



Years *of the*
Claims Conference
1951–2021



Photo: Diana Pashkovich



ועידת התביעות Claims Conference

Conference on Jewish Material Claims
Against Germany

1951–2021

70 years of pursuing justice
for Holocaust survivors worldwide



The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), a nonprofit organization with offices in New York, Israel and Germany, secures material compensation for Holocaust survivors around the world.

Founded in 1951 by representatives of 23 major international Jewish organizations, the Claims Conference negotiates for and disburses funds to individuals and organizations and seeks the return of Jewish property stolen during the Holocaust. As a result of negotiations with the Claims Conference since 1952, the German government has paid approximately \$90 billion in indemnification to individuals for suffering and losses resulting from persecution by the Nazis.

In 2021, the Claims Conference will distribute approximately \$658 million in direct compensation to over 260,000 survivors in 83 countries and will allocate approximately \$654 million in grants to over 300 social service agencies worldwide that provide vital services for Holocaust survivors, such as home care, food and medicine.

For more information, please visit: www.claimscon.org

“For the first time in the history of the Jewish people, oppressed and plundered for hundreds of years... the oppressor and plunderer has had to hand back some of the spoil and pay collective compensation for part of the material losses.”

— David Ben Gurion to the Claims Conference Inaugural President, Dr. Nachum Goldmann

A number of terms have been used to refer to the many German compensation programs established over the past 70 years. The Germans use the term “Wiedergutmachung,” which means to “make whole.” The Claims Conference does not use this term because it strongly believes that, however meaningful the amounts paid by the German government, there can be no “making whole” the immeasurable suffering endured by Shoah victims.

Nevertheless, the Claims Conference’s accomplishments since its first meeting in 1951 have been nothing short of historic. There is nothing that can ever make up for the atrocities the Nazis committed but providing a small measure of justice is something we have proudly done for 70 years.

The Claims Conference helped rebuild Jewish communities devastated by the Nazis, revive Jewish cultural life in Europe and provide essential services to Nazi victims in 40 nations in its first 12 years of existence. DM 450 million received from the Federal Republic of Germany was allocated towards these causes. The organization also vigorously pursued the passage of indemnification legislation from West Germany, leading to the establishment of a variety of annuities and one-time programs, known as the Bundesentschädigungsgesetz, or the BEG, that provided compensation to Nazi victims for personal suffering or injury, including deprivation of liberty, damage to health and loss of provider.

At first, benefits were not provided universally and eligibility for the program was limited to Nazi victims who were former German citizens or who had a recognized status as refugees and stateless persons, and who were in the West. In the 1950s and 1960s, ongoing Claims Conference negotiations significantly expanded the scope of those eligible under the BEG. Subsequently, the Claims Conference has continually pursued the establishment and expansion of other compensation programs and has succeeded in achieving considerable liberalizations.

From day one, the Claims Conference was relentless in its efforts. In 1953, the Claims Conference expanded its original mandate and formed the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria. The committee pursues compensation for individuals and allocates funds provided by the Austrian government for assistance to Nazi

victims. In addition, the Claims Conference has sought compensation for Jewish slave laborers, and by 1966 reached agreements with six German companies for payments for slave labor.

The Claims Conference's original role further expanded with the creation of the Hardship Fund in 1980. Established after five years of negotiations, the fund issues direct payments to Nazi victims who had received no prior compensation and primarily benefitted those who had emigrated from the Soviet Union in the 1970s. The Claims Conference, rather than the German government, processed the applications and determined who would be eligible and administered the payments. Continuing negotiations have liberalized the criteria for this and other subsequent Claims Conference compensation programs.

10 years later, the newly united Germany passed legislation for the restitution of property nationalized by the Communist government in the former East Germany. Due to Claims Conference efforts, the restitution of Jewish property sold under duress or confiscated by the Nazis after 1933 was included in such legislation. As a result, Jewish property owners and their heirs gained the right to file claims for their property. The German government imposed an application deadline which, under pressure from the Claims Conference, was extended to December 31, 1992. Before the deadline, the Claims Conference also conducted a massive research and publicity effort to identify all possible Jewish properties.

The Claims Conference was also named the Successor Organization for all unclaimed individual Jewish property, as well as for the property of dissolved Jewish communities and organizations. Before the deadline, the Claims Conference also conducted a substantial research and publicity effort to identify all possible Jewish properties. Had the Claims Conference not taken these steps, Jewish assets that remained unclaimed after the filing deadline would have remained with the owners at the time, (including in many cases the original "aryanizers") or reverted to the German government. The Claims Conference dedicates the proceeds from sales of any such recovered property to organizations and institutions caring for needy, elderly victims of Nazi persecution around the world, with a small amount of the proceeds going to support Shoah education, documentation and research.

Legislation for restitution of communal, individual, and unclaimed assets in all countries looted in the Shoah should be enacted. Therefore, the Claims Conference was a driving force in establishing the World Jewish Restitution Organization for all such issues outside of Germany and Austria.

Negotiations have continued well into the 21st century. In 2000, a \$5 billion agreement was reached with German industry and the government that was primarily for payments for slave and forced labor. A few years later, the Claims Conference successfully negotiated funding from the German government for in-home services for Holocaust survivors. The first home care agreement was for €6 million in 2004. In the present, the Claims Conference obtained agreements for €554.5 million for 2021 and €622.9 million in 2022.

The Claims Conference has unceasingly pressed the issue of Germany's obligation to help care for victims in their old age, whose persecution caused health problems that are significantly worse than those suffered by other elderly adults, who lost years of education that could have helped them financially as adults, and who were separated from essential family support networks. The funding is used to help Nazi victims remain in their own homes for as long as possible so they may spend their final years in familiar, comfortable surroundings.

In the most recent years, the Claims Conference has continued fighting for liberalizations of existing programs. Significant liberalizations of the Hardship Fund included hundreds of thousands of survivors including those in former communist countries, those in Morocco, Leningrad, and Algeria. New programs such as the Child Survivor Fund were established, a pension program for 6,500 Holocaust survivors and pensions for Righteous Gentiles in need. Liberalizations in the Article 2 and Central and Eastern European pension programs expanded those programs to tens of thousands of additional Holocaust survivors. Payment increases were also secured for the programs and 200,000 Hardship Fund recipients received supplemental payments. Ultimately, no compensation can adequately address the horrors, pain, and loss experienced by Holocaust survivors. Our hope is that these payments help those who need aid and serve as an acknowledgement of their incomprehensible suffering.

We have also initiated unique programs to honor and protect survivors such as International Holocaust Survivors Night and the #NoDenyingIt and #ItStartedWithWords campaigns. #NoDenyingIt was a social media campaign highlighting daily videos of Holocaust survivors imploring Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg to add Holocaust denial and distortion to the platform's hate speech policy. We are constantly adapting to the changing needs of survivors, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, yet our mission remains the same.

This brief list of accomplishments would be woefully incomplete without acknowledging the immeasurable contribution of Saul Kagan, z"l, the founding Executive Director of the organization. Saul, who passed away in 2013, profoundly shaped the work of — and was integral to pursuing the mission of — the Claims Conference. He made it his life's calling to attain a small measure of justice for those Jews who had managed to survive the Shoah and, in so doing, became the backbone of an unparalleled historic endeavor. Whatever has been accomplished and whatever will be accomplished in the future, stands on the foundation that Saul Kagan created. The history of the Claims Conference would be woefully incomplete without mention of its Presidents, Nahum Goldmann, Dr. Israel Miller, Rabbi Israel Singer and Julius Berman, who have guided the organization over the past seven decades.

The chronology that follows is a testament to 70 years of extraordinary accomplishments by the Claims Conference that have led to approximately \$90 billion and counting in compensation for Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. However, the Claims Conference's mission is not complete, and its commitment to Nazi victims remains unwavering. There is still much to do in the years ahead, and the urgency only continues to grow stronger. As long as there is one survivor left in the world, the Claims Conference will persevere in leading this sacred mission.

October 2021 / Cheshvan 5782



Gideon Taylor, President



Greg Schneider, Executive Vice President

NOVEMBER 10, 1947

U.S. Military Law 59, the first of the Military Government property restitution laws, is enacted in the American Zone of Occupied Germany. It calls for the restoration of identifiable property that had been seized on racial, political or religious grounds, and also establishes the principle that a "successor organization" would have the right to claim the assets of those who had perished and to use the proceeds of the sales of the assets for the relief and rehabilitation of survivors. In August 1947, four German states in the American Zone promulgate laws to provide financial indemnification to victims of Nazi persecution.

MAY 1948

The State of Israel is established.

JUNE 1948

The U.S. Military Government in Germany authorizes the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization to recover unclaimed Jewish property and the property of dissolved Jewish communities and associations in the American Zone.

1949

The Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic are founded.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1951

Konrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, delivers a landmark address before a special session of the Bundestag that sets the stage for compensation of Nazi victims. He states:

Attitude toward Jews

*Declaration of the Federal Republic of Germany as Pronounced
By Chancellor Adenauer before the Parliament in Bonn Sept. 27*

RECENTLY THE WORLD has on various occasions occupied itself with the attitude adopted by the Federal Republic toward the Jews. Now and then doubts have been expressed as to whether the new state is guided by principles in respect of these important questions which take into consideration the terrible crimes of a past epoch and put the relationship between the Jews and the German people on a new and healthy basis.

The attitude of the Federal Republic toward its Jewish citizens has been unambiguously laid down by the Basic Law. Article 3 of the Basic Law provides that all persons are equal before the law, and that no one may be prejudiced or privileged because of his sex, his descent, his race, his language, his homeland and origin, his faith or his religious and political opinion. Article 1 of the Basic Law further provides:

"The dignity of man is inviolable. To respect and protect it is the duty of all state authority. The German people therefore acknowledge inviolable and inalienable human rights as the basis of every human community, of peace and of justice in the world."

These rules of law are directly applicable and impose an obligation on every German citizen — and especially on every state official — to reject any form of racial discrimination. In the same spirit the Federal Republic has also signed the convention for the protection of human rights drafted by the Council of Europe, and has pledged itself to put into practice the legal conceptions contained therein.

THESE RULES OF LAW can, however, become effective only if the disposition which gave rise to them is adopted by the whole nation. This is, therefore, in the first place a problem of education. The Federal Government deems it an essential necessity that the churches and the education administrations of the states do all in their power within their area in order that the spirit of humane and religious tolerance should not only be formally recognized but also become a reality among the entire German people, and especially among German youth, in respect of their psychological attitude and actions. This is an essential task incumbent upon the educational authorities, which, however, must be completed by the example set by the grownups.

In order that this educational work should not be interrupted, and in order that the internal peace of the Federal Republic be maintained, the Federal Republic has decided to oppose all those circles that are still engaged in Jew-baiting by prosecuting them un-

relentingly. Recommendations for an amendment of the penal code have been submitted to the Bundestag (Federal Parliament) by reason of which propaganda inciting racial hatred is, among others, also to be severely punished. The Federal Government is intent to apply these provisions most vigorously as soon as they come into force.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, and with it the vast majority of the German people, are conscious of the immeasurable suffering that was brought to bear upon the Jews in Germany and in the occupied territories during the period of National Socialism. The great majority of the German people abhorred the crimes committed against the Jews and had no part in them. During the time of National Socialism, there were many Germans who, risking their own lives for religious reasons, obeying the commands of their conscience, and feeling ashamed that the good name of Germany should be trodden upon, were prepared to help their Jewish compatriots. But unspeakable crimes were perpetrated in the name of the German people which impose upon them the obligation to make moral and material amends, both as regards the individual damage which Jews have suffered and as regards Jewish property for which there are no longer individual claimants.

In this regard first steps have already been taken, but much remains to be done. The Federal Government will see to it that the restitution legislation is rapidly brought to an end and that it is justly implemented. Part of the Jewish property which it was possible to identify has been restored. Further restitutions will follow.

With regard to the extent of the reparations — a huge problem in view of the immense destruction of Jewish valuables by National Socialism — the limits must be considered which are set to the German ability to pay by the bitter necessity of having to provide for the innumerable war victims and to care for the refugees and expellees.

The Federal Government is prepared jointly with representatives of Jewry and the state of Israel, which has admitted so many homeless Jewish refugees, to bring about a solution of the material reparation problem in order to facilitate the way to a spiritual purging of unheard of suffering. It is fully convinced that the spirit of true humanity must once more become alive and bear fruit. The Federal Government considers it the foremost duty of the German people to foster this spirit with all their power. — END

Speech of German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer to the German Parliament, September 27, 1951, which opened the way for public negotiations between world Jewry and Germany.

"The federal government and the great majority of the German people are conscious of the immeasurable suffering that was brought to bear upon the Jews in Germany and in the occupied territories during the period of National Socialism... Unspeakable crimes were perpetrated in the name of the German people which impose upon them the obligation to make moral and material amends, both as regards the individual damage which Jews have

suffered and as regards Jewish property for which there are no longer individual claimants." He extends an invitation to the State of Israel and representatives of world Jewry to enter into negotiations.

