

Children enjoy special protection in Germany. All violence against children – also in the family – will be severely punished.

All violence toward women is a severe violation of human rights and is punishable by law. If a woman says “No!” to sexual advances, her wishes must be respected. This also applies within a relationship and within a marriage.

Only courts of law may decide what is legally right and wrong.

## Education

The key to success in Germany is fluency in the language. It is important to learn the language and the customs of our country.



Support your children in kindergarten, in school, and in their professional training in order to improve their chances when they begin their careers.

All children not only have the right to attend school, but are required to do so. While in school, they must participate in sports and take swimming lessons.

## And finally ...

Please abide by the laws and rules as they apply in Germany.

We wish you all the best for your new life in Hamburg!

## Further Information

For questions about your accommodations, please speak to the workers at your residence.

You can find more information about the asylum process and about your stay in Germany in the free Ankommen.App

[www.ankommenapp.de](http://www.ankommenapp.de)



You can find information in many languages about everyday life in Germany at

[www.refugeeguide.de](http://www.refugeeguide.de)

The telephone hot-line “Gewalt gegen Frauen” for women who are victims of violence and abuse is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year: **08000 116 016**

### Emergency Numbers:

Police: **110**

Fire department / ambulance: **112**

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[www.hamburg.de/fluechtlinge](http://www.hamburg.de/fluechtlinge)



## Welcome to Hamburg

Behörde für Inneres und Sport  
Einwohner-Zentralamt  
Amsinckstraße 28  
20097 Hamburg  
Telefon 040 4 28 28-0  
[www.hamburg.de/eza](http://www.hamburg.de/eza)

Landeszentrale für  
politische Bildung  
Dammthorstraße 14  
20354 Hamburg  
Telefon 040 4 28 23-48 08  
[www.hamburg.de/  
politischebildung](http://www.hamburg.de/politischebildung)

With more than 1.7 million residents, Hamburg is Germany's second-biggest city. Hamburg has direct access to the North Sea via the Elbe, and the city is called “The Gateway to the World.”

In order to help you get settled in, this brochure offers you some basic information to help you understand how we get along with each other.

## Your Asylum Process in Germany



You would like to submit your application for asylum, which will be processed by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees? You must help with the process. You must give your name and your place of birth. You will be photographed, and your fingerprints will be taken. Because of the large number of applications, it may take some time for your application to be processed. No application will be forgotten!

While your application for asylum is being processed, the authorities will assign you to a residence, where you must remain. There you will receive information about the area of the city where you are living.

Right now, very many people are coming to Hamburg. For this reason, you will be living in a space with other people.

In order to live together peacefully, it is important to show respect for the other people in your residence (for example being quiet during the night, etc.)

If your application for asylum is approved, you may remain in Germany and look for a job and a place to live.

If your application for asylum is denied, for example because you travelled through a "safe" country on your journey here, then you must leave Germany.

## State of Law

Germany is a democracy and a state of law. That means that all citizens have the same rights and the same duties. Only the laws of the state are valid. Faith-based laws do not stand above civil laws in Germany.

Germany's constitution is called the "Grundgesetz." Its most important article states: "The dignity of the individual is inviolable." No one may be discriminated against, insulted, or attacked because of his or her

- » gender
- » religion
- » skin color
- » sexual orientation

## Equal Rights

In Germany, men and women have equal rights.



In Germany, women are allowed to practice any profession (for example, police officer, judge, residence administrator, or soldier). For this reason, women may give orders or instructions to men.

Women make their own decisions about who they want as a partner, if they want to marry or not, if they want to have children or not, or if they want to separate from or divorce their partner. Women and men have the right to wear whatever clothing they desire.



In our country, it is customary for men and women to shake hands. Men and women can be friends without having a sexual relationship.

Love between people of the same gender are allowed in Germany.

## Religion

Religion is a purely private matter in Germany. Every person can decide if they believe in a god, and, if so, which one.

Religious freedom, religious diversity, and the peaceful co-existence of different religious communities, including people who are not religious, are distinct characteristics of our society.

Religious freedom also means that everyone has the right to change religions and to become a member of a different religious community.

In Hamburg, there are people of many different ethnicities and religions who all live together peacefully.



## Freedom of Opinion

In Germany, everyone is allowed to have and to speak his or her opinion, as long as this opinion does not insult or discriminate against another person. Criticism of any religion and of the government is allowed.

## No Violence



Violence of all kinds is forbidden. The police ensure the safety of the population. If you or someone in your family is in danger, contact the police.

The police are your partner. They will help you.