

# International Volunteers



Welcome to Halle  
& Friedenskreis Halle e.V.!



# **Welcome Book for International Volunteers weltwärts - developmental voluntary service**

We are glad you are interested in doing a voluntary service with Friedenskreis Halle e.V.

In this booklet you will find information about Friedenskreis Halle e.V., the service with us, (life in) Halle and Germany and some advises for preparation.

We hope this helps you to feel welcome and comfortable.

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## Friedenskreis Halle e.V.

### Introduction and History

The peaceful revolution of 1989 awakened the hope for many people that a society without violence, Germany without military and a world without war can be realized. In 1990, these ideas brought together people from various citizen's initiatives in Halle to form the Friedenskreis (Circle of Peace). When the association was officially founded in 1991, these goals were its foundation. Today our engagement is focused on peace politics, peace education and peace volunteer services and is formed by a dynamic concept of peace: Peace for us is not a state, a far-off goal or simply an absence of war. For us peace is a way to a fair, cooperative, diverse and non-violent co-existence that enables everyone to be free and develop themselves. We advocate active non-violence, constructive as well as civil conflict management, active democracy, transcultural diversity and global justice. We are a political and value-orientated organization, but we do not belong to any party, religion or ideology. According to our ideals the aim of our work is a process of social change on a personal, structural and cultural level. As a non-governmental organization, we stand and work for our goals between the poles of the citizens, the state and the market. Our main concern is to support and strengthen an active citizenship. We connect our local focus with global issues and international partnerships. A special connection exists between us and East- and South Europe. We understand ourselves as a learning organisation with a transparent and process-orientated way of working. We finance our work through donations, private and public funding and our own means. It is of great importance to us to use money and resources in a way that is shaped by ethical criteria and the principle of sustainability.



The association works in three areas:

- a. peace politics: actions, campaigns, exhibitions, presentations, lectures and workshops as well as local and regional networking.
- b. Peace education: own workshops, seminars and trainings in Halle, the region and abroad in cooperation with local, regional, national and international partners as well as mediation of offers and trainers.
- c. Peace services: consultation and information for interested persons and organisations as well as hosting-, sending- and coordinating organisation for the international long-term voluntary services „Weltwärts“.

## **Projects and Management**

### **The Peace Education Division**

The Friedenskreis Halle e.V. has been active in educational work since its foundation. Our main topics are active non-violence, constructive conflict management, living democracy, transcultural diversity and global justice.

We regularly offer information events, seminars and training as well as workshops on our main topics. Our offers are aimed at all those interested in education and specific target groups, e.g. young people, educators or teachers. In addition, the Halle Peace Circle regularly offers international youth encounters, exchanges of experts and work camps.

Our mediation office offers multipliers, schools, associations, institutions and business enterprises interested in educational programmes or training the possibility of booking a programme from our repertoire or developing a specifically tailored educational module. For the implementation we have a pool of qualified and experienced trainers and speakers. Our offers are in great demand, especially in school-related youth work.

### **The Peace Politics Division**

The peace policy work area is largely shaped by voluntary commitment.

In the past, the Peace Policy Working Group had different focal points: Exchange of information and viewpoints on political developments and events, on the topics of peace, violence, military, wars and conflicts, from

local to global. Numerous actions were developed and implemented, e.g., demonstrations, vigils, signature campaigns, creative protest and information events.

After a phase of restructuring in 2014, there are now two groups that animate the work area. The editorial group has set itself the task of collecting, preparing and disseminating information relevant to peace policy and speaking out on selected topics and events.

The regional action group, on the other hand, is primarily concerned with an exchange among themselves as well as an outward-looking dialogue and actions on (changing) peace policy (major) issues. Both groups are always happy to have comrades-in-arms. So, if you feel like getting involved in peace politics, please contact us at [friedenspolitik@friedenskreis-halle.de](mailto:friedenspolitik@friedenskreis-halle.de). The guiding principle is an understanding of peace as a process that goes beyond the absence of war.

## **International Volunteers and Peace Services**

In an international voluntary service, people volunteer for a longer period of time in a non-profit organisation abroad out of their own free will. Friedenskreis Halle e.V. has been offering such services for more than fifteen years. With the services we want to give people the chance to get involved for a just world, to try themselves out and to grow in the process. By bringing their enthusiasm, background and perspectives to their new environment, volunteers also stimulate development and reflection, making service an important learning experience for all involved. We want to open spaces where concrete, practical actions and ways of life can emerge to promote peaceful and equal co-existence. The content and organisation of the services is based on our five guiding themes:

- a. Active nonviolence
- b. Constructive and civil conflict management
- c. Living democracy
- d. Transcultural diversity
- e. Global justice

The volunteers deal with what peace means to them and what makes their service a peace service for them. The area of international voluntary services - peace services is always on the move. Currently, we are very

much concerned with the issue of partnership at eye level. To this end, we are striving to further deepen our cooperation with our partner organisations at home and abroad and to network them with each other. We can cover a large part of the costs for the services through public funding and sponsoring. In addition, we experience and build on further support from the sector in the form of material donations and personal commitment.

## **Introducing Weltwärts**

Weltwärts is all about engagement in development issues, global learning and interacting as equals. It brings people together in and from Germany, Asia, Africa, Latin America, Oceania and Eastern Europe. The programme focuses on non-formal learning on a mutual basis and strengthening of international partnerships.

