ff.; in force as of 1 January 1964, FNA: 250-1]

24 May 2007

German Bundestag decision, during its 100th session, on Bundestag printed papers 16/3811, 16/1171, and 16/5450 (Committee on Legal Affairs report and recommendation for a decision) declaring the Act to Prevent Offspring with Hereditary Diseases void

1 Oct 2007

Federal government guidelines of 1 October 2007 on compensation to victims of persecution in recognition of work in a ghetto which did not constitute forced labour and which has not been recognised to date under social insurance law (financial framework of €100m) (Ghetto Work Recognition Guidelines)

The guidelines were adopted on a voluntary basis as a solution for claimants who were denied under the eligibility requirements of the Ghetto Pensions Act, who were victims of persecution in ghettos, and who had voluntarily taken up employment for wages.

The Federal Ministry of Finance and the Federal Office for Central Services and Unresolved Property Issues (BADV) are responsible for implementing the guidelines.

[Federal Gazette no 186 of 5 October 2007, p. 7693]

27 Jan 2011

Multi-party initiative: “Compensation payments for victims of forced sterilisation and ‘euthanasia’ under the National Socialist regime”

Grants victims of forced sterilisation an increase in their monthly payments. Unanimously passed by the Bundestag on Thursday, 27 January 2011, International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The proposal was submitted jointly by the parliamentary groups of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union, the Social Democratic Party, the Free Democratic Party and the Green Party. The initiative calls on the federal government to increase the ongoing payments to victims of forced sterilisation from €120 to €291 per month, starting on 1 January 2011, and to include persons affected by “euthanasia” measures as well.

[Bundestag printed paper 17/4543 of 26 January 2011; stenographic record 17/87, p. 9818ff.]

28 Mar 2011

New version of AKG Hardship Guidelines

Ongoing monthly payments for victims of forced sterilisation are raised from €120 to €291, with a retroactive start date of 1 January 2011. This rule also applies to persons affected directly by “euthanasia” measures. In addition, the “home allowance” for affected persons living in nursing or care homes is increased from €102.26 to €150 per month, with a retroactive start date of 1 January 2011.

[Federal Gazette no 52 of 1 April 2011, p. 1229; cabinet decision of 2 March 2011]

26 July 2011

New version of federal government guidelines on compensation to victims of persecution in recognition of work in a ghetto which did not constitute forced labour and which has not been recognised to date under social insurance law (Ghetto Work Recognition Guidelines). This supersedes the guidelines originally adopted on 5 October 2007.

[Federal Gazette no 110 of 26 July 2011, p. 2624]

20 Dec 2011

New version of federal government guidelines on compensation to victims of persecution in recognition of work in a ghetto which did not constitute forced labour (Ghetto Work Recognition Guidelines).

Section 8 and the deadline of 31 December 2011 are rescinded.

[Cabinet decision of 20 December 2011; Federal Gazette no 195 of 28 December 2011, p. 4608f.]

15 Nov 2012

Revised version of the Article 2 Agreement of 29 October 1992 between the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Federal Ministry of Finance, and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany (ceremonial signing at the Jewish Museum Berlin on 15 November 2012)

The Article 2 Agreement is based on Article 2 of the Agreement (signed on 18 September 1990) between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic on the implementation and interpretation of the Unification Treaty that was signed in Berlin on 31 August 1990.

15 Oct 2014

Guidelines amending the AKG Hardship Guidelines

[Federal Gazette, official section, 15 October 2014, B3]

16 Oct 2014

Public notice regarding sections 5 and 6 (5) of the AKG Hardship Guidelines

[Federal Gazette, official section, 21 October 2014, B4]

1 Jan 2015

Establishment of the Child Survivor Fund, a joint fund set up by the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Jewish Claims Conference that provides one-time payments to Jewish victims who were persecuted as children. The one-time payments serve as supplements to be used for therapeutic psychological and medical measures.

