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Arriving in Herne

Welcome to Herne!

This app, which you can also use offline, will provide you with helpful information on various areas of life.

Linked websites can only be accessed when you are connected to the internet, however.

Welcome to Herne

Welcome to Herne!



Dear Sir/Madam,

Welcome to Herne! As mayor, I am delighted to be able to welcome you here.

Over 161,000 people live in Herne. Many of them have their roots in other countries or have ancestors who come from abroad. They have found a new home in Herne, have got to know the town and have helped to shape it.

The town of Herne has been formed by mining. Thousands of people moved to the Ruhr area in the previous century because they were looking for work in the mining or steel industry. People from different backgrounds became neighbours here and worked alongside one another. Now

the coal mining has gone, but it has been replaced by the health and logistics sectors, green infrastructure and sustainable developments, all of which have become important here.

Herne is a green city in the heart of the Ruhr area. The city wants to offer its citizens an environment they enjoy living in. There are parks to relax in, a wide range of cultural facilities and educational opportunities for people of any age.

This app is intended to help you find your way around Herne. It provides you with an overview of the most important contacts who can deal with your questions. You will also find practical tips for everyday life. And the app also shows you where you can learn German and look for work. In addition, it provides information about how to interact positively and peacefully with other people.

I hope you have a good start to your life in Herne, that you will be able to learn our language as quickly as possible and that we can live together in a friendly and respectful atmosphere.

Best regards,

Dr. Frank Dudda

Welcome folder

Our welcome folder (Willkommensordner) gives you all the important information about the various departments of the city of Herne.

You will find further information [here](#).

Registering with the municipal authorities in Herne





You have to register with the Citizens' Centre within a week if you:


- have moved into accommodation belonging to Herne municipal council
- have moved to a different apartment within Herne
- have moved from one address to another
- have moved from one apartment to another



Important: you cannot register until you have moved in.

In order to register with the Citizens' Centre or report a change of address, you will need your passport or your residence permit to identify yourself. You also need an Accommodation Provider Certificate. You can obtain the form for the Accommodation Provider Certificate from the Citizens' Centre or online under Accommodation Provider Certificate. The Accommodation Provider Certificate will be completed by your accommodation provider (your landlord, for example). If you are housed in accommodation belonging to Herne municipal council, your social worker will complete your Accommodation Provider Certificate.

- **Herne Central Citizens' Centre:** Bahnhofstraße 38, 44623 Herne,  [02323 161633](tel:02323 161633),  einwohneramt@herne.de
- **Wanne Citizen's Centre:** Rathausstraße 6, 44649 Herne,  [02323 163076](tel:02323 163076),  einwohneramt@herne.de



 Monday and Tuesday 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Wednesday 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.-12 p.m.


Registration with the Immigration Office


Please register with the Immigration Office soon after you arrive in Herne. Among other things, the Immigration Office is responsible for:

- Issuing identity cards
- Applications for work permits
- Residence permits
- Special permits
- for travel, etc.

If you are still in the asylum application process, you will find general information here: [info-sheet-initial-orientation-asylum-seekers](#)

Foreign and Nationality Office, Hauptstraße 241, Entrance C, 44649 Herne,  [02323 161636](tel:02323 161636),  auslaenderamt@herne.de

 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Wednesday: closed, Friday 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

You need to make an appointment for an electronic residence permit to be issued! You will be notified in writing of your first appointment after recognition as a refugee by the Immigration Office. You can make subsequent appointments by phone on  [02323 164500](tel:02323 164500). Please arrange your appointment in good time.

Please bring an interpreter with you who can translate your questions into German. This is important so that we can understand and process your case. We cannot pay for an interpreter.

Registering with Social Services


If you are going through the asylum application process or your application has been turned down, you are entitled to basic benefits under the Asylum Applicant Benefits Act (AsylbLG). These are:

- Benefits in kind (accommodation, heating)

- Money for food, health care and personal hygiene, the home, clothing, pocket money
- Additional requirements in the event of illness or pregnancy, for example
- Assistance with equipment for starting school or initial baby supplies, for example
- Benefits for education and participation (school trips for children, for example)

You can apply for these benefits from Social Services. Please bring all important documentation with you to your appointment. If you are new to Herne, you will be given the folder “A New Start in Herne” by Social Services or the Integration Point. Please bring this with you to all of your appointments.

Social Services, Other Assistance and Accommodation Department, Hauptstraße 241, 44649 Herne,  [02323 161516](tel:02323 161516),  sozialamt@herne.de

 Monday and Tuesday from 8:30 a.m.-12 noon and Thursday from 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Residence permit and other important documents

All refugees receive a document by which they can identify themselves. Your identification card provides details on your residence status/entitlement and whether restrictions apply to any employment.

There are five different documents with which you can prove your identity according to your residence status:

1. Temporary Residence Permit (Aufenthaltsgestattung)

Status: **Asylum seeker**

Background: Issued for the implementation of an asylum procedure up until the decision of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF).

The Temporary Residence Permit, the ID card for asylum seekers, includes conditions of employment, housing situation and initial territorial limitations.

- If an employment permit is required, employers or employees can apply for this at the Immigration Office.
- Responsibility for work placements: Employment Agency (Agentur für Arbeit)



Source: BAMF

2. Probationary Residence Permit (Fiktionsbescheinigung)

Status: **Recognised refugees**

Background: Transition document valid for the period after your application for asylum has been granted, until you receive your residence permit.



Source: BAMF

3. Residence Permit

Status: **Recognised refugees**

Background: Asylum granted

Residence permit grants temporary residency:

- it is the basis for a permanent right of residence
- This opens up the option for a future indefinite right of residence (settlement permit)
- It offers unrestricted access to the labour market without the need for a work permit
- Responsibility for work placements and financial benefits: Job Centre



Source: BAMF

4. Temporary Postponement of Deportation (Duldung)

Status: **Foreigner with permission to remain until deported**

Background: Rejected asylum application

A "Duldung" is a temporary postponement of deportation and is NOT legal residence! It is only granted if deportation is not possible due to legal, factual, humanitarian, or personal reasons at the time.

- General regulation for temporary legal suspension of deportation for certain groups by order of the highest state authority for a maximum duration of 3 months ("suspension of deportation")

- If an employment permit is required as a matter of principle, employers or employees can apply for this at the Immigration Office.
- Responsible for work placements: Employment Agency (Agentur für Arbeit)

5. Postponement of deportation due to vocational training (Ausbildungsduldung)

Foreigners who are to be deported may apply for a temporary postponement of deportation to complete a vocational training course. The temporary postponement of deportation applies for the duration of the course. If the course is completed successfully, an application may be made for an extension of up to 6 months to look for a job with workplace training. If you have a job with workplace training, you can apply for a residence permit. If you give a false identity or nationality or are guilty of even minor crimes, you will not be granted a temporary postponement for training.



Source: BAMF

Money/Insurance

Opening a bank account


There are many banks available in Germany. Everyone can choose which bank to use. Not all bank accounts are free of charge, some will charge an "account fee". If you withdraw money from cash machines which belong to other banks, you will often be charged. Before setting up a bank account, ask which fees might apply. If you don't speak German well enough to do this alone, take someone along to help you.

When you open an account, the bank must check your identity. You must therefore take your identity document and a registration certificate with you to the bank.

Important tips

Once you have opened your bank account, you will receive an EC debit card and a four-digit PIN code. Sign the back of the EC card and memorise your PIN code. You will need the PIN code for cashless payments and to withdraw money from cash machines. Always keep your card and your PIN code separately to avoid misuse.

Make sure that you always have money in your bank account. If there is no money in your bank account and payments are debited, you will have to pay a fee.

If you lose your EC card or it is stolen, have it blocked immediately. Call this number:  [116 116](tel:116116).

Insurance

☎ Phone: 0 23 23 / 16 - 45 89

@E-mail: patrick.schubert@herne.de

🌐 Internet: www.herne.de/integration

Consultation hours:

- Open consultation hours: Thursdays from 8 am to 12 pm and from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm in Shamrockring 1, 44623 Herne (House 4)
- Counselling without an appointment at CaféO, Overwegstraße 32 (entrance to the music school)
General consultation hours in cooperation with the DRK-Kreisverband Herne und Wanne-Eickel e.V. (social counselling and application assistance) Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 4 pm.

All other appointments must be arranged by telephone.

Basic knowledge of Germany

What you should know about Germany

Germany is a constitutional state: everyone living in Germany must abide by the key principles of the political and legal system. The main legal basis for life in Germany is the Basic Law. This is the constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Basic Law guarantees human dignity, freedom and justice. There are laws to ensure that human rights are upheld. The laws apply in the same way to everybody in Germany. The state has to abide by the law. Everyone living in Germany must also abide by German laws.

