

German Welfare Council

***Annual Report
2011***

**35 Craven Terrace
London
W2 3EL
020 7262 2463**

www.gwc-london.org.uk

German Welfare Council
-Deutscher Sozialausschuss-

Patron:

His Excellence the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany,
Mr Georg Boomgaarden

Committee:

Mr U. Bauer
Mrs C. Desbottes-Steel
Mr M. Dickert
Mr G. Imig
Ms V. Gronewold
Mrs K. Groombridge
Mr U. Maynard
Mrs U. Tottmann
Mr J. Rhys

Full-time employee:

Ms D. Heinecke (*Dipl.-Sozialpädagogin/qualified social worker*)

Part time seconded by German YMCA:

Mrs Alice Melsheimer (*Dipl.-Sozialpädagogin/qualified social worker*)

Independent examiner:

Leigh Saxton Green Chartered Accountants, Clearwater House
4-7 Manchester Street, London W1U 3AE

Solicitors:

Pritchard Englefield Solicitors
(Contact: Dr Sybille Steiner, Rechtsanwältin & Solicitor)

Bank:

HSBC, King's Cross Branch, London NW1 2ST
Sort code: 40 04 07 Account number: 31055909
Donations for clients: Sort code: 40 04 07 Account number: 7105 6239

Registered charity number: 288538

Dear members and friends of the German Welfare Council,

The German Welfare Council is now firmly established in its new form at 35 Craven Terrace. Last year was encouraging, because our income rose substantially and our expenses came down considerably. There still remains a gap between the money we receive and the money we spend. We hope to expand our income by increasing donations, grants and fundraising events held on our behalf. We are grateful to everyone, organisations or individuals, who help us to reach that goal.

A special thank you must be given to the Kaiser Wilhelm II Fund and the German YMCA, our biggest supporters by far. Also donations from the German churches in Britain and our members and clients make a difference. We currently have a few corporate members, and we would be delighted if there was a way to increase their numbers. I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters.

Many thanks also go to the German Embassy for their on-going co-operation and to the German Ambassador Georg Boomgaarden for being our Patron. A big thank you is due also to the members of the committee, the volunteers, Alice Melsheimer of the German YMCA and our own social worker Doreen Heinecke for all their good work over the year.

I hope you find our annual report interesting and you will support our work in the future.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'U. Bauer' with a stylized flourish at the end.

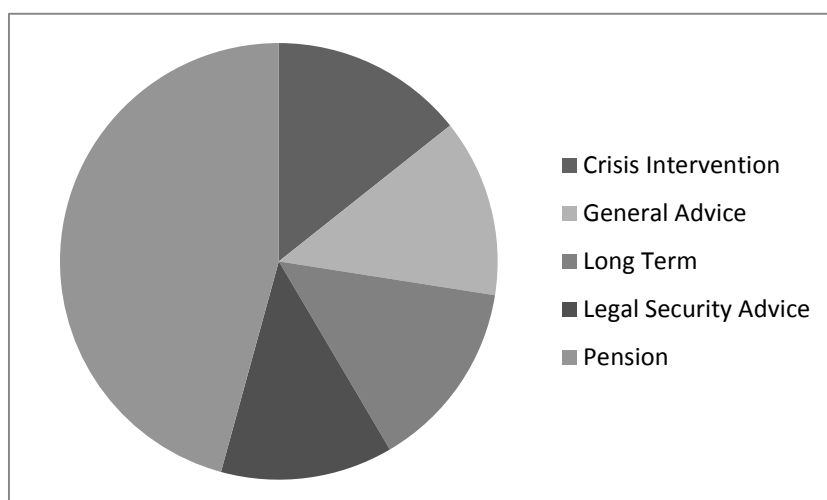
Udo Bauer
Chairman

Our work in 2011

In 2011 we had assisted and advised 1214 cases of which more than one in five were new cases (261). We also received hundreds of anonymous calls. Most clients had an enquiry or needed advice and assistance in pension matters. But also questions in social security provisions and general welfare matters have been arising as well as crisis intervention.

<u>Breakdown of assistance and advice given to individuals:</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Pension advice , i.e. assistance with completing application forms through to information on pensions	43 %
Long-term help and advice for elderly and infirm clients and those with disabilities	13 %
Crisis intervention (death, marital/family/financial conflicts, homelessness, etc.)	13 %
Advice on social security provisions	12 %
General welfare advice	12 %

Over the last years enquiries and work in the main areas of our service have been very similar. The following chart shows the division of the five main areas:



We also offered help and advice to mentally ill clients and advised in EU Regulations. There was still contact to some prisoners from our previous duty as German Advice Centre.

