



Ban Ying Coordination and Counselling  
Centre against Trafficking



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

## Migrating to Germany? Be safe!

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## Why this Handbook?

This handbook addresses women who, for various reasons, plan to come to Germany for a short or long period of stay.

Surely you have heard stories about people who went abroad searching for a better life, but instead of finding happiness there have had bad experiences; people, who were brought there with false promises to work under extremely bad conditions for which they got very little or no money at all. Or of women, who were promised a job in a restaurant or as domestic workers, but upon arrival were forced into prostitution. Or of others, who married a man from the west, arrived in his country but were treated as slaves.

Common to all these stories is that people are deceived into a situation, in which they are helpless, can be blackmailed and are exploited by others – they have been deceived, or even trafficked.

The best defence against a situation like that is to inform oneself, as completely as possible, with the necessary legal provisions about the country one wishes to travel to. At least a part of this information is contained in this handbook. This handbook will also show you what possibilities and rights you have in case you get into difficulties in Germany and need help.

There are perhaps counselling centres in your country as well which can help you further with information. In the appendix (see V.1.) a few of these are listed out.

Besides, there is a network of counselling centres in Germany for migrant women and also for trafficked women (see V.3.). As a rule the women working there speak many languages or work with a translator so that you can usually be counselled in your mother tongue.

As a considerable number of trafficked people are women – at least as far as trafficking in the sex industry is considered, this handbook addresses them specially.

### **Important Note:**

While reading, please bear in mind, especially in the presentation of different travel variants and their prerequisites, that this handbook **does not** lay **any** claim to completeness. The legal regulations, the personal circumstances of the persons who would like to travel and the procedures for processing the travel applications are so manifold that they cannot be presented here definitively. In any case you should, before you apply for a visa, also enquire from the German embassy in your country about the exact requirements – especially with reference to the documents to be submitted.

# **I. What you should know about Germany**

## **I.1. Germany - Facts and Figures**

Germany, a federal country in Central Europe, is made up of 16 Federal States and is a member of the European Union.

Germany shares its borders with Denmark, Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands. To the North lie the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

82.5 million people live in an area of ca. 360,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

The form of government is a parliamentary democracy.

Official language is German, but in a few regions dialects are also spoken to some extent, which in spite of knowledge of German can be hardly comprehensible. In the cities, especially, you can communicate mostly even in English and in the Eastern parts of Germany, to some extent, in Russian as well.

Germany lies in a temperate zone; there are four seasons without any distinct periods of heat or cold.

As the country does not have any raw materials itself the economy predominantly consists of the industrial and the service sectors. Only 2 – 3 % of those working are in the agricultural sector. For some time now the economy, especially in East Germany is characterized by high unemployment.

Berlin, the capital of Germany was a divided city until 1989. Today it is an interesting metropolis with a population of about 3.5 million. Berlin lies close to Poland and for many using the land route to Eastern Europe it is an intermediate station.

As a rule, foreigners from non-EU countries need a residence permit in order to travel to and stay in Germany. There are three different types of permits:

- The visa (that is issued for travel by the German embassy abroad)
- The limited residence permit
- The unlimited settlement permit

The so-called tolerance permit ("Duldung") that is issued to foreigners who are staying illegally in Germany but who, for certain reasons, cannot travel or be deported temporarily is also not considered to be a residence permit.

## **I.2. Possible routes of travel**

Which route you can take to Germany depends naturally on your point of departure. From the far-off countries of Asia, Africa or the Americas travel is as a rule by air. The largest airports in Germany are: Frankfurt /Main, Düsseldorf and Munich. Many also fly via the capitals of other EU-countries (Amsterdam, Brussels, London, Madrid, and Warsaw).

Entry into Germany from Eastern Europe is often overland as this is the cheapest way to travel. In order to reach Germany you have to usually travel either through Poland or the Czech Republic. Recently a few very cheap airline services have been established (e.g. Easyjet or Ryanair) which offer flights to reasonable prices to and from East Europe. Usually these flights are even less expensive than the travel fairs for the bus.

Since the European Union's expansion towards the East in 2004 and 2007, people from the East European countries like Russia, Ukraine etc. need a visa for entry into the EU-accession countries such as Bulgaria, Poland, Rumania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. This can be obtained from the respective embassies. The visa is valid only for that particular country and not for entry into Germany, i.e. if you are a Russian and you have a visa for Poland, you cannot travel to Germany with it.

## **II. What you should keep in mind before your journey**

### **II.1. Passport**

Entry into Germany for foreigners is, on principle, permitted only when they possess a valid passport or a passport replacement. Only the EU-members need just an identity card when they enter Germany.

In case you do not have a passport you must apply for one to the authorities in your country of origin. People below 18 years of age require the consent of the legal guardian – usually at least one parent. As the passport is proof of your identity and nationality it is a very important document abroad. In Germany you are obliged to carry it with you always. In no case should you give it to a third-person. The passport belongs to you and basically no one has the right to take it away from you. When being checked by the police or the immigration authorities you are obliged to show it and the immigration authorities can, in individual cases, withhold it temporarily.

As a precaution it is advisable to get copies made of your passport, leave one of them with your relatives or acquaintances in your country of origin and keep at least one copy on you.

In case you lose your passport abroad you must approach your embassy or consulate there. They are duty-bound to help their citizens with such problems. If you are in Germany only for a temporary stay, then you will not be issued with a new passport, but only passport replacement papers, which enable you to travel back to your country of origin.

A list of the embassies and consulates can be found in the appendix at the end of this Handbook (see V.5.).

In case of problems, uncertainties or questions you can approach the counselling centres listed in the appendix.

## II.2. Entry visa

Further, you require a visa to enter Germany. The kind of visa you need depends on the purpose and duration of your stay.

### **On principle, for every kind of visa the following is valid:**

- It must be applied for personally to the German embassy or consulate in your country. A list of German foreign missions can be found on the Internet<sup>1</sup>.
- Normally the foreign embassies require two to ten working days to decide about the application for a visa for a short-term stay. An application for a visa that permits a long-term stay or employment can take up to several months, as many authorities are involved in the procedure.
- Should there be entry prohibition against you because you have been deported or expelled once before then you cannot get a visa. But such an entry prohibition is normally for an unstipulated period. It can, however, be lifted on application, i.e. after a certain period of time. The application for fixing a time must be made to the immigration authorities who have ordained the deportation or expulsion. The authority decides as to what length of time the re-entry restriction will be valid. The duration of the restriction is governed by the severity of the reason for expulsion, but also for reasons of re-entry. If, for example, you were expelled because of a relatively insignificant violation of the foreigners' law and would, now, like to enter Germany because of marriage to a German (man), you can presume that you can enter Germany after a relatively brief ban. If you should have been convicted for a drug-offence and expelled, it is rather unlikely that you will be given a visa for study purposes. Before re-entry you must, as a rule, have settled all the costs that have arisen from the deportation.
- Similarly, you will not get a visa, if there is a suspicion that you represent a danger to public life – this is, e.g. the case with membership of or activity in a terrorist organization.

Important: The visa is purpose-oriented. That means, you must truthfully mention in your application for a visa as to why you would like to enter Germany, e.g. as a tourist, for taking up employment, for getting married etc. Basically, during your stay in Germany, you cannot change the purpose of stay stated in the visa. If you want to change the purpose of your visa you will have to return to your country of origin. Only in exceptional cases it is possible<sup>2</sup> to change the purpose of stay without having to return to your country. That means if you enter Germany on a tourist visa, you are not allowed to work here, otherwise your stay here will become illegal.

Ms. Srisai from Thailand travels as a tourist to Berlin to visit her sister who works as a sex worker here. As living in Germany is expensive she begins to work off and on as a sex worker too. This is noticed during a police check. Although Ms. Srisai has a valid visa she has been sent away from Germany, for as a tourist she is not permitted to work. In order to ensure her departure she is even

<sup>1</sup> [www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/Startseite.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/Startseite.html)

<sup>2</sup> see II.2.2.3. Entry for marriage

kept in custody for deportation.

