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News & Resources for Holocaust Survivors October 2010



Claims Conference Programs & Updates

Resources for Survivors

German Government Programs:
Social Security
Federal Indemnification (BEG)

Western Europe: Post-War Payments & Programs

Property & Assets Compensation & Restitution

The information presented in this Notice is intended for informational purposes only. The information is not intended as legal advice and is not legally binding. It is a summary of certain issues and does not represent a definitive or complete statement. The information may not address special needs, interests and circumstances. Individual situations differ and applicants are urged to seek individual advice. Individuals seeking specific information are urged to contact the compensation program directly or to consult their social service agency or help center representative. To the best of our knowledge, the information provided in this notice is correct as of the date of this document. However, this information may change subsequent to the said date – October 12, 2010

CLAIMS CONFERENCE PROGRAMS & UPDATES

Article 2 Fund

The Article 2 Fund makes monthly payments of €291 to eligible Holocaust survivors under agreements with the government of Germany. The Article 2 Fund has paid over \$2 billion to more than 80,000 Holocaust survivors since it was established in 1992 through negotiations with the German government. There is no deadline to apply. The full eligibility guidelines and application forms are available on the Claims Conference's website at <http://www.claimscon.org/index.asp?url=article2/overview>.

Central and Eastern European Fund (CEEF)

The CEEF makes monthly payments of €240 to eligible survivors residing in Central and Eastern Europe. The program parallels the Article 2 Fund and the Claims Conference continues to negotiate with German authorities for CEEF payments to equal those from the Article 2 Fund. There is no deadline to apply. The full eligibility guidelines are available on the Claims Conference's website at <http://www.claimscon.org/index.asp?url=ceef/overview>.

This year the German government agreed to review the Article 2 applications from Holocaust survivors in special need who do not receive an ongoing compensation pension from the governments of Germany or Israel for time spent in a concentration camp. Under the existing guidelines, concentration camp survivors are eligible for payment only if they were imprisoned for at least six months, regardless of their current need. The Claims Conference also obtained Article 2 Fund payments for approximately 1,300 new claimants who were citizens of certain Western European countries and have already received up to a maximum of 35,000 DM (€17,895) from their countries of origin as a result of their countries' postwar agreements with Germany.

Hardship Fund

Since 1980, the program provides a one-time payment of €2,556 to certain Jewish victims of Nazism previously excluded by West German compensation laws enacted from 1953 through 1965 (BEG). Every year, the Claims Conference re-negotiates eligibility criteria with German authorities. The Hardship Fund compensates certain forms of persecution not covered under the Article 2 Fund. There is no deadline to apply. The full eligibility guidelines and application forms are available on the Claims Conference's website at <http://www.claimscon.org/index.asp?url=hardship/overview>.

Fetus Cases

It has been clarified that the Article 2 Fund and Hardship Fund can process applications from applicants who were a fetus at the time of their mother's persecution. These Holocaust survivors can claim for the nine months of the mother's pregnancy, adding these months to the persecution they suffered after birth to attain the minimum duration of persecution required by the German government for the purposes of receiving compensation.

RESOURCES FOR SURVIVORS

Social Services for Survivors

In July the Claims Conference announced that it would be receiving a five-year, \$10 million grant from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation to provide emergency assistance to Holocaust victims of limited means in North America. The Weinberg Holocaust Survivors Emergency Assistance Fund will fund a range of emergency services to Jewish victims of Nazism, including medical equipment and medications, dental care, transportation, food, and short-term homecare. The Weinberg Foundation said its grant was expected to help at least 10,000 Nazi victims living in poverty. Also in 2010, Claims Conference negotiations with the German government resulted in €55 million (approximately \$77 million) for homecare and social services, a significant increase over the €30 million obtained for 2009.

The Claims Conference allocates funds to agencies assisting Jewish Holocaust victims in need. Funding is used to assist in essential activities of daily living, such as cooking, eating, dressing, washing, taking medication, shopping, and light housekeeping.