Important values in Germany that are protected by the Basic Law and other legislation include

Personal freedom: All adults are allowed to make their own decisions and determine their own lives. It does not matter if you are male or female, young or old, with or without disabilities, or what your skin colour or religious affiliation are. All human beings are free to do what they please as long as they abide by the law and do not restrict other people's freedom.

Gender equality: Women and men have the same rights. This is reflected in the law and in daily life.

Children's rights: Children and young people have rights. These rights are expressed in the United Nations Convention on Children's Rights. This applies to all children and young people under the age of 18 in Germany. In addition, there are many other laws in Germany that specifically protect the lives, health and rights of children. Safeguarding children is always the main priority.

Freedom from violence: Everyone has the right to live their lives free from violence. This means that everyone has the right to life and physical integrity. It applies to both physical and mental health. It also applies to people's private lives.

Social justice: The state must respect and protect human dignity. Therefore it should provide social justice in the best way possible. For that, it takes legal, financial and material measures. Everyone in Germany who is earning money pays part of their earnings to the state (tax). The higher your income, the more you have to pay. The state is expected to spend this money for the benefit of everyone living in Germany.

Freedom of opinion: Everyone is entitled to form their own opinion and express it freely. People are also allowed to express those opinions in public. All the media are also free, and everyone can obtain information from them. Anyone who expresses their opinion openly must be aware of respecting the personal honour and dignity of other people.

Religious freedom: Religion and beliefs are private matters in Germany. The state does not prescribe to anyone whether they should have religious beliefs or which god they should believe in. The state and religion are separate. Many people in Germany now work to ensure that there is dialogue between religions. The aim is the peaceful co-existence of people who are religious, those who are devout and those who do not belong to any religion. The state is committed to ideological neutrality. Provided that practising a religion does not endanger democracy or the separation of state and religion, it will be protected.

According to the Basic Law, every person living in German is therefore a free and self-determined individual. No distinctions may be made on the basis of gender, origin (ancestry, language, home country), skin colour, religion, beliefs or philosophy, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Germany is also a social state: fundamentally, every citizen is expected to earn a living for themselves through work. However, the state helps people who cannot provide an income for themselves in whole or in part. The rules for co-existence in Germany are based on these fundamental rights.

You can find more information [here](#).

What you can expect

Protection of the individual is ensured by the fact that you are living in a constitutional state. You are protected from unfair treatment, as everyone in Germany is equal before the law. The police has the role of ensuring that everyone is able to live in freedom and safety. In Germany, the police is a trustworthy organisation.

If, however, you do not abide by the law yourself, you can expect penalties. This also applies to things that may not be illegal in your country. The following is illegal in Germany: taking the law into your own hands; violence against children; violence against spouses. Sexual contact is permitted only if everyone involved expressly consents. Even minor offences, such as driving without a licence/ticket or failure to pay bills are immediately punished by fines and, if appropriate, further measures may be taken.

Since you are living in a social state, people who are in need of help receive welfare benefits, assistance with organising their day-to-day lives and help through a wide range of social services. The aim of this support system is to enable you to earn a living for yourself and lead an independent life as quickly as possible.

What we expect of you

Integration consists of support and expectations. On the one hand, you will obtain a wide range of support with integration, on the other hand you are obliged to make certain efforts yourself. Integration depends on the openness of the people who already live here. And it depends on your willingness to respect our way of life, our laws and our culture, and to learn our language.

We therefore expect you to observe German laws and the basic rules of our co-existence, to respect the values of our society and to use the services provided to refugees actively. In this way, you will be able to integrate into German society and the job market as quickly as possible and to earn a living for yourself independently of the welfare benefits available from the state. The foundation for successful integration is learning the German language. It is therefore important that you learn to speak German quickly.

Health

Emergencies

If there is a fire or physical altercation, do not put yourself in danger. We have a well-organised emergency response system. Help will be there in just a few minutes. Here in Germany, the police are also there to help during an emergency.

For all incidents that occur suddenly (accidents, sudden serious illnesses), fires or violent attacks, please call one of the two emergency numbers. In communal accommodation, also notify the support or security staff immediately.



Emergency numbers (no area code required and free of charge from all landlines and mobiles):

- Police: 110
- Fire and ambulance services: 112

The emergency numbers also work from mobile phones with no credit!



Important information when calling 110 or 112 - the 5 questions:

- Who is calling?
- Where did the incident happen?
- What happened?
- How many injured or sick people are there? Are they children or adults?
- What type of injuries or illnesses are involved?

Always remain calm and speak clearly so that you are understood. Do not end the call. The emergency service / police will end the call when they have all the information they need.

If property has been damaged, stay nearby in case you need to act as a witness. It may be that the emergency services cannot help until you have explained what happened. This also applies if you are a witness to or involved in a traffic accident outside your accommodation.



Other emergency numbers for specific situations or groups of people (free of charge from a landline):

- Emergency medical service [116117](tel:116117)
- Samaritans [0800 1110111](tel:08001110111)
- Children and young people's line: [0800 1110333](tel:08001110333)
- Helpline – Violence against women: [08000 0116016](tel:08000116016)
- Emergency poisoning number [0228 19240](tel:022819240)

Health emergencies

If you do not yet have a health card, you may only go to hospital in an emergency (acute health threat outside of opening hours for doctors).

You have to show your identity card there as proof that you are an asylum seeker. The costs must be charged to Social Services.

Medical care

As a matter of principle, you are entitled to primary medical healthcare in cases of acute illnesses and pain. You are also entitled to the officially recommended immunisations and preventative medical check-ups.

Beyond this, the only medical services provided are those which are essential to safeguard health. Seek medical advice if:

- you are acutely ill or in pain.
- you have a chronic disease (e.g. diabetes, epilepsy, mental illness, etc.).
- you are pregnant.



Important: If lives are at risk, call 112 immediately!

General medicine

In Germany a general practitioner is the first person you visit for all physical and psychological illnesses. He/she will provide primary care and is the first point of contact for all health problems. He/she will examine you and will then decide on further treatment.


Specialists

Specialist doctors focus on one medical field. They assume responsibility for a patient's treatment after referral from a general practitioner.

You can find an overview of the contact details of doctors in Herne and the languages spoken in their practices in the following document:

[Overview of “contact details of doctors in Herne and the languages spoken in their practices”](#)

Pharmacies

You can obtain medication and health products from pharmacies. There are also emergency pharmacy services that are available outside normal opening times. You can find out which they are on the pharmacy emergency number  [0800 0022833](tel:08000022833).

There are some medications that pharmacies are only able to provide with a doctor's prescription and others that can be bought over the counter without a prescription, but only from a pharmacy.




Pregnancy and childbirth

Pregnancy

Expectant mothers in Germany enjoy special protection and are entitled to advice, medical care and support with the acquisition of baby goods.

If you are pregnant, always visit a gynaecologist for a medical check-up as the first step. You will receive a pregnancy record book (Mutterpass) which identifies you as an expectant mother and also contains important information about your health and that of your child. Always keep the maternity record book with you for any potential emergencies.

If you are struggling financially, you can get one-off assistance from the Mother and Child Foundation. Please contact the following advice services for any other questions relating to pregnancy:

- Advice Centre for Pregnant Women and Pregnancy Conflict
Herne Municipal Department of Health
Rathausstraße 6, 4649 Herne
 [02323 163253](tel:02323 163253)
- Herne Evangelical Advice Centre (including advice on conflicts during pregnancy)
 [02323 53048](tel:02323 53048),  info@evberatherne.de

Birth and post-natal care

Your gynaecologist will refer you to a maternity hospital. Ask for a midwife for post-natal care in your home.


In Germany, every pregnant woman and every new mother is entitled to a midwife until their child reaches eight weeks or until they stop breastfeeding. A midwife is a specialist in all aspects of pregnancy, birth and the period after.

If you do not have your own health insurance yet, please contact:

Social Services, Department for Other Assistance and Accommodation, Hauptstraße 241, 44649 Herne,  [02323 163577](tel:02323 163577),  sozialamt@herne.de


Registering a birth

New-born children must be registered with the Registry Office and possibly with the accommodation facility management within a week. After your baby's birth, the hospital will issue a confirmation of birth. With this confirmation, you can obtain a birth certificate from the Registry Office and then register your child with one of the citizens' centres. Please also bring your passport and marriage certificate, or birth certificate (if you are not married) with you to the appointment.