Note that these principles apply for all visas and won't stated below every time!

### **II.2.1. For a short-term stay**

For travelling through Germany or for a short-term stay of up to 3 months you can be issued a so-called Schengen-Visa. This visa enables you to also reside in other Schengen-countries<sup>3</sup> during the period and within the scope of its validity.

Important: Not all EU-countries are signatories to the Schengen treaty. The treaty is not yet valid for countries that will become part of the EU in 2004 and 2007 respectively.

Nationals of few countries, e.g. Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Korea, and Mexico do not require a visa for a short-term stay. In case you are not sure about your country then the German embassy can inform you about it.

#### **Prerequisites for a Schengen-Visa**

- Valid passport
- Photographs
- Documents proving the purpose and circumstances of the stay
- Proof of adequate means for defray of livelihood including the costs of return journey
- Proof of health insurance

Both the latter points can be proved, if a person living in Germany declares before the local immigration authorities to take care of your livelihood (including health insurance) during the period of your stay (formal pledge by the inviting German resident). Moreover, the embassy must be convinced of your willingness and ability to return to your own country, i.e. it must have the impression that you will return after your visit to Germany. For this reason your personal affairs may be checked.

Ms. Trinh has been living since 10 years legally in Germany. She has a job here and can support herself and her children well. She would like to invite her 23 years old daughter from Vietnam during the holidays. As the daughter does not have a fixed job in Vietnam, the authorities are afraid that she may not return and so reject her application for a visa. She will be given a visa only after she has a fixed job in Vietnam for more than one year.

For the application of a Schengen-Visa you have to pay a fee of 60 € regardless of whether you will receive a visa in the end or not.

A legal claim for issue of a Schengen-Visa does not exist. If your application for a visa is rejected you have no legal recourse possibilities against it.

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<sup>3</sup> Austria, Belgium, France, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.



## **II.2.2. For a long-term or permanent residence**

If you want to remain in Germany for longer than 3 months or permanently then you have to apply for a so-called national visa. Transit through other Schengen countries is permitted with such a national visa of Germany.

The conditions for the issue depend upon the purpose of your entry.

### **II.2.2.1. For purpose of employment**

As mentioned in the beginning, unemployment in Germany is very high. It is, therefore, almost impossible to get an entry visa for purpose of taking up employment in Germany because Germany holds a recruitment stop for non- or under-qualified employees.

As a principle, the higher your qualification or specialization and your "use" for the German economy are, the better your chances for approval of a residence permit. There are, in addition, also certain jobs for which exceptions are valid. The most important ones are presented below. Should the job you would like to take up in Germany not be listed below, it makes sense to enquire with the foreign embassy whether there is a possibility of entry.

#### **Basic procedures on application:**

Once you have submitted an application to the German foreign embassy for entry for the purpose of employment,

- It makes contact with the immigration authorities of the city in Germany into whose sphere of responsibility you want to move to.
- This authority, in turn, must in most cases request the German Federal Employment Agency for permission. The grant of permission is especially dependent thereupon,
  - Whether there are suitable applicants in the German job-market who would be preferred. These, e.g. are Germans or EU-citizens and also foreigners living in Germany who have a work permit.
  - Likewise, for some specific activities, in order to get permission, it is necessary that an intergovernmental agreement between Germany and your country exists.

Important: The exact procedure depends on the kind of employment you want to take up. In certain cases permission of the federal agency (and with that the check whether there are privileged applicants in the job market) is not required!

- **As a self-employed person**

If you want to work in Germany as a self-employed person, i.e. independent of an employer, it is theoretically possible to get a visa, but in practice it is nearly impossible.

The prerequisites for this are very high. As a rule the demands are:

- an investment of at least 1,000,000 €;
- the creation of at least 10 jobs;

- the viability of a "business plan";
- in addition thereto, foreigners above the age of 45 must also have an ensured retirement pension.

Exception: Foreigners from the EU-member states Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Rumania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Hungary only have restricted right to movement. That means they can only work as self-employed persons in Germany. They need not fulfil the above-mentioned prerequisites in case of self-employed jobs. If, for example, you want to work in the services sector as a self-employed person, you must register your activity with the trade office and the finance office. Some classic services would be, e.g. cleaning, catering and also sex work. But to work as an employee, citizens of the new member states also require the permission of the Federal Employment Agency.

- **As an employee**

Also for dependent activities, i.e. when you are working for an employer, an entry permit is very restrictively issued.

**On principle the following is valid:**

In any case you must be able to prove a concrete offer of employment (that is addressed to you). This normally follows by presenting a certification from the potential employer or a work contract.

The visa and the work permit bound to that are valid for only this work place. For a new work place you need a new residence permit, which must be applied for at the competent immigration authorities in Germany.

**For the application you require:**

- A certificate from the potential employer (or a work contract) with exact job description and the amount of income;
- Proof of health insurance;
- Depending on individual cases (see below) further documents and proofs can be necessary.

As mentioned in the beginning the chances for a visa especially depend upon the qualification of the activity that you want to take up.

- **Unqualified job**

For non- or low-skilled activities (which require no or a very meagre professional training) Germany has a recruitment stop, i.e. only in exceptional cases permission for this will be granted.

Such **exceptions** can for example be made

- in the area of seasonal activities, e.g. in farming or in the hotel and restaurant industry ( for a max. of 4 months a year);
- for household help in households with people requiring attention and care for a duration up to 3 years.

In these cases the approval of the federal agency is necessary, i.e. since priority is given to German citizens, they will check that there are no more suitable applicants on the German job market. Besides, a corresponding intergovernmental agreement between Germany and your country for providing such work force is needed.

○ **Employees in diplomatic households**

A further exception is valid for domestic workers or other personnel of diplomats who are working (temporarily) in Germany. Different from all other foreign employees, neither the immigration authorities nor the federal agency for employment is responsible for them. Their residence permit is applied for at the Foreign Office in Berlin by the embassy of the employer.

As a rule the Foreign Office is informed through the embassy of the employer that it would like to employ a concrete person. When the Foreign Office agrees, the entry visa is issued by the German embassy. The travel costs have to be met by the employer. The employer can only hire the domestic workers under German working conditions that is at a minimum wage of 750 € a month. The employer is further obliged to register the foreign employee at the Foreign Office within a period of 14 days after her/his entry. The Foreign Office does not issue any residence permit like immigration authorities do, but special identity cards –so-called protocol identity cards, which basically are the residence permits of diplomatic employees. This residence permit is valid only for work in this one household. As a rule the protocol identity card is issued for the period for which the diplomat will be based in Germany – for a maximum, however, of 5 years. A re-entry is possible at the earliest after a one-year residence abroad.

Important: Even if you want to, you cannot apply for your residence permit with the Foreign Office. Only the employer can do this through his embassy. For this you must hand over all your documents to him – including your passport. The diplomats are, however, obliged to return your documents to you promptly.

○ **Qualified Job**

For occupations that presume a qualified (i.e. lasting at least 3 years) professional training, a residence permit can be issued to only certain vocations. Amongst them are:

- IT-Specialists with college or university education;
- Specialty cooks in specialty restaurants (limited up to 4 years);
- Social workers for foreign families in institutions with German working groups;
- Nurses in hospitals or old age homes if their education corresponds to German standards and they have more than adequate knowledge of German.

Even for these activities the permission of the federal agency is necessary,

i.e. there will be a check whether there are privileged applicants in the German job market. With regard to the acceptance of nurses an agreement between your country and Germany for employment of work force is additionally necessary.