Information on these agencies and Claims Conference activities by country is posted at www.claimscon.org/allocations and gathered in the new *Claims Conference WorldBook*.

WorldBook: A Guide to Claims Conference Programs Worldwide

The first edition of the Claims Conference WorldBook presents a cohesive and comprehensive picture of Claims Conference activity in each of the 75 countries in which we operate. In addition to providing a country profile of active Claims Conference programs, the payments listed in the WorldBook include the direct compensation payments that are still being made through Claims Conference compensation programs,



from the one survivor in China who receives Article 2 Fund payments to the 25,231 in Israel and the 12,975 recipients in the USA. (Approximately 50,000 Holocaust survivors are still receiving pension payments directly from Germany, under the first agreements negotiated by the Claims Conference in 1952. Under that first agreement, 278,000 survivors received pensions and hundreds of thousands more received one-time payments). The 141-page WorldBook can be downloaded from our website's home page, www.claimscon.org.

Claims Conference Online Resources & Online Reference Guides

The Claims Conference's website, www.claimscon.org, can be viewed in Hebrew, German, Russian and English. Specific web pages also have French, Spanish or Hungarian posts. Searchable lists, web articles and video stories cover a range of issues that impact the lives of Nazi victims locally or internationally.

- [Find a help center in your community](#)
- [Find compensation and restitution programs worldwide](#)
- [German Government Guide to Compensation Programs](#)
- [Tax Exemptions on Compensation and Restitution](#)
- [Waiver of Bank Fees](#)
- [German Pensions for Work in Ghettos \(ZRBG\)](#)
- [Austria: Claims](#)
- [Looted Art and Cultural Property Initiative](#)

Claims Conference/WJRO Looted Jewish Art and Cultural Property Initiative

The project establishes a program to assist the restitution of Jewish-owned art and cultural property lost and plundered during the Holocaust through (a) Provenance research – so that information regarding the location of looted items is publicly available; (b) Establishment of fair and just claims processes for claimants. The Claims Conference/WJRO are not involved in representation of individual claimants. More information on the initiative is available on our website at www.claimscon.org/index.asp?url=looted_art

New Database Search Tools for Families and Museums: Over 10,000 Un-Restituted Looted Art Objects Listed Online

The Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR), the “Special Task Force” headed by Adolf Hitler’s leading ideologue Alfred Rosenberg, was one of the main Nazi agencies engaged in the plunder of cultural valuables in Nazi-occupied countries during the Second World War. A particularly notorious operation by the ERR was the plunder of art from French Jewish and a number of Belgian Jewish collections from 1940 to 1944 that were brought to the Jeu de Paume building in the Tuileries Gardens in Paris for processing by the ERR Sonderstab Bildende Kunst or “Special Staff for Pictorial Art.” This database brings together for the first time in searchable illustrated form the remaining registration cards and photographs produced by the ERR covering more than 20,000 art objects taken from Jews in German-occupied France and, to a lesser extent, in Belgium. Searchable by individual objects and by the owners from whom these objects were taken, the database is a detailed record of a small but important part of the vast seizure of cultural property that was integral to the Holocaust.



The ERR depot of Neuschwanstein, Germany—A worker carries a crate of looted cultural property on his shoulders for loading onto a truck headed for the ERR art repository codenamed “Lager Peter” in the salt mines about Altaussee, Austria, 12 June 1944.

