



Deutscher Bundestag

The Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Ausschuss für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend
Informationen in englischer Sprache



**New
2023
version**
20th electoral term



“The Federal Government has undertaken to dare more progress. This includes adapting systems to reflect the changing life circumstances of people in Germany. Introducing basic child security, improving quality standards in child day care centres and schools, promoting gender equality and battling against loneliness in our society are just a few of the initiatives that are being driven forward by the Family Affairs Committee in the current electoral term. As Chairwoman of the Committee, I am very much looking forward to playing a part in our country’s societal and social modernisation.”



Ulrike Bahr, SPD
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 European Union Affairs and the Petitions Committee.

The Budget Committee and the Committee for the Scrutiny of Elections, Immunity and 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 committees of the German Bundestag

The German Bundestag sets political priorities of its own by establishing additional committees for specific subjects, such as sport, cultural affairs, human rights 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 19 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 – especially on bills and motions for which it is the lead committee – it adopts a recommendation for a decision and a report, which serve as the basis for the plenary’s decision.

The Committee's name alone reveals the sweeping nature of its remit. Almost everyone in Germany, at various phases in their lives, is affected by the topics for which the Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth – often referred to as the Family Affairs Committee for short – is responsible. In parliamentary processes, the committees, including the Family Affairs Committee, have a key role to play in dealing with items of business. When an item of business, such as a Federal Government bill, is tabled in the German Bundestag and its subject matter falls primarily within the remit of the Family Affairs

The Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Committee, it is referred to the Committee as the lead committee for further consideration. The Committee is where the first substantive engagement with the item of business takes place. The Family Affairs Committee usually decides to draw on external expertise and holds a public hearing, for example to obtain information about the potential effects of a planned law or to seek suggestions for improvements from practitioners. The Family Affairs Committee subsequently delivers a recommendation on what further action the German Bundestag should take regarding the item of business. This recommendation often includes proposed amendments that are based on findings which emerged from the public hearing. The German Bundestag subsequently

decides whether to accept the Committee's recommendation. In addition to dealing with items of business referred to it, the Family Affairs Committee is also able to take up matters falling within its remit on its own initiative. The Committee makes frequent use of this option and holds consultations to discuss a specific topic with interest groups and associations which are active nationwide on issues falling within its remit. In the 19th electoral term (2017 to 2021), the Family Affairs Committee held a total of 102 meetings, of which 31 were public hearings and 71 were non-public meetings. Over the same period, the Committee was

- 11 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ SPD
- 10 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ CDU/CSU
- 6 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Alliance 90/The Greens
- 5 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ FDP
- 4 ■ ■ ■ ■ AfD
- 2 ■ ■ The Left Party
- 1 ■ Non-attached

Number of members: 38 plus one advisory member
 Chairwoman: Ulrike Bahr, SPD
 Deputy Chairwoman: Astrid Timmermann-Fechter, CDU/CSU

designated the lead committee for 161 items of business, 20 of which were bills. One key issue in the Committee's work in the 19th electoral term was the further development of childcare at educational facilities (the Act on Good Early Childhood Education and Care and the Act Promoting All-Day Education and Care). The measures taken not only aimed to encourage the development and education of children to become independent, socially competent personalities and to promote children's participation in society. They also sought to

make it easier to combine family life and work, and to promote the equal participation of men and women in working life. Other aspects of gender equality and the battle to end violence against women were also a priority in the work of the Family Affairs Committee during this period (the Federal Foundation for Gender Equality, the Second Act on the Equal Participation of Women and Men in Executive Positions). Other key issues included improvements to family benefits (the Strong Families Act) and youth protection (the Second Act Amending the Youth Protection Act) and the further development of child and youth services (the Act to Strengthen Children and



Youth). The situation of thalidomide victims, various aspects of policy in relation to senior citizens, and questions relating to gender and sexual diversity were also discussed by the Family Affairs Committee in the 19th electoral term. In the 20th electoral term, the Family Affairs Committee, which took up its work on 15 December 2021, is chaired by Ulrike Bahr (SPD), and consists of 38 full and substitute members as well as

one advisory member who is not attached to any parliamentary group. On 16 February 2022, the Committee decided to once again establish the Subcommittee on Civic Activities and the Commission for Children's Concerns in this electoral term. The Federal Government is planning to pursue an active social agenda. Against this background, it is safe to assume that the Family Affairs Committee will once again be engaging with the various aspects of Germany's societal and social modernisation in the current electoral term.



The Commission for Children's Concerns

Children require particular protection from our society. They have rights and are dependent on their interests being given special consideration by their parents, their living environment and policy-makers. That is why the Bundestag first 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, and opinions and recommendations. It deals with a wide spectrum of issues relating to children's rights. For example, it examines the involvement of children and young people in societal issues, the protection of children from violence and abuse, the pandemic's impacts on children and young people, and the social situation of children in Germany. 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

Around 30 million people in Germany engage in volunteer work. Whether in the fire brigade or the Federal Agency for Technical Relief, in sports clubs or in the fields of education, neighbourhood assistance, environmental protection, and assistance for refugees, in food banks and multi-generational homes, in political parties and local politics, or in foundations, associations and countless initiatives, they contribute to the community voluntarily and without being paid. This wide-ranging engagement depends on a favourable legal and financial framework and supportive structures. The Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth has therefore once again established a Subcommittee on Civic Activities in the current electoral term.