The Weltwärts South-North development volunteer service gives you the opportunity to get involved in civic engagement in Germany by spending six to 18 months volunteering in the areas of education, healthcare, environmentalism, culture or human rights.

The focus is on learning from each other and developing global awareness. Be it a housing project for people with disabilities, an association that promotes community-supported agriculture or a nursery school - there are many ways to play an active role in society and learn with Weltwärts. Irrespective of the project you choose to support, the Weltwärts volunteer service is all about working together for the community, creating change and learning from and with one another in the process.

## Volunteering

### An international long-term voluntary service

Within an international long-term voluntary service, there are three main actors: the volunteer, Friedenskreis Halle e.V. (FKH), the place of assignment (POA) where practical work takes place and the sending organisation.

For the region of Halle and surrounding, FKH operates as a coordinating organisation for 10 to 16 voluntary services each year. We take care that the services run smoothly: we take care of administration and funding of the services, mediate between the volunteer, the place of assignment, the sending organisation and other actors involved in the services, and we guide and support the volunteers before, during and after their services. As ruled out, volunteers do not have to contribute to the service financially. There might be some exceptions regarding travel costs (costs higher than refunded by the funding programs) and living costs (consumers costs much higher than anticipated). But we expect volunteers to contribute to fundraising activities e.g., participate at events / fairs of Friedenskreis Halle e.V., writing reports and similar for public relations work and initiating own fundraising activities.

The term international long term voluntary service refers to the engagement of a person out of free will, non-paid (although rewarded with an allowance), long-term and full time in a project abroad, conducive to the public good. But they always bring new ideas, perspectives and methods and thus possibility for development into the place of assignment. Volunteers should perform additional tasks. They should not replace an employee. The standard work of the place of assignment should be possible without you as well and your presence should only indicate the possibility of extra tasks getting done. So as a volunteer you have a high responsibility as well – towards the team and the users.

So, a voluntary service is about giving and receiving – for volunteers as well as places of assignment and their users.

The upset of a service with FKH. The service involves:



- a. preparation and follow up with your sending organisation before and after the service.
- b. practical instructed work at your place of assignment, reflectional meetings with your tutor at your place of assignment.
- c. accompanying seminars (15 to 25 days).
- d. reflectional meetings with Friedenskreis Halle e.V. during your service, sometimes with other volunteers (at the beginning & after 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 and 12 months).
- e. acquisition of German language.
- f. developing and implementing one or more small project(s) of a peace policy and/or European/global relations kind (lecture, radio show, press article, exposition, guided tour).
- g. civil societal engagement: time spent on peace policy and/or European/global relations related issues or projects (participating at a demonstration or a lecture, engaging in some project or initiative).
- h. regular reporting about your experiences (on our homepage, at fundraising and friendship activities).

## **Finances**

According to your activity agreement your accommodation and health insurance will be paid. You further have an accident and a third-party insurance. Regarding mobility, you will either get a ticket for public transport and/or a bicycle. Moreover, we will pay you German language support if needed. Next to that you will receive pocket and food money in the amount of 352,50 euro.

## Preparation

### Volunteering Overview

For several years Friedenskreis Halle e.V. has been organizing long-term international voluntary services. Within this field of work, we offer information about international voluntary services, we send volunteers abroad and host volunteers in Halle, Germany. In the process of hosting international volunteers in Germany we operate as a coordinating organization. To realize the program, we cooperate with different sending organizations from abroad and with different places of assignment in Halle and surrounding. We are also ourselves a place of assignment for international volunteers.

A service lasts 12 months and it starts 20th September each year. We understand our services and they are designed as peace and learning services. Volunteers will have an opportunity to acquire knowledge in different fields and to get involved with the topic of peace. The international voluntary service with Friedenskreis Halle e.V. comprises of:

- a. Practical work in one or two place(es) of assignment (30h/week),
- b. Active participation in the accompanying seminars (25days),
- c. Service-related activities (around 8h/week),
- d. Active participation in accompanying programme, implementation of own project,
- e. occupation with and/or engagement in topics and activities of (local) civil society,
- f. learning German in depth.

“Personally speaking, this program helped me a lot to develop my skills starting from communication with others and language skills as well. All this experience helps a volunteer to become independent and know how to handle things by himself.”

- *Lejla, 2016-2017*

We understand voluntary services as learning and peace services for all those involved. Volunteers, placement sites, host and sending organisations as well as mentors and hosts as well as mentors and host organisations should be able to learn from each other through personal

exchange. The pedagogical seminars for the volunteers are therefore a central component of the volunteer services and are based on our guiding themes. For example, we practice constructive conflict management, reflect on experiences in the placement sites, learn about and discuss topics such as transcultural diversity and global justice. The volunteers are strengthened to take steps towards a partnership-based, just and non-violent coexistence in diversity in the spirit of our association's mission statement. To live together in partnership, justice and non-violence in diversity - both in Halle and abroad.

"The wonderful 14 months here have shaped my personality and my perception of many things. completely changed. I have experienced and learned: German as a foreign language, respect for people and for social work, fighting for social rights, thinking of others, time and organisation... I have an endless list."

*- Akash, volunteer at the Peace Circle office and in the Plant Garden of the Francke Foundations*

Places of work in Halle and the surrounding area are social institutions for children and youth work as well as organisations working in the field of social and peace policy. It is important to us that the volunteer's service is seen as an opportunity to for mutual learning. In addition to practical support volunteers bring new perspectives and can be an impetus and can be an impetus to reflect on and inequalities in the and inequalities in the institution. The placement sites can improve their skills in dealing with people whose mother tongue is not German.