OCTOBER 3, 1951

Nahum Goldmann, Co-Chairman of the Jewish Agency and President of the World Jewish Congress, announces a conference of Jewish organizations to discuss claims

stemming from Nazi Germany's persecution of the Jews.

OCTOBER 25–26, 1951

The Claims Conference is formed when representatives of 23 Jewish organizations meet in New York, express support for the Israeli claim against Germany for \$1.5 billion and call for restitution for “Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.” The conference also stresses that no indemnity, however large, “can make good the destruction of human life and cultural values” or atone for the murder of the Jews. Nahum Goldmann becomes Claims Conference President, and Saul Kagan is named Executive Secretary.

JANUARY 9, 1952

In Israel, the Knesset accepts Chancellor Adenauer's offer for talks on compensation.

MARCH 21, 1952

Holocaust compensation negotiations open in Wassenaar, outside



An early Claims Conference delegation meeting at the State Department in 1952, where leaders urged Secretary of State Dean Acheson to continue U.S. support for Jewish and Israeli claims being made against Germany. From left to right: Vice President Frank Goldman, President Nahum Goldmann, Senior Vice President Jacob Blaustein, Vice President Adolf Held and Vice President Rabbi Israel Goldstein.

The Hague, with parallel negotiating teams: Israel and West Germany, and the Claims Conference and West Germany. Israel seeks compensation for the state's costs in absorbing Holocaust survivors and does

not deal with claims of individual Jewish victims, which is the domain of the Claims Conference.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1952

The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), the State of Israel and the Claims Conference sign “the Luxembourg Agreements,” which form the basis for the German federal indemnification and restitution programs for Holocaust survivors. The agreements recognize West Germany's debts to both individuals and to the Jewish world. Under the accord, the FRG agrees to pay DM 3 billion in annual installments to Israel in the form of goods and services.

In the FRG's agreement with the Claims Conference, Protocol 1 obligates the German government to



Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of West Germany signing the Luxembourg Agreements on September 10, 1952.

Statement issued by the Conference on Jewish Claims against Germany held in New York City on October 25-26, 1951, sponsored by the undersigned organizations:

This Conference was called together for the sole purpose of considering Jewish material claims against Germany.

The Conference, recalling the appalling martyrdom and losses suffered by Jews at the hand of Nazi Germany, declares that crimes of the nature and magnitude perpetrated by Nazi Germany against Jews cannot be expiated by any measure of material reparations. No indemnity, however large, can make good the destruction of human life and cultural values or atone for the agony of the men, women and children, tortured or put to death by every inhuman device.

Every elementary principle of justice and human decency requires that the German people shall, at the least, restore the plundered Jewish property, indemnify the victims of persecution, their heirs and successors, and pay for the rehabilitation of the survivors. In this connection the Conference recalls the note of the Government of Israel presented to the Occupying Powers on March 12, 1951.

The significance of the statement made by the Chancellor of the German Federal Government on September 27, 1951, and approved by the West German Parliament, acknowledging that the unspeakable crimes committed during the Nazi regime impose on the German people the obligation to make amends, will be judged by the speed and extent of its implementation.

The Conference notes that no acknowledgment of responsibility or readiness to make amends has been made by Eastern Germany.

The Conference:

1. Records its wholehearted support of the claim advanced by the Government of Israel in respect of the rehabilitation in Israel of victims of Nazi persecution.
2. Demands satisfaction of all other Jewish claims against Germany, including claims for restitution and indemnification by individuals, successor organizations and others, and for rehabilitation of the Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.
3. Calls for immediate steps to improve existing restitution and indemnification.

it does not exist and to speed up the settlement of Jewish claims in these fields.

Agudas Israel World Organization
Alliance Israelite Universelle
American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
American Zionist Council
Anglo-Jewish Association
B'nai B'rith
Board of Deputies of British Jews
British Section, World Jewish Congress
Canadian Jewish Congress
Central British Fund
Conseil Représentatif des Juifs de France
Council for the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Jews from Germany
Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas (D.A.I.A.)
Executive Council of Australian Jewry
Jewish Agency for Palestine
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.
South African Jewish Board of Deputies
Synagogue Council of America
World Jewish Congress
Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland

Excerpts from the first statement issued by the newly formed Claims Conference in 1951.

enact laws requiring it to pay indemnification and restitution directly to individual claimants, for claims including the loss of life, liberty, health, property, or professional opportunity. Protocol II obliges West Germany to provide the Claims Conference with DM 450 million over a 12-year period for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of Jewish victims of the Nazis, according to the urgency of need as determined by the Claims Conference. The Claims Conference is recognized as the contractual partner of the FRG and the legitimate negotiator and representative of world Jewry.

The Claims Conference had previously signed an agreement with the State of Israel stipulating that the DM 450 million pledged to the Claims Conference by Germany would be paid via Israel. Post-war Germany lacked the hard currency to make its Holocaust compensation payments, so it provided Israel with goods and services equal to DM 3.45 billion. Israel converted some of the goods and services into money, out of which it then paid the Claims Conference the equivalent of DM 450 million.

The agreement establishes two functions for the Claims Conference: to

monitor German legislation implementing Protocol I, and to allocate funds over the next decade. Inherent in the agreements is the understanding that West Germany is liable for two-thirds of the financial obligations of the Third Reich to the Jewish community, while one-third is the debt of East Germany. The German Democratic Republic, however, refuses to acknowledge itself as a Nazi successor state.

JANUARY 1953

Members of the Claims Conference establish the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria, which navigates in an awkward political milieu.

Germany refuses to accept obligations for Austria, arguing that Austria also was guilty of Nazi crimes. Austria, meanwhile, invokes the Moscow Declaration of 1943, in which the Allies regarded Austria as an occupied country, not a collaborator of the Reich. Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab, in a subsequent letter to Nahum Goldmann in November 1953, declares: “The principle must be maintained that compensation has to be rendered by those who inflicted the damage. Therefore, compensation for the damage inflicted during the German occupation of Austria must be the obligation of the then occupier and his legal successor. Any payments by Austria can only serve to bridge, in the interest of those hardest hit, the period until such compensation can be made.” Israel does not make compensation claims against Austria.

MARCH 18, 1953

The Bundestag, by a vote of 238–34, ratifies West Germany’s commitment to the Luxembourg Agreements.

JUNE 10, 1953

In a lawsuit brought by former Auschwitz prisoner Norbert Wollheim and supported by the Claims Conference, the Frankfurt District Court holds the I.G. Farben company liable for failure to protect the life, body and health of the laborer. This ruling ultimately paves the way for limited agreements with German companies for compensation for Jewish Nazi victims who were used as slave laborers.



The original Claims Conference negotiating team and Israeli delegation at the Hague. Front row, from left: Alexander Easterman, Felix Shinnar, Moses Leavitt, Giora Josephthal. Second row: Seymour Rubin, Benjamin Ferencz, Eli Nathan, Morris Boukstein, Jacob Robinson, Gershon Avner. Third Row: Jerome Jackson and Nehemiah Robinson.

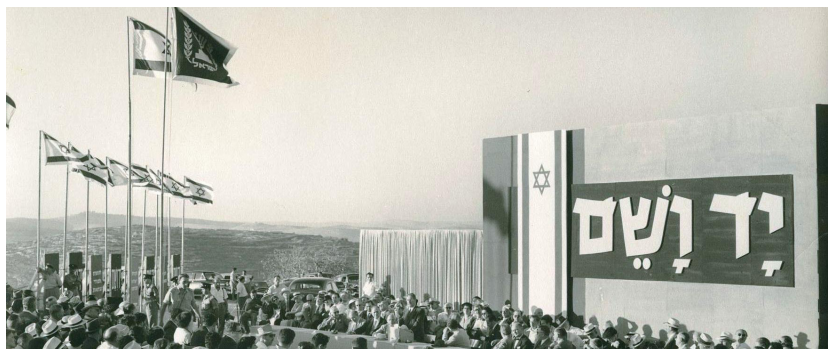
OCTOBER 1, 1953

West Germany enacts its initial federal indemnification program for Nazi victims with the partial implementation of Protocol I. The Supplementary Federal Law for the Compensation of the Victims of National Socialist Persecution is widely viewed as inadequate in the amount of compensation offered and the categories of beneficiaries it covers. The division

of the administration and costs of the indemnification program between the national and local authorities will later hamper implementation.

1953

The Claims Conference is a founding benefactor of Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Remembrance Authority in Israel, providing 50 percent of the funding.



Yad Vashem is founded with Claims Conference aid. Pictured: Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Claims Conference President, speaking at the cornerstone laying ceremony on July 29, 1954. Photo: Yad Vashem

SEVENTY YEARS OF PURSUING JUSTICE FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS



From left: Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Claims Conference President; Dr. Franz Boehm, head of the German delegation; and Moshe Sharett, Israeli Foreign Minister, at the signing of the Luxembourg Agreements. Below: Partial text of the 1952 agreement between West Germany and the Claims Conference.

**PROTOCOLS DRAWN UP BY THE REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
AND OF THE CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY**

Signed at Luxembourg on 10 September 1952
by:
Dr. Nahum Goldmann
for the Conference on Jewish Material Claims
Against Germany
and
Chancellor Dr. Konrad Adenauer
for the Federal Republic of Germany

PROTOCOL No. 1 deals with a program for the improvement and extension of indemnification and restitution legislation in Germany.

PROTOCOL No. 2 deals with a payment of DM 450,000,000 for the benefit of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

This text was prepared by the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization, 112 Fuerther StraÙe, Nurnberg, from the signed original English and German texts of the protocols.

**PROTOCOL NO. 1
DRAWN UP BY REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
AND OF
THE CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY**

Representatives of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany have met in The Hague to discuss the extension of the legislation existing in the Federal Republic of Germany for the redress of National Socialist wrongs and have agreed on a number of principles for the improvement of the existing legislation as well as on other measures.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany declare that they will take as soon as possible all steps within their constitutional competence to ensure the carrying out of the following programme:

I. Compensation

1. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is resolved to supplement and amend the existing compensation legislation by a Federal Supplementing and Co-ordinating Law (Bundeserganzungs- und -reihengesetz) so as to ensure that the legal position of the persecuted throughout the Federal territory be no less favorable than under the General Claims Law now in force in the U.S. Zone. Insofar as legislation now in force in the Laender contains more favorable regulations these will be maintained.

The provisions contained hereinafter shall apply throughout the whole territory of the Federal Republic.

2. Jurisdictional gaps resulting from the residence and date-line requirements of the compensation laws of the various Laender will be eliminated. A change of residence from one Land to another shall not deprive anyone of compensation.

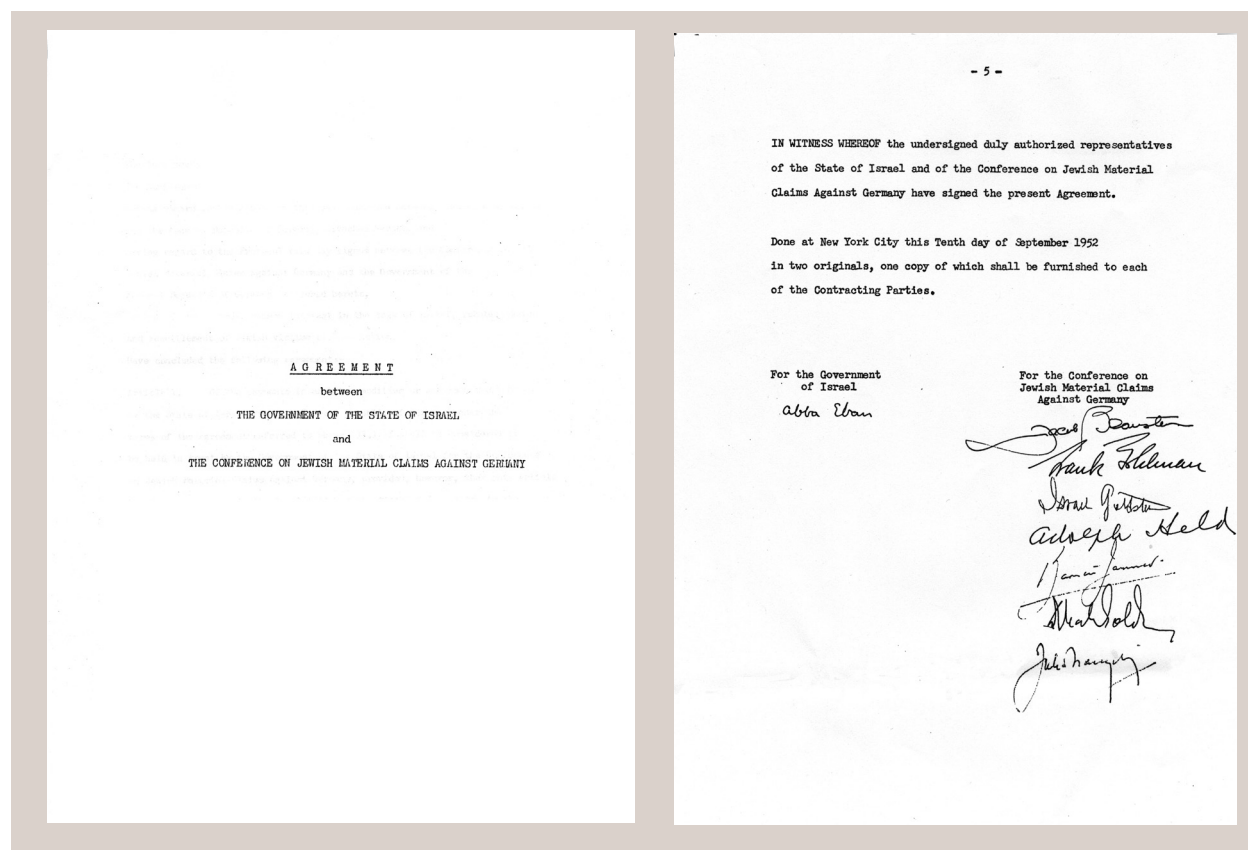
3. Where residence and date-line requirements are applicable under compensation legislation, compensation payments for deprivation of liberty shall be granted to persons who emigrated before the date-line and had their last German domicile or residence within the Federal territory.

