



# GERMAN WELFARE COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

In 2016 we advised and supported 1,250 people; this is a slight increase to 2015. About 20% were new clients referred to us by the German Embassy, client's recommendations and other charities.

We offered 57 home visits and 180 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.

Throughout the second half of 2016 we received a large number of phone calls from clients worried about the effect of Brexit on German nationals residing in the UK as well as UK nationals in Germany. The lack of information about the consequences of Brexit for EU nationals in the UK was criticised and people's

worries intensified with the months passing without news and guidance from the Government. We noticed that clients' enquiries regarding moving from the UK to Germany or vice versa were largely driven by Brexit, rather than purely personal issues and this either accelerated the decision to relocate or halted it. German nationals living in the UK on a low income and/or benefits expressed existential worries about their future and unfortunately without more official information available, we were unable to alleviate their concerns. We advised to stay in touch and we will update clients as news is released.

### *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 Excellence the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Dr Peter Ammon

### **Committee:**

Ms V. Gronewold – Chairwoman  
Mrs K. Groombridge  
Mr U. Maynard  
Mrs U. Tottmann  
Mr J. Rhys  
Mr C. Dieckmann

### **Employees:**

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

### **Independent examiner:**

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

### **Bank:**

HSBC sort code: 40 04 07  
Account number: 31055909

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER  
288538**

## *Letter from client returning to Germany*

Dear Mrs Scording, as promised I am writing to let you know how I am doing. First I had a very long journey by coach from Scotland to Moenchengladbach. I did not know what was awaiting me there. After my arrival I contacted the Diakonie as you advised and staff there were marvelous. Of course I got an emergency bed where people live that I usually avoid. The accommodation is open from 7pm to 8am and I have lots of time to fill.

I was depressed and doubted my decision and felt down, but then I thought I should just do it. Starting from today, I have health insurance, receive benefits and tomorrow I can move into a small apartment (it is usually for former prisoners) but a permanent

residence will help me to find a job.

The jobcentre has arranged a job interview for me with a big security firm and I will start training with them; my Scottish qualifications were not accepted. Yes, I was lucky to meet the right people. Without your help I would not have managed to get so far and ended up on the streets. Thank you so much.

## *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 European Bookshop

The old and young volunteers

The German parishes in  
England

All organisations and  
individuals, not specially  
mentioned

## *Brexit and Status of EU Nationals*

The UK will remain a full member of the EU until they officially exit. All the rights and obligations of the EU membership remain in place until then. The British government has confirmed that under EU law people do not need a document to confirm their residence status in the UK.

Last year we had more and more cases where a permanent residence document (which is the first step to apply for the British Nationality) was declined, either because clients applied under wrong regulations or because a Comprehensive Sickness Insurance (CSI) for student or self-sufficient times was missing.

People who like to apply for a permanent residence document need to prove five continuous years in one or all of the following categories:

- worker and self-employed- ideally earn at least £155 a week, work has to be genuine and effective
- students and self-sufficient people – need to have Comprehensive Sickness Insurance (family insurance or private health insurance are accepted)
- family member of a EEA worker
- retained right of residence

For more information please see the website of the German Embassy or follow <https://www.gov.uk/eea-registration-certificate/overview> or feel free to contact us.