## Becoming a Volunteer

Who may apply? General profile volunteers:

- a. Weltwärts: 18-28yrs (exceptions can be made, when reasonable)
- b. School graduation
- c. Knowledge of English and willingness to learn German starting in home country
- d. Seeing the service as learning and peace service
- e. Willingness to get involved in civil society after the service
- f. Specific profile for at least one of the places of assignment we cooperate with.

Which places of assignment Friedenskreis Halle cooperates with?

Please be aware: That list is subject to changes. Listed are the Poas of the last cycle.

- a. Kulturwerkstatt Grüne Villa
- b. Humanistischer Regionalverband Halle Saalkreis e.V
- c. Kinder- und Jugendhaus e.V.
- d. Kita Marktspatzen
- e. S.C.H.I.R.M.
- f. KindElternZentrum Lieskau
- g. Kita Bartholomäus
- h. Passage 13

## **How to apply?**

Weltwärts: Within this program, we cooperate with permanent partner organisations as sending organisations in Southeast-Europe and Ruanda. Please get in contact with the organisation most near to where you live (but in your country). You can find a list of partner organisations on our Homepage. The first step is to contact the partner organisation from your country and send them the application form.

Please be aware: There might be additional requirements of the sending organisation. Weltwärts: Within this program, the partner organisations have the main responsibility for the selection of volunteers. After their pre-selection they propose candidates to Friedenskreis Halle for final selection and matching. Therefore, we and maybe the place of assignment will do interviews by ZOOM or Telephone in February / March. The Final decision is made in agreement with the places of assignment. We are looking forward to your application.

“For almost a year before I started my volunteer work at Friedenskreis e.V. (Germany) I volunteered in Bosnia. So, before I came to Germany, I had an idea what it means to volunteer. Based on that I had my expectations for Germany, that were wrong. I believed that there would be a casual “work” atmosphere, without many rules and regulations. Germany, in that sense is different from Bosnia. At the beginning of my work in Germany I was a bit confused,

first and foremost by the seriousness of the work itself. Luckily, I had the opportunity to talk to some of the young German people that have explained to me that volunteer work in Germany was basically real, serious work. Realising this I adapted, changed my opinion and took the work seriously.”

- *Ornela, 2016-2017*

## **Visa Process**

International volunteers should apply for a national D-VISA (Visa for BFD volunteers). The German government labels the following reasons as acceptable for participating in an international volunteer service in Germany: Enhancing competencies/skills, Individual live planning, engagement, cultural openness, supporting the vision and mission of hosting organization / place of assignment.

You therefore should be very clear about your aim of doing the service. You should know your place of assignment and be familiar with the vision and work of them.

Further you should have a clear vision or – even better – a concrete plan for your life after the service in Germany. You will need to show that you want to be engaged back home and in what way.

Documents for visa application (bring 2 copies and the originals):

Required:

- a. Application form
- b. Passport
- c. Contracts (for weltwärts: at least “BFD Dienstvertrag”, helpful “Zusatzvereinbarung” and “Activity Agreement)
- d. 3 ID photos

Helpful:

- a. Proof of non-mandatory German knowledge
- b. Invitation from Friedenskreis Halle e.V. (and – for weltwärts – BMZ-Begleitschreiben)

## **Language Skills**

Visa applications from international volunteers have been rejected on the basis of lack of language skills. However, we were advised that a letter

from the place of assignment confirming the current level of language skills is sufficient should be enough. Nevertheless, the volunteers should document any language courses taken and should be aware that language study is part of the service.

## **Interview**

In addition, visa applicants will be interviewed by the embassy. Following questions might be asked. It is suggested to practice this in advance (if need be, via zoom with us).

- a. Why do you want to volunteer? What does volunteering mean to you? Why do you volunteer within the EVS/weltwärts program?
- b. Why do you want to volunteer in your place of assignment? What will you be doing? (Prepare yourself to explain that for these activities you don't need special qualifications or German language.)
- c. Why do you want to volunteer with FKH?
- d. How does it fit with your livelihood plans?  
(Prepare yourself to explain the connection between what you did up to now, your plans after returning and the service.) This point is VERY important: You have to make clear that you want and will return home.

## **Vaccination**

Before your departure, please make sure to obtain vaccination card with all your vaccinations documented there. If you will be volunteering at a POA with kids, you are obliged to be vaccinated against measles.

“It begins with "Hallo"... and at the end of the day comes "tschüss". During this normal day, you learn about your weaknesses, about yourself, sometimes you do it right sometimes not, but it is essential to know that is a process of learning of children, of learning of yourself and in the end... to become a better you.”

- Isena, 2016-2017

## What to Bring With You

Packing for a holiday can be difficult. Packing for a year can be nearly impossible so what you need is a packing list. We don't expect you to take everything on the packing list, it's a list of ideas, only. It's a good idea to over pack at first, and then get rid of unwanted items.

- a. The Essentials:
- b. PASSPORT! – never, ever forget your passport
- c. Tickets
- d. Contracts & certificate of good conduct
- e. Health and travel insurance papers (if applicable)
- f. Money: cash or debit/credit card (about 100-200€)
- g. International drivers' licence (if you have one)
- h. ID
- i. Copies of all important documents
- j. Prescription medicines (if you take any)
- k. Contact list / emergency card
- l. Cool things from home to share in Halle
- m. bed sheets and towels
- n. clothes that match the weather (sun, rain, snow)
- o. toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, ...)