- **Registry Office**, Friedrich-Ebert-Platz 2, 44623 Herne,  [02323 162440](tel:02323 162440)
- **Citizens' Centres**, Bahnhofstraße 38, 44623 Herne or Rathausstraße 6, 44649 Herne

Initial baby equipment

You and your child can also obtain additional benefits from Social Services in connection with your pregnancy and the subsequent birth. From the sixth month of pregnancy, you can receive money for maternity clothes. From eight weeks before birth, you can receive assistance with buying the initial baby equipment for your child.


Social Services, Hauptstraße 241, 44649 Herne,  Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m.-12 noon

You can also obtain the things you need from the “Kleiderkammer” shops.

You will find the contact addresses in the section [Living and everyday life](#).



Special assistance

Herne Emergency Assistance


People often find themselves in unexpected situations in which they need practical and professional help quickly in the areas of medical and social care and advice. “Soforthilfe-Herne” (Herne Emergency Assistance) provides practical and professional assistance and is also available around the clock on the free number  [0800 6784000](tel:08006784000). You can find more information here: [2015 07 24 DIN lang SoforthilfeHerne ebook](#)

Help with addiction problems and mental illness




An advice service is available to people with addiction conditions, mental illnesses and disabilities from the Social Psychiatric Service. Not only the person affected, but also their relatives, friends, acquaintances and colleagues can turn to the **Social Psychiatric Service** with questions and problems. If you are interested, please contact:

- Ms. Masur,  [02323 162450](tel:02323162450)
- Ms. Babik,  [02323 163585](tel:02323163585)

Special assistance for women experiencing domestic violence

If you are under imminent threat of violence, call the police (emergency number  110).

The following organisations offer you advice, information and assistance if you are experiencing abuse, brutality or violence and no longer feel safe at home:

- **Frauenhaus Herne** ( [02325 49875](tel:0232549875)): The Frauenhaus (Women's Shelter) can offer you accommodation. The address is secret.
- **Schattenlicht** ( [02323 981198](tel:02323981198)): Advice and contact centre for women and girls.
- **Equality Office of Herne Municipal Council** ( [02323 162629](tel:02323162629)): Here you will be directed to the appropriate advice organisation for you.

Family and education

Childcare

It is crucial for children and for their integration to learn German as quickly as possible and to get to know their new home. This is why it is a good idea to use day-care facilities for your children. Your child will learn German while playing with other children and with the help of qualified staff. If you send your child to day-care at an early age, this will have a very positive effect on language learning. In Germany you are legally entitled to childcare from the age of 1 until your child starts school. This legal entitlement also applies to people from a refugee background.

For **further information**, please contact:

Children, Young People, Family Section, Rathausstraße 6, 44649 Herne, Room 46

 Monday to Thursday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.  [02323 163339](tel:02323 163339)

Children aged between one and six who do not have a pre-school place can attend the “Kita im Koffer” play groups. Parents are cordially invited to come along, too.

If you are interested, contact:

Ms. Roos,  [0175 8474717](tel:0175 8474717)

School

In NRW, the School Act stipulates that a child is required to go to school in the year in which he or she turns six by 30 September. The new school year always begins in the summer. Children and young people must attend school for a minimum of ten years. They first attend primary school from years 1 to 4. They then attend secondary school from years 5 to 10. Those who get good marks can take the Abitur (school leaving certificate) after 12 or 13 years at school. This is a prerequisite for university study. Attending school is free of charge.

Your child must attend school every day from Monday to Friday. Exceptions are school and public holidays. Teaching hours are determined by the timetable. Parents and legal guardians must ensure that their children attend school. If your child is sick or unable to attend school for other reasons, you must inform the school. If children are absent without an explanation or for no good reason, you can expect to be fined.


There are regular parent consultation meetings. Please ensure you attend these, as they are important for your children. During parent consultation meetings, parents speak to teachers and are informed about the achievements and social behaviour of their child. For teachers, parent consultation meetings are also useful in that they can place and support the children more effectively following the meeting.

Please make an appointment for advice on starting school (advice for entrants via non-traditional routes) with:

Municipal Integration Centre, Rademachers Weg 15, 44649 Herne,  [02323 16 38 50](tel:02323 16 38 50),

@

integration@herne.de

 **Note:** If your child has already been attending school for 2 years in Germany, you will have to find a school place in Herne yourself.



Support services for talented school students

Das TalentKollegRuhr of the Westphalian University of Applied Sciences in Herne supports school students who want to embark on a training course or degree and prepares them for it.

Access courses

The TalentKolleg Ruhr offers courses in the afternoons and evenings in maths, English and German. This helps to prepare school students for the requirements of training and study. The courses take place once a week and last for 90 minutes. This service is available to all young people who are in the senior classes at high schools and vocational colleges. They must have reached language level B1/B2 as a minimum. The courses are intended to help the participants to improve their specialist knowledge and make their start to university study or vocational training easier. Information events and workshops also help with professional guidance.

You can obtain more information about the courses and workshops from:


Sarah Müggenborg ,  [02323 98777-14](tel:02323 98777-14) ,  sarah.mueggenborg@w-hs.de
or at www.tkr-herne.de.

Walk-in sessions for new immigrants

School students who attend the international support classes can go to the walk-in sessions for new immigrants run by the TalentKolleg Ruhr. They will be given support on their path to graduation from school. They can also discuss their professional hopes and find appropriate university places. You must meet the following requirements:

- your German must be above average
- you must speak another foreign language, such as English or French
- you must be particularly motivated and academically strong
- you must be involved in voluntary or charity work


Further information is available at the walk-in sessions for new immigrants


TalentKolleg Ruhr, Patul Orfali, Viktor-Reuter-Straße 33, 44623 Herne, 
Patul.Orfali@w-hs.de

Advice for families

There are various establishments in Herne that support refugee families who have recently arrived on matters relating to integration and provide advice on family problems and challenges free of charge:

All issues relating to the family:







Family Office, Hauptstraße 241 44649 Herne,  [02323 163481](tel:02323 163481)

 Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and Thursday 2 p.m.-4 p.m.



The Family Office now provides a family breakfast on the 1st(Wanne) and 3rd Wednesday in the month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. All families in Herne are welcome.

Child welfare and safeguarding/children in emergency situations:

Social Advice Service



- Ms. Witta,  [02323 164669](tel:02323 164669),  asd-wanne-eickel@herne.de, emergency phone number: [02323 161905](tel:02323 161905)
- Ms. Frings-Baranowski,  [02323 163328](tel:02323 163328),  asd-herne-mitte@herne.de, emergency phone number: [02323 161906](tel:02323 161906)
- Mr. Hoff,  [02323 162146](tel:02323 162146), email:  asd-sodingen@herne.de, emergency phone number: [02323 161907](tel:02323 161907)

Support with education or conflicts in the family:



Family and Educational Advice Service, Wilhelmstraße 88, 44649 Herne,  [02323 163640](tel:02323 163640),
 Familien-Schulberatung@herne.de

Please make an appointment.

For problems at school:

School Advice Service, Ms. Gehrke, Wilhelmstraße 88, 44649 Herne,  [02323 163640](tel:02323 163640),  schulberatung@herne.de.

Advice Service for Women:



Equality Office of the Town of Herne, Ms. Kampa, Berliner Platz 5, 44623 Herne,  [02323 162836](tel:02323 162836),  melanie.kampa@herne.de.



Learning German

Basic German course for all new immigrants

If you are not sure which language course is right for you, please contact:

Volkshochschule (VHS),  Wilhelmstr. 37, 44649 Herne

Frau Rößler-Lelickens,  [02323163051](tel:02323163051),  @sybille.roessler-lelickens@herne.de

Frau Schüpp,  [02323163179](tel:02323163179),  @natella.schuepp@herne.de

Other language courses

In addition to the basic and integration courses, there are many public and free courses in Herne that you can attend. You can find an overview of the courses [here](#) and on the posters displayed in the municipal accommodations.

[Übersicht: Kostenlose Onlineangebote zum Deutsch ...](#)

[Übersicht Sprach- und Treffangebote für Neu-Zugew...](#)

Work, training/study

When you are permitted to work

Whether you are permitted to work as a recent immigrant depends on your residence permit, your so-called residence entitlement (see [Residence permit and other important documents](#)):

Asylum seekers with an arrival certificate or a temporary residency permit:

You can obtain a work permit at the earliest three months from your registration as an asylum seeker in Germany. Asylum seekers and people with a temporary residence permit require a work permit. You can apply for this at the Immigration Office (Ausländerbehörde). After 48 months, you will have full access to the labour market. There are no other restrictions. This must be stated on your temporary residence permit.

People with Temporary Postponement of Deportation (Geduldete):

In the case of permission to remain until deported, only the Immigration Office can decide whether to issue a work permit. The Immigration Office can ban you from employment under the law on foreign nationals.

Refugees with a residence permit:

If you have a residence permit, you have full access to the labour market without any restrictions.