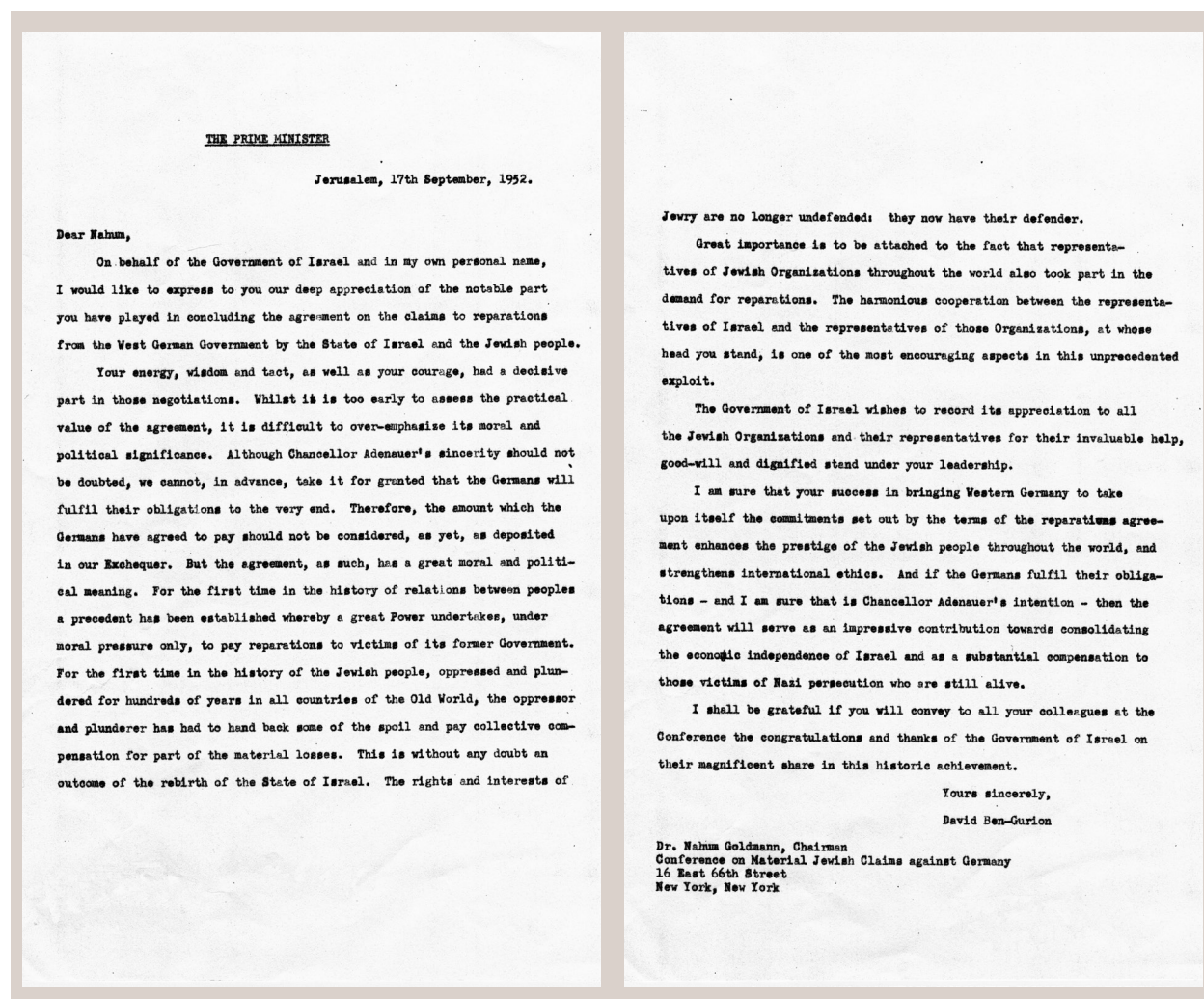
4. Persecutees who were subjected to compulsory labor and lived under conditions similar to incarceration shall be treated as if they had been deprived of liberty by reason of persecution.

5. A persecutee who, within the boundaries of the German Reich as of December 31, 1937, lived "underground" under conditions similar to incarceration or unworthy of human beings shall be treated as if he had been deprived



Left to right: Claims Conference Vice President Adolf Held; Abba Eban, Israeli Ambassador to the United States, signs the agreement between the Claims Conference and Israel stipulating how German payments to the Claims Conference would be made via Israel; Claims Conference Vice President Israel Goldstein. Pictured below: Partial text of the agreement between Israel and the Claims Conference.





Letter from David Ben-Gurion given to Nahum Goldmann regarding the historic nature of the Luxembourg Agreements.

1954

The United Restitution Organization, which had been established earlier, begins to help needy Nazi victims pursue their claims under the German restitution and indemnification laws. The URO's legal victories in German courts help extend the scope of benefits to numerous categories of Holocaust survivors.

1954

The Claims Conference establishes the Community Leader Fund,

which provides monthly support to former leaders of Jewish communities destroyed in the Holocaust who need material assistance.

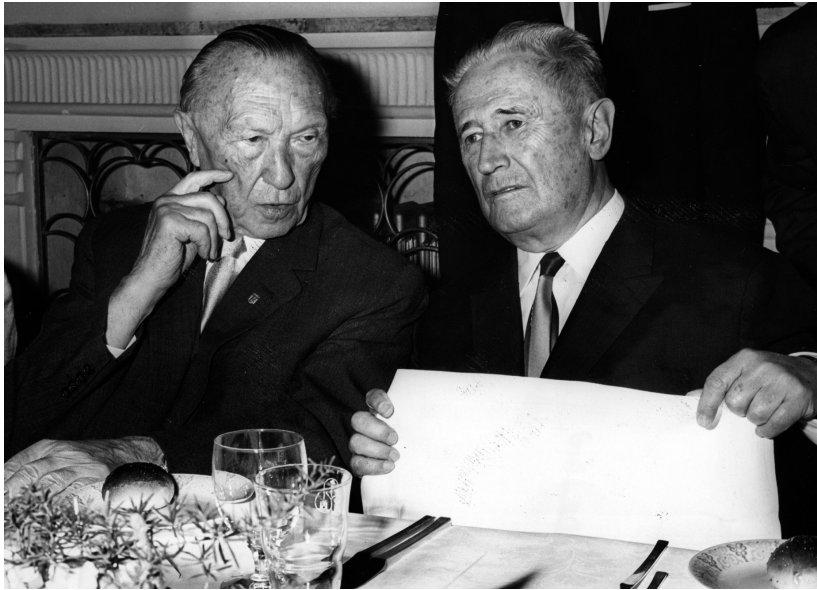
MAY 15, 1955

The foreign ministers of the four Allied Powers and Austria sign the State Treaty for the Re-establishment of an Independent and Democratic Austria. Article 26 of the treaty on the property, rights and interests of minority groups in Austria, obliges Austria to provide compensation

and restitution to those who "have since 13 March 1938 been subject of forced transfer or measures of sequestration, confiscation or control on account of racial origin or religion."

JANUARY 18, 1956

After negotiations with the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria, Austria enacts the Assistance Fund Act (Hilfsfondsgesetz), which establishes a fund of ATS 550 million to provide one-time payments



Partners in history: West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and Claims Conference President Nahum Goldmann in Jerusalem.

to victims of National Socialism who lived abroad and had not received benefits under the Austrian Victims Welfare Act.

JUNE 29, 1956

The 1953 West German indemnification law is expanded with the Federal Law for the Compensation of the Victims of National Socialist Persecution (Bundesentschädigungsgesetz, or BEG). The BEG is intended to compensate individuals who were persecuted for political, racial, religious or ideological reasons, and who suffered physical injury or loss of freedom, property, income, professional and financial advancement as a result of that persecution. The federal indemnification law does not uniformly apply to all Nazi victims; it provides compensation to people who were German citizens or from territories in which people had German linguistic roots.

FEBRUARY 1957

Following the ruling in the 1953 Wollheim case, in the first of six slave labor agreements with German companies, I.G. Farben provides DM 27.8 million for a fund that the Claims Conference uses to pay survivors who had been slave laborers at Farben's Auschwitz factory.

JULY 19, 1957

The German Federal Restitution Law (Bundesruckerstattungsgesetz, or BRUG) is enacted. It seeks to compensate Nazi victims for household furnishings, personal valuables, bank accounts, securities and other moveable properties confiscated by Nazi authorities that could be specifically identified but could no longer be restored to the claimant.

JUNE 25, 1958

After negotiations with the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria, the Austrian Law on Material Damage Resulting from War and Persecution (Kriegs und Verfolgungssachschädengesetz) is enacted to provide one-time payments to people within certain income limits, as well as for damage to or loss of household goods or business equipment incurred as a result of the war or political persecution.

JULY 26, 1959

At the initiative of the Claims Conference, Chancellor Adenauer



Nahum Goldmann, founding President of the Claims Conference, and Saul Kagan, its Executive Director, at a 1958 meeting in London.



A group of female prisoners deemed “fit for work” after the selection process at Auschwitz. The women, whose heads had been shaved, awaited forced labor assignments. Photo: Yad Vashem

convenes the first of two meetings with the Claims Conference, federal officials and the minister-presidents of the 11 West German states to discuss the bottlenecks and other severe problems stalling the implementation of the indemnification programs. After the meetings, the indemnification offices are reorganized and staffs enlarged.

DECEMBER 1959

The Friedrich Krupp Company reaches an agreement with the Claims Conference establishing a DM 10 million fund for claims from the company’s use of Jewish slave labor at its factories.

1959

West Germany enters the first of 11 bilateral agreements with Western European governments in which the FRG provides funds for citizens

of these nations who suffered as a result of Nazi persecution but who are unable to qualify under the original German Federal Indemnification Law. By 1964, Germany reaches agreements with Luxembourg, Norway, Denmark, Greece, The Netherlands, France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Sweden, through which Holocaust survivors are to receive the German funds according to the domestic regulations of the recipient countries.

AUGUST 1960

AEG-Telefunken, a German electrical company, agrees to finance a slave labor compensation fund of DM 4.3 million.

MARCH 22, 1961

The Austrian Compensation Fund Act (Abgeltungsfonds), after

negotiations with the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria, provides the schilling equivalent of \$6 million for compensation for bank accounts, securities, cash, mortgage claims and payment of discriminatory taxes to persecutees whose properties have not been restituted or re-established.

NOVEMBER 27, 1961

Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany sign the Bad Kreuznach Treaty, which settles financial matters between the two states. It includes provisions to indemnify displaced persons and victims of persecution. West Germany pays ATS 300 million as a “share” of the benefits to be allocated under several Austrian assistance funds.

1962

Austria endows the New Assistance Fund I with ATS 600 million.

MAY 1962

Siemens-Halske agrees to pay up to DM 7 million in compensation for slave laborers.

1963

The Claims Conference establishes the Hassidei Umot Haolam program to aid Righteous Gentiles (those who rescued Jews from the Nazis) in need.

MAY 1964

The company Dynamit Nobel, owned by Friedrich Flick, agrees in principle to pay DM 5 million for former slave laborers. The agreement, however, does not

materialize until the company is sold to Deutsche Bank in 1986.

OCTOBER 8, 1964

West Germany enacts a revised BRUG statute after the Claims Conference protests the burdensome conditions in the original law. Those included the requirement that the claimant prove that the goods were shipped to German territory. The FRG subsequently waives the “proof of shipment” requirement. The 1964 revision includes a special “hardship fund” that applies to recent migrants from Central and Eastern Europe, as well as to those who missed the earlier filing deadlines for restitution.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1965

The BEG is amended with the Final Federal Compensation Law, the BEG *Schlussgesetz*, which increases the number of persons eligible for compensation as well as the assistance offered. The final filing deadline under the BEG is set as December 31, 1969.