For the first time, the wide range of issues dealt with by the 13 members of the Subcommittee explicitly includes certain aspects of policy-making to bolster democracy, for example efforts to strengthen democratic structures and promote a democratic culture. The Subcommittee's members also follow developments in the field of civic activities, engage in dialogue with civil society stakeholders, and participate in the process of updating the Federation's civic engagement policy.



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



Astrid
Timmermann-Fechter,
CDU/CSU
Deputy Chairwoman
Policy adviser,
b. 22 June 1963 in Marl.
Bundestag Member
from 2013 to 2017 and
since 2021



Committee members

The 38 members and one advisory member of the Committee on Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Leni Breymaier,
SPD
Parliamentary-group
coordinator and
policy spokeswoman
Retail management
assistant,
b. 26 Apr. 1960 in Ulm.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Dr Katja Leikert,
CDU/CSU
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Political scientist,
b. 3 Mar. 1975
in Neustadt an der
Weinstraße.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Denise Loop,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Social worker,
b. 19 May 1994
in Itzehoe.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Matthias Seestern-Pauly,
FDP
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Academic secondary
school teacher,
b. 28 Feb. 1984
in Osnabrück.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Mariana Iris
Harder-Kühnel,
AfD
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Lawyer,
b. 16 Aug. 1974
in Gelnhausen.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Gökay Akbulut,
The Left Party
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Social scientist,
b. 16 Nov. 1982
in Pinarbaşı (Turkey).
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Daniel Baldy,
SPD
Teacher,
b. 25 Sep. 1994
in Bingen am Rhein.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Felix Döring,
SPD
Teacher,
b. 23 Feb. 1991
in Gießen.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Ariane Fäscher,
SPD
Employee, press
spokeswoman,
b. 1 Mar. 1968
in Münster.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Anke Hennig,
SPD
Qualified childminder,
b. 7 Oct. 1964
in Osnabrück.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Jasmina Hostert,
SPD
Political scientist,
b. 3 Dec. 1982 in
Sarajevo (Bosnia and
Herzegovina).
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Sarah Lahrkamp,
SPD
Political scientist,
b. 4 July 1981
in Gronau.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Erik von Malottki,
SPD
Trade unionist,
b. 1 Apr. 1986
in Grevesmühlen.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



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



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



Melanie Bernstein,
CDU/CSU
Cultural scientist,
executive director,
b. 28 Sep. 1976
in Buchholz in der
Nordheide.
Bundestag Member
from 2017 to 2021 and
since 2023



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CDU/CSU policy
spokeswoman
Lawyer,
b. 23 July 1973
in Löningen.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Ralph Edelhäuser,
CDU/CSU
Business administrator,
former mayor,
b. 22 Mar. 1973
in Roth.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Anne Janssen,
CDU/CSU
Teacher,
b. 31 Aug. 1982
in Jever.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Paul Lehrieder,
CDU/CSU
Lawyer, former mayor,
b. 20 Nov. 1959
in Ochsenfurt.
Bundestag Member
since 2005



Dr Hermann-Josef
Tebroke,
CDU/CSU
Business economist,
b. 19 Jan. 1964
in Rhede.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Christoph de Vries,
CDU/CSU
Sociologist, senior
employee,
b. 4 Dec. 1974
in Hamburg.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Mareike Lotte Wulf,
CDU/CSU
Social scientist,
executive,
b. 15 Nov. 1979
in Rendsburg.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Emilia Johanna Fester,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Assistant director,
b. 28 Apr. 1998
in Hildesheim.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Schahina Gambir,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Event manager,
political scientist,
b. 6 June 1991 in Kabul
(Afghanistan).
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Ricarda Lang,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Employee,
b. 17 Jan. 1994
in Filderstadt.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



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



Nina Stahr,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Teacher,
b. 27 Oct. 1982
in Frankfurt am Main.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Katja Adler,
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Civil servant,
b. 20 May 1974
in Eisenhüttenstadt.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Nicole Bauer,
FDP
Industrial engineer
(diploma),
b. 19 Mar. 1987
in Vilsbiburg.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



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FDP
Public-service
employee,
b. 16 May 1985
in Tuttlingen.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



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FDP
Graduate pedagogue,
b. 25 Apr. 1967
in Zwickau.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Gereon Bollmann,
AfD
Former Higher
Regional Court judge,
b. 20 Nov. 1953
in Au im Murgtal.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



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



Martin Reichardt,
AfD
Employee,
b. 30 July 1969
in Goslar.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Heidi Reichinnek,
The Left Party
Education worker in
youth welfare services,
b. 19 Apr. 1988
in Merseburg.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



**Ausschuss
für Familie, Senioren,
Frauen und Jugend**

Ausschussvorsitz 1 241

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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/buergerschaftliches-engagement



Website for downloading and ordering the German Bundestag's
information materials
www.btg-bestellservice.de



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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



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