You will find further information [here](#).


I am not permitted to work - what can I do instead?


No work permit but still want to do something useful with your time? Even without a work permit, you can work on a voluntary basis for a charity. You can find more information under [Voluntary work](#).

Recognition of certificates/qualifications and advice

Recognition or assessment of professional and academic qualifications acquired abroad is important when seeking work. You should therefore try to obtain all of the relevant certificates from your home country as quickly as possible. The recognition process will usually cost you money. To apply for financial support, contact one of the advice centres listed below. You can find more detailed information about the recognition fee [here](#).

Local advice on recognition of qualifications:

- [Integration Point](#), Heidstraße 2, 44649 Herne,  Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Thursday 12 p.m.- 4 p.m.

BBE Advice Centre Professional recognition: [VHS Herne](#), Ms. Möller, Wilhelmstr. 37, 44649 Herne,  [02323 163186](tel:02323 163186):

- Assessment of the opportunities available to you for further professional development as a result of recognition of your professional qualifications obtained abroad
- Help with making an application and the recognition process
- Help with looking for the right conversion qualification following recognition of parts of your professional qualifications

Internet information portals:

- "[Anabin](#)" offers information on evaluating foreign educational qualifications and provides support for classification of a foreign qualification under the German education system.
- At "[Anerkennung in Deutschland](#)", you will find the bodies responsible for recognition in individual professions.
- [Here](#) you will find further information, including about recognition of school and other academic qualifications and exam results
- This [portal](#) is aimed specifically at women. It provides detailed information about recognition, education and training, university study and work, including explanations of key terms

How to find work

General information:

There are many ways to find work. You will find many job advertisements in major newspapers or on the Internet. One example is the [online job exchange of the Federal Employment Agency \(Bundesagentur für Arbeit\)](#).

Local contact:

If you are a recognised refugee with a residence permit, [Herne Integration Point](#) at Heidstraße 2 can help you with:

- professional guidance and training
- recognition procedures for school and professional qualifications
- finding work

A number of interpreters are available, so you are sure to be understood.

If you are **not** a recognised refugee and have a temporary residence permit or certificate granting temporary postponement of deportation, the employment service of the Integration Point will help you.

Please register in the entrance zone of Herne Employment Agency at Markgrafenstraße 9.

Applications

When you have found a job you are interested in, you need to complete an application.

Your application consists of three parts:

- a covering letter

- CV
- certificates and references

There are many [examples](#) of how to write an application on the Internet. [Here](#) you will find an example of how to formulate a covering letter, and [here](#) an example of a CV.

The job advertisement often has information on how you should apply:

- in writing
- by email or
- online

You can also find help in looking for work and completing applications here:

- **"WIR GISAA - Geflüchtete in Schule, Ausbildung, Arbeit"** of the Caritasverband Herne e.V., Ms. Klaassen, 📍 Schulstr. 16, 44623 Herne, ☎ [02323 9296025](tel:02323 9296025), @ j.klaassen@caritas-herne.de and Ms. Schmitz, 📍 Schulstr. 16, 44623 Herne, ☎ [02323 9296025](tel:02323 9296025), @ k.schmitz@caritas-herne.de
- **Café O Meeting and Advice Centre**, Ms. Bouchara, 📍 Overwegstr. 32, 44625 Herne, 📅 [12](#)
Thursday 8 a.m.-10.30 a.m. (for women) and 11.30 a.m.-1 p.m. (for women and men), further information available here: [Café O - Laufzettel 28.11.2022.pdf](#)

Job opportunities and qualifications in the welding industry

The GSI - Society for Welding Technology International mbH, in cooperation with the SLV Education Center Gelsenkirchen, offers advice and qualifications with internationally recognized examinations and job-related language courses.

On February 22, 2024, an [information day](#) on "Welding and Language" training will take place at the SLV Education Center Gelsenkirchen. Anyone interested can take part! A registration is not required.

More information can be found here:

[Werde Schweißer.pdf](#)

[Schweißen und Sprache.pdf](#)

[Schweißen und Sprache - 6sprachig.pdf](#)

[Montageschweißer Stahlbau.pdf](#)

[Montageschweißer Anlagenbau.pdf](#)

[Modulare Ausbildung Internationaler Schweißer.pdf](#)

[Frauen in der Schweißtechnik.pdf](#)

[Feststellung Basistraining Schweißtechnik.pdf](#)

Training as a caregiver §53c

For the year 2025, the Bildungswerk e.V. is offering a new course for everyday companions. If you enjoy working with people who need support in everyday life, Then you can sign up [here](#).

Internships

You can complete an internship in a business in order to get to know companies better, make contacts or familiarise yourself with a new area of work. An internship helps both sides, the company and you, to get to know one another better and to find out if the work is suitable for you.

What do you need to know?

Your residence permit determines whether you are allowed to complete an internship or whether you need to get permission from the authorities first. It is imperative that you talk to your adviser at the Integration Point and check with the Immigration Office before starting an internship. Travel costs may be refunded. Please contact the Integration Point about this, too.

How do I find an internship?

Talk to your contact at the Integration Point or use internet portals, for example:

- [Job exchange of the Federal Employment Agency \(Agentur für Arbeit\)](#)
- [Apprenticeship exchange provided by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce \(IHK\)](#)
- [Apprenticeship exchange provided by the Chamber of Skilled Trades \(HWK\)](#)
- [Youth Migration Service of the AWO](#) (for young people aged 14 to 27)

Training

In Germany, vocational training is required for many professions. The duration of vocational training depends on the type of job and can take between two and four years.

The Immigration Office decides whether to give you a work permit for vocational training in a company. The [Herne Integration Point](#) provides extensive advice on vocational training and can also arrange appropriate training companies.

Information about the various careers that require vocational training can be found on the [film portal of the Federal Employment Agency \(Bundesagentur für Arbeit\)](#).

University study

Studying with a foreign university entrance qualification

There are different types of universities in Germany. Overall there are more than 14,000 different courses of study. All of them have different pre-requisites and focuses, lead to different degrees and open up a variety of career opportunities. Making yourself familiar with the higher education system and the different study options is a good start.

You can find many helpful sites online:

- [Study in Germany](#) (Informationen für Flüchtlinge | Information for Refugees | تامولعم ئۆلۈك سونىزگ انپ | تامولعم ھراپد نىرجاھمد | ناگدنھانپ ىارب تاغالطا | نىئىجالل تامولعم)

- [Federal Employment Agency Guide to Study](#) (DE, ENG, FR)
- [Hochschulkompass](#) (Higher Education Compass)
- [DAAD](#) (German Academic Exchange Service)

If you have a foreign university entrance qualification, in principle you are allowed to study at a German university. You can check whether or not your foreign university entrance qualification is recognised in Germany at the following site: anabin.kmk.org.

It is always up to individual universities whether they recognise qualifications and certificates, however. You can find detailed information about this [here](#). Your first point of contact at any university is the International Office (Akademisches Auslandsamt "AAA"). You can find contact information [here](#).

Studying without a university entrance qualification

In Germany, you can go to university to study without university admission qualifications. The Ruhr University Bochum, which is based in our region, is one of the first universities in Germany to establish a programme that allows refugees with an academic background to go to university. For further information, please contact:

International Office of the Ruhr University Bochum, Universitätsstraße 150, 44801 Bochum, Building SSC,  [0234 32201](tel:0234 32201),  welcome-centre@rub.de

The website of the International Office, which provides all of the information you need, can be accessed [here](#).

Self-employment

When can I become self-employed?


If you are still in the asylum determination process, your application has been turned down or you have a temporary postponement of deportation, self-employed work is prohibited. In principle, anyone else has the option to set up their own business.

General information

- ["GründerZeiten"](#) online guide (German and Arabic)
- [Business start-up portal](#) (German, French and Italian)
- [Homepage](#) of the IQ Competence Centre for Migrant Entrepreneurship (six languages).

Personal contacts in Herne

Herne Business Development Agency (WFG), ([Download section](#) on the homepage):

- Kornelia Alles,  [02323 925243](tel:02323 925243),  alles@wfg-herne.de
- Susanne Stegemann,  [02323 925388](tel:02323 925388),  stegemann@wfg-herne.de
- Claudia Zielke,  [02323 925419](tel:02323 925419),  zielke@wfg-herne.de
- [Herne Integration Point](#)

Everyday life

Advice service for new immigrants

The following PDF provides you with an overview of the counseling centers and services for new immigrants in Herne:

[Übersicht Beratungsangebote in Herne NEU.pdf](#)

Case Management KIM

„Kommunales Integrationsmanagement (KIM)“ is a program to promote the integration of people with a migration background.

The program is funded by the Ministry for Children, Youth, Family, Equality, Refugees and Integration.

