PROVIDING A SMALL MEASURE OF JUSTICE FOR JEWISH VICTIMS OF NAZI PERSECUTION

65
Years of the
Claims Conference
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

1951-2016

65 years of providing a small measure of justice for Jewish victims of the Shoah
The Holocaust, a human catastrophe without precedent, precipitated the founding of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, an organization without precedent in Jewish life.
Since its first meeting in 1951, following West Germany’s declaration that it was ready to “make moral and material amends” for the crimes perpetrated against the Jewish people, to Holocaust survivors, the Claims Conference’s accomplishments have been nothing short of historic. As Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion said in a letter to the Claims Conference’s first president, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, following the first agreements for compensation to Holocaust victims:

“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.”

Organized in New York by representatives of 23 U.S. and international Jewish organizations from eight nations, the Claims Conference had two major objectives:

- To obtain funds for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, and to aid in rebuilding Jewish communities and institutions that were devastated by the Nazis.
- To gain indemnification for injuries inflicted on individual victims of Nazi persecution and restitution for properties confiscated by the Nazis.

A number of terms have been used to refer to the German compensation programs established over the past 65 years. Israel uses the Hebrew word “Shilumim,” which refers to payments in the form of goods Israel received from West Germany in the 1950s and 1960s. Compensation to individuals is called “pitzu’im.” The Germans use the term “Wiedergutmachung,” which means to “make whole.” The Claims Conference does not use this latter 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.

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

The primary compensation program for individuals was the result of a series of German federal indemnification laws that implemented the agreement between the Claims Conference’s and the German government. These indemnification laws were known as the Bundesentschädigungsgesetz, or the BEG, and benefits were not provided universally.
Eligibility for the German indemnification program was limited to Nazi victims who were former German citizens or who had a recognized status as refugees and stateless persons; who were in the West; and who filed claims by 1965. Since the initial enactment, the BEG has been considered inadequate to address compensation and restitution for all Holocaust survivors, and the Claims Conference has continually pursued the establishment and expansion of other compensation programs.

Although its original mandate was to negotiate with the German government for compensation for Nazi victims, the Claims Conference formed the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria in 1953, which 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. Further, in 2000, a $5 billion agreement was reached with German industry and the government that was primarily for payments for slave and forced labor.

Agreements negotiated by the Claims Conference with the German and Austrian governments and industry have resulted in compensation to more than 600,000 Holocaust victims. Today, approximately 88,000 survivors continue to receive ongoing payments from programs negotiated by the Claims Conference, in addition to the more than 60,000 Israeli survivors receiving Holocaust-related pensions from the Israeli Ministry of Finance.

In 1980, the Claims Conference's original role expanded, with the Hardship Fund. The Hardship Fund, established after five years of negotiations, 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, determined who would be eligible, and administered the payments. Continuing negotiations have liberalized the criteria for this and other, subsequent Claims Conference compensation programs.

In 1990, 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.

In addition, the Claims Conference was named the Successor Organization for all unclaimed individual Jewish property, as well as for the property of dissolved Jewish communities and organizations. 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.

Hundreds of thousands of survivors have received assistance through Claims Conference grants to social service agencies, primarily funded today by the recovery and sale of unclaimed Jewish property in the former East Germany and by German government funds obtained through negotiations.

In 2004, the Claims Conference successfully negotiated funding from the German government for in-home services for Holocaust victims. The first homecare agreement was for €6 million for the year. A little over a decade later, for 2017 and 2018, the Claims Conference obtained agreements for €315 million and €350 million, respectively. 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 suffered by other elderly, loss of education that could have helped them financially as adults, and the loss of 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.

Any history of the Claims Conference’s accomplishments would be woefully incomplete without acknowledging the immeasurable contribution of Saul Kagan, z”l, who passed away in 2013. Saul, the founding Executive Director of the organization, profoundly shaped and was integral in pursuing the mission of the Claims Conference for decades. 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. When the history of Holocaust compensation and restitution is finally closed, Saul Kagan’s name will be a constant through all of it.