We still send, in cooperation with the German Embassy, newspapers to prisons which are donated by the European Bookshop. The prisoners we have been in contact with appreciated this service very much.

Pension advice at 43% is the greatest area of work for the German Welfare Council. We offer a comprehensive pension advisory service that is free of charge. For example, we help with completing application forms for pensions from the English and German pension authorities or clarification of pension status that are often very complex and difficult to understand. This service is used by many clients of both German and non-German origin. The level of advice we offer covers not only statutory state pensions and clarification of pension status, but also, compensatory pensions and certification of registration certificates and pension-related documents. Support and help when filling in widow's and orphan's pensions claims, are vital in times of grief and sadness, for our clients. They appreciate our dedication and time explaining or translating documents and claims process for both countries and possible additional benefits.

There is an increased number of enquiries of younger people working in the UK and/or other countries, requesting information on their future pension(s) and benefits entitlements. Over the last years we have experienced more and more of British pensioners or citizens, who want to move to Germany, consulting us in regards to social security issues such as: in depth information on the German health insurance, care provisions, and information in regards to living in Germany.

2011 we continued to support our **long-term** clients not only by telephone contacts and visits but also through our volunteer programme. Six volunteers trained and supervised by the German Welfare Council visited regularly, sick and lonely clients in the London area. Our volunteers spent their free time offering friendly open conversations and listening to life stories, thereby showing an appreciation for our clients' life's experiences. If you know anyone who would benefit from this programme or if you want to be a volunteer then please get in touch with us. We would also like to use this opportunity to thank our volunteers for their dedicated work.

Over the last years we experienced a higher number of people who reach a high age and become very lonely. Therefore we very much appreciate the cooperation with the German YMCA who allows their EVS (European volunteers service) volunteer Veronika to visit some of our clients. This is her report:

My name is Veronika and since September 2011 I am a European Volunteer at the German YMCA in London. Due to arrangements with the YMCA I was able to carry out many home visits to clients and members of the GWC. Below I want to give you an insight into my work:

- *I try seeing Mrs G regularly every three to four weeks. Whenever we arrange another meeting I bring groceries. I stay for a while and we share nice chats and laughs. Sometimes Mrs G uses the time to tell me about her troublesome past but also of some nice memories from her time in Canada, Germany and England. On occasions she speaks proudly about her support for children's and animal charities or reads mostly German poems to me. Although she gets confused easily and tends to forget things, nevertheless she has a remarkable mind and a lot of interesting stories to tell.*
- *Mrs and Miss V live together in one house and support each other. As both of them are troubled with many health problems, they need occasional support such as shopping, cutting fruits and vegetables or delivering post. They enjoy my company and always make sure that there is time to chat.*
- *Mrs S is a friend of Mrs V and her daughter who live quite close to each other so I usually visit them on the same day. Mrs S has lost her husband a while ago and still has to come to terms with it. She is very friendly and loves talking about her home in Austria.*
- *Mrs C lives in Hackney and is bed-bound. She enjoys my company very much and talks a lot during my visit, as she has no members of family or friends who she is in contact with. Mrs C is a very passionate character and dreams of going back to Germany.*
- *Mrs K lives at the end of the DLR line. She is friendly with her neighbours but still lacks social contacts; therefore my visits are very important to her. She is such an interesting person and very caring and lovely. She recently had a few operations and also a small stroke which affects her hands.*
- *Mr K from West London is a hugely interesting man. He survived Nazi Germany, although he has Jewish background. He was able to flee the country before the holocaust started. He has so many stories to tell from that time and finds it comforting to talk about it. Especially as his wife is bed-bound and he is the main carer for her, he needs someone to listen and communicate, too. Both his children live to the US.*

In 2012 we are looking forward to gain a second volunteer through the German YMCA dedicating even more time to our clients.

We continued to apply for financial support from charitable funds for those who were in need of financial aid; especially as in 2011 considerable cuts had been made by the British government which affected some of our clients. In an increased number of cases benefit claims had been delayed or declined due to establish clients' habitual residency. In these waiting periods grants had a huge impact on our clients ability to maintain survival within the UK, and keep their morals high. Social funds and crises loans had been denied in many cases as a result of the cuts and again grants were beneficial in these situations.

