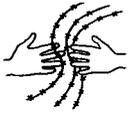


# GATWICK DETAINEES WELFARE GROUP



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## **INFORMATION PACK ABOUT GERMANY**

**We are sorry to hear about what has happened, and wish you luck when you arrive in Germany.**

**This is to help you when you arrive there. Keep this document with you when you travel, as it contains some useful information, such as:**

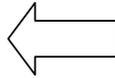
- 1. Why you are being sent to Germany**
- 2. The German asylum system**
- 3. Arriving in Germany**
- 4. Some useful words and sentences in German**
- 5. Organisations in Germany that can help you**
- 6. *Also included is a German Phrasebook***

## 1. WHY YOU ARE BEING SENT TO GERMANY

You are being sent to Germany because of something called the **DUBLIN CONVENTION**. This is an agreement made by the countries in the European Union in the year 1990. Since February 2003, The Dublin Convention is also called “**DUBLIN II**”.

The European countries that belong to the **EUROPEAN UNION** are:

- Great Britain
- The Republic of Ireland
- France
- Netherlands
- Belgium
- Luxembourg
- Germany
- Spain
- Portugal
- Italy
- Greece
- Denmark
- Sweden
- Finland
- Austria



Before, all these countries were very different from each other, and each country had its own separate laws. Now, because all these countries belong to the European Union, they share many laws. For example, they all share the law called the ‘Dublin Convention’.

### **10 New EU Countries**

*There are 10 more countries that are now joining the European Union. These are:*

***Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.***

- **The Dublin Convention says that only one country in the European Union should be responsible for your asylum application.**

This means that you cannot ask for asylum in Greece *and* in Italy, for example. You can only ask for asylum in one of those two countries: Greece *or* Italy.

- **The Dublin Convention also says that you should ask for asylum in the first European Union country that you enter.**

This means that you cannot choose which country in Europe to ask for asylum in. This is because the Dublin Convention says that all the countries in the European Union are safe. Therefore, it says that you should ask for asylum in the first European Union country you arrive in. (Often, this is not really the first European Union country you arrived in, but the first country where you came into contact with immigration officials.)

- **According to the Dublin Convention, when you ask for asylum in a European Union country, that country must find out if you were in *another* European Union country before arriving.**

So, when you asked for asylum in Great Britain, the Home Office (who deals with your asylum application) saw that you were in Germany before arriving. Because Germany is a European Union country, the Dublin Convention says that your asylum case should be looked at there, because it is a safe country.

**REMEMBER:** Cases like yours, where you are sent to another European Union country because of the Dublin Convention, are called **THIRD COUNTRY CASES**. So, the Home Office has decided that your claim for asylum in Great Britain is a ‘Third Country Case’.

## 2. GERMANY'S ASYLUM SYSTEM

Germany's asylum system is similar to the British asylum system, because it recognises the **1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees**. That means that asylum is given to someone when it is proved that he or she is "in danger of persecution" in the country of origin.

In Britain, the 'Home Office' deals with your asylum case. In Germany, it is the **'Federal Office for the Recognition of Foreign Refugees'** – or 'Federal Office' – that makes the first decision about your asylum application. Its name in German is **'Bundesamt für die Anerkennung ausländischer Flüchtlinge'**.

When you arrive at the airport, tell an **immigration officer as soon as possible** that you want to ask for asylum. If the immigration officer does not understand you, you can **show page 4 of this Information Pack**, which has the German words for "I would like to ask for asylum".

**It is important to remember that there are organisations in Germany that can try to help you, by giving you support and legal advice.** You can contact them as soon as you arrive in Germany: **the telephone numbers are on page 5**. Don't worry if you don't speak German, because someone there will be able to speak English.

Very soon after asking for asylum, people from the Federal Office will ask some questions in an **interview**. An **interpreter**, who speaks your language, will help you to understand everything. They may also take your **picture**, your **fingerprints** and ask to see any **documents** you have. This is to understand who you are and why you need to ask for asylum.

