The Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
“Family policy encompasses both young and old, men and women, children, young people, adults and senior citizens. It seeks to enable them all to live their lives with autonomy and dignity and to participate actively in society. In the current electoral term, the Committee is focusing on issues such as protection and support for children and young people, gender equality, the ability to combine family life, caring responsibilities and work, and social participation in old age. Achieving lasting improvements in these areas remains the aim of all the parliamentary groups represented on the Committee. As Chairwoman, I am pleased to be able to contribute to accomplishing these aims.”

Sabine Zimmermann, The Left Party Chairwoman of the Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
The German Bundestag’s decisions are prepared by its committees, which are established at the start of each electoral term. Four of them are stipulated by the Basic Law, the German constitution: the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Defence Committee, the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union and the Petitions Committee. The Budget Committee and the Committee for the Rules of Procedure are also required by law. The spheres of responsibility of the committees essentially reflect the Federal Government’s distribution of ministerial portfolios. This enables Parliament to scrutinise the government’s work effectively.

The Bundestag committees
The German Bundestag sets political priorities of its own by establishing additional committees for specific subjects, such as sport, cultural affairs or tourism. In addition, special bodies such as parliamentary advisory councils, committees of inquiry or study commissions can also be established. The committees are composed of members of all the parliamentary groups, reflecting the balance of these groups in the German Bundestag. The distribution of the chairs and deputy chairs among the parliamentary groups also reflects their relative strengths in the plenary. In the current electoral term, the committees have between nine and 49 members.

The committees discuss and deliberate on items referred to them by the plenary. They also have the right to take up issues on their own initiative, allowing them to set priorities in the parliamentary debate. When necessary, they draw on external expertise — usually by holding public hearings. At the end of a committee’s deliberations, a majority of its members adopt a recommendation for a decision and a report, which serve as the basis for the plenary’s decision.
Family affairs, senior citizens, women and youth – the Committee deals with issues which, for all intents and purposes, affect everyone and all generations in Germany. It seeks to support families and children, promote gender equality, ensure that older people’s potential is realised and integrate them and their skills more fully into society. It aims to secure equal opportunities for young people and enable them to grow up in a positive environment. In addition, it works to improve the framework for civic activities in Germany.

The Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
Another key issue for the Committee is gender equality in working life, especially the equal representation of women and men in leadership positions. Violence against women also continues to be the subject of intensive debate, focusing on the question of how to protect women, including from domestic violence.

Making it easier to combine family life, caring responsibilities and work, and upgrading and expanding child day care services are important topics on the Committee’s agenda. It seeks to better protect children from violence and neglect, and drive forward the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Committee also deals with issues relating to the Federal Voluntary Service and youth volunteer services.

New ideas are required when it comes to the needs of an ageing society. How can we do more to tap into older people’s potential in the business community and in society as a whole? What preventive measures can be taken to ensure that as many older people as possible are able to actively participate in society for as long as possible?

14 CDU/CSU
9 SPD
5 AfD
4 FDP
4 The Left Party
4 Alliance 90/The Greens

Number of members: 40
Chairwoman: Sabine Zimmermann, The Left Party
Deputy Chairwoman: Ulle Schauws, Alliance 90/The Greens
The Committee carries out its task of scrutinising the work of the Federal Government by requesting briefings from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth on the progress made on implementing laws or on topical issues. This often develops into an exchange of views between the Committee members and the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Dr Franziska Giffey, or one of her Parliamentary State Secretaries. The topics include, for example, planned changes to the parental allowance, experience with the “Violence Against Women” helpline, or developments in relation to the funds for children and adolescents institutionalised in the former Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic.