1965

The Claims Conference concludes allocations of the DM 450 million it received from Germany. Its last allocation is to establish the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. The Claims Conference now focuses on monitoring German indemnification legislation and the administration of the compensation programs to ensure compliance with the intent of the Luxembourg Agreements, protecting existing benefits against erosion and pressing for measures

to close the gaps in the indemnification and restitution programs.

MAY 1966

The Rheinmetall Company, an armaments manufacturer, agrees to pay DM 2.5 million in compensation for slave labor.

1972

The Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic sign a treaty establishing relations between the two countries.

1973

East and West Germany become members of the United Nations, and East Germany and the United States soon begin talks aimed at establishing diplomatic relations. The Claims Conference initiates efforts to compel the GDR to acknowledge responsibility for Holocaust-era compensation

and restitution. East Germany, which refuses to negotiate with a “private” organization, has long maintained that it is not a successor state to the Third Reich and that the Soviet Union’s post-war seizure of its assets means that it already had paid compensation. The Claims Conference intervenes with the American government and secures a commitment that the United States will pursue Jewish claims against East Germany if the Claims Conference does not succeed. The next year, the Claims Conference begins discussing compensation from the GDR with the state-sponsored “Anti-Fascist Committee.”

1975

The Claims Conference initiates discussions with West Germany for compensation for Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who have



Jewish men in Germany forced to march the streets with the yellow star after *Kristallnacht*. Photo Yad Vashem.

begun to emigrate from the Soviet Union and who had been unable to apply for compensation before the 1969 BEG filing deadline. The effort arises after the beginning of détente between the United States and the Soviet Union, at which time Jews began to emigrate. Among the émigrés are Nazi victims who would have qualified for the German indemnification program had they been in the West but were unable to apply before the filing deadline.

NOVEMBER 1976

During a visit of Claims Conference Special Counsel Benjamin Ferencz to East Berlin, the country's Anti-Fascist Committee presents him with a declaration announcing that \$1 million would be given to the



Dr. Ernst Katzenstein was the Claims Conference Representative in Germany from 1956-1987. He worked relentlessly for German legislation to expand compensation for Holocaust survivors and to monitor the implementation of the original agreements.

Claims Conference as a one-time humanitarian gesture to aid needy Nazi victims in the U.S. The AFC insists that the payment is not connected to Claims Conference efforts to obtain compensation from East Germany, and informs the Claims Conference that further talks on compensation would serve no useful purpose. The \$1 million is transmitted to the Claims Conference in New York. Dr. Goldmann orders the money returned to East Germany as inadequate in amount and unacceptable in its restrictions.

JUNE 1978

Rabbi Israel Miller, head of the Claims Conference's committee on East Germany, meets in Washington with the GDR's foreign minister, Oskar Fischer, after the intervention of New York Congressman Jonathan Bingham.

OCTOBER 1980

After years of negotiations with the Claims Conference, on the eve of West German elections, the Claims Conference and the FRG reach a compromise to establish the "Hardship Fund," with a commitment of DM 400 million. The fund is established in recognition that there are still Jewish Holocaust victims who had "suffered in their health because of National Socialist violence, and therefore [are] in a hardship situation, who for formal reasons did not obtain compensation," including those who, for legitimate reasons, failed to file timely claims. Many of these survivors are recent émigrés from Soviet bloc countries and

had not been able to file for BEG pensions from Germany before the 1969 deadline.

The creation of the Hardship Fund places upon the Claims Conference a major new responsibility as an operating agency. Under the arrangement, the German government establishes the guidelines and criteria for the program. It transmits the funds to the Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland (Central Council of Jews in Germany), which holds them in trust for the Claims Conference. The Conference, in turn, is obliged to administer the fund by validating applications and distributing one-time payments of DM 5,000 to Jewish Nazi victims who qualify. It is estimated that the program will pay 80,000 people.

By 2021, more than 523,000 survivors will be approved for Hardship Fund payments and the program opened to additional applicants in the former Soviet Union.

AUGUST 29, 1982

Following the death of Claims Conference founding President Dr. Nahum Goldmann z"l, Rabbi Israel Miller becomes President of the Claims Conference.

JANUARY 1986

Rabbi Israel Miller and Saul Kagan meet with Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz to press for legislation that would enable owners or heirs of stolen art to claim items that had been stored by the Austrian government in Mauerbach, near Vienna, since



Rabbi Israel Miller, Claims Conference President, and Saul Kagan, Executive Vice President, right, meeting with Erich Honecker, left, Chairman of the Council of State of East Germany, in 1987.

the end of the war. The Claims Conference also seeks to ensure that unclaimed objects will be sold at auction for the benefit of needy victims of Nazism. The legislation is enacted later that year.

JUNE 1987

Rabbi Miller and Saul Kagan meet in East Berlin with Erich Honecker, the Chairman of the Council of State of the GDR, in a further attempt to obtain compensation from East Germany.

MARCH 23, 1988

After negotiations with the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria, Austria passes the Honorary Grants and Assistance Fund Act (Ehrengaben und Hilfsfondsgesetz), which provides one-time grants to resistance fighters and victims of political persecution in Austria; people who were persecuted on political grounds

or on grounds of origin, religion or nationality; and those who emigrated to escape persecution.

JUNE 1988

Daimler-Benz provides DM 10 million to the Claims Conference for grants to institutions providing shelter and home care to aged and infirm survivors.

MAY 1989

Two survivor groups, the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, join the Claims Conference.

NOVEMBER 9, 1989

The Berlin Wall falls.

FEBRUARY 1990

The foreign ministers of the Four Powers and of the two German states begin talks on German unity.

MARCH 18, 1990

The first free elections are held in the GDR.

APRIL 5, 1990

The freely elected representatives of the East German parliament, the Volkskammer, hold their first session.

APRIL 12, 1990

In a declaration in the Volkskammer, East German parliamentarians say East Germany seeks forgiveness after admitting “joint responsibility on behalf of the people for the humiliation, expulsion and murder of Jewish women, men and children” and say the country is prepared “to provide just compensation for material losses.” The Claims Conference immediately initiates negotiations with the GDR for Holocaust compensation and restitution.

MAY 1990

The Austrian Hilfsfonds provides the Claims Conference with ATS 300 million for projects for the aged and infirm.

JULY 1, 1990

The two Germanys enter an economic and monetary union. The Claims Conference appeals to the West and East German leaders, as well as to the U.S. government, to ensure that a unified Germany will retain the FRG's commitment to restitution and indemnification for Nazi victims.

AUGUST 1990

The unification treaty between the FRG and GDR is signed in Berlin.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1990

The treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany (also known as the "2 plus 4" treaty) is



Claims Conference leader Akiva Lewinsky played a leading role in bringing Jews to Palestine and Israel during and after the war and was a key figure in developing postwar Israeli-German relations.

signed by the U.S., British, French, Soviet and two German foreign ministers in Moscow. Article 2 of the bilateral German unification treaty provides that the unified Germany will continue the Federal Republic's pre-unification policy on restitution and will establish an additional fund for Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who had received minimal or no compensation.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1990

The "Volkskammer" (the East German parliament) enacts the "Gesetz zur Regelung offener Vermögensfragen," a property law.

OCTOBER 3, 1990

The two post-war German states become one state. Consequently, the property law is recognized by the united Germany.

OCTOBER 4, 1990

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking in a special session at the Reichstag in his first address to the unified German Parliament, says Germans will "never forget, suppress or play down the crimes committed in this century by Germans, the suffering inflicted on people and nations. Above all, we owe this to the victims of the Holocaust, the unparalleled genocide of European Jews."

1990

As the German government prepares legislation on the restoration of nationalized property in the former GDR, the Claims Conference gains the inclusion of Jewish property that after 1933 was sold under

duress or confiscated by the Nazis. The original deadline set by Germany for filing claims for such property is extended through further negotiations with the Claims Conference, to December 31, 1992.

As part of this agreement, the Claims Conference is named the successor organization for unclaimed Jewish property in the former East Germany. The Claims Conference undertakes massive research to identify and submit claims by December 31, 1992 for all possible Jewish properties, anticipating that it will withdraw certain claims if original owners or heirs also file timely claims.

MARCH 1991

The "2 plus 4" treaty enters into force, and Germany formally becomes a sovereign state.

JUNE 1991

Rabbi Israel Miller, Saul Kagan and Dr. Karl Brozik, Claims Conference Representative in Germany, meet in Bonn with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to initiate negotiations on implementing Article 2 of the reunification treaty, which pledged additional compensation to Holocaust survivors.

JULY 8, 1991

Franz Vranitzky, Chancellor of Austria, contrary to Austria's usual portrayal of itself as a victim of Nazi aggression, tells Parliament: "We must also not forget that there were not a few Austrians who, in the name of [the Third Reich] brought great suffering to others, who took

part in persecutions and crimes of this Reich... Our citizens cannot distance themselves even today from a moral responsibility for these deeds.”

OCTOBER 16, 1991

In the first of its bilateral agreements with former Warsaw Pact states, Germany agrees to pay DM 500 million to the “Foundation for German-Polish Reconciliation” to compensate Nazi victims, including Jews, who are resident in Poland.

FEBRUARY 1992

Volkswagen provides DM 2.75 million for grants to institutions providing shelter and home care to aged and infirm survivors in Israel.

JUNE 1992

The Claims Conference, meeting in Madrid, initiates the creation of the World Jewish Restitution Organization to pursue Jewish property claims in Central and Eastern Europe.

OCTOBER 1992

The Claims Conference and Germany reach an agreement on the Article 2 stipulation of the unification treaty, in which the German government pledges nearly DM 1 billion for disbursement by the Claims Conference during the period 1993 to 1999. Eligible survivors — who were in concentration camps or ghettos, in hiding, or living under false identity for specified periods of time, and whose current income is below specified levels — will receive monthly payments of DM 500 from what will become the Article 2 Fund.



For David Hollander, a survivor of Bergen-Belsen living in Israel, payments from the Article 2 Fund are an important acknowledgement of the suffering he and others endured. Photo: Abba Richman

The Claims Conference Board of Directors accepts this agreement after lengthy internal debate over whether to accept the eligibility criteria imposed by Germany. The Board decides it does not have the moral authority to deny compensation to the 25,000 needy survivors who would benefit from the fund. However, the Claims Conference retains the right to further negotiate for changes in eligibility criteria; such further negotiations will continuously increase the number of fund recipients.

By 2021, more than 100,000 survivors will be approved for Article 2 Fund payments, with an additional 33,000 approved for the related Central and Eastern European Fund, established in 1998.

DECEMBER 31, 1992

This date marks the deadline on which property claims in the former GDR must be filed.

MARCH 30, 1993

Germany agrees to pay a total of DM 1 billion for “reconciliation foundations” in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to compensate Jewish and non-Jewish citizens of those nations who had been victims of Nazi persecution.

JULY 1994

The Claims Conference establishes the Goodwill Fund to pay proceeds from properties recovered in the former East Germany to former Jewish owners and heirs who did not file property claims by the German deadline. The application deadline is set as December 30, 1994.

NOVEMBER 15, 1994

Austrian President Thomas Klestil becomes the first Austrian head of state to appear before the Knesset. He rejects the idea of collective guilt for the Holocaust, saying, “We know full well that all too often we have only spoken of Austria as the first

state to have lost its freedom and independence to National Socialism, and far too seldom of the fact that many of the worst henchmen in the Nazi dictatorship were Austrians. And no word of apology can ever expunge the agony of the Holocaust. On behalf of the Republic of Austria, I bow my head with deep respect and profound emotion in front of the victims.”

MAY 1995

The Allocations Committee of the Claims Conference makes its recommendations for the first projects to be financed with the proceeds of unclaimed Jewish property recovered by the Successor Organization in the former GDR.

JUNE 1, 1995

Austria, after negotiations with the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria, establishes the National Fund for Victims of National

Socialism, which makes lump-sum payments to victims ranging from ATS 70,000 to ATS 210,000.

AUGUST 1995

Monthly pension payments begin from the Article 2 Fund.

OCTOBER 1996

Class-action lawsuits against three Swiss banks, Credit Suisse, United Bank of Switzerland, and Swiss Bank Corporation, are filed in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn for Holocaust-era accounts in Swiss banks. The suits allege that the Swiss banks knowingly retained and concealed assets of Holocaust survivors, and collaborated with and aided the Third Reich by accepting and laundering illegally obtained Nazi assets and profits of slave labor. These are the first of dozens of lawsuits filed against European industries and enterprises for Nazi-era activities.

OCTOBER 1996

In Vienna, the “Mauerbach Auction” of unclaimed Jewish art reaps \$13.5 million to benefit Austrian Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. The sale includes some 8,500 items that had been confiscated by the Nazis from Austrian Jews, recovered by the Allies and then held by the Austrian government in Mauerbach, near Vienna. Eighty-eight percent of the proceeds are allocated to benefit Austrian Jewish victims.