For summer (up to 35 degrees) and winter (up to – 20 degrees). For sun, rain and snow (waterproofs, gloves...) sportswear (bikini, trainers, ...)

## Certificate of Good Conduct

All volunteers working with kids need a (extended) certificate of good conduct without any entries. Please organize that in advance.

## Getting started

### Language integration

Start learning German at home. The more you know when arriving, the easier. There are lots of people in Halle, also in the places of assignment, who do not speak English!

We will support you in learning German as much as we can. We have a total language support budget of about 150€ per volunteer per volunteer cycle. We reserve ourselves the right to decide together with the partner organisations and the places of assignment how exactly we spend the language budget, that is whether we indeed spend the same amount of 150€ for each volunteer or whether we shift money within the total language support budget to support those more, who face more difficulties in learning the language up to a level necessary for the service.

- a. Tips about learning German - at home and in Halle:
- b. Start with vocabulary. Grammar comes later.
- c. Online language courses
- d. Duolingo App
- e. watch movies/series in German, for the start: with German subtitles
- f. make use of German media (online): radio, TV, news
- g. search for a tandem, e.g., at university (international office)
- h. talk, talk, talk ... at poa, on the street, in flat, to peer-mentor
- i. join online German groups
- j. prepare meetings, events by searching for vocabulary
- k. practice small talk: everyday another small question (what did you do this morning? What do you think of your desk? ...) asked to everybody you meet that day
- l. name items in your environment (put post-it on them)



"Before I came to Halle, I had expectations primarily regarding language improvement. However, I can now be proud of much more, having even been able to develop my own workshop through involvement at Friedenskreis Halle. I owe this personal sense of achievement as a workshop leader and everything I have learned around "peace and conflict transformation" to my tutor Agnes, who selflessly and devotedly guided me through the preparation process."

- Nina, 2015-2016

## Peace Seminars

During your volunteering service and your stay in Halle you will have 25 seminar days. Seminar days are obligatory for all volunteers and they count as working days. At the start of your volunteering you will receive a list of all seminar dates for one year.

Since this volunteering service is conceptualised as a learning service, our goal is provide opportunities for volunteers to get certain professional skills (at POAs) and as well to offer space to rethink and discuss political topics and our roles in our communities. In addition to this, seminars are a good tool to have reflection periods during the year in order to evaluate how is the year going. Seminar days are divided as following:

### a. On arrival seminar

The main purpose of this seminar is to get to know the new environment, to get to know Friedenskreis and the program better, to get to know other volunteers, to finish administrative formalities and set up your learning goals. This seminar takes place right upon the arrival.



### b. Friedenskreis Weekend

Friedenskreis Weekend is a yearly event which takes place in October and it's a gathering of all FK volunteers, members and employees. This seminar has a different topic each year. You are welcome to make suggestions!

### c. Mid-term I seminar

Mid-term I seminar addresses topics of reflection and Boundaries and Empowerment in the context of sexual assault.

#### **d. Mid-term II seminar**

Mid-term II seminar addresses topics of solidarity and activism.

#### **e. BFD Seminar**

This is the only seminar, which is not organized by Friedenskreis, but by the BFD volunteering program. Topics of this seminar are always political and historical.

#### **f. Farewell seminar**

This seminar is designed for evaluation and farewell!

### **Own Project**

Additionally, to your voluntary work at your place of assignment you should develop and implement one or more own small project(s) related to your service. We would welcome projects related to peace policy, Europe or global relations. That might be whatever you can think of e.g., about your service, your home region, your experiences in Halle or something else, a radio show, a press article, an exposition, a guided tour through the city with a certain focus e.g., traces of your home region in Halle, a play, stickers, ...

We only have one condition: By implementing the project it should become clear to others that the project has been developed within an international voluntary service with FKH.

How to create a project?

- a. Ask your mentor / peer-mentor for help
- b. Make project management one topic at the mid term training
- c. attend a project management seminar in Halle - regularly offered
- d. in the FKH library we work on project management.

## City Transportation

Please always keep in handy a copy of your passport, visa and residence paper.

### Bicycle

We try to provide you with a bicycle to move in an eco-friendly way. But be aware that Halle counts as one capital for bicycle-thievery. So always (!!!) attach your bicycle (the frame of it) to something fixed and take it into your cellar if you are out of Halle for more than three days. If it gets stolen and you ignore these rules, you will have to substitute it. Please clean it from time to time and take care of smaller damages (e.g., light etc.) so following volunteers also have the pleasure.

If it is broken, please repair as far as you can. There are several DIY workspaces, where you can repair using materials that are there and asking for help:

- a. Postkult: wed 4-6pm, Torstr. 31 / Böllberger Weg
- b. Rad und Tat: mo-sat, Reilstraße 126



### Public transport (ÖPVN - Öffentlicher Personennahverkehr)

Halle's public transport is run by the HAVAG (Hallesche Verkehrs AG).

The surrounding public transport system (incl. regional trains) is integrated into "MDV-network" (Mitteldeutscher Verkehrsverbund):

- a. You need a valid ticket (few exceptions). Using public transport without a valid ticket will get you fined up to 60 euros.