The 40 members of the Committee, chaired by Sabine Zimmermann (The Left Party), discuss the bills, motions, reports and EU items referred to the Committee by the plenary. These include specialist reports published by the Federal Government, such as the Children and Youth Report or the Report on the Situation of Older Generations in the Federal Republic of Germany. In addition, the Committee holds regular discussions with external experts on subjects falling within its remit.
EU items are also considered at most meetings of the Committee on Family Affairs. These include, for example, motions for a resolution of the European Parliament or proposals for directives published by the European Commission which deal with the Committee’s topics. The Committee on Family Affairs has set up subcommittees for two important fields: the Commission for Children’s Concerns and the Subcommittee on Civic Activities. The Commission for Children’s Concerns seeks to represent the interests of children and young people. One of the major tasks of the Subcommittee on Civic Activities is to participate in the process of updating the Federal Government’s civic engagement policy.

Many of the subjects dealt with by Parliament touch on the remits of several different committees. In such cases, a bill is referred to one committee as the lead committee, and to one or more other committees which are asked for their opinion. For example, the Committee on Family Affairs is consulted on the Federal Government’s Report on Vocational Education and Training or on amendments to the Civil Code relating to family law.
The Commission for Children’s Concerns

Children are members of our society who require particular protection. They are dependent on their interests being taken into account by their parents, their living environment and political bodies. For this reason, the Bundestag established the Commission for Children’s Concerns in 1988. The Commission is a subcommittee devoted solely to the interests of children and young people. All of its members also sit on the Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. This enables them to be advocates for children’s interests there too – with all of the parliamentary options which are only available to a committee.

The Commission for Children’s Concerns can achieve a great deal – for example, through public hearings, consultations with experts, its own public outreach activities, and greater demands for the voices of children and young people to be heard on societal issues. It sets its own priorities in its work. In the current electoral term, it will be focusing on the upgrading and expansion of child day care services and on the reinforcement of children’s rights by anchoring them in the constitution, among other priorities. In addition, the Commission for Children’s Concerns also seeks to be a partner and supporter of the organisations and institutions that work to further the interests of children.
The Subcommittee on Civic Activities

Civic activities are when people voluntarily come together to pursue joint aims in the public interest. In Germany, this usually takes place in the framework of associations or grassroots initiatives – from sports clubs, to associations supporting schools, to volunteer fire brigades. People who want to engage in civic activities require a suitable legal and financial framework, supportive structures and societal recognition. The Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth has therefore once again established the Subcommittee on Civic Activities in the current electoral term. Its 13 members consider issues and initiatives relating to this area. The subjects which the Subcommittee is examining in the current electoral term include the question of what role civic activities can play when it comes to the challenges of demographic change and the integration of migrants. The parliamentarians are also actively participating in the process of updating the Federation’s civic engagement policy, in consultation with civil society associations and organisations.
Sabine Zimmermann, The Left Party
Chairwoman
Building materials engineer,
b. 30 Dec. 1960
in Pasewalk;
marrried;
two children.
Bundestag Member since 2005

Ulle Schauws, Alliance 90/The Greens
Deputy Chairwoman
Film and television studies specialist,
b. 30 Apr. 1966
in Krefeld;
civil partnership.
Bundestag Member since 2013

Committee members
The 40 members of the Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
Maik Beermann, CDU/CSU
Savings bank business administrator, b. 19 Oct. 1981 in Nienburg an der Weser; married; three children. Bundestag Member since 2013

Melanie Bernstein, CDU/CSU
Cultural studies specialist, b. 28 Sep. 1976 in Buchholz in der Nordheide; widowed; two children. Bundestag Member since 2017

Silvia Breher, CDU/CSU
Executive, lawyer, b. 23 July 1973 in Lönningen; married; three children. Bundestag Member since 2017

Ursula Groden-Kranich, CDU/CSU
Bank clerk, b. 24 May 1965 in Mainz; married; one child. Bundestag Member since 2013

Torbjörn Kartes, CDU/CSU
Lawyer, b. 23 Apr. 1979 in Freiburg im Breisgau; married; one child. Bundestag Member since 2017