Mr. Xu is a chef for Chinese specialities. He is being invited by a Chinese restaurant owner in Hanover as such and can enter entirely legally. He has a written work contract that formally fulfils all conditions. After entry he receives a residence permit, indeed only for the activity in this one restaurant. He begins work and finds out that the actual working conditions are a lot worse than those stated in the contract. To begin with, he doesn't get any salary because the employer wants to deduct travel costs there-from. This was not agreed upon beforehand. If he leaves this employer, it is possible that he has to leave Germany – except if he finds another restaurant owner who can employ him as a chef. But this change must be agreed to by the immigration authorities.

○ **Highly qualified Job**

Visas for employment of highly skilled foreign employees are the most easily issued. In special cases they can also be granted an immediate long-term residence-permit. Highly qualified persons are those working at top positions in science, research or economy and following their high professional qualification there is a special interest.

Even here, partly, the permission of the Federal agency for employment is necessary.

○ **Special vocations**

Further exceptions are valid for special vocations, e.g.

- Artists and artistes (whose presentations have an extraordinary artistic value), as long as they retain their usual residence abroad and are active<sup>4</sup> in Germany for not longer than 3 months a year
- Professional sportspersons or trainers
- Photo models, Mannequins etc.

Here there is no need for the agreement of the Federal Employment Agency, so there is no check whether there is any privileged applicant in the German job market.

○ **As a sex worker**

Sex work in Germany – different than in many other countries – is not prohibited. According to the prostitution law valid in Germany it is an activity allowed in principle. This means that sex work is treated legally like any other employment. That means, foreigners who have a legal residence

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<sup>4</sup> For artists and artistes who are supposed to be working for more than 3 months and whose presentations do not have any extraordinary artistic value the approval of the employment authority is necessary.

permit are allowed to work as sex workers, as long as their residence permit allows them to work at all.

Ms. Timoschenko is from Ukraine and lives in Hamburg. She is married to a German man and lives and works as a sex worker in Hamburg. She has a work permit by means of her marriage and may work.

A visa for the purpose of prostitution conforms to the criteria mentioned above and, at the moment is politically hardly imaginable. For if you want to indulge in prostitution as a self-employed person, you would have to fulfil the high conditions cited above, e.g. create 10 jobs or invest 1,000,000 €.

But Sex workers from the new EU-countries can work in Germany as self-employed persons without having to fulfil these conditions.

For the occupation in sex work as an employee, nationals belonging to non EU-countries have, not been issued any entry visa till now. You can obtain further information about this from the counselling centres listed in the appendix.

- **As an Au Pair**

Au Pair is an inter-cultural programme that enables young people a residence with guest families abroad to improve their foreign language skills and to get to know the guest country.

As you do not get a salary but only a kind of pocket money, strictly speaking, it is not considered as employment. For this activity you need a work permit which you can apply for at the immigration authorities or the Federal Employment Agency. With this work permit you can work exclusively only as an Au Pair. The work permit is not valid for other activities.

As an Au Pair you must fulfil the following conditions:

- You must be between 18 – 24 years old, for EU-members exceptions are possible;
- You must be childless;
- You need the invitation from a guest family, in which German is spoken as first language;
- You must have good basic knowledge of German language; this can be tested when you hand in your application.

With the invitation from the guest family or confirmation from the Federal Employment Agency you can submit an application for the issue of a visa at the German embassy. The embassy then forwards your application to the immigration authorities responsible for the city, in which the guest family lives; the immigration authorities must now get the consent of the Federal Employment Agency. The residence permit or work permit is then issued in Germany. You will then be issued a visa to enter Germany and

apply here for the residence permit.

As an Au Pair you can work from 6 months to a maximum of 12 months in a guest family. An extension beyond this period is not possible. As a rule you are entrusted with looking after children and light household work. This work may not exceed 30 hours in a week. Besides, you may not be asked to look after sick and old people.

Your guest family must offer the following:

- Boarding and lodging;
- Own room;
- Health and accident insurance (to be on the safe side show yourself to the insurance police before-hand);
- Possibilities to attend a language course.

Besides, you also have a claim on:

- At least one paid free day in the week and 4 weeks in a year; on engagement shorter than one year: 2 working days per month;
- A monthly allowance of at least 260 €.

During your period of residence you can plan your free time the way you want it, e.g. you can participate in a German language course or visit cultural or other events. Any expenses arising out of these, however, you have to bear yourself.

Even the costs of entry and departure as well as medical or pharmaceutical costs not covered by the insurance have to be borne by you.

#### Placement agencies

Basically you can organize an Au Pair placement yourself. But it is simpler to approach a specialized Au Pair placement agency for this, for they can be helpful in assisting you with the entry formalities and also ensure care after your entry. However keep in mind that not all agencies are reliable, e.g. especially on the Internet, you should be aware of offers that promise a quick and non-bureaucratic entry. They could be dubious money-makers.

Reliable Au Pair agencies do not, as a rule, take any fee from you; the fee must be borne by the guest family. If private placement agencies claim a fee from you, this should not be more than 150 €. Should the agency demand a fee only or additionally from the guest family, this can be agreed upon otherwise. The fee is to be paid only after a successful placement or when the necessary residence-permit / work permit has been issued.

Reliable agencies can be recognized by a *RAL*-quality mark. This mark guarantees that the placement activity of the agencies is checked continuously. Find a list of RAL certified agencies at:

[www.guetegemeinschaft-aupair.de](http://www.guetegemeinschaft-aupair.de)

In emergency cases where contact with the placement agency is not

possible the *Gütergemeinschaft Au Pair e.V.* (Quality association) has set up an anonymous and toll-free number: 0800-111-0-111 or 0800-111-0-222 (These numbers can be dialled only in Germany).

### **II.2.2.2. For purpose of studying or education**

It is possible to get a residence permit for Germany for purposes of studying or education at state universities or equivalent institutions. For this you must apply for admission at the desired educational institution before your entry. As soon as you get consent you can apply to the foreign embassy in your country for a visa for study or educational purposes.

For this you must prove that, during the course of the study, you can finance your livelihood yourself and that you have adequate health insurance cover.

The residence permit is normally issued for a period of 2 years and extended thereafter as long as there is a provision for doing the same.

With a student visa you are allowed to work up to 90 days a year or to take up a student part-time job.

### **Visa for study applicants**

There is also the possibility of applying for a visa for study applicants to look for a place of study in Germany. Such a visa is, as a rule, issued at first for 3 months and can be extended to a maximum of 9 months. As soon as admission to a course of study has been granted, one must apply to the immigration authorities for converting the visa for study applicants into a proper student visa.

### **II.2.2.3. On account of marriage**

If you are married to a person living in Germany and would like to enter to live with your husband or would like to marry your partner in Germany, then the conditions under which a visa will be issued depend primarily on the nationality and residence status of your husband.

- **Joining your husband**

If you are already married and want to travel to your husband living in Germany in order to live with him, then one speaks of "joining the husband" („Ehegattennachzug“).

- **Joining a German husband**

If your husband is a German citizen then you have a right to enter and be resident in Germany. In this case there is no need of proof of ensuring livelihood.

### **Prerequisites for you to get a visa**

- Marriage certificate (if the marriage has been performed abroad, an authorized translation of the marriage certificate must be attached with the stamp of the German embassy that certifies that it is a lawful

- certificate);
- Passport;
- There should not be any entry restriction applying to you (see above II.2.).

The authorities may require further documents from you. It is best to enquire about these with the German embassy abroad.

- **Joining a husband who is a foreigner**

- ***EU-citizen***

- If your husband is an EU-citizen living in Germany, you have, likewise, a right to entry, as long as your husband

- Is employed or;
      - His livelihood and health insurance are insured.

- ***Person belonging to a third country***

- If your husband is a so-called "person belonging to a third country" (i.e. non EU-citizen) you have a claim to entry only when he/she

- Is in possession of an unlimited settlement permit ;
      - Has possessed a residence permit for the past 5 years;
      - Has a residence permit and marriage existed at the time when it was issued and it has prospectively another year of validity;
      - Has received political asylum or is a refugee.