Source: Bundesarchiv B323/310

<http://www.errproject.org/jeudepaume>

Worldwide Shoah Memoirs Collection

The Claims Conference has established the Worldwide Shoah Memoirs Collection, an electronic collection of previously unpublished or unavailable memoirs written by Jewish survivors of the Shoah. Visit the collection’s site at <http://memoirs.claimscon.org>



A Page in History
Our story: a look at the Holocaust today
<http://blog.claimscon.org>

Claims Conference Blog

The new Claims Conference blog “A Page in History” explores a range of topics relating to the Shoah and its reverberations today. The blog covers an array of issues of interest to both the survivors and many in the community at large. Please check our blog frequently at <http://blog.claimscon.org>

The Compensation History Worksheet at http://www.claimscon.org/index.asp?url=payments_benefits

Created to help U.S. survivors compute their lifetime compensation history in order to assert the federal exemptions of these funds, the interactive “Compensation History Worksheet” can be used as a computational template for survivors around the world. Holocaust compensation and restitution payments are protected in the United States by H.R. 1873 and public law 103-286 of 1994, which exclude them from calculations relating to eligibility for federal benefits. Since 2004 in collaboration with Selfhelp Community Services, Inc. of New York, the Claims Conference hosts a webpage explaining these exemptions along with a worksheet and conversion table (from Deutschmarks and Euros to Dollars) going back to 1952. The worksheet will execute the conversions to produce lifetime totals up to the present. It can be printed out for presentation to relevant federal agencies.

USA: Alert Buttons for Needy Survivors

The Blue Card is a New-York based non-profit social service agency that serves Nazi victims and their families exclusively. The Claims Conference provides funding to Blue Card for assistance to Nazi victims who reside in communities where the local social service agencies do not receive funds directly from the Claims Conference. The Blue Card recently received a large grant to install and maintain the Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) alert buttons for Holocaust survivors in physical and financial need, whose monthly expenses exceed their monthly incomes. Among the key elements of the program is that the in-take operator speaks the native language of the survivor, so that the client and operator can communicate clearly and quickly, avoiding mistakes and delays. Another important feature of the program is the installation of a secure lock box outside the client’s apartment. This becomes crucial when the survivor cannot get to the door. An EMT has the code to the safe lock box which contains a set of keys, enabling the paramedics to enter without breaking down the door. Many Holocaust survivors, living alone, have benefited from this service.

There are specific financial and physical criteria eligibility criteria for this program, and the request to Blue Card must come from social services agency staff on behalf the survivor.

To find social services agencies locally please visit <http://forms.claimscon.org/helpcenters/helpcenters.php>.
The Blue Card address is : The Blue Card, Inc. 171 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016
Tel: 212-683-3159, E-mail: Blue.card@verizon.net

GERMAN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: SOCIAL SECURITY

The Ghetto Pension [ZRBG]

In 2010, the German government began re-evaluating the previously rejected claims of more than 56,000 applicants for the so-called "Ghetto Pension," German Social Security payments for certain work in Nazi-era ghettos. This re-evaluation comes after court decisions and years of Claims Conference negotiations concerning the implementation of this German government program. The German government has reported the following progress on these re-opened applications:

Status of Re-Opened Applications for German Social Security Payments for Work in Ghettos						
	Total of re-opened cases	Being processed	Approvals	Preliminary rejections	Rejections	Otherwise resolved
Sept. 15, 2010	56,616	53,013	12,250	3,735	59	12,134
Aug. 15, 2010	56,490	49,433	10,585	3,303	14	9,680
Jul 15, 2010	56,441	46,575	8,893	3,008	-	6,670
Jun 15, 2010	56,432	44,106	8,136	2,750	-	5,231
May 15, 2010	56,432	32,773	6,651	2,491	-	4,307

The German National Pension Board has decided that if applicants are found to be entitled to a pension in accordance with the court rulings, generally the payments will be backdated to January 1, 2005, with a maximum retroactive cap of four years. Re-opened applications are being processed according to the survivor's date of birth in order to give priority to the oldest applicants.

The court rulings of 2009 relate to a number of issues of interpretation of the Ghetto Pension law, including broadening the definition of "remuneration," "voluntary labor" and confirming the absence of age limits. Children who accompanied their parents to work, performing small tasks or assisting their parents may be eligible for a Ghetto Pension. Applicants whose Ghetto Pension claims were denied do not need to request the re-opening of their claims in accordance with the court rulings of June 2009, nor do they have to contact the ZRBG offices in Germany to have their files reviewed. However, applicants may contact the German Pension Board about the status of their claims and to inform the ZRBG offices about changes of address, bank account etc.