MARCH 1997

A class-action lawsuit is filed in U.S. District Court in New York against European insurers, seeking the recovery of Holocaust-era insurance policies. Class-action lawsuits soon are filed against German banks and enterprises seeking compensation for slave labor during the Nazi regime.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1997

At a special meeting of the Board of Directors, the Claims Conference extends the deadline for applications to the Goodwill Fund to Dec. 31, 1998. The new deadline is six years after the original German deadline for filing claims for properties in the former East Germany. The 1998 deadline is advertised around the world.

DECEMBER 1997

Some 40 nations, meeting at the “Nazi Gold” conference in London, pledge approximately \$60 million to aid Nazi victims, with distribution to be determined by each donor state. The Claims Conference is a



Jews who had been deported from Germany to Łódź, Poland in March 1942.
Photo: Yad Vashem

delegate at the conference, the first of four annual international meetings on Holocaust issues.

JANUARY 1998

The Claims Conference reaches an agreement with Germany to compensate certain survivors living in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The Claims Conference establishes the Central and Eastern European Fund, known as the CEEF, which is analogous to the Article 2 Fund. The fund is required to use Article 2 criteria, negotiated with Germany, to establish eligibility for compensation. This fund will entitle some of the most persecuted Nazi victims in the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe to compensation for the first time, helping survivors whose living conditions are much different than in Western Europe, Israel and the United States. Beneficiaries will receive a monthly pension of DM 250.

JUNE 1998

The Claims Conference obtains Article 2 Fund and CEEF eligibility for survivors of concentration camps in Austria, the Bor copper mines in Serbia, and Hungarian front-line military forced-labor camps. Additionally, Social Security payments for survivors over age 70 will no longer be included in determining income levels of applicants to Article 2.

These changes follow several previous negotiations in which the Claims Conference succeeded in liberalizing eligibility criteria for



The Central and Eastern European Fund entitled some of the neediest survivors in the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe to compensation for the first time. Photo Marco Limberg

the Article 2 Fund, more than doubling the number of survivors who could receive payments.

AUGUST 1998

The Swiss banks Credit Suisse and UBS agree to a \$1.25 billion settlement of Holocaust-era claims.

SEPTEMBER 11, 1998

Volkswagen launches a \$12 million fund to compensate surviving slave laborers. The establishment of the fund follows a German court ruling permitting a slave labor lawsuit to go forward, and class-action lawsuits seeking compensation for slave labor from German industries are filed by survivors in American courts. The automaker acknowledges a moral, but not a legal, responsibility to

provide humanitarian assistance to survivors.

OCTOBER 1998

The Claims Conference is a founding member of the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, which is intended to resolve claims for Nazi-era insurance policies and annuities written by European insurers.

OCTOBER 1998

Shortly before taking office, German Chancellor-elect Gerhard Schröder convenes executives of Germany's top companies to discuss compensation for Holocaust-era slave labor. Mr. Schröder had met with the Claims Conference to discuss outstanding Jewish claims during a visit



Rabbi Israel Miller, left, President of the Claims Conference, and then-Israeli President Ezer Weizman at the inauguration of the Archives and Library buildings at Yad Vashem in 2000. The Claims Conference was the main funder of the project, as well as the Yad Vashem expansion, begun in 1997.

to Washington in the middle of the election campaign.

DECEMBER 1998

Some 40 nations meet in Washington for the International Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets, which is intended to produce commitments to restore Nazi-looted properties. The Claims Conference is a delegate.

JANUARY 1999

Gideon Taylor becomes executive vice president of the Claims Conference.

FEBRUARY 1999

A consortium of German companies and banks say they are ready to establish a “generous” fund to compensate Jewish and non-Jewish Nazi-era slave and forced laborers on the understanding that legal claims against them in the United States would be dropped.

MARCH 1999

The International Steering Committee on Restitution, a group established by the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria, including the Federation of Jewish Communities in Austria, the Council for Jews from Austria in Israel and the World Jewish Congress, presents Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima with a set of principles for the restitution of Jewish property. This begins a



Claims Conference Executive Vice President Gideon Taylor speaking in Berlin.

series of negotiations with Austria on outstanding Holocaust-era issues.

To further its efforts in obtaining Austrian compensation and restitution, the Claims Conference opens an office in Vienna. It is immediately flooded with inquiries about property losses, insurance policies, pension payments, and other issues. The Vienna office undertakes extensive research into Austria’s wartime role, particularly the “aryanization” of Jewish assets, and analyzes inadequacies in previous Austrian restitution initiatives. This research proves instrumental to negotiations with Austria, giving the Claims Conference information about the value of stolen property and unfulfilled life insurance policies.

MARCH 1999

The Settlement Agreement for the Swiss Banks Settlement is endorsed by 17 major Jewish organizations, including the Claims Conference. It is agreed that the \$1.25 billion will be divided among five categories, or classes, of individuals.

MARCH 1999

To resolve a class-action lawsuit filed in the United States, Creditanstalt agrees to a \$40 million settlement for Holocaust-era Austrian bank accounts; the U.S. District Court in Manhattan gives final approval on January 6, 2000.

DECEMBER 17, 1999

After an agreement is reached to establish a DM 10 billion German slave and forced labor compensation

fund, German President Johannes Rau declares, “I pay tribute to all those who were subjected to slave and forced labor under German rule, and, in the name of Germany, beg forgiveness. We will not forget their suffering.”

FEBRUARY 2000

The new Austrian coalition government of the Peoples Party and the Freedom Party appoints Dr. Maria Schaumayer, the former head of the Austrian central bank, to head a new office to deal with Holocaust-era slave labor issues.

FEBRUARY 15, 2000

The International Commission on Holocaust-Era Claims launches its claims process for unpaid insurance policies.

APRIL 2000

An initial list of 20,000 unpaid Holocaust-Era insurance policies is posted on the Internet.

JULY 17, 2000

A DM 10 billion foundation to compensate former slave and forced laborers under the Nazis is established at a signing in Berlin. The Foundation, “Remembrance, Responsibility, and the Future,” is established after more than 18 months of negotiations among the German government and industry, the Claims Conference, the United States, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, the Czech Republic, Israel and lawyers for Nazi victims who had sued German industry in U.S. courts.



Rabbi Israel Miller, President of the Claims Conference, speaking in Berlin at the signing of the agreement establishing the fund to compensate former slave and forced laborers, July 17, 2000.

The foundation will be funded half by the German government and half by more than 5,000 German companies. The Claims Conference is asked to assume responsibility for administering applications from Jewish survivors around the world, except from five countries where payments will come from separate national foundations. The Conference estimates that up to 160,000 Jewish survivors will be eligible for payments of up to DM 15,000 for former slave laborers and up to DM 5,000 for former forced laborers.

OCTOBER 24, 2000

Austria establishes an ATS 6 billion “Reconciliation Fund” to compensate former slave and forced laborers who worked within Austria during WWII.

NOVEMBER 23, 2000

U.S. District Judge Edward Korman of the Eastern District of New York

approves the allocation plan for the \$1.25 billion Swiss Banks Settlement, prepared by Special Master Judah Gribetz, which gives the Claims Conference responsibility for administering the payments to a designated class of Jewish slave laborers, to refugees who were turned away from or mistreated in Switzerland and to organizations providing assistance to Holocaust survivors.

JANUARY 17, 2001

Austria and the U.S. Government, sign a landmark agreement that partially compensates Holocaust survivors for property and assets that were “aryanized” and stolen during WWII, and grants them the social welfare benefits long due to them as former citizens whose status was forcibly revoked.

The agreement, signed in Washington, caps an intensive drive by the Claims Conference to compel



Applying for compensation and restitution is made easier for elderly Holocaust survivors with the assistance of the Claims Conference. Above, a survivor and a Claims Conference volunteer go over the application form for the Program for Former Slave and Forced Laborers.

Austria to confront its wartime role in the persecution of its former Jewish community. Austria commits to a general settlement fund of \$360 million to compensate the 21,000 surviving former Austrian Jews and heirs of others for apartment and small business leases, businesses, bank accounts and securities, household property, personal effects and insurance policies. Social benefits for survivors will include certain payments for nursing care and government pensions for those previously excluded from receiving them, including child survivors and survivors living outside of Austria. The agreement also provides for arbitration of property claims, both communal and private.

JANUARY 30, 2001

The Claims Conference launches its application process for slave

and forced labor compensation, announcing that applications in eight languages will be available around the world in the coming weeks, following the mailing of forms to likely eligible survivors who are receiving BEG, Article 2 or Israeli Ministry of Finance payments. The filing deadline is December 31, 2001. Assistance to survivors filing claims is provided through a network of social service and Jewish communal organizations around the world with which the Claims Conference works in partnership.

JANUARY 31, 2001

The Holocaust-era restitution agreement between Austria and the United States is enacted as the General Settlement Law. According to the government, the social security pensions have “become the primary means through which Austria

is trying to compensate our former citizens who had to emigrate against their will.” Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel, in a speech before the National Assembly introducing the agreement, says, “Today’s solution must be seen solely as a gesture, an important gesture...we cannot get rid of our guilt and in this sense we cannot apologize.”

APRIL 2, 2001

The Claims Conference launches its claims process for Jewish refugees who fled to Switzerland, under the terms of the Swiss Banks Settlement. Those who were expelled or turned away at the border will receive \$3,625, and those who were admitted to the country but detained or mistreated will receive \$725. By the time the program closes in 2006, the Claims Conference pays 3,926 people a total of more than \$10.7 million.



Roman Kent, then-Treasurer of the Claims Conference, speaking at Berlin’s Grunewald train station to commemorate the German Jews deported from there.

JUNE 2001

The Claims Conference issues its first payments to survivors under the Program for Former Slave and Forced Laborers.

AUGUST 2001

Under the Slave Labor Class I of the Swiss Banks Settlement, the Claims Conference, at the direction of Judge Korman, begins issuing payments of \$1,000 to survivors who have been approved for German Foundation payments from the Program for Former Slave and Forced Laborers. The payment is eventually increased to \$1,450, and, by the end of the program in 2006, this program will disburse a total of \$250 million.

The money is intended as a symbolic acknowledgement of the German profits made from victims' labor that may have been deposited in Swiss banks during World War II.



Dr. Karl Brozik, former Claims Conference Associate Executive Vice President and Representative in Germany, presented flowers and payments to some of the first Holocaust survivors to receive compensation from the Program for Former Slave and Forced Laborers in June 2001.



The Claims Conference negotiating delegation in Berlin for talks with the Ministry of Finance in 2002. Back row, from left: Ben Meed, Ben Helfgott, President Israel Singer, Gideon Taylor. Front row, from left: Karen Heilig, Karl Brozik, Roman Kent, Saul Kagan, Noach Flug.

2001

The Claims Conference makes its first allocations from the Looted Assets Class of the Swiss Banks Settlement. Judge Korman had adopted

the Special Master's recommendation that the portion of the Settlement intended to compensate for assets looted from Jews be used in a *cy pres* remedy to assist needy survivors. The Claims Conference will be responsible over a 10-year period for allocating \$32,625,000 to social welfare programs aiding Nazi victims outside the former Soviet Union.

MARCH 2002

The Claims Conference mourns the passing of Claims Conference President Rabbi Israel Miller. Rabbi Miller dedicated his life to the Jewish people and helped obtain hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation for Holocaust survivors.

The Claims Conference negotiates expansions to the eligibility criteria for Article 2 and CEEF to include



Two survivors, after the liberation. Bergen-Belsen, Germany, April 1945. Bergen-Belsen, next to Hamburg in northern Germany, first served as a holding camp, and gradually became a concentration camp where tens of thousands of Jews and non-Jews perished. After the war's end, Bergen-Belsen became the largest DP camp in Europe, with 10,000 inhabitants in 1946. Under the leadership of Yosef Rosensaft, and with the assistance of organizations and individuals who came to help, the liberated prisoners succeeded in organizing a wide range of social, cultural and political activities. Photo: Yad Vashem

survivors of certain camps not previously acknowledged by the German government that will now be recognized as concentration-like camps for compensation purposes. The camps include labor camps and working battalions during certain time periods in Romania, Slovakia, the former Yugoslavia, Libya and Somovit in Bulgaria. Additionally, the Claims Conference negotiates an increase in the income eligibility ceiling to \$31,500 in cases of two married survivors eligible for Article 2 payments.

2003

The Claims Conference negotiates an agreement with the Municipality of Vienna and the Austrian National Fund that 10 to 15 Holocaust

survivors of Austrian descent living in hardship will be flown to Vienna for urgently needed medical treatment and hospitalization. The Claims Conference, working in conjunction with local Jewish social service agencies, will choose eligible survivors living among Jewish communities in distress. The National Fund pays for transportation and lodging and the Vienna Municipality covers medical treatment and hospitalization.

FEBRUARY 2003

The Claims Conference achieves the inclusion of a limited number of so-called "Western Persecutees" — survivors from Western European countries with which Germany had arranged compensation agreements

— in the Article 2 Fund. The Article 2 monthly payments increase to €270 and the CEEF to €135. The German government agrees that income will not be a criterion for Hardship Fund eligibility.