Goals:

- Improving migrants' access to education and work as well as to urban society
- Improving prevention work in the area of integration

The consultants (case managers) work with you to develop perspectives for your life in Herne.

The offer is voluntary and near you.

Locations:

District Herne-Sodingen:

AWO Ruhr-Mitte (www.awo-ruhr-mitte.de)

Lützowstr. 2, 44628 Herne

 Mr. Alexandru Dan Balan

@Email: a.balan@awo-ruhr-mitte.de

 Telephone: [+49 2323 9524-18](tel:+492323952418)

☎ Mobile: [+49 151-61 09 22 56](tel:+4915161092256)

👤 Mr. Muhlis Akelma

@Email: m.akelma@awo-ruhr-mitte.de

☎ Telephone: [+49 2323 9524-19](tel:+492323952419)

☎ Mobile: [+49 160 9808 2373](tel:+4916098082373)

📍 **District Herne-Mitte:**

Caritasverband Herne e.V. (www.caritas-herne.de)

Schulstraße 16, 44623 Herne

👤 Ms. Karina Miranda da Costa

@Email: K.Miranda-da-Costa@caritas-herne.de

☎ Telephone: [+49 2323 92960-940](tel:+49232392960940)

☎ Fax: [+49 2323 92960-11](tel:+4923239296011)

👤 Ms. Agnieszka Gemza

@Email: a.gemza@caritas-herne.de

☎ Telephone: [+49 2323 92960-90](tel:+4923239296090)

☎ Fax: [+49 2323 92960-11](tel:+4923239296011)

📍 **District Herne-Eickel:**

DRK Kreisverband Herne and Wanne-Eickel e.V. (www.drk-herne.de)

Hauptstr. 166, 44652 Herne

👤 Mr. Nikolai Kozianka

@Email: n.kozianka@drk-herne.de

☎ Telephone: [+49 2325- 969 1576](tel:+4923259691576)

☎ Mobile: [+49 173-2925644](tel:+491732925644)

🕒 Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 4:18 p.m. and Wednesday 8:00 a.m. - 11:54 a.m.

👤 Ms. Nelia-Ildy Iliescu

@Email: n.illiescu@drk-herne.de

☎ Telephone: [+49 2325- 969 1573](tel:+4923259691573)

☎ Mobile: [+49 178-8969431](tel:+491788969431)

🕒 Monday - Wednesday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and Thursday 08:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

📍 **District Herne-Wanne:**

PLANB Ruhr e.V. (www.planb-ruhr.de)

Hauptstr. 221, 44649 Herne

👤 Mr Ali Mohammad

@Email: a.mohammad@planb-ruhr.de / kim-herne@planb-ruhr.de

☎ Telephone: [+49 2325 - 69 99 195](tel:+4923256999195)

☎ Mobile: [+49 172 6859135](tel:+491726859135)

☎ Fax: [+49 2325 - 699929 9](tel:+4923256999299)

👤 Ms. Firdevs Köklüoğlu

@Email: f.koeklueoglu@planb-ruhr.de / kim-herne@planb-ruhr.de

☎ Telephone: [+49 2325 - 69 99 194](tel:+4923256999194)

☎ Mobile: [+49 177 7914326](tel:+491777914326)

☎ Fax: [+49 2325 - 699929 9](tel:+4923256999299)

📍 **Herne entire city area:**

City of Herne

Shamrockring 1 (House 4), 44623 Herne

👤 Ms. Ioana Martoiu-Barjaktarovic

@Email: ioana.martoiu-barjaktarovic@herne.de

☎ Telephone: [+49 2323 16-4712](tel:+492323164712)

☎ Mobile: [+49 1 70 33 28 71 6](tel:+491703328716)

👤 Ms. Uta Bücking

@Email: uta.buecking@herne.de

☎ Telephone: [+49 2323 16-4711](tel:+492323164711)

☎ Mobile: [+49 1 60 99 05 54 6](tel:+491609905546)

👤 Ms. Olga Seitenzahl

@Email: olga.seitenzahl@herne.de

☎ Telephone: [+49 2323 16-4703](tel:+492323164703)

☎ Mobile: [+49 1 60 99 21 13 29](tel:+4916099211329)

👤 Ms. Safaa Bouchara

@Email: safaa.bouchara@herne.de

☎ Telephone: [+49 2323 16-4705](tel:+492323164705)

☎ Mobile: [+49 1 70 33 28 86 9](tel:+491703328869)

Mobility

Bus, tram and train

Herne has many types of public transport that operate throughout the city. They include buses, trams, underground trains, an urban rail network and intercity trains.

Please remember at all times that you must buy a valid ticket and have it on you when you travel.

If you intend to travel by bus and rail regularly, you can save money by buying monthly tickets instead of individual tickets. People on low incomes and those who receive state benefit can

purchase a discounted welfare ticket in Herne. You can obtain your authorisation here:

- **Social Services**, 📍 Hauptstraße 241, 44649 Herne, 🕒 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m.-12 p.m

or if you make use of Job Centre services, here:

- **Integration Point**, 📍 Heidstraße 2, 44649 Herne, 🕒 Monday to Friday 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Thursday 12 p.m.- 4 p.m.

With your authorisation, you can then visit one of the customer centres and buy a ticket every month. You can find the addresses of the customer centres [here](#).

Please note that you have to pay for the welfare ticket yourself, as it is already discounted.

Plus, also note that the welfare ticket is valid throughout the urban region of Herne. So if you wish to travel to a neighbouring city, you have to buy an additional ticket.

Bicycle

In the long term, buying a bicycle is much cheaper compared to the use of public transport. Used bikes can be purchased cheaply, for example on online portals such as “[Ebay small ads](#)” or “[dealmywheel](#)”.

Important traffic regulations for cyclists:

- Always cycle on the right side of the road
- Do not cycle side by side, but one behind the other
- If available, bicycle lanes must be used (also on the right side of the road in the direction of travel)
- Only children up to 11 years old are allowed to cycle on footpaths
- Be careful not to get your tires caught in the tram rails

When making a purchase, make sure that your bicycle has the following equipment and is thus roadworthy, otherwise you may be subject to fines in the event of an inspection by the police:

- Lights at the front and rear
- Reflectors at the front and rear
- Reflectors on the spokes (2 per wheel)
- Reflectors on the pedals
- A bell
- Two independent brakes

Housing

Living in an apartment

1. Information for those using Job Centre services

As soon as you have obtained a residence permit, you can move out of the communal accommodation. For that, you will need to find your own place to live. There are restrictions if the Integration Point is paying for your accommodation. The accommodation may not exceed a certain size and must not be too expensive.

Once you have found somewhere to live, you should conclude a written lease. You should not sign the lease immediately. The Job Centre always has to check and approve the agreement before you sign it. It is essential that the Jobcenter checks and approves the rental contract before it is signed. Before you start looking for an apartment, find out from the Social Office or the Job Center which requirements you must fulfill.

2. General information

The **rental contract** must include the following points:

- "Cold" monthly rent: The rental costs for the living space per month, including running costs
- "Warm" rent: "Cold" rent plus service and utility costs
- Service and utility costs: These include the costs for your share of the ground rent, the costs for the water supply and heating, together with other operating costs such as cleaning of the stairwells, refuse collection charges, caretaker costs and cable connection (note: electricity bills have to be paid by yourself).
- Size of apartment, number of rooms, address, landlord or landlady

Once you have found somewhere to live, you should sign a written rental contract.

 **Please remember to notify the following institutions of your change of address:**

- Integration Point/Job Centre (if you receive money from the Job Centre)
- Citizens' Centre
- Immigration Office
- Your bank and insurance company, if you have one
- Health insurance
- If you have children: school and kindergarten

Apartment search:

You can look for apartments on the following sites, for example:

- [ImmobilienScout24](#)
- [Immonet](#)
- [Immobilien Welt](#)
- [Ebay small ads](#)
- [WG-Gesucht](#): Here, in addition to apartment offers, there is also the possibility to search for a room in a shared apartment (WG). In a shared apartment, several people live together. Each person usually has their own room, while areas such as the kitchen and bathroom are shared.

But rental offers are also published in **newspapers**:

- Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (WAZ): The Saturday edition contains many rental offers

- Wochenspiegel: Free newspaper in Herne that comes out on Wednesdays and Saturdays and also includes rental offers

Alternatively, [housing companies](#) also have a large stock of apartments in Herne. Offers can also be accessed online.

