



## ANNUAL REPORT 2017

In 2017 we advised and supported 1,100 people; this is a slight decrease to 2016. We offered 54 home visits and 175 consultations. Many people appreciate the opportunity of face to face meetings and a delegated time slot where they can ask questions and discuss their situation.

In the reporting year we covered a wide range of matters within the German and British Social Security systems. The majority of clients were seeking pension advice; in particular half of these were in connection with the German-UK Double Taxation agreement that affects more and more pensioners.

We experienced more people contacting us seeking advice in crisis situations, this is partly due to stricter use of immigration laws and loss of legal aid for people who get separated, divorced or where regulations for children and maintenance cannot be agreed upon.

We have noticed that after the Brexit vote more people are seeking to move back to Germany and British people are moving to Germany before the new regulation will come into force. We cannot fully advise as we are awaiting new laws on how British people can settle in Germany after Brexit, and on the position of German people who have no legal status, this could be due to being either a house wife or having mental health issues.

### WE OFFER:

- Pension Advice - help and advice with German and UK pension applications
- EU Advice – moving between Germany and UK, health insurance and security systems
- General Social Advice – benefits and health insurance in Germany and the UK
- Support for vulnerable people
- Life Certificates

### PATRON

His Excellency the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Dr Peter Ammon

### COMMITTEE

Mr U. Bauer – Chairman  
Mrs K. Groombridge  
Mr U. Maynard  
Mrs U. Tottmann  
Mr J. Rhys  
Ms V. Gronewold  
Ms B. von Alten

### EMPLOYEES

Mrs D. Scording (full-time qualified Social Worker)  
Mrs A. Palmer (part-time qualified Social Worker) until September

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Leigh Saxton Green Chartered Accountants  
6th Floor, Mutual House  
70 Conduit St, London W1S 2GF

### BANK:

HSBC sort code: 40 04 07  
Account number: 31055909

Registered Charity Number 288538

Our work covers a wide range of topics and sometimes just having the time on the phone to talk to clients through their situation can make a big difference.



For people in financially hard circumstances we can apply for heating grants that are paid twice or four times a year. Once a year we ask for proof of income to re-asses their sitiation and re-apply for funding for the following year.

Doris,  
Ich wollte mich für Ihren  
Telefonanruf Freitag der  
18 November bedanken,  
in dem Sie versuchten mir  
Hilf zu machen.  
Sie glauben nicht wie gut  
es einem tut nur ein paar  
sympatische Worte zu hören,  
werde man Tag für Tag nur  
Hab und Negatives hört. Danke

Dear Ms Scolding  
Thank you very  
much for the grant.  
That helps me  
a lot, because I  
depend on my daughter  
for financial support.  
Please find enclosed  
a bank statement  
regarding my pension.  
Kind Regards

## OUR GRATITUDE GOES TO

The German Ambassador

Dr Peter Ammon and his  
staff

Charities administered by  
the Kaiser Wilhelm II Fund

The German YMCA

Our corporate members and  
members

Blick Rothenberg

The old and young  
volunteers

The German parishes in  
England

All organisations and  
individuals, not specially  
mentioned

## IMPORTANT WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT EXTRACTS (APRIL 2018)

- People who, by 31 December 2020, have been continuously and lawfully living in the UK for 5 years will be able to apply to stay indefinitely by getting 'settled status'. That means they will be free to live in the UK, have access to public funds and services and go on to apply for British citizenship.
- People who arrive by 31 December 2020, but won't have been living in the UK lawfully for 5 years when the UK leaves the EU, will be able to apply to stay until they have reached the 5-year threshold. They can then also apply for settled status.

Getting settled status will prove (for example, to employers or public service providers) that they have permission to continue living and working in the UK in future. As an EU citizen applying you have to provide an identity document, a recent photograph to confirm identity and nationality and to declare any criminal convictions. The Home Office expects that online applications will go live at the end of 2018; however the scheme will remain open for applications until 30 June 2021. During this period your rights in the UK will be protected.

There will be a process for people to exchange the old indefinite leave to remain document for a settled status document free of charge. For this you have to provide an identity document and a recent photograph to confirm your identity, confirm you still live in the UK and declare any criminal convictions

EU citizens with settled status will have the same access as they currently do to healthcare, pensions and other benefits in the UK. For more information please keep in touch with the GWC, the German Embassy or on

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/status-of-eu-nationals-in-the-uk-what-you-need-to-know>