MAY 2003

The Claims Conference initiates the Austrian Holocaust Survivor Emergency Assistance Program, allocating \$3.6 million for the first year. The funds derive from a 2000 agreement between the Claims Conference and Bank Austria, and the remaining funds derive from a 1990 agreement with the Austrian government to provide assistance to survivors.

JULY 2003

The Claims Conference Board of Directors votes to publish the names of former owners of Jewish assets in the former East Germany that it had either recovered or for which it had received a compensation payment



Moshe Sanbar, former Claims Conference Chairman of the Executive Committee, speaking in Berlin in 2002.

under German restitution law covering East Germany, or for which it had filed claims that were not yet adjudicated. The board also votes to set the final Goodwill Fund deadline to be six months after publication of the list. The list is published September 30, 2003, with subsequent advertising in more than 100 newspapers worldwide and worldwide media coverage. The final deadline is set for March 31, 2004.

DECEMBER 2003

The Claims Conference allocates \$2.2 million from the Swiss Fund for Needy Victims of the Shoah for humanitarian needs of Holocaust survivors in 21 countries. The Swiss Fund was established in March 1997 by decree of the Federal Council of Switzerland as a humanitarian gesture to aid needy victims of the Holocaust. The World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO), after implementing distribution, asked the Claims Conference to distribute the remaining funds.



Claims Conference President Dr. Israel Singer led negotiations and was a forceful advocate for the rights of survivors.



Avraham Pressler, longtime Claims Conference Representative in Israel, visits with a survivor at the Shalva nursing home, which received funding from the Claims Conference.

JANUARY 2004

The Fund for Victims of Medical Experiments and Other Injuries makes its first payments to 1,778 survivors. By the conclusion of the program, which is funded by the German Foundation, it will pay a total of approximately \$21 million to a total of 2,488 survivors. In researching the claims for this program, the Claims Conference uncovers much new evidence about medical experiments under the Third Reich that had not been previously documented, and made available redacted testimonies of the survivors. The research shows that about 178 types of experiments were performed in more than 30 camps and ghettos. The Claims Conference submits the new historical information and the testimonies to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and to Yad Vashem in Israel.

APRIL 2004

Certain survivors of Hungarian labor battalions after March 1944 become eligible for Claims Conference pensions following negotiations with Germany.

MAY 2004

The German government agrees to provide €6 million for the home-care needs of elderly survivors, a priority in Claims Conference negotiations. This amount will increase significantly over the coming years as the Claims Conference emphasizes the growing needs.

For the first time, Jews who were forced to work in 112 labor camps in Bulgaria during World War II are recognized as eligible for compensation from the Article 2 Fund and CEEF. In negotiations with Germany, the Claims Conference presents



Saul Kagan, Claims Conference Special Consultant and former Executive Vice President, and Chairman Julius Berman visit with a survivor at her home in Jerusalem. Photo: Sasson Tiram

new evidence that it documented about labor camps in Nazi-era Bulgaria, obtained while working to help prove survivors' claims for payments under the Program for Former Slave and Forced Laborers. Claims Conference research revealed the widespread system in Bulgaria that forced large segments of the male Jewish population into slave labor.

AUGUST 2004

The Claims Conference makes second payments under the Program for Former Slave and Forced Laborers, paying a total of \$401 million to 130,681 Holocaust survivors around the world. This is the largest one-day Holocaust-era compensation distribution ever made.

By the close of payments from this program in 2006, the Claims Conference will have distributed a total of \$1.6 billion to more than 146,136 Holocaust survivors and to 19,952 heirs, primarily from the German Foundation but also including slave

labor compensation payments from the Swiss Banks Settlement.

SEPTEMBER 2004

The Austrian government announces that the National Fund will pay 18,000 Austrian Jewish victims of Nazism an additional €1,000 each, after the Claims Conference calls on Austria to make advance compensation payments from the General Settlement Fund that were stalled

due to legal technicalities. "An Austrian Jew who was 20 at the time of the Anschluss is 86 today. Austrian Jewish victims of Nazism are dying at the rate of two per day. They are the surviving remnant of a once-strong community. They deserve this symbolic payment in their lifetimes," says Moshe Jahoda, Claims Conference Representative in Austria.

MAY 2005

The German government agrees to include survivors incarcerated for at least six months in certain labor camps in Hungary, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria in the Article 2 Fund and CEEF. Negotiations also lead to an increase in the CEEF monthly payment in countries that have joined the European Union (EU), from €135 to €175.

The German government agrees to provide an additional €9 million for home care.



At a meeting of the German Foundation, "Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future," Gideon Taylor, Amb. Reuven Merhav, Claims Conference Representative in Germany Georg Heuberger and Foundation Chairman Dr. Michael Jansen.

MAY 2005

A settlement is reached in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida in a class-action lawsuit brought by Jewish Hungarian victims of Nazism and heirs against the United States government regarding the handling of property on the “Hungarian Gold Train.” As part of the \$25 million to be paid by the U.S. government, \$21 million will be allocated by the Claims Conference over a period of four years to fund social service projects benefiting Hungarian Holocaust survivors who reside outside of Hungary.



Right, Ambassador Reuven Merhav, Chairman of the Claims Conference Executive Committee, meets with Holocaust survivors in Ukraine.

JUNE 2006

Germany agrees to provide €21 million for home care services in 2006 and 2007. Additionally, survivors of certain Tunisian internment camps and an additional 4,000 “Western Persecutees” become eligible for Article 2 payments following negotiations.

JULY 2006

The Claims Conference releases a survey of art provenance research efforts by 332 U.S. museums, determining that, at most, 12 percent of relevant objects currently in those museums had been fully researched. This survey becomes a focal point at a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services.

JUNE 2007

Negotiations with Germany result in Article 2 payments for an additional 1,500 “Western Persecutees,”

an increase in monthly CEEF payments from €175 to €200 for residents of EU-member countries, and an increase from €135 to €165 monthly for CEEF recipients in other countries.

SEPTEMBER 2007

Negotiations enable many pension benefits paid to survivors to no longer count toward the \$16,000 annual income limit needed to qualify for receiving Article 2 payments, which will result in payments to more than 10,000 additional survivors.

SEPTEMBER 2007

In response to Claims Conference negotiations, which highlighted problems in the processing of claims for German Social Security pensions for work in ghettos and the low approval rate of claims, the German government establishes a Ghetto Work Fund to issue one-time payments of €2,000 to certain

survivors who performed work in ghettos. The German government expects that 50,000 survivors will be eligible for payment.

2007

An agreement is reached with the Austrian Government on continued annual funding of the Austrian Holocaust Survivors Emergency Assistance Program. Funding continues to this day.

JUNE 2008

The Claims Conference negotiates the establishment of the Budapest Fund to issue one-time payments to survivors of the Nazi occupation of Budapest who still live in the former Eastern bloc. Approximately 6,500 survivors will receive a total of \$14.8 million. In addition, certain Jewish survivors of the siege of Leningrad who live outside the former Soviet bloc become eligible for payment from the Hardship Fund



Claims Conference Associate Executive Vice President and Representative in Austria, Moshe Jahoda, addressing the Austrian Parliament in 2008.

as a result of Claims Conference negotiations.

Pension payments are increased 8 percent, raising Article 2 monthly payments to €291, and CEEF to €216 per month for residents of EU countries and €178 per month for all other CEEF recipients. The Claims Conference also secures an agreement that certain Holocaust survivors — who were citizens of Western European countries at the time of their persecution and were in concentration camps or ghettos, or who lost a family member and received payment(s) from a German government source — may now, for the first time, be eligible for Article 2 payments. An estimated additional 2,000 survivors will benefit from these modifications. Negotiations also result in €45 million for home care for 2008 and 2009, more than doubling the previous amount.

NOVEMBER 2008

Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, former Special Representative of the President and the Secretary of State for Holocaust Issues and former Deputy Treasury Secretary, is named Special Negotiator of the Claims Conference.



Paris, France. Unloading crates of art objects looted from Jews who had fled or been deported. The Claims Conference is using original Nazi looting records to help determine the fate of stolen cultural works. Photo: Bundesarchiv, B323/311

MARCH 2009

The German government agrees to accept second applications to the Hardship Fund from rejected applicants whose changed circumstances might make them now eligible for payment. Additionally, CEEF monthly payments are increased to €240 for all recipients regardless of whether their country of residence belongs to the EU.

APRIL 2009

The Claims Conference amends the Goodwill Fund guidelines for review of certain applications, including those from original owners or certain heirs who can prove that they were unable to file a claim prior to March 31, 2004 due to medical reasons.

JUNE 2009

Germany agrees to re-examine 56,000 denied survivor claims for German Social Security payments for work in ghettos following a court ruling that clarifies the cri-



Greg Schneider, Executive Vice President, meets with Fanny Fine in her home in Beltzy, Moldova. Photo: JDC/Sarah Levin

should be examined. Although the Claims Conference does not administer this program, ensuring that the claims are processed in a manner befitting the unique circumstances of Nazi victims has been a priority in negotiations for a number of years.

JULY 2009

Greg Schneider is appointed Executive Vice President of the Claims Conference.

JULY 2009

Ongoing negotiations between the Claims Conference and the Austrian government result in the extension of pension rights to former Austrians who were born between the Anschluss of March 12, 1938 and the end of World War II in Europe on May 8, 1945. Prior to this, the Austrian government had only granted old-age pensions to those Nazi victims who were born prior to March

12, 1938 and who officially resided in Austria on that date.

MARCH 2010

Negotiations result in €55 million from the German government for home care and social services in 2010, a significant increase. The German government and Claims Conference agree that pension applications from Holocaust survivors who were in a concentration camp for less than six months and who do not receive pensions from the BEG, Israeli Ministry of Finance or the Claims Conference will be reviewed on an individual basis. The Claims Conference also obtains Article 2 Fund payments for approximately 1,300 additional “Western Persecutees.”

OCTOBER 2010

The Claims Conference publishes a searchable database of more than 20,000 art objects looted from

French and Belgian Jews, which shows that more than half have not been restituted to original owners. “Cultural Plunder by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg: Database of Art Objects at the Jeu de Paume” is based on the Claims Conference digitization of Nazi looting records.

NOVEMBER 2010

The Claims Conference amends the Goodwill Fund guidelines to review claims from certain direct descendants of the heirs included in the April 2009 amendment. The Claims Conference also announces that applications to be reviewed for inclusion in the Goodwill Fund on the basis of this amendment and that of April 2009 must be submitted to the Claims Conference no later than December 31, 2011.



Special Negotiator Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, pictured on the right, with Werner Gatzert, State Secretary of the German Ministry of Finance touring the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York prior to negotiations in 2011. Photo: Melanie Einzig



In 2011, the Claims Conference reached a multi-year agreement on German government funding for survivor home care through 2014, totalling €400 million over three years. Photo: Marco Limberg

NOVEMBER 2010

The German government agrees to provide €110 million for home care for Nazi victims for 2011, doubling the amount negotiated for 2010. This caps an 18-month intensive Claims Conference effort to obtain

significantly increased funds for this growing need.

APRIL 2011

A multi-year agreement is reached regarding German government funding for survivor home care for

2012 through 2014, totalling €400 million over three years.

APRIL 2011

The Claims Conference announces that Hardship Fund payments may now be made to eligible victims who suffered restriction of movement such as curfew and obligation to register with restriction of residence such as “résidence forcée.” This liberalization affects thousands of Jews from Morocco who lived under Vichy France occupation.

In addition, negotiations result in Article 2 Fund pensions for survivors who had previously been ineligible because they had already received more than DM 35,000 in one-time German government compensation payments from the programs established in the 1950s. The Claims Conference negotiated for these payments because the persecution suffered by these survivors was generally extremely severe, but



Members of the Claims Conference negotiating delegation, seen here in talks with German officials, included, from left, Ben Helfgott, Roman Kent, Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, Greg Schneider, Saul Kagan, Ambassador Reuven Merhav and Marian Turski. Photo Melanie Einzig

they had been excluded from lifetime pensions.

JULY 2011

The Claims Conference announces the establishment of the Holocaust Victim Compensation Fund (HVCF) to issue one-time payments of €1,900 to certain Jewish victims of Nazism living in the 10 countries of the former Soviet bloc that are now EU members. The Hardship Fund continues to be available only to eligible Nazi victims living outside the former Soviet bloc. Thus, 80,000 Nazi victims in the non-EU countries of this region continue to be ineligible for any compensation from Germany.



Agnes is one of thousands of survivors in the former Soviet bloc who will be helped by a new agreement the Claims Conference negotiated in 2012 with the German government to increase pension payments in the region. Photo: Doron Ritter

NOVEMBER 2011

For Claims Conference pension eligibility, Germany agrees to reduce the minimum time period — for survivors of ghettos and life in hiding or under false identity

— from 18 months to 12 months under those conditions. In addition, special pensions are granted to survivors age 75 and older who were in a ghetto for at least 3 months. Moreover, Hardship Fund

and HVCF payments can be made to certain Jews who fled ahead of the advancing Nazi army from some areas of the Soviet Union that were not subsequently occupied by the Nazis. Following negotiations, the German government agrees to remove the December 2011 application deadline for the Ghetto Work Fund. Germany also agrees that eligible Jewish survivors of ghettos who worked “without force” are now entitled to receive both German Social Security payments and the Ghetto Fund one-time payment of €2,000.



