



Revision of the guidelines on payments in recognition of ghetto work

Federal Government guidelines concerning the payment of amounts to victims of persecution in recognition of work in a ghetto which did not constitute forced labour (Ghetto Work Recognition Guidelines) of 12. July 2017

The Federal Government guidelines concerning the payment of amounts to victims of persecution in recognition of work in a ghetto which did not constitute forced labour (Ghetto Work Recognition Guidelines) have been revised. Among other changes, a new subsection has been added to section 2 of the guidelines.

Under the new subsection, victims of persecution who fulfil the conditions of the first sentence of section 1(1) of the Act Regarding the Conditions for Making Pensions Payable on the basis of Employment in a Ghetto (*Gesetz zur Zahlbarmachung von Renten aus Beschäftigungen in einem Ghetto*), and who are not entitled to a pension from the statutory pension insurance system solely because the general qualifying period pursuant to section 50(1) of the Sixth Book of the Social Security Code (*Sechstes Buch Sozialgesetzbuch*) is not fulfilled, may receive a **pension substitution supplement**.

The pension substitution supplement is a **one-time payment**. The **amount** of the one-time pension substitution supplement is **€1,500**.

If the relevant conditions are met, the pension substitution supplement can be disbursed in addition to the payment in recognition of work in a ghetto.

The following individuals are entitled to the payment in recognition of work in a ghetto:

- People who qualify as victims of persecution as defined in section 1 of the Federal Indemnification Act (*Bundesentschädigungsgesetz*),
- who were forced to live in a ghetto that was under National Socialist influence, and
- who were employed without coercion during this time.

An additional condition is that the individuals have not received any payment in relation to this period from the “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” foundation.

The payment of €2,000 in recognition of work in a ghetto is also a one-time payment.

There is no legal entitlement to the one-time payments. The payments are only granted upon application. A disbursement to third parties is not permitted. An exception to this rule applies

to the surviving spouse and children if an eligible claimant dies after submitting the application.

The second sentence of section 5 of the Ghetto Work Recognition Guidelines was amended due to organisational restructuring at the BADV. Applications should be sent to the Federal Office for Central Services and Unresolved Property Issues at the following address:
Bundesamt für zentrale Dienste und offene Vermögensfragen, 11055 Berlin.

The revised guidelines entered into force on 15. July 2017.



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Who is entitled to payment?

To qualify for the **payment in recognition of ghetto work**, you must fulfil all the following conditions:

- You must be a victim of National Socialist persecution as defined in the Federal Indemnification Act (*Bundesentschädigungsgesetz*).
- You must have been forced to live in a ghetto which was under National Socialist influence.
- You must have been employed **without coercion** during this time.

To qualify for the payment of the one-time **pension substitution supplement**, you must fulfil all the following conditions:

- You must be a victim of National Socialist persecution as defined in the Federal Indemnification Act (*Bundesentschädigungsgesetz*).
- You must have been forced to live in a ghetto which was under National Socialist influence.
- You must have been employed **without coercion** during this time.
- You are not entitled to a pension from the statutory pension insurance system **solely because** the general qualifying period pursuant to section 50(1) of the Sixth Book of the Social Security Code (*Sechstes Buch Sozialgesetzbuch*) is not fulfilled.

Who does not qualify for payment?

You are not entitled to a payment in recognition of ghetto work if

- your work in the ghetto has already been compensated as forced labour by the “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” foundation.

You are not entitled to a one-time pension substitution supplement if

- you receive a pension from the statutory pension insurance system and
- your work in the ghetto has already been compensated as forced labour by the “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” foundation.

How and where to submit your application

You must submit a written application in order to receive the payment in recognition of ghetto work **of €2,000** and/or the one-time pension substitution supplement of **€1,500**.

Special forms are available for the applications, which can be downloaded, completed and printed out (see links below).

You may also request paper versions of the forms if you prefer.

in German:

- (1) <http://www.badv.bund.de/antrag/Antragsformular.pdf>
- (2) http://www.badv.bund.de/antrag/Antragsformular_REZ.pdf

in English:

- (1) http://www.badv.bund.de/antrag/Antragsformular_en.pdf
- (2) http://www.badv.bund.de/antrag/Antragsformular_REZ_en.pdf

in Russian:

- (1) http://www.badv.bund.de/antrag/Antragsformular_ru.pdf
- (2) http://www.badv.bund.de/antrag/Antragsformular_REZ_ru.pdf

The applications can be submitted in **English, German** or **Russian**. They should be sent to the following address:

**Bundesamt für zentrale Dienste
und offene Vermögensfragen (BADV)
11055 Berlin**

An information hotline is available in Germany which can be contacted at the following number:

+49(0) 30 187030 1324

Notes on completing the application:

1. Only eligible individuals or their authorised agent may submit an application. If an agent is used, a written authorisation must also be submitted. The payment will be made only to the eligible person. If the eligible person has died after submitting an application, the payment will be made to a surviving dependent (spouse or children), thereby discharging any obligations towards any other surviving relatives.
2. The application must include proof that the applicant is still alive, certified by an official authority, e.g. public authorities or consulates of the Federal Republic of Germany ("Confirmation by an official authority").
3. If the applicant's status as a victim of persecution has already been recognised by an official body, proof of this status must be provided by stating the reference number issued by that body and submitting the relevant documentation.
4. When supplying information about ghetto work, please indicate all ghettos in which you lived and details of all employment undertaken.
5. A declaration must be submitted stating that all the information provided is correct, otherwise the application will be rejected. If it turns out that false information has been supplied, you will be required to repay any payments that have already been disbursed.
6. In order to facilitate the transfer of any payment, please provide your bank account details, including the complete address of your bank and international payment codes such as the SWIFT code and IBAN number.
7. When applying for the pension substitution supplement, the notice from the pension authority must be enclosed.