- b. Depending on the type of ticket and where you purchase it, you must validate the ticket upon entering the medium of transport ("clock in" at special machines).
- c. You can buy tickets at a HAVAG service centre (e.g., at market place or in the main train station) or at one of the vending machines at most of the stations or in the tram / bus.
- d. Within Halle, you need a ticket for the zone "201". For going to the surrounding area, you need zone 201 + the zone(s) you want to go to and the zones you will cross to get there.
- e. For bicycles you have to get a (reduced) "Kinderkarte". Only if there is a place: strollers and wheelchairs have priority.

We would like to give a bicycle AND a season card to all volunteers the whole year ... But we can not. It's simply too expensive. But you must get to your voluntary work without costs. So, whether and how we pay the costs for transport and whether and what kind of bike we offer, depends on the distance between the place where you live and your place(s) of assignment:

- a. for volunteers who can reach their poa in 30min of walking or less (1 way), we do not refund transport cost
- b. For volunteers who can reach their poa in 30min of cycling or less (1 way), we refund public transport costs in the "winter"

## **Train - Deutsche Bahn (DB)**

They take you about everywhere in Germany and some trains are very fast. If you book a ticket in advance, it can be quite cheap (Sparticket) - even in the fast trains.

## Building a New Life

### Introduction to Halle (Saale)

Halle (Saale) is a mid-sized city (about 230 000 inhabitants) in the federal German state Sachsen-Anhalt (Saxony-Anhalt). Geographically it is located roughly in the middle of Germany, politically it belongs to Eastern Germany (the former GDR). Halle is a vivid University-City with (for a mid-sized town) lots of bars/cafés and a broad cultural life (theatres, cinema, concerts, lectures, projects, parties, exhibitions). Further there are lots of possibilities for recreation, e.g., in the parks along the river Saale and at the lakes near to Halle. At the same time, it is a city with the typical problems of a former GDR city like high unemployment and poverty rates and massive population decrease (mainly by emigration of young people). Politically Halle (as the East of Germany in general) is marked by a high polarity. Next to a vivid civil society, you find a high acceptance towards right positions in the population. Demographically, the East of Germany stays a region with a relatively low proportion of people with migration biography.

Luckily, Halle is a city where it does not rain as often as in many other German cities. Nevertheless, remember to bring warm clothes! It can get cold in the winter and stormy in autumn. So, prepare for sunny days as well as for snow and rain.

- a. Market square with Market Church of St. Mary (1529-1554, owns the original death-mask of Martin Luther)
- b. Roter Turm (1418-1503, forms with the steeples of St. Mary's Church the five towers marking the city's silhouette)
- c. Giebichenstein Castle, 961, with a museum and the Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design
- d. Moritzburg, 1484-1503. Former residence of the archbishops of Magdeburg, destroyed in the Thirty Years' War, partially reconstructed in 1901-1913, it is an Art Gallery today
- e. Händel House, birthplace of G.F.Händel, a museum
- f. Francke Foundations, baroque buildings (including Europe 's largest surviving half-timbered building) and historical collections, u.m. a Wunderkammer

- g. Saline Museum, dedicated to Halle's salt-works
- h. State Museum of Prehistory, with the famous Nebra sky disk
- i. Halloren Chocolate Factory, oldest chocolate factory in Germany
- j. Halle-Neustadt, built in the 1960s as a socialist model city

## **Accommodation and Rules**

We will provide you with accommodation and you must sign a sublet agreement. We provide you with a place to stay and basic furniture (bed + bedding (at least 1x bed lining), couch, closet, appointed kitchen, bathroom). But you are the one living there, so you are responsible to make you feel at home, but also for cleaning and taking care for little damages (e.g., replacing a broken bulb). Please treat the flat, the fittings and the furnishing carefully.

Before you leave: We ask you to clean everything in detail (including the windows) at the end of your stay for the next volunteer, who will be staying in your apartment, so that s/he feels welcome and home right from the beginning. Please take all your personal belongings with you and ask us if you want to leave furniture you have bought.

Please avoid smoking in your apartment, and if it is impossible, please only smoke in your room with the window open.

Cleaning: Please clean frequently - but at least in the end of your stay and (if you live in one of "our" apartments) before a new volunteer arrives. If you live together with others, you may find it a good idea to share these tasks and create a cleaning plan or to choose a fixed day in the week/month when you all clean together.

We ask you to save water, energy and heating out of two reasons: environmental and financial.

Showering instead of taking a bath. Washing up and personal hygiene not with water running. Laundry only when the washing machine is full.

You can wash in your apartment if you have a washing machine. Again, have in mind to save energy, so please only wash if you have enough dirty clothes to fill the machine.

Turn off electric devices when leaving the room.

You are asked to separate your rubbish. The reason for doing so is to save resources and stop polluting the environment by masses of “rubbish”, since most of it (glass, plastic, paper, organic) can be recycled (= used again). Again, there is also a financial reason: to motivate people to separate their garbage, in Germany, you do not pay for rubbish that can be recycled, but only for “Restmüll”. For some “garbage” you even get money back!

Deposit Bottles and glasses: For plastic and glass bottles and glasses marked with a little symbol you get back a deposit when you bring them back to the supermarket.

- a. glass: must be separated into white, brown and green glass and to be brought to containers located near your apartment.
- b. plastic/packaging, paper, organic: They all have their own garbage cans marked by different colors (plastic/packaging = yellow, paper = blue, organic = brown) located in front of your apartment.
- c. Restmüll: This should be the smallest part of your garbage! You must put it in the black garbage can, also located in front of your apartment.