German government officials met with Holocaust survivors in New York before negotiations in March 2011. Left: Dr. Kurt Bley of the German Ministry of Finance. Photo: Melanie Einzig

FEBRUARY 2012

Germany’s highest Social Court rules that payments for German Social Security for work in ghettos will be made retroactively for four years, with a maximum dating back to 2005.

60TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY IN BERLIN



On November 14 and 15, 2012 the government of Germany publicly declared its ongoing commitment to Jewish victims of Nazism by signing agreements with the Claims Conference regarding compensation programs and home care funding. Minister of Finance Wolfgang Schäuble hosted an event at the Jewish Museum Berlin to mark the occasion.

1. The signing in Berlin, November 15, 2012. Julius Berman, left, Finance Minister Schäuble, right, with the Claims Conference negotiating delegation. 2. Amb. Stuart Eizenstat at the Berlin ceremony. 3. Greg Schneider at the German Ministry of Finance. 4. Roman Kent, right, signing an agreement with State Secretary for the Ministry of Finance Werner Gatzert. Photos: Stephan Pramme



JULY 2012

The Claims Conference establishes a Late Applicants Fund (“LAF”) of €50 million for heirs who did not previously file a claim, whether under the German government deadline of 1992 or the subsequent deadlines of the Goodwill Fund. The LAF will accept applications from certain heirs of former owners of Jewish property and assets located in the former East Germany for which the Claims Conference received proceeds as Successor Organization under the German Property Law 1990. The LAF will open for applications on January 1, 2013 for a two-year period.

The Claims Conference obtains the expansion of the Hardship Fund into the former Soviet bloc, opening the possibility of payments for 80,000 Nazi victims who have never before received any Holocaust-related compensation. HVCF payments will increase to €2,556, and the program will be absorbed into the Hardship Fund.

Germany also agrees to a number of changes in Claims Conference pension programs. CEEF monthly payments will increase to €300, the same as Article 2 payments. The special pensions being paid to survivors age 75 and older who were in ghettos for 3 to 12 months can now be paid to any eligible survivor regardless of age and will increase to €300 per month. Additionally, the time period for living in hiding or under false identity under Nazi occupation will be reduced



Claims Conference Chairman Julius Berman, right, visits with Holocaust survivor Chaja Pesztat at her home in Belgium in 2012. Photo: David Varbiro

to 6 months from 12 months for pension eligibility.

NOVEMBER 15, 2012

In a ceremony at the Jewish Museum Berlin, the Claims Conference and the German government sign an amended version of the Article 2 Fund Agreement that unites the existing pension programs and levels the discrepancies in the fund criteria and payments that had previously existed. This marks the 20th anniversary of the Article 2 Fund Agreement and the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the Luxembourg Agreements.

2013

Negotiations with the German government result in an agreement to provide \$1 billion in home care funding for the four-year period of 2013-2017, with an increase in

2015 of 45 percent over the previous year's amount. This total amount includes funding for 2013 and 2014 that was previously negotiated. The income limit for the Article 2 Fund is increased from \$16,000 to \$25,000. Survivors of certain “open ghettos” become eligible for Article 2 and the CEEF.

JUNE 2014

Julius Berman is elected Claims Conference President after serving as Chairman from 2002 to 2014.

Germany agrees to establish the Child Survivor Fund, which will issue one-time payments of €2,500 to certain Holocaust survivors who survived. Germany amends the law regarding Social Security for Work in Ghettos to grant retroactive payments dating to 1997 to all recipients.



The Claims Conference Child Survivor Fund is an acknowledgment of the unique trauma and hardship endured by children during the Holocaust. A photograph of child survivors of Auschwitz-Birkenau taken by a Soviet photographer when the camp was liberated in 1945. Photo: Yad Vashem

2015

The Child Survivor Fund opens for applications. The Claims Conference mails 80,000 applications to survivors around the world who it believes are eligible for the payment. Within the first year, the Claims Conference will have paid over 65,000 survivors and as of 2021 over 81,000 Holocaust survivors will have been paid under this program for a total of over €202 million.

Negotiations enable the monthly payment for Article 2 and CEEF to increase to €336, retroactive to August 2014. Further, survivors of life in hiding or under false identity in Nazi satellite states for six months – reduced from 12 months – may be eligible for Article 2 and CEEF.

2016

A historic agreement with the German government results in unprecedented levels of home care funding for Holocaust survivors through

2018. Germany pledges €282 million for 2016, €315 million for 2017 and €350 million for 2018. The Claims Conference also succeeds in increasing the number of weekly hours of home care that survivors may receive with German



Iancu Tucarmen survived the infamous pogroms and death trains in Iași, Romania. Approximately 13,400 Jews were murdered in the pogroms and death trains that followed. After surviving the death trains, Iancu was sent to a forced labor camp. Photo: Ed Serotta/Centropa

government funding, enabling more care to be provided to those aging victims who need it.

The critically acclaimed film “Son of Saul,” recipient of a Claims Conference film grant, wins the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. The film, which also won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival in 2015, tells the harrowing story of Jewish Sonderkommandos at Auschwitz, forced, among other gruesome tasks, to work in the gas chambers and crematoria.

2017

For the first time, Article 2 and CEEF pensions are open to Jewish survivors of the pogroms in Iași, Romania who do not currently receive a pension. Article 2 and Central and Eastern European Fund eligibility expands to include those who live in Axis-occupied countries and who lived in hiding and or under false identity for four months (previously six months). Eligibility for the Hardship Fund opens to those who previously received a one-time payment.

The 2017 social welfare budget of €350 million increases by €55 million in 2018 for a total of €405 million for in-home services.

DECEMBER 7, 2017

The Claims Conference partners with the Paley Center for Media to produce “Eyewitness: Documenting the Holocaust on Film,” an important event moderated by veteran journalist Ted Koppel. The panel



Claims Conference board member and President of The Organization of Partisans, Underground Fighters and Ghetto Rebels in Israel Baruch Shub and Claims Conference President Julius Berman surrounded by Holocaust survivors at the Western Wall in Jerusalem to celebrate the second annual International Holocaust Survivors night on the second night of Chanukah in 2018. Photo: Edward Kaprov

includes Holocaust survivors, film directors and experts in the field in a discussion on the impact of film in furthering Shoah education and awareness.

DECEMBER 21, 2017

The Claims Conference honors Holocaust survivors at the first annual “International Holocaust Survivors Night,” with Chanukah candle lighting events at the Kotel in

Jerusalem, the Bundestag in Berlin and in New York.

2018

Individuals who escaped Nazi persecution in the Kindertransport become eligible to receive a payment from the Child Survivor Fund. In other Child Survivor Fund developments, the minimum time of persecution for living in illegality and in hiding is reduced from six to four

months, consistent with the eligibility criteria of the Article 2 Fund and CEEF. Jewish victims persecuted in Algeria become entitled to a one-time Hardship Fund payment, and the Claims Conference opens information centers across France to help survivors apply.

The 2018 social welfare budget of €405 million is set to increase by €75 million in 2019 to a total of €480 million.

The monthly Article 2 and CEEF pension increases from €352 to €415 in 2019, €478 in 2020 and €541 in 2021 with additional inflation adjustments.

APRIL 9, 2018

The Claims Conference announces the release of the *U.S. Holocaust Knowledge and Awareness Study*, a comprehensive national survey of Holocaust awareness and knowledge



Panelists for the event, *Eyewitness: Documenting the Holocaust on Film* from left: Ferenc Török, Gideon Taylor, Larry Loewinger, Francoise Teitelbaum, Jehuda Evron, Eva Schloss, Roman Kent, Julius Berman, Joseph Berger, Davina Pardo, Elizabeth Edelstein, Michael Berenbaum and Greg Schneider. The Claims Conference co-hosted the event with the Paley Center for Media. Photo: Melanie Einzig



Vera Schaufeld attends an information center in the U.K. for Kindertransport survivors in 2019. The Claims Conference organized the centers to register survivors for the new fund, with the assistance of the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) and the Kindertransport Association (KTA). Photo: Ed Serotta/Centropa

among adults in the United States on the occasion of Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day). The survey reveals there are critical gaps both in awareness of basic facts and detailed knowledge of the Holocaust, and there is a broad consensus that schools must be responsible for providing comprehensive Holocaust education. In addition, a significant majority of American adults believe that fewer people care about

the Holocaust today than they used to, and more than half of Americans believe that the Holocaust could happen again. Subsequent surveys were released in Canada, Austria and France.

2019

A new pension program for Righteous Gentiles in need, with funding from the German government, is announced. Payments for surviving spouses are negotiated for the first time. Beginning in 2020, the surviving spouse of an Article 2 or CEEF recipient will receive a monthly payment of €513 for up to 9 months. Additionally, 20 locations in Romania are now classified as “open ghettos,” making survivors eligible for direct compensation.

The German government will provide €9 million to fund international programs for Holocaust Education in 2020. Funding will be provided to the Claims Conference via the EVZ Foundation.

The 2019 social welfare budget of €480 million will increase by €44

million in 2020 to a total of €524 million. The monthly amount for Article 2 & CEEF pensions will now increase according to the following schedule. In addition to inflation adjustments, the monthly amounts will be €446 in 2019, €513 in 2020 and €580 in 2021.

2020

Claims Conference negotiations with the German government result in a new Supplemental Hardship Fund payment of €1,200 in 2021 and €1,200 in 2022 for approved Hardship Fund recipients. It is estimated that 200,000 Holocaust survivors worldwide may be eligible for the payment. During negotiations, 27 new locations in Romania and Bulgaria are also recognized as open ghettos.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Claims Conference secures liberalization of the rules for the use and distribution of funds. This flexibility is needed to allow agencies to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors worldwide during the global pandemic. The 2020 social welfare budget increases by €30.5 million from €524 million to a total of €554.5 million for in-home services in 2021.

JUNE 30, 2020

Gideon Taylor is elected President of the Claims Conference.

JULY 29, 2020

The Claims Conference announces, #NoDenyingIt, an online campaign urging Facebook to add Holocaust



Gila Gamliel, Minister of Social Equality, Israel, addresses the Claims Conference board of directors in 2019. From left: Claims Conference Vice President Isaac Herzog, Executive Vice President Greg Schneider, Gila Gamliel, President Julius Berman, Vice President Abe Biderman and Secretary Amb. Colette Avital. Photo: Melanie Einzig

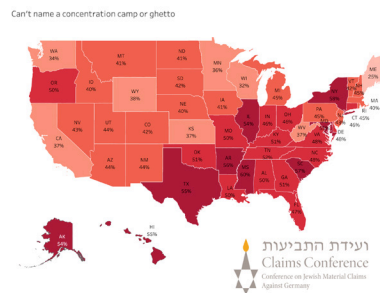


Sofia, a Holocaust survivor from Moldova, receives in-home care from her local “Hesed” (Jewish social service agency). The agency, working with JDC, is funded by the Claims Conference to support survivors in need in the former Soviet Union. The global COVID-19 pandemic left many survivors home-bound, making in-home services more critical than ever. Photo: JDC

denial and distortion to the platform’s hate speech policy. The ensuing campaign ensures the voices of Holocaust survivors are heard by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

The Claims Conference releases the results of the *U.S. Millennial Holocaust Knowledge and Awareness Survey*, the first-ever 50-state survey on Holocaust



The five Claims Conference Holocaust Knowledge and Awareness Surveys reveal critical gaps both in awareness of basic facts and detailed knowledge of the Holocaust. The map above illustrates the percentage of respondents who could not name a single camp or ghetto.

knowledge among “Millennials” (those born between 1981 and 1996) and “Gen Z” (those born between 1997 and 2012). The surprising state-by-state results highlight a worrying lack of basic Holocaust knowledge, a growing problem as fewer and fewer Holocaust survivors, eyewitnesses to a state-sponsored genocide, are alive to share the lessons of the Holocaust.

MARCH 24, 2021

The Claims Conference obtains \$15.4 million from Germany to facilitate COVID-19 vaccination efforts for Holocaust survivors worldwide. Funds will cover costs including, organization of vaccination appointments, transportation to and from appointments and coordination of follow up care and counseling for survivors before, during and after vaccinations as needed.

MAY 2021

During negotiations, the Claims Conference obtains funding from

the German government for new pension programs for Holocaust survivors who were in Romania, hiding in France, as well as Jewish survivors from the Leningrad Siege.

The Claims Conference also secures €45 million over a three-year period for Holocaust education. The budget for social welfare programs for Holocaust survivors increases by €68.4 million from €554.5 million in 2021 to a total of €622.9 million in 2022.