Conditions for grants are German nationality or being of German origin and the declaration of all finances. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Kaiser Wilhelm II. Fund, the German Society of Benevolence, the Society of Friends of Foreigners in Distress and the Pussinelli Convalescence and Holiday Trust for financially supporting our clients and to ease their hardship in these economical tough times.

Social security advice cases often included advice on EU regulations. In most cases, clients wanted information relating to moving between the UK and Germany. Information on social benefits, such as health insurance, unemployment insurance and state maternity benefits and parental leave were the most frequently occurring topics during consultation appointments.

We were also contacted by clients who had lived in the UK for a long period of time, but whose living situation had significantly changed, due to divorce, job loss, loneliness or psychiatric illness (e.g. depression). In such situations clients often just wanted to speak to someone who could consider their current situation and help them to approach it from a new perspective.

For **crisis intervention**, most cases included general welfare advice, social security advice or advice on EU regulations. It was often German single-mothers, homeless or mentally ill people who were not entitled to social provision seeking advice. We could intervene by contacting appropriate authorities, by advising or applying for financial assistance.

This is a report from a client we supported over the last years:

I am writing with a very big thank you to the German Welfare Council for the great job that they are doing here in the UK. And for their consistent help for the people in need. They always knew how to give me the right advise and also on how to assist me in solving my problems within a short period. To be honest with you before I ever came across this charity I was pretty hopeless with my children literally at the edge of circumstances and when I met the team they were so warm hearted and open towards me and listened. They listened to what I had to say and helped me to plan my way out. I am just so relieved now and so glad that such an organisation exists and I thank them ever so much a pray that they will continue to do what they do and help other people like me.

In 2011 the German Welfare Council as usual had a **Christmas party**. We were happy to welcome our ambassador Mr. Boomgaarden who reflected on the year and Christmas time, and wished our loyal members, life-long members, trustees, clients, staff from the Embassy and other guests a Merry Christmas and best for the New Year. Children from St. James and St. Michael's School performed some rehearsed Christmas carols and even presented Silent Night in German which was very warmly welcomed by the audience. After tea, coffee and Stollen time Christmas carols were sung whilst John Peacham accompanied us with the piano.

The ladies at the **Friday Seniors' Club** have continued meeting once a fortnight at the Lancaster Hall Hotel for coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits. They meet for a chat in German and to share experiences in Germany and the UK. We also celebrate Easter, 'Oktoberfest', Christmas and birthdays. They would be very pleased to welcome new members to the club. If you are interested in joining our club, please contact the staff at the German Welfare Council.

Financial report

Thanks to the financial support from the Kaiser Wilhelm II. Fund and donations from members, church members and clients, the continued existence of the German Welfare Council was assured in 2011.

We spent £47.110 in 2011 and had resources from donations, member fees and the Kaiser Wilhelm Trust of £38.681. This shows that our income does not cover our expenditure. We very much hope to increase our income through donations, corporate donations or fundraising events as such as the Skat tournament arranged

and organised by the German YMCA. If you want to support us or you have any ideas and resources for fundraising please do not hesitate to contact us.

Details of the 2011 accounts can be found in the appended financial statements, drawn up by Leigh Saxton Green chartered accountants.

Note of thanks to:

- The German Ambassador, Mr Georg Boomgaarden, for his interest in our work and his desire to continually support us
Our corporate members and sponsors from industry and commerce this year: Bosch Ltd.; Pritchard Englefield
In the last years the number of our corporate members have declined. We would be most grateful if you could suggest our charity to a business.
- Colleagues at the German Embassy, especially Schneider, Mrs and Mr Hille, Mr Harny, Mrs Hain, Ms Onochie, Mrs Mueller and the colleagues of the passport and visa department for their continued support and willingness to work with us..
- Blick Rotheberg and BRAL for volunteering to handle our payroll accounting free of charge
- The Kaiser Wilhelm Fund, the German Society of Benevolence, the Society of Friends of Foreigners in Distress, The Pusinelli Convalescent and Holiday Trust, the German YMCA for financial support for our work and our clients
- All individual members, as well as our clients, for their loyalty and donations
- Our Committee, who have continued to show their significant commitment again this year and to support us
- The European Bookshop for making German newspaper and magazines available free of charge
- The volunteers in the visitor circle, who on our behalf spend a considerable amount of time looking after German Prisoners, the elderly and those in need and thereby make our work easier
- The German parishes in England and the UK for their support
- Dr S. Steiner at Pritchard Englefield Solicitors' Practice and the AIRE Centre for their free legal advice
- All those organisations and individuals, not specially mentioned, with whom we have worked during the reporting year and who have given both our clients and us their support