Widow/er Pensions

It is possible to apply for benefits on behalf of a deceased spouse if s/he had fulfilled the work requirements, i.e. performed voluntary and remunerated work in an accepted Ghetto and had applied to the Ghetto Pension during his/her lifetime. Such pensions are paid out to the surviving spouses of contributors, provided that they have not remarried. If the surviving spouse is over the age of forty-five (45), or is rearing a child under eighteen, or cares for a dependent child who is unable to fend for himself or herself or has a reduced earning capacity, the pension amounts to sixty percent (60%) of the deceased spouse's full pension entitlement.

Deadline

There is no deadline to apply for the ZRBG Ghetto Pension.

October 12, 2010



ZRBG Ghetto Pension and Article 2 Fund

The Ghetto Pension and the Claims Conference Article 2 Fund are not mutually exclusive. Receiving an Article 2 Fund pension does not preclude approval for a ZRBG Ghetto Pension.

ZRBG Ghetto Pension and the BADV Ghetto Fund

It should be noted that the Ghetto Pension and the one-time payment of the BADV Ghetto Fund (€2000) are separate programs. The BADV Ghetto Fund was established in 2007 to recognize work performed in a ghetto by survivors not receiving a Ghetto Pension. Receipt of a Ghetto Pension precludes payment of the €2000 fund compensation. Applications under the €2000 fund could be suspended until an applicant's new or reopened Ghetto Pension (social security) claim is decided. The Ghetto Fund is administrated by the BADV offices of the German Federal Ministry of Justice. For an overview of the Ghetto Fund, visit the Claims Conference website at: <http://www.claimscon.org/index.asp?url=ghettofund/notice-1207>.

The BADV can be reached at the following contact address:

Bundesamt für zentrale Dienste und offene Vermögensfragen - BADV
(Federal Office for Central Services and Unresolved Property Issues)

53221 Bonn. Full details can be obtained at the phone number +49 (0) 22899 7030 1324.

There is also a dedicated hotline number, but please note this helpline is not toll-free for international callers: 01-888 7030 1324

E-mail: ghettoarbeit@badv.bund.de

ZRBG Ghetto Pension Payments & Taxation

Germany's Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Labor are informing the country's embassies around the world that payments under the special Social Security -ZRBG law for Holocaust Survivors ("Ghetto Pension") are not subject to taxation in Germany. This exemption applies to monthly payments as well as to lump-sum retroactive payments. No tax declarations need to be submitted in Germany for these payments. Countries with a bilateral tax agreement with Germany are also being alerted.

In the United States, both the ZRBG and the one-time payment awarded to Holocaust survivors through the German government "Ghetto Fund" are exempt from federal taxation and excluded from the calculation of income or resources. Please consult the comprehensive web posts authored by the Evelyn Frank LegalResources Program of Selfhelp Community Services, Inc. at <http://wnylc.com/health/entry/65>.

October 12, 2010

For an overview of the main issues related to the ZRBG Ghetto Pension, request our “Frequently Asked Questions” or download the information from the Claims Conference’s website at <http://www.claimscon.org/zrbgmain>. A fact sheet prepared by Germany’s *Deutsche Rentenversicherung* (National Pension Board) is also available online through our web pages in [German](#), [English](#), [Russian](#), [Czech](#), [Slovakian](#), [Hungarian](#), [French](#), and [Hebrew](#). Go to: http://www.claimscon.org/index.asp?url=zrbg_102009#zrbg_facts

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Contacting the ZRBG Administration in Germany

Individuals can contact the central office of the DRV-Bund (National Pension Board) to request an application for the Ghetto Pension. The DRV-Bund will forward the application to the relevant regional administrative authorities handling ZRBG cases by country of residence.