- Besides,

- Your livelihood is secured (does not apply to those with political asylum or to refugees);
      - Sufficient living space is available, whereas even here there are few exceptions which apply.

Visa for family reunion can also be issued under other conditions. Criteria for this are, amongst others, the length of time, during which the foreign husband has been living in Germany, pregnancy of the wife and mutual children.

The embassy forwards the application to the relevant immigration authorities in Germany. Depending upon the country of origin, additional checks especially with respect to the authenticity are undertaken to find out if it is a so-called "paper marriage". The authorities assume such a "paper marriage" if the purpose of marriage is solely established to procure the foreign partner a residence permit in Germany. It can happen that marriages that were performed in another EU-country like Denmark are assumed to be paper marriages. During the course of the examination it is possible that you and your partner are questioned separately, e.g. about personal data of the other and habits etc. The authorities are not allowed to reject your entry on the basis of "paper marriage" if they have no sound prove for it. In case of problems it is recommended to consult a lawyer specialised in immigration law.

Besides, your husband must give declaration stating that he intends to live together with you in Germany.



- **Entry for marriage**

For entry for the purpose of marriage a short-term visa can be issued as long as you have a claim to receive a residence permit after marriage. This is the case if your future husband is a German citizen or a foreigner with residence permit etc. Further, you will need:

- A declaration from your fiancé, stating that he would like to marry you and live together with you and;
- A certificate from the marriage registrar about the status of marriage preparations (can be submitted later).

About the necessity of other documents such as a "marriage ability certificate" (a certificate, which states that you are not already married) etc., please enquire at the German embassy.

For the visa the consent of the relevant immigration authorities in Germany is necessary. The marriage visa is only valid for a short period of time.

If you have travelled to Germany on a tourist visa and during your stay have got to know someone and want to marry him to live with him, then this is only possible, if you are allowed to receive a residence permit after marriage (e.g. in case of marriage to a German). In this case you will have to prove that at the time of entry as a tourist you had not planned a marriage already. Should you, for example, have travelled with documents needed for marriage, it is presumed that the marriage was already planned in advance – the issue of a residence permit is then out of question. In this case you have to leave Germany and apply from abroad for re-entry to get married. Only then can you enter again.

Ms. Bahadur from India visits her brother studying in Munich. There she gets to know a man with whom she falls in love. As her tourist visa is valid only for 3 months and she has to depart, they get married. After marriage when they apply to the immigration authorities for a residence permit for Ms. Bahadur, they are told that Ms. Bahadur must travel back to India once again and re-enter with a visa for purpose of bringing the family together. Only then would the immigration authorities issue them a residence permit.

If you have married in Germany and wish that your marriage be recognized in your country of origin then you must apply for recognition to the embassy of your country.

### **Same-sex partnerships**

In Germany same-sex couples can conclude a so-called "registered life-partnership" that is legally widely treated like a marriage. The foreign partners of such relationships basically have the same right to join husbands.

Ms. Ramirez from Cuba fell in love with Ms. Hofmann during the course of her studies in Germany. After 3 years they decide to get their partnership registered. After 2 years Ms. Ramirez's completes

her studies but still is allowed to stay in Germany because she lives together with a German woman in a partnership that is registered.

- **Residence status after marriage**

After entry or marriage in Germany you must apply for a residence permit to the immigration authorities under whose jurisdiction you come.

Marriage does not mean that you get an independent residence title immediately! Usually you first get a limited residence permit that is extended only as long as you live together with your husband.

Furthermore: Should the immigration authorities have the suspicion that you have married only to get a residence permit in Germany, it is possible for you to get a short-term residence permit after marriage and to be further investigated. Even if you are in possession of a 3-year residence permit the immigration authorities can – because of suspicion – withdraw it.

Only after 2 years of marriage you are allowed to get an independent residence permit. Thereafter your residence title is not dependent upon living together with your husband, but you must be able to finance yourself and your children; it can also happen that you have to prove basic knowledge of German. If you are married to a German you get a permanent permit after 3 years, under the conditions that you live together with your husband and have basic knowledge of German.

Should you or your husband separate before two years pass by, then you have to leave Germany; unless you could prove that continuing your marriage would mean an unreasonable hardship for you. This could be the case if your husband has abused you physically, psychologically or sexually. Marital rape is punishable in Germany. Should something similar have occurred to you in your marriage then it is important that you inform the immigration authorities (possibly with proof).

Important: If you separate from your husband then it is not the same as divorce; but the date of separation is the date from which the immigration authorities begin calculating as to how long your marriage has lasted. It is also possible that your husband simply informs the immigration authorities that you have separated without your coming to know about it. If this happens to you, you should definitely need the services of a lawyer.

If the immigration authorities check whether your marriage has lasted the stipulated period then it is not about the date of the divorce but that of separation (as a rule: the date in which you stopped living with your husband.)

Ms. Schmidt from Thailand has been married since 2½ years to a German man with whom she also lives together. She receives a letter from the immigration authorities, in which she is summoned to leave Germany because her marriage has not lasted 2 years.

Evidently her husband had declared before the immigration authorities that the couple had separated 8 months ago although they had lived together the entire time. With the help of a lawyer Ms. Schmidt can prove that this is not true and continue to stay in Germany.

- **Right to employment on account of marriage**

As the wife of a German you immediately have the right to work. The same holds good for husbands of EU-citizens.

If you are married to a foreigner living in Germany you are entitled to employment in the same way as your husband is. Should your husband not have such a right, you may work at the earliest after 2 years of marriage.

- **Children**

- **Joining of children**

If you bring children into the marriage whom you want to bring to Germany, then they have a claim to reunion up to their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, provided:

- You have sole legal custody of the children;
- You are living in Germany with a residence permit or with a settlement permit;
- There is secure livelihood for you and your child;
- You have adequate living quarters.

Ms. Iwenofu from Nigeria lives in Stuttgart with her German husband and their 3 mutual children in 3-room apartment with an area of 60m<sup>2</sup>. Both the parents work – so the family is financially secure. Ms Iwenofu would like to fetch her 10-year old daughter from Nigeria to join her. The child may not enter because the immigration authorities are of the opinion that there is not enough living space available.

In cases of hardship, moving to Germany is also possible after the 16th birthday if the child speaks German or if the authorities are sure that the child will be able to integrate in Germany based on his/her current educational and living conditions.

For the entry of your child you must submit an application to the German foreign embassy with the following proof:

- Proof of your residence status in Germany;
- Proof of your financial situation in Germany;
- If necessary proof of your being the sole legal guardian of the child;
- For further documents required for the child (passport, birth certificate etc.) you should enquire at your embassy.

Even in this procedure the immigration authorities are involved.

### **Birth in Germany**

If you give birth to a child in Germany, then the child is only automatically a German citizen under certain conditions:

- If the father or mother is German, the child automatically inherits German citizenship. Should you not be married to the father of the child, then he must acknowledge paternity. This is also possible during pregnancy. If the father is not ready to do so, then there is the possibility to clear the paternity before the court. Even after paternity is acknowledged you – as a non-wedded person – have sole custody of the child; unless you give a declaration that states you would like the father to share custody of the child with you. Such a declaration is, however, far-reaching and can be revoked only legally later. You should get advice about the consequences beforehand. If you are married to the father of the child, then both parents have custody of the child.
- A German child can also have another citizenship; this dual citizenship is valid only until the child reaches the age of 18. Then the child must decide between the two citizenships. A dual citizenship is only possible if the other country allows it as well.
- If both parents are foreigners the child is automatically German, if at least one parent
  - Has been regularly living in Germany for at least 8 years;
  - **and** e.g. is an EU-citizen or has (unlimited) settlement permit.

If your child has German citizenship, then you can also get the right through this for residence in Germany, as long as your child is a minor and you have custody. If you do not have custody then you will receive a residence permit only if you live with the child.