## **Health and Safety**

Legally every person living in Germany is assured of the right over health insurance. And as such, the health insurance will be covered by the organization.

You are health insured during your service. That means costs for seeing a physician will be paid resp. refunded. The procedure depends on the program.

## Weltwärts

You are insured in the TK. You have a card that you must hand in at the reception. For staying at a hospital or getting prescribed medication you must pay an additional contribution (like every German person in the GKV). You must pay that out of your pocket money. We cannot reimburse that:

- a. 10€ per night at a hospital
- b. around 5€ for medicaments
- c. between 15 – 25 € for physiotherapy

Keep all invoices! If the additional contribution sums up to more than 2% of your yearly income (about 110€/year), you can apply for an exemption for further additional contributions. We suggest our volunteers to go to Dario Schulke, English speaking doctor.

In general, Germany and Halle are safe! However, some safety rules:

- a. Keep your personal emergency card with you all the time (you will get it upon arrival).
- b. Lock your door, your bicycle + watch your stuff. Make sure you leave the flat secure (oven out, candles out, ...).

Inform FKH in case of

- a. threat, attack, theft etc. Inform the police (110) as well!
- b. serious health problems and accident. Call 112 if needed!

## What to Expect

Regarding the size of Halle, it has lots of offers. Next to the “High-Culture”, you have lots of alternative offers and nice places to linger.

**Cinemas:** Next to the big commercial cinemas, there are a few communal cinemas showing movies and documentaries, sometimes with discussions, often originals with subtitles: Luxkino, Puschkino, Zazie. Theatres: e.g., Halle Opera House, Neues and Thalia Theater, Puppentheater, Steintor Variete and small, non-professional theatres.

**Concerts/Clubs/Parties** changing frequently, here some lasting ones:

- a. Reil 78 – Reiltraße 78 [www.reil78.de](http://www.reil78.de)
- b. Objekt 5 [www.objekt5.com](http://www.objekt5.com)



- c. VL - Ludwigstraße 37 [www.ludwigstrasse37.de](http://www.ludwigstrasse37.de)
- d. Peißnitzhaus [www.peissnitzhaus.de](http://www.peissnitzhaus.de)
- e. Hühnermanhattan [www.huehnermanhattan.de](http://www.huehnermanhattan.de)
- f. Goldene Rose <https://de-de.facebook.com/GoldeneRoseHalle>
- g. Hasi - Hafenstraße 7 <https://hafenstrasse7.noblogs.org>
- h. Turm - Friedemann-Bach-Platz 5 <https://turm.club/events>

**Bars and Cafes:** some “Kneipenstraßen”: Kleine Ulrichstraße, Reileck, Ludwig-Wucherer-Straße and Steintor

**Parks, gardens, water:** Botanical Garden of the University, Peißnitz Island (all along the river Saale, with beach at the river-Ufer!), Galgenberg, Heide (Forest), Raben-Insel, Hufeisensee or Heidensee.

There are lots of **projects** to have fun, meet people and at the same time to be busy with some questions of civil society, e.g.:

- a. Küfa (Küche für alle – kitchen for everyone): A nice opportunity to meet other people and to eat healthy, cheap and vegan food. Meals for a huge group against donation and there is the opportunity to join the cooking. e.g., tue 8pm at VL, thur evening at Hasi and and sun 7pm at Reil 78.
- b. Stadtgarten, common public gardening,

Main **shopping spots:** Leipziger Straße und Große Ulrichstraße.

- a. Umsonstladen: store where you get things for free, e.g., clothes, furniture, Böllberger Weg 5 (opened: mo, wed, fri 16:00 – 19:00, tue/thu: 10:00 – 13:00). You may also bring something there.
- b. Secondhand stores, e.g. “Flodders” (Geiststraße 9) for furniture, Resales (Große Ulrichstraße) for clothes, ...

**For free:** One way to find things, mainly furniture, for free is to look for skip refuse (“Sperrmüll”). People can call a special garbage truck to pick up their old furniture etc. The evening before they place all these things on the street, so be fast! Another thing is to look out for “Umsonstkisten” (cartons places on the street with things to take away for free). Finally you may check on “ebay Kleinanzeigen”.

## Life After Work

### City Culture and Activism

The city centre is the centre of the many-sided cultural scene. It is here where the theatres can be found, for example, within the large house block between the Universitätsplatz (University Square) and the Großer Ulrichstraße one will find the Kulturinsel, which has several stages and ensembles. Only a few metres further on, to the north of the Joliot-Curie-Platz, one will find the Opera Hall.

At the Kulturinsel, which is unique within the German speaking area, both the European and world theatre gather on the large and smaller stages. The “new theatre” offers all types of dramatic art ranging from classic drama to theatrical farce.

Halle’s puppet theatre, which is at home here, has earned itself a cult status with the actors brilliantly combining old puppeteer traditions with avant-garde theatrical pleasure. Deriving from this is an international artists-theatre for all ages. The other cultural aspects on offer at the island, the small galleries and the creative design of the aisles and yards together with the artists’ café and theatre pub, also provide a stimulating and exciting ambiance.<sup>1</sup>

Since you are doing your voluntary service with FKH, an organization of civil society busy with peace, we welcome the idea that you occupy yourself a little with the (local) civil society – and here especially with peace politics. By this, you also get a deeper insight into Halle / Germany ... and it's relation to the world.