Postal Address:

DRV-Bund/Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund
10704 Berlin

General Contact Information:

For ZRBG Ghetto Pension questions: +49/(0)30-20247780)
Telephone calls answered in English, Polish and Russian

Switchboard: +49/(0)30/ 865-0

Fax: +49/(0)30/ 865 27240

E-Mail: drv@drv-bund.de

Major Regional Offices:

DRV Rheinland

Tel. 08000-100048013 (Domestic Calls)

Tel. + 49 (0)211-937-0 (From abroad) (Competent authority especially for persons residing in Belgium, Chile and Israel)

DRV Nord

Tel. + 49 (0)40-5300-0 Competent authority especially for persons residing in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Great Britain, Canada, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and the USA

Please note that the Claims Conference is not involved in the administration, implementation or processing of applications for the Ghetto Pension or the Ghetto Fund.

GERMAN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: WEST GERMAN FEDERAL INDEMNIFICATION LAW (BEG)

What is covered through the BEG?

The original West German Federal Indemnification Law (known as the *Bundesentschädigungsgesetz*, or BEG) was enacted in 1952 by the government of West Germany as a result of agreements with the Claims Conference. This law encompasses three separate German laws that were adopted in 1953, 1956 and 1965 to provide compensation to Holocaust survivors.

This form of compensation was referred to by the German government as *Wiedergutmachung*, which literally means "making good again." However, this term was not accepted by the Claims Conference and is generally no longer used in recognition of the fact that the suffering of Nazi victims cannot be "made up for" by any amount of material compensation.

Because the deadlines for filing claims under the BEG laws of the 1950s and 1960s have expired, it is no longer possible for new applicants to receive compensation under the BEG. Nor is it usually possible to reopen applications for BEG payments that have been denied. However, in a small number of special cases, individuals who previously applied to the BEG but who were denied payment because they were not able to prove sufficient damage to health may under certain circumstances pursue the reopening of a BEG claim.

It is sometimes possible for Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who receive ongoing BEG payments to obtain corollary benefits. Recipients of ongoing BEG payments awarded for "Damage to Health" can apply for reimbursement of stays at a health spa (Kur), for increases in ongoing BEG payments due to the deterioration in the war-caused health condition, and for medical expenses, among other benefits. Widows and widowers of victims of Nazi persecution who were recipients of ongoing BEG for "Damage to Health" payments may sometimes be eligible to receive surviving spouse payments. Information on the component benefits under certain BEG programs can be found in English at the following German government website address: http://www.afw-saarburg.de/web_en/mainframe.html.

A pamphlet published by the German government outlines the legislation and the programs related to Holocaust compensation and restitution. You can link to it through the Claims Conference's website at Menu Compensation and Restitution / [German Government Guide to Compensation Programs](#).

For general inquiries, the German Federal Finance Office [West] provides information on all questions relating to Nazi Victims compensation and BEG laws.

Bundesfinanzdirektion West/ Federal Finance Office [West]

Arbeitsbereich RF 42 C

Zentrale Auskunftsstelle zur Wiedergutmachung nationalsozialistischen Unrechts Woerthstrasse 1-3
50668 Cologne Germany

Tel: +49 221 22 25 50

Israeli BEG pension recipients can contact a special governmental liaison office in Israel on matters pertaining to their BEG payments or benefits. The services are free.