Ms. Araguz from the Dominican Republic has a child from a German father; but he contests paternity. A legal procedure with a paternity test ascertains that he is the real father of the child of Ms. Araguz. With this the child is a German citizen who may naturally live in Germany. Further, the child has the right to grow up with both his parents. So Ms. Araguz also receives a residence permit for Germany.

### **Furthermore:**

If you give birth to a child in Germany, and at the time of the birth you either have a residence permit or an unlimited settlement permit, your child will receive the same sort of permit as you.

- **Divorce**

If you would like to get divorced you must have lived separately from your husband for at least one year before you apply for a divorce. In Germany you must hire a lawyer for divorce proceedings. In case of a divorce both parents

are awarded custody of the mutual children, unless you agree to a different solution. Children from other relationships are not affected by this rule.

- **Remarks on marriage agencies**

There are international marriage agencies who procure partners abroad. Even if individual women have positively found their happiness through these agencies, you should know that amongst these agencies there are many irresponsible ones as well.

In any case you should consider - if you get acquainted with a man living and working in Germany and want to marry him - that you will have to live with him, as mentioned earlier, for at least 2 years before getting your own independent residence permit. Unfortunately it happens again and again, that men misuse this 2-year dependency to exploit their wives as cheap domestic workers or force them into prostitution.

Ms. Mendoza from the Philippines would like to go to Germany to work there. Besides, she is also looking for a new partner after her relationship of many years has failed. She approaches a marriage agency through which her cousin has already got acquainted with a German man. She runs into debt to be able to raise the high fee. Ms. Mendoza puts up with this as she is assured that many men will be shown to her and that she can then choose one for herself. Arriving in Germany she ascertains that it is not she who is choosing the men; it is exclusively more about the desires of the men being dealt with. Many men are interested in her and take her home with them where they demand sexual favours from her. Thereafter they always bring Ms. Mendoza back in order to pick up the next woman. One man who was very brutal on the first night would like to marry her. She doesn't want this at all and also tells the agency. The agency explains to her that they are no longer responsible as she now has a candidate for marriage. Ms. Mendoza has the option of either marrying him or returning to Philippines where she has debts to clear. Later she comes to know that the agency also takes a fee from the men and behaves them the right to "try out" the women.

### **II.3. Health insurance**

Medical treatments and medicines are very expensive in Germany. People without a health insurance have to pay by themselves all costs incurred on doctors, medicines and if necessary the stay in a hospital as well. For this reason the issue of a visa is as a rule being made dependent on the proof of having a foreign health insurance. The cover for this for a Schengen-visa must be 30,000 €. If you are invited to Germany, the insurance can be signed by your host or otherwise s/he is committed to take up all costs of treatment incurred. The foreign health insurance only comes into use in case of unforeseen cases of illness. Costs of chronic and psychologically conditioned illnesses and costs for tooth replacement are not covered by the health insurance. A foreign health insurance for 3 months should not cost more than 100 €, as long as you are below 64 years in age.

If you are married then your health insurance is covered along with the insurance of your husband as long as he has one.

If you are travelling to Germany to take up employment and you have a work contract then you can choose a health insurance; the contributions thereto are paid half by your employer and the other half will be deducted from your wages. This insurance covers (but for a few exceptions) costs of medical and dental treatments. Also costs of in-house treatments in the hospital are covered by the insurance.

In case of further questions you can approach the counselling centres listed in the appendix.

#### **II.4. Travel costs**

For the passport, ticket and health insurance etc. you perhaps require more money than you have. Some agencies offer corresponding loans e.g. for entry for employment, which can be paid back after entry. You should be very careful with such offers (even from private people).

In order not to run into debt, you should note the following:

Enquire about the actual costs e.g. arising for the visa, the passport, ticket etc. to prevent an exorbitant price being presented to you upon entry.

It is, likewise, important to know what you will be actually earning in Germany and whether you will be able to settle the payment instalments with these earnings. You must also consider that the cost of living in Germany is very high.

The monthly rent of a room is at least 150 - 200 €. Usually you will have to pay extra for electricity, heating and hot water. With food and groceries a lot depends upon where you go shopping; there is a large range here. So, e.g. one kilo of bread can cost between 1 € and 5 €; a kilo of rice between 1 € and 6 € and a pack of cigarettes between 3 € - 6 €.

For information, here are a few examples of travel costs. Important: These are not concrete prices but only guiding amounts that should not be exceeded. There are surely cheaper travel alternatives especially when you are not bound by a fixed time.

Bangkok - Berlin: (1000 €)  
 Beijing - Berlin: (700 €)  
 Bogota - Berlin: (1500 €)  
 Bucharest - Berlin: (400 €)  
 Hanoi - Berlin: (1400 €)  
 Kiev - Berlin: (400 €)  
 Lagos - Berlin: (2000 €)  
 Manila - Berlin: (1700 €)  
 Minsk - Berlin: (400€)  
 Moscow – Berlin: (500 €)  
 Sofia – Berlin: (400 €)

## **II.5. Measures for your safety**

And for all cases:

- Before you leave for Germany inform your family and friends about where you are going to stay in Germany and for example about your employer, your new job etc. Leave behind your new address, telephone number and if necessary details about the people who have invited you.
- Take the names and addresses of counselling centres in Germany along with you. A few of them you will find at the end of this handbook.
- Make copies of your passport and other important documents that you are taking with you and leave a set of these copies with family or friends.
- Fix a particular time with a family member or a friend at which you will regularly telephone them. As a precaution also agree upon a particular sentence as a sign in case you need help and cannot speak freely over the telephone because someone is monitoring your conversation.
- If you do not have any money for the journey and someone apparently generous offers to take you free of cost abroad where you can then repay the debt, you should be very cautious. Our experience has shown that the conditions under which some women have to repay the debt are very bad for they are in extreme dependence and thereby become vulnerable to blackmail.

## **III. In case you have problems in Germany**

### **III.1. In case you have been trafficked, or are a victim of any other crime**

If you, in spite of all preparations find out that you have been duped in Germany and for example

- Your passport has been taken away from you;
- You have to work under totally different conditions than were promised to you;
- You are only told after arrival in Germany that you have run into debt for the journey and the settlement and therefore a large part of your salary will be withheld;
- You are forced into prostitution or other work;
- You are in a situation of extreme exploitation either in prostitution or in any other activity;
- You have experienced brutality e.g. beaten up, maltreated, raped or imprisoned;
- You are intimidated or made to submit with threats of violence against you or your family;

Then you could be a victim of a crime maybe of human trafficking. Different rights and supports are due to you.

#### **III.1.1. How and where do you find help?**

Should you get into such a situation, it can be difficult under the circumstances to free yourself and then approach, for example, the German counselling centres listed in the appendix or the police. Your possibilities then naturally are dependent on

whether you can move about freely or not. If this is the case you can call up the counselling centre or the police by using the public telephone or a cell phone. You can also speak to passers-by on the street or stop a police car or a taxi and say that you need help. Helpful sentences in German can be found at the end of this handbook. A police car in Germany is silver/green (or silver/blue) with the lettering "Polizei". Taxis are cream coloured and marked with the yellow lettering "TAXI".

If you find yourself in a situation in which you cannot move about freely, e.g. you are forced into prostitution in an apartment, you can, then, for instance try to request a customer for help or use his cell phone. Perhaps you are taken to the doctor by the people who are detaining you; you should, then, try to confide in the doctor.

If you are imprisoned and do not know where you exactly are, try to note striking buildings, advertisements, offices or shopping centres, house numbers or similar things. These references can help others find you.

If you are working at a place accessible to the public (bar, café, brothel), most probably social workers will appear there from time to time to distribute information and condoms. Confide in them. If you are working in a restaurant the health official can possibly come, confide in the inspectors. If you are arrested by the police during a check because you do not have a valid residence permit, you should be frank with the police so that appropriate support can be offered to you and you can make use of your rights as a victim of crime or human trafficking. Should you still be taken to a deportation centre, you are permitted to telephone from there. Try to contact a counselling centre from there. In many cities social workers from counselling centres come to the deportation centre. Confide in them. You can be sure that the counselling centres mentioned here will not undertake anything against your will or do anything without your approval.