[Agreement of August 2014 between the Federal Ministry of Finance and the JCC]

21 May 2015**Payment to former Soviet prisoners of war in recognition of their treatment in German detention**

The Bundestag decides that former Soviet prisoners of war should receive a symbolic payment in recognition of their time in German detention. Under this programme, members of the Soviet armed forces who were detained as prisoners of war by Germany in the Second World War (during the period from 22 June 1941 to 8 May 1945) may apply to receive a one-time payment in the amount of €2,500. The deadline for submitting such applications was 30 September 2017. There was no statutory entitlement to the payment, and the payment was not transferable or inheritable. Applications could be submitted only by the affected individual or by a person authorised to act on his or her behalf. The precise rules are detailed in an administrative guideline that was published in the Federal Gazette on 14 October 2015 and entered into force on 30 September 2015.

(Guidelines for recognition of Soviet prisoners of war)

[Federal Gazette, official section, 14 October 2015, B1]

15 June 2015**Public notice regarding sections 5 and 6 (5) of the AKG Hardship Guidelines**

[Federal Gazette, official section, 1 July 2015, B2]

15 July 2017

Under section 2 (2) of the federal government guidelines on compensation to victims of persecution in recognition of work in a ghetto which did not constitute forced labour, individuals may apply for a one-time payment if their application to the German pension authority (Deutsche Rentenversicherung) was denied for the sole reason that they had not fulfilled the general qualifying period set out in section 50 (1) of the Sixth Book of the Social Code (one-time pension substitution supplement).

[Federal Gazette, official section, 14 July 2017, B1]

5 Dec 2018

Agreement between the Federation and the Länder regarding the preservation of graves of Sinti and Roma people who were persecuted under National Socialist tyranny

On 8 December 2016, the Federal Chancellor and the heads of the Länder governments adopt a decision agreeing to safeguard the gravesites of Sinti and Roma people who were persecuted under the National Socialist dictatorship. It is agreed that the Federation and the Länder will each pay half of the associated costs. The decision is enacted in the form of an agreement between the Federation and the Länder.

The agreement covers the gravesites of German Sinti and Roma who are protected under the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (adopted on 1 February 1995) and applies if the conditions specified in the agreement have been met. Natural persons (persons entitled to use a gravesite) and cemetery operators are eligible to submit applications. In the case of deferred gravesite use fees, cemetery operators may apply for the retroactive reimbursement of fees incurred from 12 October 2012 onwards.

The Federal Office for Central Services and Unresolved Property Issues (BADV) is responsible for the administrative implementation of the agreement. The agreement lies within the remit of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Division V B 4 at the Federal Ministry of Finance was involved in an advisory capacity.

1 Jan 2019

Agreement between the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Jewish Claims Conference to provide one-time symbolic payments to survivors of the Kindertransport evacuations that occurred in 1938 and 1939

20 June 2019

Supplementary Support Program for Holocaust Survivors in Israel
This programme provides additional financial assistance to certain recipients of compensation pensions paid by the German government to persons living in Israel. The aim is to align the payment levels provided to the various groups of victims in Israel.

[German government decision 4668 of 15 August 2019, announced in Israel by the Israeli state secretariat]

From 1 Jan 2020**Payments to persons designated as “Righteous among the nations”**

Support for a programme funded by the Jewish Claims Conference that provides financial assistance to non-Jewish individuals who have been designated by the Israeli remembrance and research centre Yad Vashem as “Righteous among the nations” for risking their own lives to save Jewish people’s lives during the Holocaust and who are in financial difficulty. Funding for these payments is provided by the Federal Foreign Office.

[Outcome of negotiations with the JCC on 29 May 2019]

Measures taken on an annual basis

Legislation under section 172 of the Federal Compensation Act (statutory instruments pertaining to the cost-sharing and financial settlement procedure between the federal government and the 11 Länder of former West Germany)

This process determines the definitive share of costs to be borne by the Federation and the Länder for each accounting year, taking into account actual compensation expenses paid and changes in population figures (this is done using a ministerial statutory instrument).

[Published in Federal Law Gazette I]

Occurring on a regular basis (when civil servants receive pay rises)

Statutory instruments amending the first, second and third statutory instruments to implement the Federal Compensation Act

When adjustments are made to the salaries and pensions of federal employees, compensation pensions are adjusted accordingly.