Tel.: +972-3-6234100; Fax: +972-3-6234111; E-mail: alisa@gc.mof.gov.il

COMPENSATION BOARDS (BEG) REGIONAL OFFICES

SAARBURG:

Amt für Wiedergutmachung
Heckingstr. 31
54439 Saarburg/Germany
Tel: +49-6581-921-0
Fax: +49-6581-921-150
E-mail: poststelle@afw.rlp.de
www.afw-saarburg.de

SAARBRÜCKEN:

Landesamt für Soziales,
Gesundheit und
Verbraucherschutz
- Wiedergutmachung -
Postfach 103252
66032 Saarbrücken/Germany
Tel: +49-681-99780
Fax: +49-681-9978-2299

DÜSSELDORF:

Bezirksregierung Düsseldorf
Dezernat 10 (Abt
Wiedergutmachung)
Cecilienallee 2
40474 Duesseldorf
Tel: +49-211-475-3080 or 3580
Fax: +49/211-475-3979
E-mail: bzk@brd.nrw.de

MÜNCHEN:

Oberfinanzdirektion München -
Landesentschädigungsamt-
Prinz-Ludwig-Str. 5
80333 München/Germany
Tel: +49-89- 219001
Fax: +49-89-2190-1068

HANNOVER:

Niedersächsisches Landesamt für
Bezüge und Versorgung -
Dezernat 12 -Wiedergutmachung
-
30149 Hannover/Germany
Tel: +49-511-925-0
Fax: +49-511-925-2633
E-mail:
Poststelle@nlbv.niedersachsen.de

BERLIN:

Landesverwaltungsamt Berlin
Abt.1- Entschädigungsbehörde-
Fehrbelliner Platz 1
10702 Berlin/ Germany
Tel: +49-30-9012 -0
Fax: +49-30-9012-4001

KIEL:

Ministerium für Soziales,
Gesundheit ,
Familie, Jugend und Senioren des
Landes Schleswig-Holstein
- Entschädigungsbehörde -
Postfach 1121
24100 Kiel/Germany
Tel: +49-431-988-0
Fax: +49-431-988-5674

FELLBACH:

Landesamt für Besoldung und
Versorgung
Baden - Württemberg
-Wiedergutmachungsstelle-
70730 Fellbach/Germany
Tel: +49-711-3426-0
Fax: +49-711-3426-2002
E-mail: Poststelle@lbv.bwl.de

BREMEN:

Senator für Arbeit, Frauen,
Gesundheit, Jugend und Soziales
Doventorscontrescarpe 172 Block
D
28195 Bremen/Germany
Tel: +49-421-361-5235 ; Fax: +49-
421-361-5161

HAMBURG:

Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg
Behörde für Soziales und
Familie, Abteilung Soziale
Entschädigung
Amt für Wiedergutmachung
Adolph-Schönfelder-Str.5
22083 Hamburg/Germany
Tel: +49/ 040- 42863-7225
Fax: +49/ 040 - 42796-1305

WIESBADEN:

Regierungspräsidium Darmstadt
-Entschädigungsbehörde-
Postfach 4809
65038 Wiesbaden/Germany
Tel: +49-611-3220-73
Fax: +49-611-3220-55

WESTERN EUROPE: POST-WAR PAYMENTS & PROGRAMS

AUSTRIA

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Austrian National Fund for Victims of National Socialism. The Claims Conference has been negotiating with Austrian government and industry on compensation and restitution for Austrian Jewish victims of Nazism since 1953. Negotiations culminating in the \$500 million Washington Agreement of 2001 led to property and asset restitution measures, compensation payments, and pension and nursing care provisions from the Austrian government. Through the Claims Conference office in Vienna, negotiations continue to extend or expand existing programs. The programs are described on our website at <http://www.claimscon.org/index.asp?url=austria/claims>

National Fund of the Republic of Austria

Set up in 1995, the National Fund processed Nazi victims' applications for a symbolic payment of € 5,087.10 (ATS 70,000). This first payment in 1995 was followed by two supplemental awards, one of \$7,000 and one of €1,000 respectively. The latter awards were negotiated by the Claims Conference and distributed to recipients of the 1995 grant in compensation for withdrawn tenancy rights, household effects and personal valuables. At present there is no deadline to apply to the National Fund for the symbolic payment. The eligibility criteria and the application forms are posted online in German or English at <http://www.en.nationalfonds.org>.