Michael Kießling, CDU/CSU
Civil engineer, b. 29 May 1973 in Rütli, Switzerland; divorced; two children. Bundestag Member since 2017
Katharina Landgraf, CDU/CSU
Land-improvement engineer,
b. 24 Feb. 1954 in Kirchengel, Thuringia; married; four children. Bundestag Member in 1990 and since 2005

Stephan Pilsinger, CDU/CSU
Doctor, b. 17 Feb. 1987 in Munich; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2017

Josef Rief, CDU/CSU
Farmer, b. 13 Apr. 1960 in Illertissen; married; three children. Bundestag Member since 2009

Dr Silke Launert, CDU/CSU
CDU/CSU spokeswoman on the Committee
Former regional court judge, b. 27 Dec. 1976 in Stadtsteinach; two children. Bundestag Member since 2013

Sylvia Pantel, CDU/CSU
Has worked in the fields of logistics, preventive health care and long-term care, b. 1 Jan. 1961 in Düsseldorf; married; five children. Bundestag Member since 2013

Katharina Landgraf, CDU/CSU
Land-improvement engineer, b. 24 Feb. 1954 in Kirchengel, Thuringia; married; four children. Bundestag Member in 1990 and since 2005

Martin Patzelt, CDU/CSU
Youth and community worker, b. 23 July 1947 in Frankfurt (Oder); married; five children. Bundestag Member since 2013

Stephan Pilsinger, CDU/CSU
Doctor, b. 17 Feb. 1987 in Munich; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2017

Josef Rief, CDU/CSU
Farmer, b. 13 Apr. 1960 in Illertissen; married; three children. Bundestag Member since 2009

Sylvia Pantel, CDU/CSU
Has worked in the fields of logistics, preventive health care and long-term care, b. 1 Jan. 1961 in Düsseldorf; married; five children. Bundestag Member since 2013
Leni Breymaier, SPD
Retail clerk, b. 26 Apr. 1960 in Ulm; married. Bundestag Member since 2017

Bettina M. Wiesmann, CDU/CSU
Business adviser, b. 20 Oct. 1966 in Berlin; married; four children. Bundestag Member since 2017

Sönke Rix, SPD
SPD spokesman on the Committee, SPD spokesman on family affairs, senior citizens, women and youth Childcare worker, b. 3 Dec. 1975 in Eckernförde; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2005

Marcus Weinberg, CDU/CSU
CDU/CSU spokesman on the Committee Teacher, b. 4 June 1967 in Hamburg; unmarried; one child. Bundestag Member since 2005

Josephine Ortleb, SPD
Specialist in the hospitality services industry, b. 25 Nov. 1986 in Saarbrücken; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2017

Ulrike Bahr, SPD
Teacher, b. 25 Apr. 1964 in Nördlingen; married. Bundestag Member since 2013

Uli Ortleb, SPD
Specialist in the hospitality services industry, b. 25 Nov. 1986 in Saarbrücken; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2017

Bettina M. Wiesmann, CDU/CSU
Business adviser, b. 20 Oct. 1966 in Berlin; married; four children. Bundestag Member since 2017

Ulrike Bahr, SPD
Teacher, b. 25 Apr. 1964 in Nördlingen; married. Bundestag Member since 2013
Susann Rüthrich, SPD
Political scientist, b. 21 July 1977 in Meißen; unmarried; three children. Bundestag Member since 2013

Ursula Schulte, SPD
Housewife, b. 9 Aug. 1952 in Alstätte; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2013

Stefan Schwartze, SPD
Industrial mechanic, b. 23 May 1974 in Bad Oeynhausen; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2009

Svenja Stadler, SPD
Senior PR consultant, b. 26 Aug. 1976 in Oldenburg; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2013

Gülistan Yüksel, SPD
Pharmaceutical technical assistant, b. 27 Mar. 1962 in Turkey; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2013

Thomas Ehrhorn, AfD
Pilot, b. 20 Mar. 1959 in Helmstedt; married; one child. Bundestag Member since 2017

Susann Rüthrich, SPD
Political scientist, b. 21 July 1977 in Meißen; unmarried; three children. Bundestag Member since 2013

