



Payment in recognition of work in a ghetto

What is this about?

On 1 October 2007 the Federal Government adopted an ordinance relating to work in a ghetto. *
It states that entitled persons are to receive

**a one-time payment
to the amount of 2,000 euro.**

This payment is intended in particular for those victims of persecution who cannot receive a pension under the Law regarding the conditions for making pensions payable on the basis of employment in a ghetto (ZRBG), because their work did not constitute an employment relationship as defined by social insurance law. There is no vested right to this humanitarian payment.

The following text contains information on whether you are entitled.

Who is entitled?

The prerequisite for receiving this payment is that you

- are a victim of National Socialist persecution as defined by the Federal Compensation Act,
- were forced to live in a ghetto located within the sphere of influence of the National Socialists, and
- worked during this period without coercion in a quasi-employment relationship.

A victim of National Socialist persecution is anyone who suffered National Socialist oppressive measures due to their political opposition to National Socialism or on the grounds of race, religion or ideology.

Only applications relating to a period of residence in a ghetto can be accepted. The payment pursuant to this ordinance cannot be granted for time spent in a labour or concentration camp.

Nor does it apply to forced labour (even in a ghetto). Compensation for such cases was provided for under other acts.

* Ordinance of the Federal Government on a payment to victims of persecution in recognition of work in a ghetto which did not constitute forced labour and has not been recognized to date under social insurance law of 1 October 2007 (German Federal Gazette no. 186, page 7693 of 5 October 2007)

It is important that the **work** done during a period of residence in a ghetto was performed **without coercion**. Nor does it have to be an employment relationship as defined by social insurance law. It is therefore not relevant whether and in what form you received payment for the work. The prerequisites of this ordinance are therefore easier to fulfil than those under the ZRBG.

Who is not entitled?

Persons who are already receiving **payments from a statutory pension insurance system** for the period of time in question are not eligible for this payment. This applies both to **German** pensions and to pensions **from other countries**.

However, the pension only precludes the payment pursuant to this ordinance if

- the pension really is being paid and
- any periods of employment in a ghetto are included in it.

Nor is a person entitled to this payment if he/she has already received a payment for the work in question in a ghetto from the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future". As the Foundation payments were, in principle, only made for forced labour, it does not, as a rule, preclude a payment in recognition of work in a ghetto which did not constitute forced labour.

Where and how should an application be submitted?

This one-time payment will only be made upon application. This also applies if you have already submitted an application under the ZRBG. The dependants of an already deceased victim cannot submit an application.

Applications should be filed with the Federal Office

**Bundesamt für zentrale Dienste und offene Vermögensfragen,
53221 Bonn.**

A special **form** must be used which you can obtain at the above address. It can also be downloaded from the website of the Federal Ministry of Finance and of the Federal Office for Central Services and Unresolved Property Issues.

We therefore kindly ask you not to submit an informal application.

Before you return the form, please have the personal data endorsed by an official agency. If you are still in possession of documents concerning your stay or work in a ghetto, please enclose them. You can of course also submit an application if you do not have any relevant documents.

What bearing does an application under the ZRBG have?

An application under this ordinance has no bearing on any application being processed under the ZRBG.

Inversely, however, any application being processed under the ZRBG is of relevance to this payment.

The following applies:

- If your work in a ghetto has already been **recognized** under the ZRBG and you receive a pension as a result, you are not entitled to an additional payment in recognition of this work. You should therefore refrain from filing an application under this ordinance.
- If you have submitted an application under the ZRBG and have **not yet received a final decision** from the German Statutory Pension Insurance (Deutsche Rentenversicherung), then a decision cannot be made on the payment pursuant to this ordinance. Nevertheless, you should **file an application**. The application procedure will then be suspended until the German Statutory Pension Insurance has made a final decision.
- If your application under the ZRBG was **rejected** by the German Statutory Pension Insurance even in a ruling on an objection, then the application can be processed in accordance with the ordinance. You should therefore submit an application. This applies regardless of whether an objection to the decision by the German Statutory Pension Insurance is pending before a court.
- Should your work in a ghetto be recognized **at a later point in time** under the ZRBG (for example, on the grounds of a court decision or on the basis of a later application to the German Statutory Pension Insurance), you must **pay back** the payment made in recognition of work in a ghetto.

However, entitlement to the payment pursuant to the ordinance is not tied to a negative decision under the ZRBG. If you believe you fulfil the conditions, you should submit an application for such a payment even if you have not filed an application under the ZRBG.

To whom is the payment made?

This payment can only be made to the entitled person. Payment to other persons (e.g. to persons with power of attorney) is not permissible.

If the victim submitted the application during his/her lifetime but dies before the payment is made, it can be made to the surviving spouse or children.

A telephone helpdesk providing further information can now be reached at the following number:

 **01888 7030 13 24**