National Fund Grants for the Needy

A major priority of the fund was identified as the support of needy Holocaust survivors. This priority was enacted through "hardship provisions" that award a second (and sometimes a third) grant to Austrian survivors who:

- Received the National Fund payment of 1995
- Have a current monthly income that does not exceed €783.99 for individuals or €1175.45 per couple, with a degree of flexibility depending on the stated need
- Have a specific, identified need or expense

A written request sent to the fund serves as an informal application. The request should contain information on the survivor's income and should state the reason for the grant request. Additionally, a report on the survivor's standard of living is required, which is generally compiled by the Austrian embassy for those applicants living outside of Austria and by ESRA for those living in Austria. The level of social need is then assessed on a case-by-case basis based on an overview of the living circumstances. The National Fund can be reached by writing to:

Nationalfonds der Republik Oesterreich
Parlament
Dr. Karl Renner Ring 3
1017 Wien, Austria

Old-Age Pensions

In 2009 Claims Conference talks with Austrian officials resulted in the ability of Austrian Jews born between the *Anschluss* (March 13 1938) and the end of the war (May 8 1945) to purchase Austrian government old-age pensions. Previously, these were only available to Nazi victims born prior to the *Anschluss*.

Individuals who had not contributed to the Austrian social security system at the time of their emigration from Austria must both have been born between March 12, 1938 and May 8, 1945 and at least mother or father must have lived (in permanent residence) in Austria on March 12, 1938 to be eligible for the retroactive purchase of pension credits. <http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassy/los-angeles/practical-advice/consular-information/pension-and-social-security.html>.

Victim Pensions and Nursing Care Provisions (Pflegegeld)

If you receive an Austrian Victim Pension, you may be eligible for nursing care payments. Information on the Victim Relief Law, the Victim Pension and corollary benefits is posted online at www.sozvers.at/pvang.

Claims Conference Austrian Holocaust Survivors Emergency Assistance Program (AHSEAP)

In 2008 the Claims Conference allocated approximately \$3.3 million from the Austrian Holocaust Survivor Emergency Assistance Program to organizations around the world. The funds result from 2007 Claims Conference negotiations in which the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs agreed to provide nearly 2 million Euro annually. From 2004 to 2007, the Claims Conference allocated approximately \$11.15 million from AHSEAP, deriving from a settlement between BankAustria and the Claims Conference and a 1990 Claims Conference agreement with the Austrian government to assist survivors. The AHSEAP is distributed through social welfare agencies around the world. To find the agency that serves your location, please contact our Services Departments in New York, Frankfurt and Tel Aviv or email us at info@claimscon.org. Claims Conference Allocations in Austria are made to ESRA to provide a wide range of services to Jewish victims of Nazism.

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Swiss Banks Settlement: Plausible Undocumented Award & Presumptive Value Payment Adjustments

The Court presiding over the Swiss Banks Settlement approved adjustment payments under the Deposited Assets Class of plaintiffs. The one-time, final adjustment payments are being sent to beneficiaries who have already received awards related to assets deposited in Swiss banks during the Holocaust (either a certified award on a bank account or a "Plausible Undocumented Award"/ PUA). The PUA's were approved payments to claimants who demonstrated plausible claims to Holocaust-era Swiss bank accounts for which no bank records have been located. The June 16, 2010 Memorandum and Order approving the payment adjustments and related documents can be accessed through the settlement's website at www.swissbankclaims.com

Please note that this is not a new program and it is not possible to apply for these payments at this time. The deadline to file a claim under the Swiss Banks Settlement was December 31, 2001. Postal mail for the New York processing office should be sent to: Claims Resolution Tribunal - New York Office, P.O. Box 1279 Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113, USA; Tel: 646-519-8742

