



## Benefits for victims of National Socialism in accordance with Section 2 of the National Fund Law

### Gesture payment

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The National Fund was established in 1995 to express Austria's special historical responsibility. It renders payments to victims of National Socialism of Austrian origin who have been personally persecuted by the Nazi Regime. The acknowledgement as victim of National Socialism is expressed through a symbolic gesture payment of EURO 5.087,10 per person.

According to Section 2 of the **Federal Law on the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism, Federal Law Gazette No. 432/1995**, the requirements for an award by the committee are as follows (excerpt from the text of the law):

#### *Section 2.*

##### *(1) The Fund shall render benefits to persons*

- 1. who were persecuted by the National Socialist regime for political reasons, for reasons of birth, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, because of physical or mental disability or on the basis of accusations of allegedly antisocial attitudes, or who in other way fell victim to typically National Socialist injustice or left the country to escape such persecution, and*
- 2. who*
  - (a) were citizens of the Federal Republic of Austria and were domiciled in Austria on 13 March, 1938, or*
  - (b) had been permanently domiciled in Austria for a period of approximately ten years as per 13 March, 1938, or were born as children as such persons in Austria within that period, or*
  - (c) lost their status as citizens of the Federal Republic of Austria or their place of residence of at least approximately ten years before 13 March, 1938, because they left the country due to the imminent march of the German Armed Forces into Austria, or*
  - (d) who were born before 9 May, 1945, as children of such persons in concentration camps or under comparable circumstances in Austria.*

In principle, this gesture payment is made to persons who were personally exposed to persecution by the Nazi regime. For this reason, heirs cannot apply for the gesture payment.

There is no deadline for filing an application.

The questionnaire is available via the National Fund Website [www.nationalfonds.org](http://www.nationalfonds.org).

## **Additional payments due to special need**

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In cases of special need, the National Fund can make additional payments to persons who have already received a gesture payment.

An additional payment can be approved by the Committee of the National Fund if

- such need arises (e.g. high costs for medication or examinations that are not covered by social security, or other exceptional financial burdens)
- and
- the monthly income is disproportionately low.

The Committee bases the income limit on the current guideline rates according to Sec. 293 of the General Social Security Act. These are currently:

€ 1,110.26 for single persons

€ 1,751.56 for married couples.

(If nursing allowance is received, this is not counted as income.)

However, in individual cases, even with a somewhat higher income, additional payments may be possible if there are circumstances worthy of consideration.

**The National Fund Committee always bases its decisions on additional payments on the overall circumstances of the individual case.**

**There is no legal entitlement to an additional payment.**

It is possible to apply for an additional payment by means of an informal request – a letter or e-mail with a description of the income and living situation as well as copies of the relevant supporting documents (such as bank statements, confirmations of pension, rent, major expenses, etc.) is usually sufficient.

The Committee decides on these applications twice a year (in spring and autumn).

**Requests for a gesture payment or for an additional payment  
are to be addressed to:**

By email: [office@nationalfonds.org](mailto:office@nationalfonds.org)

By post: National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism  
A-1017 Vienna - Parliament