Explanation of important abbreviations used in German apartment advertisements:

- Whg. = "Wohnung", apartment
- App. = apartment
- WG = "Wohngemeinschaft", shared apartment
- Zi. = "Zimmer", room
- ZM = "Zwischenmiete", intermediate rent
- ZKB = "Zimmer-Küche-Bad", room-kitchen- bathroom
- EG = "Erdgeschoss", ground floor
- 1. OG = "1. Obergeschoss", first floor
- Wohnfl. = "Wohnfläche", living area
- EBK = "Einbauküche", fitted kitchen
- teilmbf. = "teilmöbliert", partly furnished
- inkl. = "inklusive", including
- MM = "Miete pro Monat", monthly rent
- NK = "Nebenkosten", additional costs
- HK = "Heizkosten", heating costs
- Kaut. = "Kaution", deposit

Electricity and water supply:

Usually, the landlord or landlady is not responsible for the electricity and gas supply. For this you have to conclude a contract with an electricity/gas supplier yourself. To do so, you should contact an electricity supplier with the number of your electricity meter and the current meter reading.

💡 Please note:

- If you do not know which electricity meter belongs to your accommodation, ask your landlord/landlady or the previous tenant.
- If you do not know which number on the meter is the device number, take a photo of your meter and ask for advice on the spot.
- Contacts for electricity and water supply: [Customer Centre Herne Municipal Services](#)
- You can also choose an electricity supplier other than Municipal Services. You will find comparison sites on the internet.

Quiet times, house rules and waste

People from a wide variety of countries live together in Herne. And where large numbers of people live together, it is particularly important for every individual to show consideration for others. Therefore, there are certain rules and obligations that make living together easier:

Quiet times

Everyone needs peace and quiet. Comply with the mandatory “quiet hours” between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. During this time, you are not permitted to carry out any noisy work, for example, and music should be played at room volume.

House rules

There are usually house rules for apartment buildings. These regulate, for example, the cleaning of the hallway, attic or cellar. Find out when you are responsible for the cleaning.

Please do not leave objects in the hallways or stairwells. This disturbs the neighbors, obstructs the passage, and, in the worst case, can cause injury.

Do not store any highly flammable substances like gas or petrol in storage rooms or basements. Never light fires in enclosed spaces to ensure that no one comes to harm!

In the event of defects and leaks in water and gas pipes, inform your landlord or landlady immediately, as he or she must repair the damage. If you have questions about tenancy law, tenants' associations, for example, are good contacts. However, in some cases they may charge for their advice.

Waste

Household waste is collected regularly by the municipal waste collection service. Throw your garbage only into the designated garbage bins. Do not leave your garbage open or loose in other places, for example at the roadside, in the courtyard or the hallway. Also, please make sure that you do not continue to fill garbage containers that are already full. If the containers are full, please call your landlord or landlady. Overfilled garbage containers cans where the lid does not close properly will not be emptied. Also, garbage that is placed next to the containers will not be taken!

You can find your waste collection day [here](#).

Shopping

In Germany, you can buy food for your daily needs in discounters and supermarkets. Discounters are usually somewhat cheaper. Supermarkets may be a little more expensive, but often have a wider range of products. Food from special countries or regions of the world can be found in a well-stocked supermarket or in smaller stores in the district. In drugstores you can hardly find any food, but various things for the bathroom and household. Most supermarkets open between 7:00 am and 8:00 am and close between 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm. Smaller stores in the city center are usually open from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. On Sundays and holidays, the stores are closed.

The best places to get affordable consumer goods for daily life are “Kleiderkammer” (clothing stores) and “Sozialkaufhäuser” (social department stores). Here you can buy clothing, tableware, furniture and electrical devices. Please bring your ID as proof of identity. There are

also numerous second-hand shops.

Where to go:

- [Clothing store \("Kleiderladen"\)](#), Herne: 📍 Schulstraße 16 and Wanne-Eickel: 📍 Friedgrasstraße 16d (clothing, textiles)
- [Brockenhaus 1](#), Wanne-Eickel: 📍 Corneliusstraße 19 (furniture and household goods)
- [Brockenhaus 2](#), Wanne-Eickel: 📍 Hauptstraße 295 (furniture and household goods)
- [Möbelhof Wanne-Eickel](#), Wanne-Eickel: 📍 Friedgrasstraße 16d (furniture and household goods)
- [Social department store "Kauf.net"](#), Herne: 📍 Westring 123 (clothing, furniture and household goods)

Post



Source: Post

If you want to send letters or parcels in Germany, a stamp is required to cover the postage. Stamps are available at every post office or in many newsagents and kiosks, which are marked with the official postal logo. Further information can be found on the [Deutsche Post](#) website.

Sport and leisure

1. Sports

Sports facilities in Herne include:

- Swimming pools: There are three swimming pools in Herne: Lago, Wananas and Südpool. You can find more information, prices and opening times [here](#).
- [Sports centres](#): These are public and open to everyone. There is a charge for some facilities, such as mini golf and tennis. You can see which sports centres are in your area [here](#).
- [Running and walking routes](#): Herne municipal council provides an online [running and walking](#) map.
- Ice skating: there is an opportunity to go ice-skating in autumn and winter in the [Hannibal Arena Herne](#). You will find further information about opening times and prices [here](#).

You will find an overview of current sporting events and regular sports courses in Herne [here](#).

For questions about sports clubs, contact the sports club or sports association directly:

Sports Association, 📍 Bahnhofstr. 143, 44623 Herne,



[02323 53693](tel:02323 53693),



hernebewegt@ssb-herne.de

You can also search for specific sports clubs and facilities on the [homepage of the sports association](#). The way in which club sports work in Herne is explained [here](#).

2. Leisure activities

General leisure facilities in Herne:


- [Parks, green spaces and woodland](#)
- [Revierpark Gysenberg](#): Here you can take part in various leisure activities, such as beach volleyball, basketball, football, mini golf and climbing. There are also playgrounds, a zoo, a children's railway and much more,
- Leisure facilities from other providers, e.g. the [GFI](#) and [Plan B](#).
- Playgrounds: These are open to everyone. You will find an overview of the playgrounds in Herne [here](#).

General information about leisure options are available [here](#). An overview of the services for all age groups in Herne can be found on the [Herne event calendar](#).

Supervised children's and young people's facilities with numerous leisure activities for those between the ages of 6 and 26:

- Municipal children's and young people's facilities: information about the individual facilities can be found [here](#).
- Leisure centres:
 - Wanne: [Pub à la Pub](#) and [HOT-Juengerbistro](#)
 - Herne centre: [CVJM-Haus](#) and [Lighthouse](#)
 - Baukau: [Sportjugendhaus](#)
 - Horsthausen: [Begegnungsstätte](#)

If you have any questions about leisure facilities for children and young people, you can consult the facility itself or the [Stadtjugendring](#):

Stadtjugendring,  Von-der-Heydt-Straße 26, 44629 Herne,



[02323 988850](tel:02323 988850),



info@stadtjugendring-herne.de

Cultural facilities

There is a wide range of cultural facilities in Herne. These include:

Museums and exhibitions

- [Emschertal Museum](#) (Wasserschloss Strünkede, the town gallery and the local history museum in Wanne-Eickel)
- [Museum of Archaeology](#) (Westfälisches Landesmuseum für Archäologie)

Music, dance and theatre to watch and take part in

- Gospelsprojekt-Ruhr (support for singing, dance and sport)
- [theaterkohlenpott](#) (performances, young people's clubs, workshops for young people aged 10-23)
- [pottporus](#) (street dance, HipHop dance, film, photography, graffiti, videographics, poster art)
- [Circus Schnick-Schnack](#) (circus with participation)
- [Rock Büro](#) (concerts, events, workshops)

Cultural locations offering various events

- [Flottmann-Hallen Herne](#) (theatre, dance, cabaret and shows, music and exhibitions)
- [Künstlerzeche Unser Fritz](#) (exhibitions and events)
- [Kulturbrauerei Hülsmann](#) (concerts and cabaret)
- [Herne Cultural Centre](#) (theatre, concerts, comedy, among other things)
- [Literaturhaus-Herne Ruhr](#) (readings and concerts)

Cultural services

- [Municipal library](#) Herne Centre and Wanne-Eickel (loan of books and media in many languages, meeting place for study and sharing experiences)
- [Music school](#) (opportunity to learn various instruments, also to join bands, orchestras and choirs)
- [Culture for kids](#) (courses for children and young people, some free of charge)
- [Youth art school](#) (courses and projects in the fields of music, dance, theatre, the visual arts, media art)

Open meetings

- [Sternstunde - Rom-Café](#) Wanne-Eickel (Tuesdays from 10-12h)

The [Herne event calendar](#) also provides an overview of current cultural and leisure services. There is more information here, too:

- **Herne Municipal Council Marketing**, 📍 Kirchhofstr. 5, 44623 Herne, ☎ [02323 919050](tel:02323 919050)
- **Herne Cultural Centre**, 📍 Willi-Pohlmann-Platz 1, 44623 Herne, ☎ [02323 161641](tel:02323 161641)

Voluntary work

Volunteering is a commitment to do good for others. It is done voluntarily and no money is paid. Volunteers are also active in helping refugees. Refugees can also volunteer.