**'Quick decisions'** are made for anyone arriving at the airport who **1) does not have a valid passport or 2) comes from a country that the German Government thinks is safe**. If this happens, you will probably stay in the **airport's 'transit zone'**. After **2 days**, the Federal Office will decide if it accepts or refuses your asylum application. It is difficult to **appeal** against a 'quick decision' to refuse an asylum application, and you must do this in **3 days**.

Even if the Federal Office does not make a 'quick decision' in 2 days, it can still decide that your asylum application is **'manifestly unfounded'**. This means that they think that you **do not have a good reason to ask for asylum in Germany**. Again, it is difficult to **appeal** against a 'manifestly unfounded' decision, and you must do this in **1 week**.

If the Federal Office does **not** make a 'quick decision' and does **not** say your asylum application is 'manifestly unfounded', this means that your application is **still being considered**. It can take some time before the Federal Office makes a decision. While you are waiting, you will sometimes be allowed to live temporarily in Germany. This is called **'Duldung'** in German, which is like **'Temporary Admission'** in England. However, it is also possible that you will have to stay in a **detention centre like Tinsley House in England**, while you wait to see if your asylum application is accepted or refused. If this happens, **contact one of the organisations on page 5**, who will help you as much as possible.

Please note that if the Federal Office decides to **refuse** your asylum application after this time, you have the **right to appeal** against this. If you do not have money for a solicitor, you can sometimes – but not always – qualify for **'legal aid'**, which means you do not pay. You can **contact one of the organisations on page 5** to ask about this.

### 3. ARRIVING IN GERMANY

➤ **GERMANY** is a country in Northern Europe. The German name for Germany is **DEUTSCHLAND**.

➤ The capital of Germany is **BERLIN**, which is in the North-East of the country, close to the border with Poland.

The other big cities are **Hamburg** (in the North), **Dresden** and **Leipzig** (in the East), **Munich**, or **'München'** in German (in the South), and **Frankfurt** and **Cologne**, or **'Köln'** in German (in the West).

➤ In Germany, the currency (the kind of money you pay with) is the **EURO** (about 1 and a half Euros for 1 British Pound).

➤ The official language is **GERMAN**.

A lot of Germans speak some English, but not everyone. There are some **useful German words and sentences on page 4**, but you can also use the **German Phrasebook** that comes with this Information Pack.

➤ Because you will travel by plane from England to Germany, you will probably arrive at one of Germany's **MAIN AIRPORTS**. These are in: **Berlin**, **Hamburg**, **Munich** (or **'München'** in German) and **Frankfurt**.

#### Map of Germany:



Germany has borders with **9 other countries**:

**France, Luxemburg, Belgium and the Netherlands ('Holland')** to the West,

**Switzerland and Austria** to the South,

**The Czech Republic and Poland** to the East,  
and **Denmark**, to the North.

The **North Sea** and the **Baltic Sea** are to the North of the country.

Germany has an area size of **356,978 square kilometres**.

#### 4. SOME USEFUL WORDS AND SENTENCES IN GERMAN

*Flughafen* = Airport

*Deutschland* = Germany

*Guten Tag* = Hello / *Auf Wiedersehen* = Goodbye

*Bitte* = Please / *Danke Schön* = Thank You

*Ja* = Yes / *Nein* = No

*Was?* = what?

*Ich spreche kein Deutsch.*  
I don't speak any German.

*Ich verstehe nicht.*  
I don't understand.

*Ich bin ein Flüchtling.*  
I am an asylum seeker.

*I möchte um Asyl bitten.*  
I would like to ask for asylum.

*I bin aus England gekommen.*  
I have come from England.

*Ich kenne niemand in Deutschland.*  
I don't know anyone in Germany.

*Könnten Sie mir helfen bitte?*  
Can you help me please?

*Ich habe kein Geld.*  
I don't have any money.