Civil society, in very short, is the space next to or between market, state and family where interests of (parts of) the society are articulated and fought for in a democratic, especially non-violent way. It’s the realm of non-governmental organizations, projects and initiatives of citizens using their citizen’s rights.

Politics for us, briefly, means ideas and activities regarding the living together of people – within a family, a school class, a community, a country, or the world. Politics is thus not only connected to the state / paid

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<sup>1</sup> <http://m.halle.de/en/Culture-Tourism/Points-of-Interest/Culture-wherever-o-06059/>

politicians / parliament and government. It is (or better: should be) an issue for everybody.

Thus, peace politics – for us – comprises a lot. To give you some ideas:

- a. themes and activities in connection with the guiding values of FKH (s. ch. 1.1), opposite key words being some “antis” (anti-militarism, anti-violence, anti-racism, anti-sexism etc.)
- b. further, and though not core area of FKH, very important: themes and activities in connection with the protection of the environment, animal protection and social justice

## **Tips on Thriving in the New City**

Halle has a huge park and you should take advantage of that. You can swim in the river or lakes, play sports or jog, or as simple as having fun with friends. Halle is on the cheaper side compared to other western cities in Germany but you can always cook and save up for fun activities or travel around. You will be provided with adequate transportation so don't let that go to waste. All the international volunteers probably have gone through similar situations as you so if you ever need advice or just to talk to someone, they are there for you and you can be there for them. If you find items laying around on the street it means someone put it there for people to grab for free. If you fancy anything feel free to take it. The area around the university and the northern part is full of students friendly people who might be open to chat and get to know.



## General regulations

### City and police

As mentioned above and as agreed on in the activity agreement, you are asked to support the public relation work of FKH. Next to or instead of that we ask you to hand in short contributions to put them on the homepage, in this Welcome booklet, the profiles and/or the Jahresbericht. In the beginning of the service, we will make a list for each month, but you are free to hand in more.

They may be quite short (1 sentence to ½ page + 1-2 photos; audio/video sequences of a few minutes). They may be funny or serious, classical or freaky, in English, German or your language (but with German/English summary). It should be nice to read/see/hear for future volunteers, sponsors, people interested in our work. In general, what you want to tell is totally up to you. Below are some inspirations, however, and from time to time it might be that we have a certain topic. Last but most important: Think about an enthralling headline; )

Suggestions for contributions ...

- a. a typical day
- b. So far: what is as expected, what is different? What was surprising (about Germany, Halle, volunteering...)
- c. Good and bad things of living in Halle / Germany
- d. connections between Halle and my hometown
- e. transcultural moments
- f. about volunteering at my poa
- g. about volunteering in Germany
- h. great moments, difficult moments
- i. my project / civil engagement
- j. free time in Halle
- k. my last travel
- l. what I would like to tell my successor
- m. about preparation seminars / on arrival training ...

- n. about learning German
- o. about living on my own
- p. What is special about volunteering with Friedenskreis Halle?
- q. What makes my voluntary service a peace service?
- r. thoughts about German society / living in Halle
- s. weltwärts – a service related to development policy. / EVS – a European voluntary service. What does this mean in practice?
- t. suggestions for preparation
- u. what I miss most
- v. what I really enjoy in Halle / in volunteering
- w. critical thoughts on volunteering
- x. after coming home: looking back ....

## Support

### General support

There are four partners in an international long-term voluntary service to support volunteers: volunteer, sending organisation (selection, preparation and follow-up), hosting organisation (administration and guidance) and place of assignment (practical voluntary work).

In Halle, there are mainly three persons to support you:

- a. Tutor at place of assignment to support in work-related issues
- b. Peer-mentor to supports in orientation in Halle, daily life, social integration and in case of personal problems
- c. Coordinator of the service at Friedenskreis Halle to support in all cases that can not be dealt with by one of the others

### Racism

In very short, racism is not only if you think that there are existing different human races (which is nonsense by the way) and you suppress people because they (seem to) belong to a certain "race". Racism is, if you connect certain (negative as well as positive) qualities ("plays music well", "is dirty", "is not trustworthy", "is lively", "is a good lover") to certain characteristics of a person (esp. characteristics the person does not has an influence on, e.g. origin, skin colour, to a certain extend: religion, ...). This connection is arbitrary. It's a prejudice that ("all") people of colour are stupid but know how to drum well, that ("all") Roma steal but are musical, that ("all") white people are well informed but arrogant ...

Unfortunately, racism is, like in the other parts of Germany, also still present in Halle. Mostly it doesn't express itself openly in oppressive actions towards foreigners, but in a well-hidden „everyday racism “. This “everyday racism“ appears in stereotypes/clichés regarding certain people (see above). These prejudices can look harmless and aren't always meant mean or pejorative – however, they are never justified!

Also, you can meet racism in the form of institutional racism, especially on your way to the public authorities. This reveals itself for example in a complicated access to the job market, in problems with the residence

permit and in racial profiling. Don't be deterred by this! You have the same right to be here as all the other people!

Physical racist attacks are mainly committed by avowed rights and Neonazis. It mainly addresses people that "look" foreign (darker skin, scarf...). Luckily, in Halle this is not the norm. It is safe in the city centre, especially if you be there at daytime – so, no reason for panic! Moreover, you shouldn't go to outlying districts like the „Silberhöhe“, „Südstadt“ or „Halle-Neustadt“ alone and at night. If you recognize any type of racism or if you or others are offended or attacked in a racist way, inform the coordinator of Friedenskreis Halle e.V. In case of emergency, call the police first (110).