Volunteering is a good opportunity for you to learn German, practice language skills, participate in everyday life, take responsibility and make new contacts. What you learn can help you when looking for a job. Write in your application where you are volunteering.

In Herne, there are already refugees who do volunteer work, for example at the Technical Help Organization [Herne](#) and [Wanne-Eickel](#) (THW), [German Red Cross](#) (DRK) Herne and Wanne-Eickel e.V. and the [Herner Tafel e.V.](#)

Volunteers with a refugee background receive support in their volunteer work and can also take part in training courses.

If you are interested:

Volunteer Office, ☎ [02323 162924](tel:02323_162924), @ehrenamt@herne.de

Link to the homepage of the [volunteer office](#)

Counselling & help with domestic violence



Domestic violence has many forms: Kicking, hitting or raping, but also threatening, insulting or shouting. Domestic violence refers to violence between adults who usually live in the same household. They can be married, live in a partnership with each other or have another relationship. It also refers to violence between adult children and their parents.

Every 4th woman in Germany experiences violence by a current or former partner at least once in her life. Every third day a woman dies due to domestic violence. The violence often happens for a very long time, sometimes for many years. Often the women do not dare to get help.

On the initiative of the Office for Equality and Diversity and the Women's Shelter, the Round Table against Domestic Violence linked the various counselling centres and institutions of the city society in December 2000. It is affiliated to the Crime Prevention Council of the city of Herne. The aim is to decisively improve the situation of women affected by violence through extensive and close cooperation between the institutions involved.

Intensive educational and public relations work is intended to raise awareness of the taboo subject.

Prevention offers are also made for social institutions, schools and day-care centres.

In 2019, the Round Table against Domestic Violence in Herne created the website www.haeusliche-gewalt-herne.de. Here, people affected by violence can find direct help. The cooperating counselling centres are linked and brochures with information on domestic violence are available in many languages and in easy language.

Members:

- Counselling centre for victims of human trafficking
- Protestant counselling centre for marriage, partnership and life issues as well as counselling for pregnancy conflicts
- Herne Women's Shelter
- IFAK e. V., Family Support Centre Herne
- Victim protection officers and representatives of the local district police authority
- PlanB Ruhr e. V., Intercultural Child and Youth Services, Herne branch office
- Lawyers
- Schattenlicht - Counselling Centre for Women and Girls e.V.
- City councillors of the parties represented in the council
- Weißer Ring e.V.
- Departments and offices of the city of Herne such as family and school counselling centre
- Health department
- Department of Children, Youth and Family
- Department of Public Order
- Municipal Integration Centre
- Victim Protection Officer of the City of Herne

Anonymous forensics

ASS (Anonymous evidence recovery after a sexual offence):

Adults as well as children can be affected by a sexualised act of violence. The procedure of "anonymous evidence recovery after a sexual offence" is open to all persons affected. If a rape has occurred, it is important to secure possible traces promptly for possible prosecution.

For you as the person affected, this means:

If possible, go to one of the participating hospitals un-showered and in the clothes you were wearing. Have yourself examined there, even if there are no visible injuries.

If you want to file a complaint immediately, ask the doctors at the hospital to contact the criminal investigation department.

In the event that it is difficult for you as the person affected to decide immediately whether you want to report what you have experienced immediately or at a later time, the anonymous evidence recovery procedure has been established. In this process, the traces are documented after a medical examination and stored anonymously at the Institute for Forensic Medicine in Essen. If a complaint is filed within ten years, the evidence secured in this way can serve as important evidence.

Participating hospitals in the region:

Herne

Protestant Hospital

Wiescherstraße 24

44623 Herne

Telephone: 0 23 23 / 4 98-0

Catholic Marienhospital

Hölkeskampring 40

44625 Herne

Telephone: 0 23 23 / 4 99-0

St. Anna Hospital

Hospitalstraße 19

44649 Herne (Wanne-Eickel)

Telephone: 0 23 25 / 9 86-0

Bochum

Augusta Hospital

Bergstraße 26

44791 Bochum (centre)

Telephone: 02 34 / 5 17-0

St. Elisabeth Hospital

Bleichstraße 15

44787 Bochum (centre)

Telephone: 02 34 / 6 12-0

St. Josef Hospital

Clinic for Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine

Alexandrinestraße 5

44791 Bochum

Telephone: 02 34 / 5 09 - 26 31

Castrop-Rauxel

**Protestant Hospital
Grutholzallee 21
44577 Castrop-Rauxel
Telephone: 0 23 05 / 1 02-0**

**St. Rochus Hospital
Glückaufstraße 10
44575 Castrop-Rauxel
Telephone: 0 23 05 / 2 94-0**

Datteln

**St. Vincenz Hospital
Rottstraße 11
45711 Datteln
Telephone: 0 23 63 / 1 08-0**

Gelsenkirchen

**Marienhospital
Virchowstraße 135
45886 Gelsenkirchen-Ückendorf
Telephone: 02 09 / 1 72-0**

Marl

**Paracelsus Clinic
Lipper Weg 11
45770 Marl**

Telephone: 0 23 65 / 9 11-0

Recklinghausen

**Prosperhospital
Mühlenstraße 27
45659 Recklinghausen
Telephone: 0 23 61 / 54-0**

Witten

**Marien-Hospital
Marienplatz 2
58452 Witten
Telephone: 0 23 02 / 1 73-0**

Counselling centres in the region:

**Schattenlicht e.V.
Counselling and contact centre for women and girls
Strassburger Street 39
44623 Herne
Telephone: 0 23 23 / 98 11 98**

**Neue Wege
Child Protection Outpatient Clinic
Alexandrinenstraße 9
44791 Bochum
Telephone: 02 34 / 50 36 69**

**Pro familia
Bongardstraße 25
44787 Bochum
Telephone: 02 34 / 1 23 20**

Wildwasser Bochum
Oberstrasse 2
44892 Bochum
Phone: 02 34 / 29 76 66

Help & Support



If you are in acute danger:

- Call the police! Emergency call 110
- The women's shelter can be reached by telephone day and night. You can be admitted to the women's shelter together with your children.
Contact the women's shelter in Herne, telephone: 0 23 25 / 4 98 75
- Go to your family doctor. He or she can document your injuries.
- Outside the office hours of your family doctor, go to a hospital or call the medical on-call service at 116 117.
- Seek help and support. You can also get counselling anonymously.

Counselling facilities in Herne on the subject of domestic violence:

Counselling centre for victims of human trafficking

Overwegstraße 31, 44625 Herne, Germany

Telephone: 0 23 23 / 9 94 97 19, 0 23 23 / 9 94 97 20, 0 23 23 / 9 94 97 21

Internet: <http://www.ewz-herne.de>

Protestant counselling centre for marriage, partnership and life issues as well as pregnancy conflict counselling

Schaeferstraße 8, 44623 Herne, Germany

Telephone: 0 23 23 / 5 30 48
Internet: <http://www.evberatherne.de>

Women's shelter Herne - more than a roof over your head

Telephone: 0 23 25 / 4 98 75
Internet: www.frauenhaus-herne.de

Online portal for finding a place in a women's shelter

Internet: www.frauen-info-netz.de

Office for Equality and Diversity of the City of Herne

Berliner Platz 5, 44623 Herne
Telephone: 0 23 23 / 16 22 17, 0 23 23 / 16 22 05

IFAK e.V., Family Support Centre Herne

Bahnhofplatz 15, 44629 Herne
Telephone: 0 23 23 / 1 47 93 32
Internet: <http://ifak-bochum.de/fhz-herne/>

PLANB Ruhr e.V. Intercultural self-organisation and recognised voluntary youth welfare organisation

Bielefelder Straße 56 b, 44652 Herne, Germany
Telephone: 0 23 25 / 3 00 87 70
Internet: <http://www.planb-ruhr.de/#>

Bochum Police Headquarters , Crime Prevention / Victim Protection

Uhlandstraße 35, 44791 Bochum
Telephone: 02 34 / 9 09 - 40 55

Schattenlicht - Counselling and Contact Centre for Women and Girls e.V.

Strassburger Straße 39, 44623 Herne, Germany
Telephone: 0 23 23 / 98 11 98
Internet: <http://beratungsstelle-schattenlicht.de/>

City of Herne, Family and School Counselling Centre

Ludwigstraße 14, 44649 Herne
Telephone: 0 23 23 / 16 36 40

City of Herne - Victim Protection Officer

Hauptstraße 241, entrance B (WEZ), 44649 Herne, room 444

Telephone: 0 23 23 / 16 32 32

Weißer Ring , non-profit association for the support of crime victims and prevention of criminal offences e.V.

