

# German Caritas Association



The German Caritas Association is the umbrella organisation for the many diocesan, regional and community Caritas associations, the specialised charity organisations, the central specialised organisations representing charity facilities joined together on the basis of their field of work and the supra-diocesan orders in Germany. Each of these organisations is legally independent and responsible for its own service areas.



And:

Caritas is more than just organised charity work. The idea of Caritas is alive wherever people help each other in the spirit of Jesus Christ. This work can be done inside or outside church communities, professionally or by volunteers, spontaneously or in a more organised fashion.

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## Main fields of work:

- Social Work
- Social Policy
- Quality and Training
- Services and Staff



## Social Work:

Caritas has more than 25,000 centres and institutions in Germany where people can get professional support and guidance to help them cope with and overcome their problems.

These services are intended for all people who are socially disadvantaged, regardless of skin colour, religion or nationality.

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People who are unemployed, have AIDS, have a substance addiction, are homeless, in prison, or mentally ill, or people who have immigrated from other countries all utilise the services Caritas offers in our day centres (outpatient / open) and part-residential and residential care centres. These services are also utilised by families, children, young adults, people with disabilities, and the elderly. In all, we help roughly eleven million people every year

These services are usually provided by local Caritas associations or the organisations running local charity facilities and are primarily funded by local and state governments and the Church. Many of the services are dependent on the donations of material goods, money or other contributions.

## Social Policy:

Caritas is actively involved in the shaping of social policy in Germany. We speak out on the behalf of disadvantaged people and promote the development of fairer living conditions. Caritas openly criticises any signs of dwindling solidarity in society and encourages social action based on solidarity and Christian values. We speak out for people on the margins.

Caritas strives to achieve the ideal of 'social participation' described in the German Code of Social Law (Sozialgesetzbuch).

If the people in need are unable to stand up for themselves or require more support, the German Caritas Association defends their cause on a local, national and European level.



When Caritas speaks out, our voice is heard. As one of the six non-statutory welfare associations in Germany, Caritas is consulted by the German government on all issues of social policy-making. The German Caritas Association's social law experts review bills and offer suggestions and alternative models. The demands they make are based on their actual experience of working with disadvantaged people.

## Quality and Training:

The key to providing high quality services is making sure our workers and volunteers are professionally trained and educated according to the latest standards.

Our staff receive foundational and continuing theoretical education and practical training at Caritas' more than 600 technical colleges and universities of applied sciences in Germany

The German Caritas Association promotes the professionalisation of charitable work in its publicity campaigns, publications and information management and in the training and educating of staff in foundational subjects.

Theory is successfully combined with practice and offer a forum of exchange which frequently provides the German Caritas Association with new ideas. Subjects such as social policy, association policies, management, values, human resources development, organisational development, social work, counselling, education and didactics are taught and discussed in conferences, courses, workshops and seminars.

## Services and Staff:

Our staff of 559,000 professionals are what make the services, centres and institutions of Caritas possible.

Their work is supported by the efforts of 33,000 job trainees, students and interns, approximately 9,400 young men performing community service as an alternative to military service and almost 4,100 volunteers doing a year of social service. 81.5 per cent of Caritas' workforce are women.

There are approximately 500,000 volunteers who work in our services, centres, institutions, about 2,600 centres and institutions in Germany which are legally independent care providers, approximately 46,846 full-time and 68,497 part-time workers provide care and support to children and youths in our 11,366 centres and homes, 991 centres providing family support services, 283 residential homes for homeless people and people with substance abuse problems, 721 asylum and immigration advice centres, 365 missions providing clothing, furniture and food, and 388 general advice centres which are primarily visited by people who are poor. 1,136 people work nationwide in our 46 advice hotlines, 279 debt counselling services and 101 travellers' aid services (helping rail travellers in need of assistance).

10,970 people work in the administration offices of our national, diocesan, regional, community and specialised charity organisations. More than half of our administrative staff works part time.

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And we are working on European and International level as well –

You can find more information on [www.caritas-germany.org](http://www.caritas-germany.org)

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Thank you very much for your attention





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