GERMAN WELFARE COUNCIL
(Deutscher Sozialausschuss/Deutsche Sozialberatungsstelle)

Financial Statements
for the year ended
31 December 2011

GERMAN WELFARE COUNCIL
(Deutscher Sozialausschuss/Deutsche Sozialberatungsstelle)

Statement of accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011

Contents

Page

1	Trustees and officers
2-3	Trustees' report
4	Accountant's Report
5	German Welfare Council - Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2011
6	German Welfare Council - Balance sheet as at 31 December 2011
7	Accounting policies
8	Notes to the accounts

**GERMAN WELFARE COUNCIL
(Deutscher Sozialausschuss/Deutsche Sozialberatungsstelle)**

Trustees and Officers

TRUSTEES

Mrs C Desbottes-Steel
Mr U Bauer
Mr U Maynard
Mrs K Groombridge

Mrs G Tottmann
Mr G Imig (Resigned 13 December 2011)
Miss V Gronewold
Mr M Dickert
Mr J Rhys (Appointed 13 December 2011)

CHAIRMAN

Mr U Bauer

VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr U Maynard

HONORARY TREASURER

Mr J Rhys

HONORARY SECRETARY

Mrs K Groombridge

OFFICE MANAGER

Ms Doreen Heinecke

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER

288538 (England and Wales)

PRINCIPAL OFFICE

35 Craven Terrace
London W2 3EL

BANKERS

HSBC Bank plc
31 Euston Road
London NW1 2ST

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Leigh Saxton Green
Chartered Accountants
Clearwater House
4-7 Manchester Street
London W1U 3AE

**GERMAN WELFARE COUNCIL
(Deutscher Sozialausschuss/Deutsche Sozialberatungsstelle)**

Trustees' Report

The Trustees submit their report for the year ended 31 December 2011.

OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The objectives of the charity are:

- (A) To relieve poverty amongst persons predominantly of German origin who are in necessitous circumstances by the provisions of financial assistance to such persons and by such other means as shall further the said object.
- (B) To relieve the aged, particularly through the provision of recreational facilities for elderly persons predominantly of German origin who have need thereof by reason of their age or economic circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

CONSTITUTION

The Trust was created by deed on 23 January 1984 and is an unincorporated charity (Registered Charity No. 288538).

The address of its principal office is:

35 Craven Terrace
London W2 3EL

TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELEVANT PERSONS

The names of the Trustees and other relevant persons who have held office during the year are listed on page 1. Trustees are appointed by the members at the Annual General Meeting or co-opted by the Executive Committee for approval by the members at the Annual General Meeting. Trustees have a term of office of three years and re-election is permissible.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The result for the year is shown on page 5 and the position at the end of the year is shown on page 6.

GERMAN WELFARE COUNCIL
(Deutscher Sozialausschuss/Deutsche Sozialberatungsstelle)

Trustees' Report (continued)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Income for the year increased from £28,662 in 2010 to £38,681 in 2011.

Expenditure for the year decreased from £61,779 in 2010 to £47,110 in 2011.

On behalf of the Trustees

MR U BAUER
Chairman

**Accountants report to the trustees of GERMAN WELFARE COUNCIL
(Deutscher Sozialausschuss/Deutsche Sozialberatungsstelle)**

In accordance with instructions given to us, we have prepared, without carrying out an audit, the financial statements set out on pages 5 to 9, from the accounting records and from information and explanations supplied to us, and report that they are in accordance therewith.

Leigh Saxton Green
Chartered Accountants
Clearwater House
4-7 Manchester Street
London
W1U 3AE

Date signed:

GERMAN WELFARE COUNCIL
(Deutscher Sozialausschuss/Deutsche Sozialberatungsstelle)

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2011

	<u>2011</u>		<u>2010</u>	
	£	£	£	£
RESOURCES ARISING				
Donations		13,456		3,071
Subscriptions received		685		1,520
Bank interest received		140		71
KWII contribution towards salary costs		24,000		24,000
Gift aid		400		-
		-----		-----
Total incoming resources		38,681		28,662
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Staff salaries and expenses – charitable	38,268		43,794	
Additional staffing expenses	1,417		1,370	
Operating costs	-		-	
Rent, rates, service charges and insurance	306		965	
Telephone, printing, postage and stationery – administrative	1,874		2,457	
Telephone, printing, postage and stationery – Charitable	-		92	
Sundry expenses	-		922	
Computer running	563		75	
Travelling expenses – charitable	1,147		1,494	
Accounting charges	2,000		3,500	
Sundry expenses	86		679	
Cultural activities – charitable	642		-	
Bank charges	149		311	
Depreciation:				
Office equipment and fittings	-		603	
Computer equipment	658		2,145	
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-		3,372	
		-----		-----
Total resources expended		47,110		61,779
		-----		-----
Excess of expenditure over income		(8,429)		(33,117)
		=====		=====