Herne branch

Mrs. Brigitte Grüning

Ringstraße 82 a, 44627 Herne, Germany

Telephone: 0 23 23 / 94 43 35

Internet: <http://herne.nrw-westfalen-lippe.weisser-ring.de/>

Help for children & young people

Domestic violence can also be directed against children and young people. This usually only becomes noticeable in other contexts: in the day care centre, at school or in leisure time with others. There is also help and counselling for children and young people.

If you are being beaten at home, you can get help! You are not left alone with your problems!

www.kidsinfo-gewalt.de

www.nummergegenkummer.de

Contact Department Children-Youth-Family:

Department of Children-Youth-Family

Hauptstrasse 251

44649 Herne

Emergency telephone (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.): 0 23 23 / 16 - 19 05 or - 19 06 or - 19 07

Help for men

Violence takes many forms and can also be directed physically, psychologically and sexually against boys, men and fathers in the domestic environment.

The psychological and physical vulnerability of men and boys and their recognition as victims of (sexualised or intimate partner) violence is often still a social taboo. Appropriately specialised help offers support boys or men who became victims of violence as children or adults.

If you are acutely affected by violence:

- Call the police! Call the emergency number 110!
- Go to your family doctor. He or she can document your injuries.

- Outside your family doctor's office hours, go to a hospital or call the medical on-call service on 116 117.
- Seek help and support. You can also get advice anonymously.
- Help line for men 0800 - 1 23 99 00, www.maennerhilfetelefon.de

www.maennerberatungsnetz.de
info@maennerberatungsnetz.de

Weißer Ring, non-profit association for the support of crime victims and prevention of criminal offences e.V.

Herne branch

Ms Brigitte Grüning

Ringstraße 82 a, 44627 Herne, Germany

Telephone: 0 23 23 / 94 43 35

Internet: <https://herne-nrw-westfalen-lippe.weisser-ring.de/>

Getting out of male violence:

Many men have experiences of becoming violent or being exposed to violence. They can become perpetrators or experience violence themselves, both in private and in public.

(Anti-)violence counselling is aimed at men who want to come to terms with their own violence and learn how not to be violent.

In the course of the intensification of contact restrictions because of the Corona crisis and the tense domestic situation that may result from it, the three umbrella organisations of professionals for boys', men's and fathers' work in Germany (Bundesforum Männer), Austria (Dachverband Männerarbeit Österreich) and Switzerland (männer.ch) have published a "Survival Kit for Men under Pressure":

<https://bundesforum-maenner.de/2020/03/25/corona-...>

www.maennerberatungsnetz.de

info@maennerberatungsnetz.de

Contact Herne Municipal Integration Centre:

Municipal Integration Centre Herne

Rademachers Weg 15

44649 Herne

Service hotline: 0 23 23 / 16 - 38 50

E-mail: integration@herne.de

Contact Men against Men Violence:

Men against Men Violence
Overwegstraße 31
44625 Herne
Service hotline: 01 72 / 5 37 24 04
E-mail: ruhrgebiet@gewaltberatung.org

Help for migrant women

Are you a migrant?

- Do you experience violence in your marriage or by your family?
- Are you in Germany because of family reunification?
- Are you supposed to marry a man you don't want?
- Do you want to leave and don't know how and what will happen to your stay here?

There are special counselling centres that can support you. The counselling centres also have interpreters who can help in the conversation.

Counselling centres:**Eine Welt Zentrum Herne**

The counselling centre offers:

- Space and time for talks,
- information about your rights
- Information about accommodation options
- accompaniment to the foreigners authority
- further assistance, for example contact with experienced lawyers
- As the wife of a German national, you must have lived in a household with your husband in Germany for at least three years in order to be granted permanent residence.
- As an EU national, you have the right to live in Germany in any case.
- As the wife of a foreigner living here, you are also tied to your husband's residence for a number of years.

But:

- Do you have children together?
- Have you already been working for the same employer for a year?

If so, other regulations under aliens law often apply!

Even if you entered Germany as the wife of a German or a foreigner living here and have not been living here for long, you are not necessarily threatened with deportation.

The staff at the Counselling Centre can assist you in preparing a hardship application. Be sure to make an appointment with us. We can also come to you or arrange a meeting at a neutral location.

Be sure to make an appointment with us. We will also come to you or arrange a meeting at a neutral location.

Contact One World Centre Herne:

One World Centre Herne
Overwegstraße 31
44625 Herne
Service hotline: 0 23 23 / 99 49 70
Fax: 0 23 23 / 9 94 97 11
E-mail: ewz-info@kk-ekvw.de

PLAN B Ruhr e.V.

PLANB Ruhr e.V. is an intercultural self-organisation and a recognised voluntary youth welfare organisation according to § 75 SGB VIII. With its many years of experience in migration and integration work, PLANB Ruhr e.V. also offers migration counselling (MBE) in Herne-Wanne and also addresses women in acute life crises.

Women who have experienced violence or want a divorce receive professional support at the counselling centre. The main goal is to work out new perspectives together with various network partners and to create ways to be able to free themselves from the life crisis.

Unfortunately, the road to a separation is accompanied by many official matters. In our work with women, we repeatedly encounter a great need for counselling. In order to help them overcome the numerous hurdles, we offer comprehensive support in all official matters related to separation and divorce.

The following topics, among others, are dealt with:

- Residence matters in the case of refugee separation
- Social benefits, subsistence
- Finding accommodation
- Custody of the children
- Connections to therapy options, if necessary

Counselling is individual, confidential and free of charge.

Open consultation hours: Thursdays 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and by appointment.

Contact PLANB Ruhr e.V.

Migration counselling for adult immigrants (MBE)

Hauptstraße 208
44649 Herne

Telephone: 0 23 25 / 5 69 91 63

Mobile: 01520 / 8 60 59 35

Fax: 0 23 25 / 5 69 91 61

Stalking

Lurking outside the home or at work, constant stalking or constant phone calls - stalking has many forms and each person affected has their own story of suffering. The term stalking refers to the intentional and repeated following and harassment of a person over a longer period of time. Most of those affected are women; over 80% of all stalking victims are female. The stalking not only limits the quality of life and everyday life, but also creates a feeling of powerlessness and being at the mercy of others. A stalker can be an ex-partner, friend, colleague or neighbour, or a complete stranger.

His goal is to gain power and control over the victim and to dominate his or her everyday life. Stalking is often accompanied by physical or sexual violence and can last from months to several years.

Are you being harassed, stalked, threatened?

Do you receive unwanted phone calls? You are inundated with text messages or e-mails? Are you being spied on?

Then you may be the victim of a stalker.

Since 1 April 2007, stalking has been a punishable offence in Germany (§ 238 of the Criminal Code). Contact a counselling centre or the police as early as possible.

To document stalking, there is the free [NoStalk app](#) of the White Ring.

The aim of the app is to provide concrete help to those affected by making the perpetrators identifiable with the help of the app. At the same time, victims should be strengthened in the feeling that they can actively do something against the perpetrator. One is not helplessly at the mercy of the perpetrator, but can defend oneself.

The app documents the activities of the stalker in a conclusive manner. The person affected can use it to go to the police. In 80% of all cases recorded by the police, the stalking already stops after the report or endangerment approach.

It has been awarded as a lighthouse project in the Google.org Impact Challenge 2018. The WEISSE RING received prize money for the technical development of the app, for making it available via the various app stores, as well as for an accompanying communication campaign.

The police were informed nationwide as part of the communication campaign for the app.

Contact Weißer Ring:

Brigitte Grüning
Phone: 0 23 23 / 94 43 35
Fax: 0 23 23 / 94 56 40

Contact Bochum Police Headquarters:

Silke Jakobs
Victim Protection Officer
Telephone: 02 34 / 9 09 - 40 50
E-mail: opferschutz.bochum@polizei.nrw.de

Cornelia Heppner
Victim Protection Officer
Telephone: 02 34 / 9 09 - 40 53
E-mail: opferschutz.bochum@polizei.nrw.de

Contact Office for Equality and Diversity:

Office for Equality and Diversity
E-mail: gleichstellung-vielfalt@herne.de

[Flyer domestic violence german](#)

[Flyer domestic violence english](#)

[Flyer domestic violence french](#)

[Flyer domestic violence russian](#)

[Flyer domestic violence turkish](#)

[Flyer domestic violence bulgarian](#)

[Flyer domestic violence romanian](#)

[Flyer domestic violence ukrainian](#)