### **III.1.2. What rights and possibilities do you have?**

If you have become the victim of a crime or especially human trafficking there are different rights that are incumbent on you: You have a claim to counselling and support. You can contact special counselling centres for trafficked women.

Should you want to report a crime then you have to report this personally to the police or through a lawyer. You must consider here that there is a so-called "obligation of the witness" in Germany, i.e. if you are known to the crime investigators as a witness you have to testify before the public prosecutor and court (at least as long as you are in Germany).

Especially for trafficked people in Germany there is a so-called reflection period. This means that you are granted a time of 4 weeks in which you can decide on whether you want to testify as a witness against the perpetrators or not. In this period you can stay in a shelter and receive a few services for your livelihood. Besides, psychological help and medical attention in an emergency is guaranteed. You have the right to engage a lawyer. If you have no income, you do not have to bear the costs of this yourself.



If you have decided to testify against the perpetrators you will get a residence permit, as long as you are required as a witness for the criminal proceedings. Usually you can remain in Germany until the end of the proceedings. In this period you will be provided with lodgings and help for livelihood. At the end of the trial you basically have to leave Germany, unless there is concrete proof that you may be in danger on your return.

But even if you simply want to travel back to your country of origin without bringing your case to court, the counselling centres can support you. To the counselling centres it makes no difference whether you want to testify or not. The counselling centres work anonymously and have no obligation to report to the authorities.

### **III.2. If you are in Germany without valid documents**

To live in Germany without valid documents is very hard. As you are constantly in fear of being discovered it is for example difficult to rent an apartment yourself, to go to the doctor or to finalize a health insurance. For many things you depend on the support of others. This situation leaves you vulnerable to blackmail. You can be compelled to do or to tolerate things, although you do not want to. If, for example, your employer does not pay your salary, you cannot report him to the police without the latter knowing that you have no legal documents of residence.

But even if you are in Germany illegally it does not mean that you are without any rights at all. If, for example, your employer exploits your situation to get you to work for him without any or very little pay, he commits a crime possibly the one of human trafficking and you have the rights and possibilities mentioned above.

In any case you can approach the counselling centres to get advice. The workers in the counselling centres mentioned at the end of this handbook work anonymously and confidentially. That means they do not have to – if you do not want– give your name and the counsellors may not speak with anybody about what they have come to know about you. Even if you need medical aid and have no health insurance the counselling centres can try to help you.

#### **III.2.1. What consequences does an illegal stay have?**

If you are staying in Germany without a passport or a passport replacement, residence permit or a visa, have travelled in spite of a ban on entry or have given false data for obtaining a visa or a residence permit, you have violated the German immigration law and your residence is considered illegal. You can be imprisoned for up to one year or are fined and are, besides, obliged to leave Germany immediately. Should the respective authorities ascertain that your stay in Germany is illegal your passport will be normally seized by the immigration authorities. Even a proclamation of searching for a fugitive for purposes of deportation is possible. If the police checks you, you can be taken into custody for deportation under certain circumstances (e.g. you have no fixed place of residence or have not departed in spite of earlier summons). The deportation centre is a jail in which people who have to leave the country are imprisoned and of whom it is assumed that they do not leave the country

of their own free will. If the deportation is not executable (e.g. in case of illness or advanced pregnancy) it is possible to receive a tolerance permit.

During the imprisonment you will be charged with a fee of ca. 60 €/night. If, when being arrested, you have money on you it will be confiscated to settle the costs of imprisonment and deportation. Should you not have any money, you are in debt with the authorities. Before a possible re-entry into Germany these costs have to be settled.

Deportation means that you are accompanied by the border police and seated on a plane that is flying to your country of origin.

With deportation you also get a ban on entry into the entire Schengen region.

## **IV. In case you would like to travel to your country of origin**

### **IV.1. With a residence permit**

If you have a residence permit, i.e. an unlimited settlement permit or a limited residence permit, you can travel in and out of Germany and visit your native country – as long as you only want to stay there temporarily. But you must note: if you are outside Germany for a period longer than 6 months you lose your residence – unless you have applied earlier to the immigration authorities for permission.

### **IV.2. With a so called "Duldung" – a tolerance permit**

A tolerance permit is legally not recognised as a residence permit. If you have a tolerance permit then this means that you basically are obliged to leave but for certain reasons cannot temporarily do so. Beyond that the tolerance permit is mostly signed with a remark that you may not leave the Federal state or even the district that has issued the tolerance permit. As long as you have a tolerance permit only you may leave Germany but then you are not permitted to enter again.

### **IV.3. Without valid documents**

If you are in Germany without a residence permit or tolerance permit you will have problems at the border when you leave. Possibly, a bar on entry is stamped in your passport. As long as you do not have any passport or passport replacement documents a legal departure is not possible at all. You have to first apply to embassy of your country for passport replacement papers.

## **V. Where you can find information and support**

### **V.I. Addresses and contact places in countries of origin and transit**

#### **Azerbaijan**

FANGOM

Forum of NGOs from Azerbaijan Working on Migration

101 Nizami str, fl.17

Baku 370007

Tel: +99412939972

Fax: +99412980770

Email: azer\_ak@yahoo.com

#### **Belarus:**

Young Women Christian Association of Belarus

P.O. Box 74

Minsk 220088

Telefon: +375 17 296 37 45

E-mail: lastrada@infonet.by

Web: <http://www.lastrada.by>

#### **Brasil**

Projeto TRAMA

Largo Sao Francisco 34, 7 Andar

Centro – Rio de Janeiro – Rj

CEP 20051-070, Brasil

Telefon: +55 21 2507 64 64

E-mail: [projetotrama@projetotrama.org.br](mailto:projetotrama@projetotrama.org.br)

Web: <http://www.projetotrama.org.br>

#### **Bulgaria:**

Animus Association Foundation

85 Ekzarh Yossif St.

1000 Sofia

Telefon: +359 2 938 5205

E-mail: [animus@animusassociation.org](mailto:animus@animusassociation.org)

Web: <http://www.animusassociation.org>

#### **Columbia**

Espacios de Mujer

Carrera 49

No 44 – 88, Parque de San Antonio

Medellin

Telefon: +57 4 251 14 10

E-mail: [espaciosdemujer@epm.net.co](mailto:espaciosdemujer@epm.net.co)

**Czech Republic**

La Strada Czech Republic  
 P.O.Box 305  
 111 21 Prague 1  
 Hotline: +420 222 717 171  
 Telefon: +420 222 721 810  
 E-mail: lastrada@strada.cz  
 Web: <http://www.strada.cz>

**Dominican Republic**

Centro de Orientacion e Investigacion Integral – COIN  
 C/ Anbal de Espinosa # 352,  
 Villas Agricolas, Santo Domingo  
 Telefon: +809 681 15 15  
 E-mail: coin@verizon.net.do  
 Web: <http://www.coin.org.do>

**Nigeria**

Women's Consortium of Nigeria – WOCON  
 13, Okesuna Street  
 Off Igbosere Road  
 Ikoyi, Lagos  
 Telefon: +234 1 263 53 00  
 E-mail: wocon95@yahoo.com  
 Web: <http://www.woconline.org>

**Poland**

La Strada Foundation Against Trafficking In Women  
 P.O. Box 5, 00-956  
 Warschau 10  
 Hotline: +48 22 628 99 99  
 Telefon: +48 22 622 19 85  
 E-mail: stara@pol.pl  
 Web: <http://free.ngo.pl/lastrada/>

**Rumania**

Reaching out  
 St. Campineanu Bl.2 Sc C.,  
 Apt 14, Pitesti 0300, Jud.Arges  
 Telephone: mobile: 40 722 298 042,  
 Tel/fax + 40 48 631 022  
 E-mail: reachingoutrom@yahoo.com

AIDROM – Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania  
 Calea Callarasilor 177, Bl.45, apt 18, floor 6.