*Ich brauche einen Rechtsanwalt.*  
I need a solicitor.

*Ich habe kein Nachtquartier.*  
I don't have anywhere to sleep.

*Danke für ihre Hilfe.*  
Thank you for your help.

## 5. ORGANISATIONS IN GERMANY THAT CAN HELP YOU

If you are calling from another country, the international code for Germany is: 0049

### **Flughafen Sozialdienst (Support Organisations at the Airport)**

*Provides support and advice to asylum seekers arriving at Frankfurt Airport, Berlin Airport, or Munich Airport. You can call them as soon as you arrive.*

#### **Frankfurt Airport**

Address: Flughafen Frankfurt  
Postfach 174, C 182  
60549 Frankfurt  
Telephone: (69) 690 72 441 / 442 / 443 (*open from 6am to 6pm*)  
Fax: (69) 690 54 341

#### **Berlin Airport**

Address: Flughafen Berlin-Schönefeld  
12527 Berlin-Schönefeld  
Telephone: (30) 609 157 50 / 52  
Fax: (30) 609 157 53

#### **Munich Airport**

Address: Flughafen München  
Postfach 241245, Central Area-Gallery  
Telephone: (89) 97 59 09 32 (*open from 8am to 6pm*)  
Fax: (89) 97 59 09 30

### **Pro Asyl**

*Represents the human rights of asylum seekers and refugees. Try to help people who are being sent back to their home country, but who cannot go back. Can sometimes help you to find a solicitor, or give you information about other organisations that support asylum seekers.*

Address: Kaiserstrasse  
Postfach 160624  
60069 Frankfurt-Main  
Telephone: (69) 23 40 54 / 23 06 05  
Fax: (69) 23 06 50 / 23 06 88

### **Ökumenischen Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft – “Asyl in der Kirsche”** **(National working group “Asylum in Churches)**

*National co-ordinating organisation for all the local Church organisations that offer support to asylum seekers and refugees. Call them to find out where the nearest organisations to you are, and what they can do to help you. Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 12pm.*

Address: Berliner Freiheit 16  
53111 Bonn  
Telephone: (228) 965 03 42  
Fax: (228) 965 03 43

### **Deutscher Caritasverband**

*Catholic charity assisting people in Germany, including asylum seekers and refugees.*

Address: Karistrasse 40  
79104 Freiburg i. Breisgau  
Telephone: (761) 20 04 36 / 20 03 62 / 20 04 75  
Fax: (761) 20 02 11 / 20 05 72

### **Jesuiten-Fluchtlingsdienst (Jesuit Refugee Services)**

*Offers moral support and pastoral (christian) care to asylum seekers and refugees.*

Address: Neue Kantstrasse 1  
14057 Berlin  
Telephone: (30) 32 60 25 90  
Fax: (30) 32 60 25 92  
Email: [irsgermany@t-online.de](mailto:irsgermany@t-online.de)

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – Germany**

*United Nations organisation working to assist refugees and asylum seekers. May be able to provide contact details for UNHCR office in your home country, if you are being sent back.*

Address: Wallstrasse 9-13  
10179 Berlin  
Telephone: (30) 202 20 20  
Fax: (30) 202 20 220  
Email: [gfrbe@unhcr.ch](mailto:gfrbe@unhcr.ch)

### **Amnesty International Germany Section**

*Human Rights organisation, that also campaigns for the rights of asylum seekers and refugees. Probably cannot help you directly, but may be able to give you useful contacts relating to your human rights. Open from 9am to 5pm.*

Address: Heerstrasse 178  
53111 Bonn  
Telephone: (228) 98 37 30  
Fax: (228) 63 00 36

### **International Organisation for Migration (IOM) – Germany**

*Provides advice and help to people who want to return to their country of origin, or who want to move to another country.*

Address: Koblenzerstrasse 99  
53177 Bonn  
Telephone: (22) 882 09 40