

This flyer was created as part of the network project 'Verbesserung der Aufnahmebedingungen für Schutzsuchende, Schutzberechtigte und vorübergehend Schutzberechtigte in Brandenburg' (VASiB) of the Cooperation for Refugees in Brandenburg (KFB).

For more information on the VASiB project and the KFB, visit: [www.kooperation-für-flüchtlinge-in-brandenburg.de](http://www.kooperation-für-flüchtlinge-in-brandenburg.de)



The KFB includes:



You can download a sample for the appeal at this web address:



[bit.ly/muster\\_widerspruch](https://bit.ly/muster_widerspruch)

You can also find information on the subject of finding accommodation here:



[bit.ly/info\\_wohnung](https://bit.ly/info_wohnung)

The VASiB project and flyer are funded by:



Kofinanziert von der Europäischen Union

Gefördert durch:



Information and actions against excessive fees in shared accommodation in Brandenburg

# Overcharged for Housing? No thanks!



If you live in shared accommodation and have your own monthly income that exceeds a certain amount, you will have to pay fees for your accommodation. Most of these fees are a flat rate per person. For a few square meters of living space and the use of sanitary facilities and common rooms, the fees range from 225 to 480 euros a month per person. For large families, the costs can be especially high.

The Refugee Council of Brandenburg and the VASiB network advocate for affordable housing. The network criticizes the high fees and encourages people to take action against excessive fees.

## YOU THINK THE FEES FOR YOUR ACCOMMODATION ARE TOO HIGH? HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO AGAINST IT:

### 1. REQUEST A NOTIFICATION OF FEES

Ask the authority for a formal notification of fees. The fees should only include the costs for accommodation, heating and electricity and these should be clearly itemized.

### 2. SEEK COUNSELING

Get help from a counseling center or a lawyer specializing in social law. The directory of the Refugee Council of Brandenburg ([bit.ly/weg\\_weiser](https://bit.ly/weg_weiser)) shows counseling centers in your area. If your income is below a certain level and you do not have legal expenses insurance, you can apply for an "Beratungshilfeschein" (advisory aid cheque) from the District Court. You will need to disclose your income and assets.

You can find a sample appeal form here. Be sure to include your personal details and the information about your individual case:

First name, surname  
Address  
born on ..., in ...

### *Appeal against the Notification of Fees for the Use of Temporary Accommodation Facilities (Shared Accommodation)*

Dear Sir or Madam,

I hereby file a timely appeal against the notification of fees dated [insert Date], and I request a suspension of enforcement.

The basis for the calculation of the usage fees in the amount of [insert amount] euros is neither explained nor comprehensible. I live in a shared accommodation with several people in one room; in addition to the communal and sanitary rooms, I only have around 6 square meters of living space at my disposal. This corresponds to a square meter price of [insert amount] euros, which can readily be subsumed under the offence of usury.

I am forced to live in the shared accommodation because I have not yet been able to find an apartment. In the shared accommodation, I am subject to numerous restrictions that would not exist in a rental apartment. For example, no visitors are allowed to stay overnight, many people, each of whom has different needs and daily routines, live together in a confined space, and I have to share sanitary facilities and common rooms with other people. I have no privacy, it is constantly noisy, and it is very difficult to find peace and quiet.

Sincerely,  
Signature, Date

### 3. FILE AN APPEAL

If you believe that your fees are too high or incorrect, you can file an appeal. You have to submit the appeal to the Social Welfare Office within one month of receiving the notification of fees.

Please note that while an appeal is being considered, the notification of fees is not suspended. This means that the fees must still be paid despite the appeal. Therefore, the appeal form should include a request for suspension of enforcement, together with a detailed justification. If this request is granted, you will not have to pay the fees for the time being. However, you should still save or set aside the money for future payments.

### 4. LAST OPTION: FILE A LAWSUIT

If the appeal is unsuccessful, you can take the case to court. If you take legal action, there is a chance you may lose the case. In that event, you will have to bear the costs of the court proceedings yourself. Under certain conditions, you can apply for legal aid in this case.

### INFORMATION / GOOD TO KNOW!

- There are currently several ongoing cases against the notification of fees before the Potsdam Administrative Court, the outcome of these cases is still uncertain. .
- It is uncertain whether the fees are allowed to include additional costs, such as security services or administrative costs.