Other organisations, which will help you in any cases of racism and which offer further information about the topic:

- a. Miteinander - Network for democracy and cosmopolitanism in Saxony-Anhalt: <http://www.miteinander-ev.de/>
- b. Projekt GegenPart – Mobile consultation-team against right-wing extremism in Saxony-Anhalt
- c. Foreign society of Saxony-Anhalt: <http://www.agsa.de/>
- d. Mobile consultation for victim of right-wing violence: <http://www.mobile-opferberatung.de/>

If victims of radically right-wing criminal offences and acts of violence do not want to go to the police, they can refund announcement at the following two organisations, without originated lawyer's costs. Initiators: Alliance for social and civil legal consciousness (BSZ®) and alliance of German professional lawyers (BDF) in the BSZ®: <http://www.fachanwalt-hotline.de/>

## **Sexism**

Briefly, sexism is a form of discrimination or suppression of people only on behalf of their gender or sexual orientation.

Sexism is present in Germany, too. Above all it shows in a cult on masculinity or the vilification of women. Beside this, there is a discrimination on LGTB's (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender), i.e. the insult or the outlawing of people with other sexual predilections than the conservative „man-woman-child“-formation.

In Halle – as in other parts of Germany, too – sexism and the exposure to it is increasingly picked out as a central theme. More and more the people get sensitized for anti-sexist work.

There is not only homophobic or sexist discrimination á la „gay people are disgusting “, but a typical „everyday sexism “. This shows in a form of role stereotypes (e.g., the man goes to work, while the woman does the household) and jokes about women (e.g., jokes about blondes, which say that they are less intelligent than others on account of their colour of hair), but also in the form of institutional sexism (e.g. the unequal treatment of female gender in the professional life, same-sex marriage, ...). Sexist acts in form of violence predominantly take place against LGTB's.

Halle is also no exception concerning sexism – all types of sexist discrimination seem to be in this town. But: concerning physical violence, Halle is a very safe place! The increasing sensitization to sexism also brings sensitivity to the subject sex with it. This means for you: A „no“ is always a „no“! If somebody doesn't want your physical closeness, you must accept this and allow him or her his or her space. The other way round people have to tolerate your „no“, too.



## Emergency contact

<a href="http://www.halle.de/en/Life-Society/In-Cases-of-Emergency/">http://www.halle.de/en/Life-Society/In-Cases-of-Emergency/</a>	
Coordinating organisation International voluntary service	Friedenskreis Halle Große Klausstraße 11, Halle 0345 27 98 07 10
Contact person Coordinating organisation	Name: Email: Mobile (emergency only!):
Substitute	Name: Email: Mobile (emergency only!):
Peer-mentor	Name: Email: Mobile:
Place of assignment	Name: Address: Phone: Tutor:
<b>Emergency</b>	
Emergency call police	110
Emergency call ambulance	112
Emergency call fire	112
Medical stand by service	116 117
Emergency hospital: St. Elisabeth (near Franckesche Stiftungen)	0345 213 46 51
Emergency pharmacy finder	<a href="http://www.apolista.de/notdienst/halle">www.apolista.de/notdienst/halle</a>
Call to block bank card	116 116

## End of service

Although you might not even have started your service, already here is some information regarding the end.

### Check list:

- ✓ unsubscribe at the City Council
- ✓ (weltwärts) unsubscribes to the public health insurance
- ✓ close bank account
- ✓ clean flat (first check one week before leaving), return key
- ✓ clean and repair bicycle (first check one week before leaving), return key + helmet
- ✓ final report
- ✓ received your certificates and (for EVS) Youth Pass?
- ✓ said goodbye to everyone?
- ✓ told at home when you arrive?

### Returning Checklist:

- ✓ sends the return ticket to FKH
- ✓ gets in contact with your sending organisation for follow up

We hope you will stay or get engaged after your service.

But we also hope to stay in contact with you! Keep in touch via our email distributors and let us know when you are in Halle.

Now you have made it through all the information, we hope we didn't overwhelm you.

Whether you decide to go for that adventure called international long term voluntary service or not and whether it is with or without us, we wish you all the best!

If you decide to do the service with us: Once more: Welcome! Have fun with preparing, especially with learning German. Surely it won't last long until you can order your first drinks. In the first weeks you will discover Halle, get to know your new workplace and meet a lot of people.

Through the year you will collect ideas, skills and stories, but also moments who will give you food for thought. It might not always be easy,

but you will grow with every challenge and at the end you will have an enriching year. So, enjoy!

We are curious to hear about your experiences!

See you soon.



# Contact

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Große Klausstraße 11  
06108 Halle



 [friedensdienst@friedenskreis-halle.de](mailto:friedensdienst@friedenskreis-halle.de)

 0345-279807-40

 [friedensdienst\\_friedenskreis](https://www.instagram.com/friedensdienst_friedenskreis)

 [Friedenskreis.Halle](https://www.facebook.com/Friedenskreis.Halle)

You can get more information to our voluntary services here:

[www.friedenskreis-halle.de/friedensdienste](http://www.friedenskreis-halle.de/friedensdienste)

Our voluntary services are supported by:



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