The chronology that follows is a testament to 65 years of extraordinary accomplishments by the Claims Conference that have led to more than $70 billion 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 of the task grows with each passing year.

October 2016 / Tishrei 5777

Julius Berman, Chairman
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: "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."

This is in regard to the extent of the reparations — a huge task that is to be achieved through the whole world. It is here that we are concerned with the Jewish community. The Jews have been stripped of all their property and its value is in the millions of dollars. The government and the people of Germany have been told by the universal Jewish community that it is their sacred duty to make moral and material amends. The government has decided that all those who have suffered as a result of the Jewish communities in Germany and in the occupied territories during the period of National Socialism...
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 the conference’s 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 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 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. Postwar 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.

**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...
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.
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. Around him are Claims Conference vice-presidents, left to right: Adolf Held, Frank Goldman, Jacob Blaustein, and Israel Goldstein. 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.

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 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 Verfolgungssachschäd-en-gesetz) 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 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**
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.

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

**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 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 2016, more than 500,000 victims will be approved for Hardship Fund payments and the program opened to additional applicants in the former Soviet Union.

AUGUST 29, 1982
Nahum Goldmann dies. Not long after, 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 to enable owners or heirs of stolen art to claim items that had been stored by the Austrian government in Mauerbach, near Vienna, since 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
The 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 homecare 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 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.

Claims Conference leader Akiva Lewinsky z”l 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.
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 victims.

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 homecare 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. 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 2012, 20 years after the agreement, more than 85,000 survivors will be approved for Article 2 Fund payments, with an additional 24,000 approved for the related Central and Eastern European Fund, established in 1998.

DECEMBER 31, 1992
Deadline for filing property claims in the former GDR.

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 Claims Conference Allocations Committee 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. It approves projects totaling DM 42.4 million.

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 victims, 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 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 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 Schroeder convenes executives of Germany’s top companies to discuss compensation for Holocaust-era slave labor. Mr. Schroeder had met with the Claims Conference to discuss outstanding Jewish claims during a visit 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 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

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

The foundation will be funded half by the German government.

**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.

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

**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

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

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 Labors in June 2001.
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.

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.

**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 negotiates expansions to the eligibility criteria for Article 2 and CEEF to include 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 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 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. 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.

**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.

**JULY 2004**
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 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
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 benefitting Hungarian Holocaust victims who reside outside of Hungary.

JUNE 2005
Germany agrees to provide €21 million for homecare 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.

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

Moshe Jahoda, center, Claims Conference Associate Executive Vice President and Representative in Austria, speaking to the Austrian Parliament to mark the 10th anniversary of the National Fund.
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 currently live outside the former Soviet bloc become eligible for payment from the Hardship Fund, 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 homecare 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.

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 criteria under which such applications 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
Due to ongoing Claims Conference negotiations, the Austrian government extends 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 at that date.

MARCH 2010
Negotiations result in €55 million from the German government for homecare 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 certain 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.

NOVEMBER 2010
The German government agrees to provide €110 million for homecare 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 homecare 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 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.

**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.

**MAY 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, which had a final deadline of March 2004. 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.
JULY 2012

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 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.
Negotiations with the German government result in an agreement to provide $1 billion in homecare 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.

Germany agrees to establish the Child Survivor Fund, which will issue one-time payments of €2,500 to certain Holocaust victims who survived.

Germany amends the law regarding Social Security for Work in Ghettos to grant retroactive payments dating to 1997 to all recipients.

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.