[Published in Federal Law Gazette I]

| English translation (in alphabetical order) | Original German title |
|--|---|
| Act for the Settlement of the Monetary Restitution Liabilities of the German Reich and Legal Entities of Equivalent Status (Federal Restitution Act) (1957) | Gesetz zur Regelung der rückerstattungsrechtlichen Geldverbindlichkeiten des Deutschen Reiches und gleichgestellter Rechtsträger (Bundesrückerstattungsgesetz – BrüG) |
| Act Governing Compensation for National Socialist Injustice for Public Sector Employees (1951) | Gesetz zur Regelung der Wiedergutmachung nationalsozialistischen Unrechts für Angehörige des öffentlichen Dienstes (BWGöD) |
| Act Governing Compensation for National Socialist Injustice for Public Sector Employees Living Abroad (1952) | Gesetz zur Regelung der Wiedergutmachung nationalsozialistischen Unrechts für die im Ausland lebenden Angehörigen des öffentlichen Dienstes (BWGöD-Ausland) |
| Act Governing the Liabilities of National Socialist Institutions and the Legal Status of Their Assets (1965) | Gesetz zur Regelung der Verbindlichkeiten nationalsozialistischer Einrichtungen und der Rechtsverhältnisse an deren Vermögen (NS-Abwicklungsgesetz) |
| Act on Compensation for Victims of National Socialism in the Regions Acceding to the Federal Republic (Compensation Pensions Act) (1992) | Gesetz über Entschädigungen für Opfer des Nationalsozialismus im Beitrittsgebiet (Entschädigungsrentengesetz – ERG) |
| Act on Compensation under the Act Regulating Open Property Matters and on Corrective Payments for Expropriations Made on the Basis of Occupation Law or on the Basis of Sovereign Acts by Occupying Powers (Compensation and Corrective Payments Act) (1994) | Gesetz über die Entschädigung nach dem Gesetz zur Regelung offener Vermögensfragen und über staatliche Ausgleichsleistungen für Enteignungen auf besatzungsrechtlicher oder besatzungshoheitlicher Grundlage (Entschädigungs- und Ausgleichsleistungsgesetz – EALG) |
| Act Regarding the Conditions for Making Pensions Payable on the Basis of Employment in a Ghetto (Ghetto Pensions Act) (2002) | Gesetz zur Zahlbarmachung von Renten aus Beschäftigungen in einem Ghetto (ZRBG) |

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| Act Regulating Open Property Matters (1990) | Gesetz zur Regelung offener Vermögensfragen (VermG) |
| Act to Reverse Unjust National Socialist Judicial Rulings (1990) | Gesetz zur Beseitigung nationalsozialistischer Unrechtsurteile (NSUnrUrtBesG) |
| Additional Federal Compensation Act for Victims of National Socialist Persecution (1953) | Bundesergänzungsgesetz zur Entschädigung für Opfer der nationalsozialistischen Verfolgung (BErG) |
| Federal Act on Compensation for National Socialist Injustice by Providing Eligible Persons Resident Abroad with Pensions and Care Services for War Victims (1953) | Gesetz zur Wiedergutmachung nationalsozialistischen Unrechts in der Kriegsopferversorgung für Berechtigte im Ausland (BWKAusl) |
| Federal Act on Compensation for National Socialist Injustice by Providing Pensions and Care Services for War Victims (1958) | Bundesgesetz zur Wiedergutmachung nationalsozialistischen Unrechts in der Kriegsopferversorgung (BWK) |
| Federal Compensation Act (1956) | Bundesgesetz zur Entschädigung für Opfer der nationalsozialistischen Verfolgung (Bundesentschädigungsgesetz – BEG) |
| Federal War Victims Relief Act (1950) | Gesetz über die Versorgung der Opfer des Krieges (Bundesversorgungsgesetz - BVG) |
| Final Federal Compensation Act (1965) | Bundesentschädigungs-Schlussgesetz (BEG-SG) |
| General Act Regulating Compensation for War-induced Losses (1957) | Gesetz zur allgemeinen Regelung durch den Krieg und den Zusammenbruch des Deutschen Reiches entstandener Schäden (Allgemeines Kriegsfolgensgesetz – AKG) |
| Victims of Nazi Persecution Compensation Act (1994) | NS-Verfolgtenentschädigungsgesetz (NS-VEntschG) |

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