PROPERTY & ASSETS COMPENSATION & RESTITUTION

Germany

Applications to the German government for compensation and restitution of property located in the former West Germany EXPIRED decades ago. The German Federal Ministry of Finance continues to maintain a governmental section office ("BADV") to handle certain open property claims, although the filing of new claims today is generally precluded. For information, contact:

Bundesamtes für zentrale Dienste und offene Vermögensfragen (BADV)
Federal Office for Central Services and Unresolved Property Issues
Postal address: Postfach 3 05, 10107 Berlin
Berlin Office: DGZ-Ring 12, 13086 Berlin
Tel: +49 (0)1888 7030-0 Fax: +49 (0)1888 7030-1140
E-mail: poststelle@badv.bund.de
Website: <http://www.badv.bund.de>

Applications to the German government for compensation and restitution for property located in the former German Democratic Republic (East Germany) EXPIRED on December 31, 1992. For information related to the Claims Conference Successor Organization in East Germany, go to <http://www.claimscon.org/successor>

Israel

The Company for Restitution of Holocaust Victims' Assets was established in Israel in 2007 to handle claims for assets located in Israel (Palestine) that had been purchased before their owners perished under the Nazi regime. A list of assets and owners is published on the Company's website, recently updated with an English section at: www.hashava.org.il/eng. The Company is about to launch an information campaign via Jewish newspapers and websites throughout the U.S. and Canada seeking relatives of individuals who may have purchased assets from the Jewish Colonial Trust before the Holocaust. After the war, many of these assets, which included land, bank deposits and shares in the Jewish Colonial Trust, were never claimed.

France

The Commission for the Indemnification of Victims of Spoliations (www.civs.gouv.fr) continues to receive and process new applications for compensation connected to material losses in France during the Nazi Occupation. To date, 27,164 claims have been filed since the inception of the program nearly a decade ago. The current amount of pay-outs for the program funded jointly by the French government and the French banking sector is nearing €450 million. The Commission's website is user-friendly, with viewing possible in English as well as in French.

Eastern Europe

The Claims Conference, along with the World Jewish Restitution Organization, seeks to improve the process for the restitution/compensation of communal and private property as well as other seized assets in a number of Eastern European countries. In 2008, we were instrumental in obtaining a non-binding resolution by the U.S. House of Representatives urging "the countries in Central and Eastern Europe which have not already done so to return looted and confiscated properties to their rightful owners or, where restitution is not possible, pay equitable compensation..." The Claims Conference has been working closely with the U.S. Helsinki Commission (Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe) consisting of members of Congress and U.S. government officials. In May 2010, a hearing was held by the Commission as follow up to the 2009 Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets in Prague. For hearing minutes, please go to www.csce.gov.

To access the reports prepared by the Claims Conference/WJRO for the Prague Conference, please visit our website at <http://www.claimscon.org/?url=artworks/conferences>.

Poland

Poland is the only major country in the former Soviet bloc that has not taken measures to help former property owners or heirs recover private property stolen beginning in 1939. A draft legislation circulated by the Treasury Minister to the ministries in September 2009 contained a number of problems, including: no *in rem* (in kind) restitution; exclusion of confiscated property in Warsaw; compensation to be paid over 15-year period; a complex, burdensome and costly claims process. Advocacy survivor groups such as the Holocaust Restitution Committee, based in New York, are actively engaged in raising urgent public and political awareness in Poland, the United States and internationally.

Hungary

Private property restitution laws in Hungary enacted in the 1990's did not provide for the return of any property, severely limited compensation paid and, generally, made it difficult to submit claims. The Claims Conference is pursuing discussions with the Hungarian government on open restitution issues, including heirless property, insurance policies, looted art and the re-opening of expired claim opportunities.

Romania

Legislation enacted in 2001 and modified in 2005 established a restitution process for confiscated private property. Today, all deadlines to file have expired. To date, the overwhelming majority of claims have not been settled. And since 2005, Romania has yet to create a compensation endowment fund ("Property Fund") that would pay restitution claims approved under the 2001 legislation.