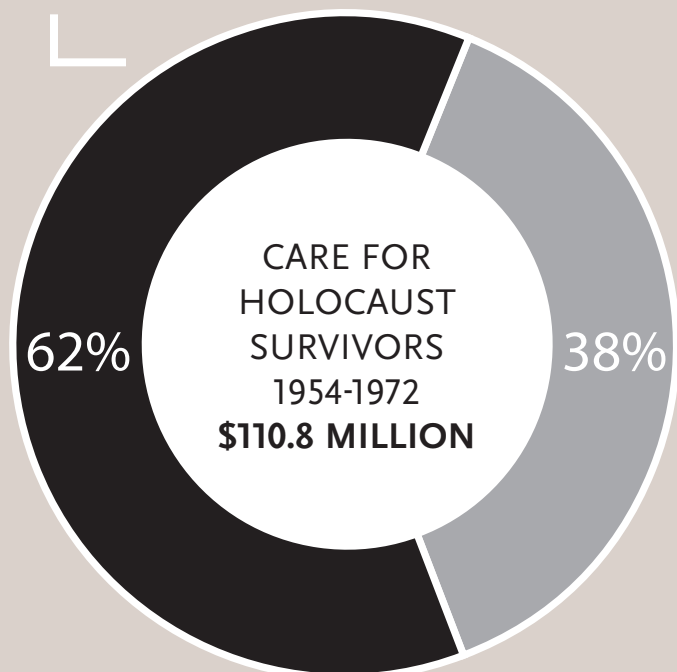


A new Claims Conference program in partnership with United Hatzalah, helps home-bound Holocaust survivors in Israel receive the COVID-19 vaccine.



CARE FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS IN THE POST-WAR YEARS 1954-1972

62% General Relief (\$68.5 Million)



38% Other Programs (\$42.2 Million)

7% Child Care & Youth Aid (\$7.2 Million)

6% Migration (\$6.68 Million)

4% Communal Rehabilitation (\$4.2 Million)

4% Religious & Educational Aid (\$4.1 Million)

4% Care of the Aged (\$4.1 Million)

3% Social & Functional Services (\$3.5 Million)

3% Medical Aid (\$3.1 Million)

3% Special Funds (\$2.9 Million)

3% Vocational Training (\$2.9 Million)

2% Resettlement & Integration (\$1.7 Million)

1% Loan Funds (\$1.5 Million)



Photo: Alex Palabko

SOCIAL SERVICES FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS FUNDED BY THE CLAIMS CONFERENCE IN 2021

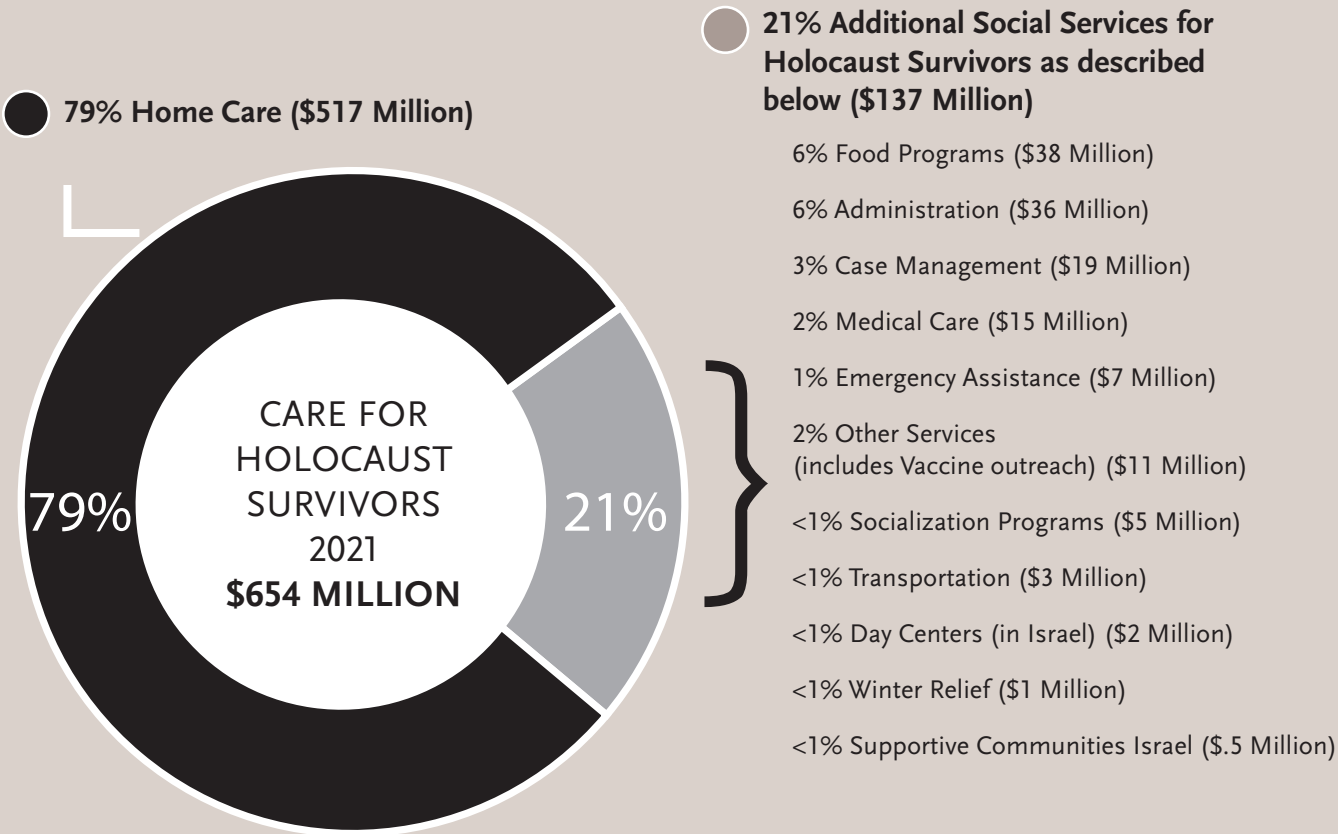
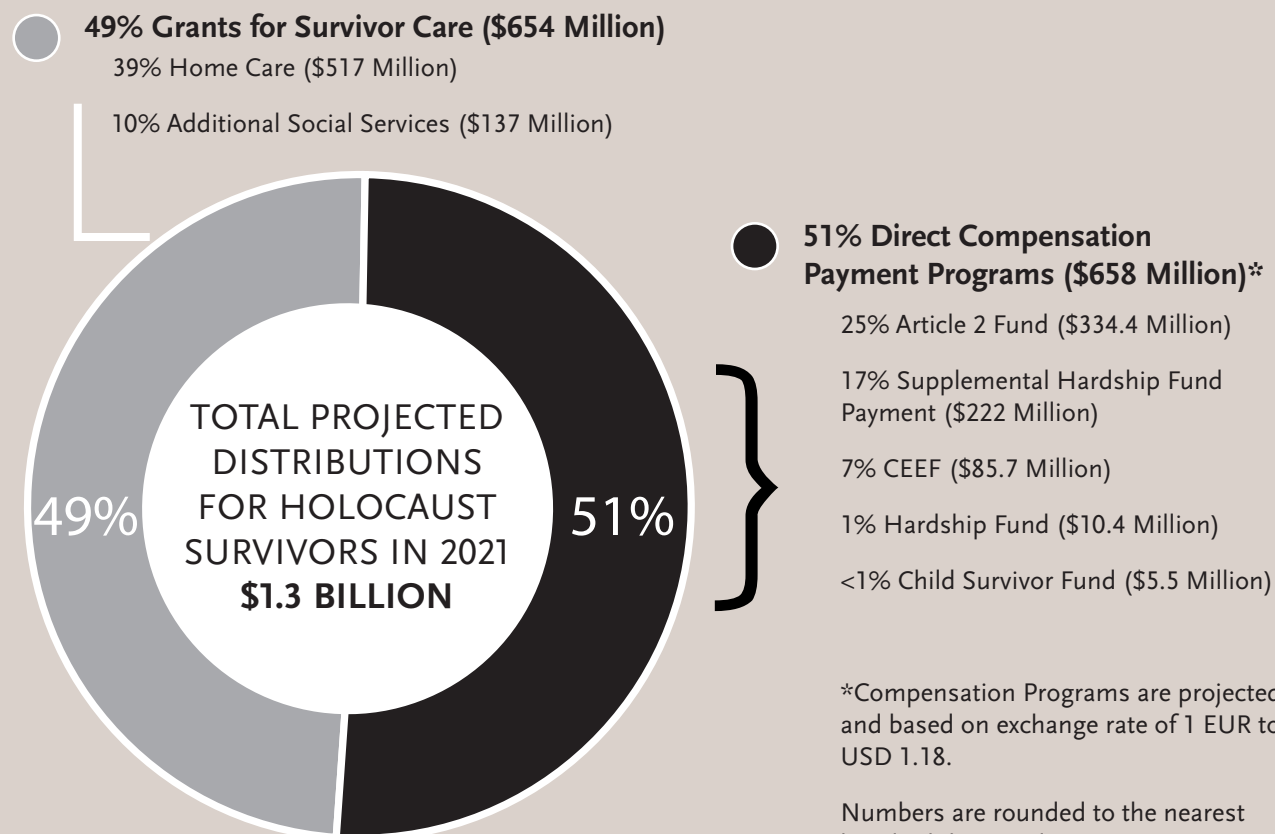




Photo: Marco Limberg

2021 CLAIMS CONFERENCE DISTRIBUTIONS (PROJECTED) FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS



TOTAL COMPENSATION PAYMENTS MADE BY THE CLAIMS CONFERENCE TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

PROGRAM	NUMBER OF SURVIVORS PAID	AMOUNT PAID
HARDSHIP FUND ^{1, 2}	528,559	\$1.4 BILLION
ARTICLE 2 FUND ^{1, 2}	105,825	\$5 BILLION
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN FUND ^{1, 2}	33,771	\$1.2 BILLION
CHILD SURVIVOR FUND ^{1, 2}	88,393	\$253 MILLION
HARDSHIP FUND SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT ^{1, 2}	147,937	\$213 MILLION
PROGRAM FOR FORMER SLAVE AND FORCED LABORERS	173,929	\$1.6 BILLION
OF WHICH:		
GERMAN FOUNDATION ¹		\$1.3 BILLION
SWISS BANKS SETTLEMENT SLAVE LABOR CLASS I		\$252 MILLION
ADDITIONAL LABOR DISTRIBUTION AMOUNT		\$16 MILLION
FUND FOR VICTIMS OF MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS AND OTHER INJURIES ¹	2,707	\$22 MILLION
SWISS BANKS SETTLEMENT REFUGEE CLASS	3,926	\$11 MILLION
BUDAPEST FUND ¹	6,245	\$17 MILLION
TOTAL PAID FROM CLAIMS CONFERENCE PROGRAMS		\$10 BILLION
TOTAL PAID FROM BEG AND BRUG BY GERMAN GOVERNMENT³		€50 BILLION

CERTAIN NAZI VICTIMS HAVE RECEIVED PAYMENTS FROM MORE THAN ONE OF THESE PROGRAMS. NUMBERS ARE ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST THOUSAND. ¹ORIGINALLY PAID IN EUROS. ²AS OF OCTOBER 22, 2021. ³AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015.

CLAIMS CONFERENCE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Agudath Israel World Organization
Alliance Israélite Universelle
American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Their Descendants
American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
American Zionist Movement
Anglo-Jewish Association

B'nai B'rith International
Board of Deputies of British Jews
Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs Canada
Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel
Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France
Council of Jews from Germany
Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas

Euro-Asian Jewish Congress/International Union of Public Associations of Jews-Former Prisoners of Fascism
European Council of Jewish Communities
European Jewish Congress
Executive Council of Australian Jewry
Jewish Agency for Israel
Jewish Labor Committee
South African Jewish Board of Deputies

World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust and Descendants
World Jewish Congress
World Jewish Relief
World Union for Progressive Judaism
Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland
In addition, the Board includes 12 Ad Personam representatives.

70 YEARS OF CARING FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS



1



2



3



4

1) Ludmila, a Holocaust survivor living in Poland receives in-home care through a grant from the Claims Conference. Photo: Yehuda Swed
2) Holocaust survivors are greeted by Nesie Kadosh at Savyon Senior Day Center in Kfar Saba, Israel. Photo: Nir Kafri
3) Sura Chesaur of Bucharest, Romania with her home care aide Radita Semenius. Sura receives home care from the Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania (FEDROM) through a grant from the Claims Conference. Photo: Alexandru Spineanu
4) Over 50 Holocaust survivors celebrated their bar and bat mitzvahs at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Photo: Dror Sitakol
5) Survivors enjoy a dance lesson at a social service agency in the former Soviet Union. Photo: JDC
6) The Claims Conference supports programs around the world that provide Holocaust survivors with nutritious, hot kosher meals.
7) A survivor receives medical care in her home provided through a grant from the Claims Conference.



5



6



7



ועידת התביעות Claims Conference

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