Sector 3 – Bucharest

Tel: +4021 212 48 68 and 00 40 21 320 98 70 /71

E-mail: office@aidrom.eunet.ro oder aidrom@gmail.com

Web: www.aidrom.ro, www.aidrom.rdsnet.ro, www.geocities.com/aidrom

### **Russia**

Centre for Assistance to Persons who suffered from Violence and Human Trafficking

P.O. Box 7015

Glavposhtamt

Perm 614000

Telefon: 007 495 901 02 01

E-mail: permcavt@gmail.com

Web: <http://www.cavt.ru>

### **Philippines**

Batis Center for Women

Room 711, Don Santiago Building

1344 Taft Avenue, Ermita

Manila

P.O. Box EA-411 Remedios Street

Ermita, Manila

Philippines

Email: [batis@phil.gn.apc.org](mailto:batis@phil.gn.apc.org)

### **Thailand**

Foundation for Women

35/267 Charansanitwongse Road 62

Soi Wat Paorohit

Bangkoknoi, Bangkok 10700

Telefon: +66 2 433 51 49

E-mail: [FFW@mozart.inet.co.th](mailto:FFW@mozart.inet.co.th)

Web: <http://www.womenthai.org>

### **Ukraine**

La Strada - Ukraine

PO Box 26

Kiew 113

Ukraine, 03113

Hotline: 8 800 500 22 50 (free of charge in Ukraine)

380 44 205 36 94 (violence prevention)

380 44 205 37 36 (on trafficking prevention)

Telefon/Fax: +380 44 205 36 95, +380 44 205 36 94, +380 44 205 37 36

E-mail: [lastrada@ukrpack.net](mailto:lastrada@ukrpack.net)

Web: [www.lastrada.org.ua](http://www.lastrada.org.ua)

**Vietnam**

HO Chi Minh City Child Welfare Foundation

18 Pham Viet Chanh

Ward 19

Binh Thanh

Ho Chi Minh City

Tel: + 848 8401406

Fax: + 848 8401407

Email: [hcwf@hcm.vnn.vn](mailto:hcwf@hcm.vnn.vn)

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## **V.2. Addresses and contact places in Germany**

The telephone number of the police in Germany is 110. This is a toll-free number throughout Germany. It is important that you say where you are, what your name is and what the matter is. If you cannot say all this you must say that you need HELP (HILFE). (See small phrasebook at the end of this booklet).

If you are calling from a cell phone then you must always dial along with the city code. If you are calling from a landline and are in the same city, then you have to drop the city code and only dial the telephone number.

### **Berlin**

Ban Ying  
 Koordinations- und Beratungsstelle für Opfer von Menschenhandel  
 Anklamer Str. 38  
 10115 Berlin  
 Telefon: 030/440 6373 oder 74  
 Fax: 030/4406375  
 E-Mail: info@ban-ying.de  
 Web: www.ban-ying.de

### **ONA**

Zufluchtswohnung für Frauen aus Mittel- und Osteuropa  
 Postfach: 870218  
 13162 Berlin  
 Telefon: 030/480 96 281  
 Fax: 030/480 96 282  
 E-Mail: ona-berlin@web.de  
 Web: www.ona-berlin.de

### **Cologne**

Agisra  
 Beratungsstelle für Migrantinnen  
 Steinbergstr. 40  
 50733 Köln  
 Telefon: 0221/124019  
 Fax: 0221/9727492  
 E-Mail: agisra@e-migrantinnen.de  
 Web: www.e-migrantinnen.de

### **Frankfurt/Oder**

Belladonna  
 Postfach 16 52  
 15206 Frankfurt (Oder)  
 Telefon/Fax: 0335/534 988  
 E-Mail.: Belladonna.ff@t-online.de  
 Web: www.belladonnaev.com

**Frankfurt/Main**

FiM Frauenrecht ist Menschenrecht  
Varrentrappstr. 55  
60486 Frankfurt/M  
Telefon: 069/7075430 oder 50  
Fax: 069/7075466  
E-Mail: FIMinfo@web.de  
Web: www.fim-frauenrecht.de

**Hamburg**

Koofra  
Koordinierungsstelle gegen Frauenhandel e.V.  
Postfach 306144  
20327 Hamburg  
Telefon: 040/67999757  
Fax: 040/67999758  
E-Mail: koofra@t-online.de  
Web: www.koofra.de

**Hannover**

Kobra  
Zentrale Koordinierungs- und Beratungsstelle für Opfer von Frauenhandel  
Postfach 4762  
30047 Hannover  
Telefon: 0511/590 90 777 oder 0511/7011517  
Fax: 0511/ 701 13 69  
E-Mail: info@kobra-beratungsstelle.de  
Web: www.kobra-beratungsstelle.de

**Kiel**

Contra  
Beratungs- und Koordinierungsstelle für Betroffene von Frauenhandel  
Postfach 35 20  
24034 Kiel  
Telefon: 0431/ 557 79-190 /-191  
Fax: 04 31/5 57 79-150  
E-Mail: contra@ne-fw.de

**Munich**

Jadwiga  
Lessingstr. 3  
80336 München  
Telefon: 089/544 97 233  
Fax: 089/544 97 232  
E-Mail: Jadwigamuenchen@aol.com



**Stuttgart**

Fiz – Frauen – Informations – Zentrum

Moserstr. 10

70182 Stuttgart

Telefon: 0711/ 239 41 24 oder 25

Fax: 0711/ 239 41 16

E-Mail: [fiz@vij-stuttgart.de](mailto:fiz@vij-stuttgart.de)

Web: [www.vij-stuttgart.de/FIZ.html](http://www.vij-stuttgart.de/FIZ.html)

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### **V.3. Addresses and contact places in other EU countries**

#### **Belgium:**

Payoke  
Leguit 4  
B-2000 Antwerpen  
Telefon: +32 (0)3 201 16 90  
Fax: +32 (0)3 233 23 24  
E-mail [admin@payoke.be](mailto:admin@payoke.be)  
Web: [www.payoke.be](http://www.payoke.be)

#### **France**

Association ALC SPRS  
15 Boulevard du Parc Imperial  
06 000 Nice  
Tel: +33 (0) 4 93 37 12 09  
Fax: +33 (0) 4 93 97 87 55  
E-mail: [sprs@association-alc.org](mailto:sprs@association-alc.org)  
Web: [www.association-alc.org](http://www.association-alc.org)

#### **Italy:**

On the Road:  
Via delle Lancette, 27-27A  
64014 Martinsicuro (TE)  
Hotline: 800-290.290 (zum Nulltarif)  
Telefon: +39.0861/796666 - 762327  
Fax: +39.0861/765112  
E-mail: [mail@ontheroadonlus.it](mailto:mail@ontheroadonlus.it)  
Web: [www.ontheroadonlus.it](http://www.ontheroadonlus.it)

#### **Netherlands:**

BLinN  
Weteringschans 259  
Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
[info@blinn.nl](mailto:info@blinn.nl)  
Telefon: 0031 20 523 11 00  
Fax: 00 31 20 622 73 67  
[www.blinn.nl](http://www.blinn.nl)

Foundation against Trafficking STV  
Büro: Regenteselaan 31, Amersfoort  
Postadresse: Johan van Oldenbarneveltlaan 34-36,  
3818 HB Amersfoort  
Hotline: +31 33 448 11 86  
Telefon: +31 33 461 50 29

Fax: +31 33 461 80 64  
E-mail: [lastrada@opvang.nl](mailto:lastrada@opvang.nl)  
Web: [www.opvang.nl](http://www.opvang.nl)