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martin Reichardt</td>
<td>AfD</td>
<td>AfD spokesman on the Committee Employee</td>
<td>b. 30 July 1969 in Goslar; married; three children. Bundestag Member since 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Höchst</td>
<td>AfD</td>
<td>Former civil servant in the field of education</td>
<td>b. 10 Feb. 1970 in Homburg, Saarland; four children. Bundestag Member since 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Pasemann</td>
<td>AfD</td>
<td>Self-employed, Bank clerk</td>
<td>b. 21 Apr. 1960 in Magdeburg; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2017</td>
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<td>Grigoris Aggelidis</td>
<td>FDP</td>
<td>FDP spokesman on family affairs, senior citizens, women and youth</td>
<td>Bank clerk, b. 19 Aug. 1965 in Hanover; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2017</td>
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<td>Nicole Höchst</td>
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<td>Industrial engineer</td>
<td>b. 19 Mar. 1987 in Vilsbiburg; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Bauer</td>
<td>FDP</td>
<td>Industrial engineer</td>
<td>b. 19 Mar. 1987 in Vilsbiburg; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mariana Iris Harder-Kühnel</td>
<td>AfD</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>b. 16 Aug. 1974 in Gelnhausen; married; three children. Bundestag Member since 2017</td>
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Former civil servant in the field of education, b. 10 Feb. 1970 in Homburg, Saarland; four children. Bundestag Member since 2017

Frank Pasemann, AfD
Self-employed, b. 21 Apr. 1960 in Magdeburg; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2017

Grigoris Aggelidis, FDP
FDP spokesman on family affairs, senior citizens, women and youth Bank clerk, b. 19 Aug. 1965 in Hanover; married; two children. Bundestag Member since 2017

Nicole Bauer, FDP
Industrial engineer, b. 19 Mar. 1987 in Vilsbiburg; unmarried. Bundestag Member since 2017
Norbert Müller,
The Left Party
The Left Party spokesman on the Committee,
The Left Party spokesman on family affairs, senior citizens, women and youth
Student,
b. 10 Feb. 1986 in Wriezen;
married;
two children.
Bundestag Member since 2014

Katrin Werner,
The Left Party
Retail clerk,
b. 25 May 1973 in Berlin;
one child.
Bundestag Member since 2009

Daniel Föst,
FDP
Self-employed,
b. 10 Aug. 1976 in Schweinfurt;
martial;
two children.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Matthias Seestern-Pauly,
FDP
FDP spokesman on the Committee
Academic secondary school teacher,
b. 28 Feb. 1984 in Osnabrück;
martial;
one child.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Doris Achelwilm,
The Left Party
Linguist,
b. 30 Nov. 1976 in Thuine;
unmartial.
Bundestag Member since 2017

Annalena Baerbock,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Specialist in international law,
LL.M.,
b. 15 Dec. 1980 in Hanover;
martial;
two children.
Bundestag Member since 2013
Katja Dörner,
Alliance 90/The Greens
spokeswoman on
family affairs,
senior citizens,
women and youth
Political scientist,
b. 18 Feb. 1976
in Siegen;
marrried;
one child.
Bundestag Member
since 2009

Beate Walter-Rosenheimer,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Psychologist,
b. 20 Nov. 1964
in Weißenburg, Bavaria;
five children.
Bundestag Member
since 2012
Information online

The Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a13

The Commission for Children’s Concerns
www.bundestag.de/kiko

The Subcommittee on Civic Activities
www.bundestag.de/ausschuesse/a13/eng
Contact details for the Committee Secretariat

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The German Bundestag takes decisions on what are at times highly complex and controversial bills and parliamentary initiatives relating to the entire spectrum of policy fields. The committees play a central role in parliamentary deliberations. They are the forum where the Members thrash out compromises and draw on expert advice before submitting their reports and recommendations for decisions to be voted on by the Bundestag as a whole.

www.bundestag.de/en/committees