The notes on pages 7 to 9 form part of these accounts

GERMAN WELFARE COUNCIL
(Deutscher Sozialausschuss/Deutsche Sozialberatungsstelle)

Balance sheet at 31 December 2011

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2011</u>		<u>2010</u>	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	1		373		621
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments		1,197		1,193	
Cash in hand	2	197		147	
Cash with bankers	3	118,514		127,208	
		-----		-----	
		119,908		128,548	
		-----		-----	
Current liabilities					
Welfare funds not yet expended	4	48,612		48,425	
Sundry creditors & accrued					
Income		13,454		14,100	
		-----		-----	
		62,066		62,525	
		-----		-----	
Net current assets			57,842		66,023
			-----		-----
			58,215		66,644
			=====		=====
Represented by:					
Funds					
Balance at 1 January 2011			66,644		99,761
Excess of expenditure over income			(8,429)		(33,117)
			-----		-----
Balance at 31 December 2011			58,215		66,644
			=====		=====

MR U BAUER
Chairman

The notes on pages 7 to 9 form part of these accounts

GERMAN WELFARE COUNCIL
(Deutscher Sozialausschuss/Deutsche Sozialberatungsstelle)

Accounting policies for the year ended 31 December 2011

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with appropriate accounting standards.

INCOME

Income is derived from subscriptions, donations and investment income.

Investment income is accounted for on the payment date for grants and donations, and for deposit and building society interest on the date it is credited by the bankers and building society.

DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, less estimated residual values, of all fixed assets, over their expected lives. It is calculated at the following rates:-

Computer equipment	-	33 1/3% per annum on straight line basis
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EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is accounted for under the accruals concept.

Grants are accrued for at the time the trustees authorise them.

Since 1 January 2002, certain relevant expenditure has been apportioned between charitable and administrative expenses. This has been applied in relation to staff salaries and expenses; and telephone, printing, postage and stationery. In addition, travelling expenses and cultural activities are now accounted for as charitable expenditure.

PENSION

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are charged to the statement of financial activities in the period they are payable.

GERMAN WELFARE COUNCIL
(Deutscher Sozialausschuss/Deutsche Sozialberatungsstelle)

Notes forming part of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011

1 FIXED ASSETS

	<u>Computer equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
<i>Cost</i>	£	£
At 1 January 2011	6,434	6,434
Additions	410	410
Disposals	-	-
	-----	-----
At 31 December 2011	6,844	6,844
	=====	=====
<i>Depreciation</i>		
At 1 January 2011	5,813	5,813
Charge for year	658	658
Depreciation on disposals	-	-
	-----	-----
At 31 December 2011	6,471	6,471
	=====	=====
<i>Net Book Value</i>		
At 31 December 2011	373	373
	=====	=====
At 31 December 2010	621	621
	=====	=====

2 CASH IN HAND

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	£	£
Petty cash 'GWC' account	-	466
Petty cash 'A' account	-	-
Petty cash 'B' account	197	(319)
	-----	-----
	197	147
	=====	=====

GERMAN WELFARE COUNCIL
(Deutscher Sozialausschuss/Deutsche Sozialberatungsstelle)

Notes forming part of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011

3 CASH WITH BANKERS

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
	£	£
High interest bonds	-	40,000
HSBC plc 'A' account	68,328	37,548
HSBC plc 'B' account	48,415	47,890
HSBC plc 'D' account	1,771	1,770
	-----	-----
	118,514	127,208
	=====	=====

4 GENERAL WELFARE ACCOUNT

	£	£
Money held on behalf of clients at 1 January 2011	48,425	21,158
Monies received on behalf of clients during year	32,385	52,105
Monies expended on behalf of/to clients during year	(31,115)	(25,244)
Bank interest received	-	-
Bank charges	(229)	(81)
Excess of petty cash receipts over expenses	-	-
Other cash movements brought forward from previous year(854)	-	(902)
	-----	-----
Money held on behalf of clients at 31 December 2011	48,612	48,425
	=====	=====