**Spain:**

Proyecto Esperanza  
Apartado Postal 50.905  
Madrid 28080  
Telefon: +34 91 386 06 43, +34 607 542 515  
Fax: +34 91 373 21 41  
E-mail: [info@proyectoesperanza.org](mailto:info@proyectoesperanza.org)  
Web: [www.proyectoesperanza.org](http://www.proyectoesperanza.org)

#### **V.4. Embassies and consulates in Germany**

*(A list of German foreign missions can be found on the Internet under:  
[www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/Startseite.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/Startseite.html) )*

##### **Belarus**

###### Embassy

Am Treptower Park 32  
12435 Berlin  
Telefon: 030 / 536 35 90  
E-mail: [info@belarus-botschaft.de](mailto:info@belarus-botschaft.de)  
Web: [www.belarus-botschaft.de](http://www.belarus-botschaft.de)

###### Consulate General

Fritz-Schäffer-Strasse 20  
53113 Bonn  
Telefon: 022 / 8 201 13 10  
E-mail: [bonn@belembassy.org](mailto:bonn@belembassy.org)

##### **Columbia**

###### Embassy

Kurfürstenstrasse 84  
10787 Berlin  
Telefon: 030 / 263 96 10  
E-mail: [info@botschaft-kolumbien.de](mailto:info@botschaft-kolumbien.de)  
Web: [www.botschaft-kolumbien.de](http://www.botschaft-kolumbien.de)

###### Consulate General

Fürstenbergerstrasse 223  
60323 Frankfurt am Main  
Telefon: 069 / 959 56 70

Wendenstrasse 29  
20097 Hamburg  
Telefon: 040 / 23 85 56 94

Plieningerstrasse 58  
70567 Stuttgart  
Telefon: 0711 / 674 75 85

##### **Nigeria**

###### Embassy

Neue Jakobstrasse 4  
10179 Berlin  
Telefon: 030 / 21 23 00  
E-mail: [info@nigeriaembassygermany.org](mailto:info@nigeriaembassygermany.org)

**Russian Föderation**Embassy

Unter den Linden 63-65  
10117 Berlin  
Telefon: 030 / 229 11 10 29  
E-mail: [info@russische-botschaft.de](mailto:info@russische-botschaft.de)  
Web: [www.rusbotschaft.de](http://www.rusbotschaft.de)

Consulate General

Waldstrasse 42  
53177 Bonn  
Telefon: 0228 / 386 79 30 (Visa)  
0228 / 386 79 23 (Pass)  
E-mail: [info@ruskonsulatbonn.de](mailto:info@ruskonsulatbonn.de)  
**Web: [www.ruskonsulatbonn.de](http://www.ruskonsulatbonn.de)**

**Thailand**Embassy

Lepsiusstrasse 64-66  
12163 Berlin  
Telefon: 030 / 79 48 10

Consulate General

Kennedyallee 109  
60596 Frankfurt am Main  
Telefon: 069 / 698 682 05 und 069 / 698 682 09

An der Alster 85  
20099 Hamburg  
Telefon: 040 / 24 83 91 18

Prinzenstrasse 13  
80639 München  
Telefon: 089 / 168 97 88

Pforzheimerstrasse 381  
70499 Stuttgart  
Telefon: 0711 / 226 48 44

**Ukraine**Embassy

Albrechtstraße 26  
10117 Berlin-Mitte  
Telefon: 030 / 288870  
E-mail: [ukremb@t-online.de](mailto:ukremb@t-online.de)  
Web: [www.botschaft-ukraine.de](http://www.botschaft-ukraine.de)

Consulate General

Brönnerstrasse 15

60313 Frankfurt am Main  
Telefon: 069 / 29 720 90

Mundsburger Damm 1  
22087 Hamburg  
Telefon: 040 / 229 49 80

Lessingstrasse 14  
80336 München  
Telefon: 089 / 552 73 70  
E-mail: [gkukraina@aol.com](mailto:gkukraina@aol.com)

## VI. A small phrase book

A few phrases and helpful words in German

Guten Tag, wie geht es Ihnen?

Mit geht es gut/ nicht gut

Ich heiße .....

I komme aus **Russland**  
(**Kolumbien, Ukraine, Nigeria, Thailand...**)

Ich spreche **Ukrainisch**,  
(**Russisch, Spanisch, Französisch, Englisch, Thai**)

Ich verstehe Ihre Sprache nicht

Ich brauche Ihre Hilfe

Bitte rufen Sie die **Polizei** für mich  
(**Botschaft, Beratungsstelle, Krankenhaus, Arzt, Taxi, Frauenhaus**)

Ich werde bedroht.

Kann ich bitte Ihr Handy benutzen?

Ich muss eine **Beratungsstelle** anrufen  
(**Botschaft, Polizei, Krankenhaus, Arzt, Taxi, Frauenhaus**)

Ich werde eingesperrt.

Ich kann die Wohnung nicht verlassen

Wo bin ich? Bitte schreiben Sie mir die Adresse auf?

Wo ist die Botschaft von **Thailand**?  
(**Russland, Kolumbien, Ukraine, Nigeria, Belarus**)

Wie komme ich zur nächsten **Apotheke**?  
(**Botschaft, Polizei, Beratungsstelle, Krankenhaus, Arzt, Taxi, Frauenhaus**)

Bitte bringen Sie mich zum nächsten **Krankenhaus**.  
(**Botschaft, Polizei, Beratungsstelle, Arzt, Taxi, Apotheke, Frauenhaus**)

Ich brauche Medikamente.

Ich bin krank.

Mir geht es nicht gut.

Ich wurde geschlagen

Ich habe kein **Geld**.  
(**Pass, Visum, Kreditkarte**)

Mein **Pass** wurde mir weggenommen.  
(**Geld, Visum, Kreditkarte**)

Ich habe meine **Kreditkarte** verloren.  
(**Pass, Visum**)

Mein **Pass** ist bei einer Freundin. Hier ist ihre Adresse:  
(**Geld, Visum, kreditkarte**)

Kopien von meinem **Pass** sind:  
(**Visum**)

Bitte suchen Sie jemanden, der **Französisch** spricht. .  
(**Thai, Spanisch, Englisch, Russisch**)

Wo kann ich telefonieren?

Bitte rufen Sie die Polizei für mich.

Bitte rufen Sie nicht die Polizei, aber helfen Sie mir.



And finally a few phrases and helpful words in English

Hello, how are you?

I am fine, thank you / I am not fine.

My name is.....

I am from **Russia**  
(**Colombia, Ukraine, Nigeria, Belarus, Thailand**)

I speak **Ukrainian**  
(**Russian, Spanish, French, English, Thai**)

I don't understand your language

I need your help.

Please call the **police** for me!  
(**Embassy, counselling centre, hospital, doctor, taxi, pharmacy, post office, women's shelter**)

I am being threatened.

May I please use your mobile phone?

I need to call a **counselling centre**.  
(**Embassy, police, hospital, doctor, taxi, pharmacy, women's shelter**).

They are keeping me locked.

I am not free to leave the flat.

Where am I? Please write the address for me?

Where is the **Thai** embassy?  
(**Russian, Colombian, Ukrainian, Nigerian, of Belarus**)

How do I get to the next **pharmacy**?  
(**Embassy, police, counselling centre, hospital, doctor, taxi, women's shelter**)

Please take me to the next **hospital**.  
(**Embassy, police, counselling centre, doctor, taxi, pharmacy, women's shelter**)

I need medication.

I am ill.

I am not feeling well.

I've been beaten.

I don't have **money**.  
(**passport, identity card, credit card, visa**)

My **passport** has been taken away from me.  
(**money, identity card,, visa**)

I have lost my credit card.  
(**money, identity card, passport, visa**)

My **identity card** is been kept at my friends house. Her address is...  
(**passport, credit card, visa, money**)

I have copies of my **visa** at this address...  
(**passport, identity card, credit card**)

Please look for someone, who speaks **French**.  
(**Thai, Spanish, English, Russian**)

Where can I make a phone call?

Please call the police for me.

Please do not call the police. But help me.