An historic agreement with the German government results in unprecedented levels of home-care funding for Holocaust victims 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 homecare that survivors may receive with German government funding, enabling more care to be provided to those aging victims who need it.
## Care for Holocaust Victims

Relief, Rehabilitation and Resettlement for Holocaust Survivors, Funded by the Claims Conference 1954-1972

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services Provided</th>
<th>Percentage of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Financial Assistance</td>
<td>61.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care and Youth Aid</td>
<td>6.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration</td>
<td>6.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communal Rehabilitation</td>
<td>3.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious and Educational Aid</td>
<td>3.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of the Aged</td>
<td>3.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Functional Services</td>
<td>3.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Aid</td>
<td>2.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Funds</td>
<td>2.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resettlement &amp; Integration</td>
<td>1.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Funds</td>
<td>1.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational Training</td>
<td>1.35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Then and Now
Services Funded by the Claims Conference Today

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services Provided</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>% Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homecare (Includes Friendly Visiting and Respite Care)</td>
<td>$238,917,014</td>
<td>67.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$30,307,071</td>
<td>8.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Programs</td>
<td>$27,048,636</td>
<td>7.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Management &amp; Legal Services</td>
<td>$14,681,060</td>
<td>4.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Care &amp; Psychological Services</td>
<td>$12,463,748</td>
<td>3.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Projects</td>
<td>$11,371,521</td>
<td>3.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Assistance</td>
<td>$7,853,989</td>
<td>2.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Center &amp; Socialization Programs</td>
<td>$6,903,595</td>
<td>1.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client Transport</td>
<td>$2,572,008</td>
<td>0.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Relief &amp; Minor Home Modifications</td>
<td>$2,117,506</td>
<td>0.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supportive Community, Israel</td>
<td>$1,184,565</td>
<td>0.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSU Supplemental Programs</td>
<td>$509,364</td>
<td>0.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for Righteous Gentiles</td>
<td>$352,500</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$356,282,575</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Compensation Payments Made by the Claims Conference to Holocaust Victims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>NUMBER OF PEOPLE PAID</th>
<th>TOTAL AMOUNT PAID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HARDSHIP FUND(^1,^2)</td>
<td>496,947</td>
<td>$1,417,608,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTICLE 2 FUND(^1,^2)</td>
<td>95,470</td>
<td>$4,347,352,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN FUND(^1,^2)</td>
<td>31,624</td>
<td>$776,856,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILD SURVIVOR FUND(^1,^2)</td>
<td>61,414</td>
<td>$168,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM FOR FORMER SLAVE AND FORCED LABORERS OF WHICH:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERMAN FOUNDATION(^1)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,333,528,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWISS BANKS SETTLEMENT SLAVE LABOR CLASS I</td>
<td></td>
<td>$252,197,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDITIONAL LABOR DISTRIBUTION AMOUNT</td>
<td></td>
<td>$16,102,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUND FOR VICTIMS OF MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS AND OTHER INJURIES(^1)</td>
<td>2,707</td>
<td>$21,711,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWISS BANKS SETTLEMENT REFUGEE CLASS</td>
<td>3,926</td>
<td>$10,743,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUDAPEST FUND(^1)</td>
<td>6,245</td>
<td>$17,322,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PAID FROM CLAIMS CONFERENCE PROGRAMS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$8,361,919,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PAID FROM BEG AND BRUG BY GERMAN GOVERNMENT(^3)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>€49,778,000,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) ORIGINALLY PAID IN EUROS  
\(^2\) AS OF AUGUST 2016  
\(^3\) AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015  

CERTAIN NAZI VICTIMS HAVE RECEIVED PAYMENTS FROM MORE THAN ONE OF THESE PROGRAMS. NUMBERS ARE ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST THOUSAND.
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 homecare funding. Minister of Finance Wolfgang Schäuble hosted an event at the Jewish Museum Berlin to mark the occasion.

Nazi victims around the world receive compensation payments and are aided by organizations and institutions funded by the Claims Conference. Homecare, medical care, emergency assistance, food programs, transportation and socialization programs are just a few of the vital services provided to Nazi victims as they age.

Photo credits
1. Marco Limberg 2. Silvia Bemporad. 3. Jason Rogers
4-6. Claims Conference