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Translation from the German Language

Dear Believer,

perhaps you are wondering why we have written to you and why we have asked you to participate in the collection of cultural affairs taxes.

As follows we have summarised the main reasons and explain what the Hindu Community in Germany does.

1. Who does the Hindu Community in Germany represent?

The Hindu Community Germany unites all Hindus living in Germany, independent of each of their Hindu religion that is the Hindu orientation practised. Therefore, the Hindu Community represents all the Hindu mainstreams, among others Vishnuism, Shivaism and Shaktism.

According to its self-perception the Hindu Community represents all devout Hindus in spiritual and secular matters, whereby the Community as a public corporation does not aim to determine the accuracy of teaching but to represent believers vis-à-vis the state in matters of self-administration. As a result living each Hindu tradition should be possible and be supported. Beside these main tasks the Hindu Community wants to assist you in your integration in Germany. Furthermore, the Hindu Community has the aim to give outsiders and believers of other faiths the opportunity to get to know Hinduism as a world religion.

2. What status does the Hindu Community have?

The German state of Northrhine-Westphalia has recognized the Hindu Community in Germany with its directive dated 14th February 2017 accepting the Sri Kamadchi Ampal Tempel e.V. (Europe) with its headquarters in Hamm-Uentrop, Germany as a public corporation. This came into effect 1st March 2017 (published in state gazette of laws and ordinances page 287) based on §2, section 1, no. 1 of the corporation status law dated 16th September 2014 (published in state gazette of laws and ordinances page 604).

3. What legal basis is there in the Hindu Community?

As with any public corporation the Hindu Community does not operate in a vacuum. All the statutes, rules and resolutions have been recognised by the relevant state offices.

All published and binding rules, resolutions and orders of the Hindu Community can be studied under <https://www.hinduistische-gemeinde-deutschland.de/ueber-uns/oeffentliche-bekanntmachungen>.

The most important legal basis of the corporation is its statutes. The statutes of the Hindu Community in Germany. This came into effect with recognition of the status as a public corporation 1st March 2017 and was published in the official journal of the Hindu Community in Germany 1/2017.

4. What is the cultural affairs tax all about?

According to article 23 section 1 of the statutes the Hindu Community is authorised to raise church tax and cultural affairs tax. Based on this authorisation as well as according to article 140 of the Basic Law in conjunction with article 137 section 6 WRV, §15 in conjunction with §2 of the law on raising church tax in the state of Northrhine-Westphalia (Church Tax Law dated 22nd April 1974 (published in state gazette of laws and ordinances.1975 page 438) last updated by article 1 of law dated 1st April 2014 (published in state gazette of laws and ordinances page 251) as amended the Supreme Council of Priests of the Hindu Community in Germany has approved the church tax order for the Hindu Community in Germany for raising a cultural affairs tax in the state of Northrhine-Westphalia and adopted it as of 27th December 2017. At the same time the resolution on cultural affairs tax 208 of the Hindu Community in Germany the level of the cultural affairs tax was set. According to the legal submissions the tax officer for the finances of the state of Northrhine-Westphalia has informed us by letter dated 29th December 2017 of their agreement with our resolution sent to the state chancellery of Northrhine-Westphalia. On the same day the state chancellery approved the church tax order as published in the official journal 3-2017. The resolution of cultural affairs tax has been completely approved. For the year 2019 the appropriate resolution has been approved by the declaration of the tax office dated 7th February 2019.

According to the approved resolutions present from the tax office of Northrhine-Westphalia in the church tax year 2018 as well as the church tax year 2019 cultural affairs tax will be levied as an addition to income tax (payroll tax) and capital gains tax at the level of 9%. The level of general and specific cultural affairs monies can also be seen in the published resolutions.

At the moment the cultural affairs tax cannot be levied automatically in a pay as you earn mode. For this reason the cultural affairs tax has to be actively determined by the Hindu Community and subsequently gathered. According to the legal provisions the Hindu Community has the right to do this. The determination of the cultural affairs tax for the past two years (2018 and 2019) will take place for the first time in the first quarter of this year. In the future it is intended to determine the cultural affairs tax at the latest at the beginning of each year that is the cultural affairs tax can be determined in shorter intervals for the current year and collected. There will be specific information on this subject.

5. How will cultural affairs tax be determined?

Determination of cultural affairs tax for individual Hindus liable for cultural affairs tax living in the state of Northrhine-Westphalia can be effected in various ways:

On the one hand the tax can be calculated according to income which the tax office has determined. In this case the cultural affairs tax would amount to 9% of the determined income tax.

On the other hand the cultural affairs tax can be calculated according to monthly salary or estimation. An estimation is necessary when despite a demand the tax department does not receive any proof of income.

Determination of the cultural affairs tax by estimation causes most effort for all concerned. Also from experience a higher sum is determined as in this case the tax department has to rely on an average income including average tax rates.

So that the determination can be effected from the beginning at the correct level appropriate to the income we ask you to send us evidence upon which we can determine your tax level.

6. What happens if I do not send any evidence?

The tax department is authorised to estimate your income and based on the income tax to be paid they can determine your cultural affairs tax.

So if no evidence is supplied to the tax department by the date stated in the request for information the level of tax will be estimated and determined by an official assessment. In any case a tax payer has recourse to the law against a determination of cultural affairs tax. The appropriate assessment will inform you on the legal means at your disposal.

7. When can I contact the tax department?

The best way to contact the tax department is by e-mail at ks@hinduistische-gemeinde-deutschland.de

Of course you can write a letter to the tax department. The address is: Hinduistische Gemeinde in Deutschland public corporation, Steuerabteilung, Siegenbeckstrasse 4-5, 59071 Hamm

8. Why the cultural affairs tax?

According to its statutes the Hindu Community in Germany is obliged to be selflessly active. The financial means are to be used only for charitable purposes.

9. Any data protection?

First and foremost we would like to point out that of course the Hindu Community treats all data sent to them in a manner compliant to data security. Data protection is important to us. Immediately after the statutes were adopted the Hindu Community adopted a data protection regulation, which complies with all legal requirements.

The data protection regulation has been published in the official journal 2-2017. Of course, the Hindu Community adheres to the provisions it has set for itself.

Should you have any further questions, we remain at any time gladly at your disposal

Your

Hindu Community, public corporation

- by order of the Head Priest -

Correctness and Completeness
of the above translation is
herewith acknowledged.

Translator authorised by the German court
Werl, Germany, the 30th October, 2023



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Resolution on Cultural Affairs Tax for Hindu Communities in Germany, Public Corporation, Area State of Northrhine-Westphalia

The supreme council of priests of the Hindu Community in Germany, public corporation pass mutually according to §4 sections 1-3 HinDuKuStO the following
“cultural affairs resolution for the Northrhine-Westphalian section of the Hindu Community in Germany for the tax years 2023 and 2024” (“HinduKuStBeschl2022NRW”) for the part of the Hindu Community public corporation present in Northrhine-Westphalia church tax will be levied at 9% of income tax (payroll tax) and capital gains tax.

2. The assessment rate stated above is also valid in cases of consolidation into a lump sum on payroll tax and income tax. In cases of consolidation into a lump sum on income tax or payroll tax according to §§ 37a, 37b, 40, 40a, sections 1, 2a and 3 as well as 40b of EstG (German Income Tax Law) the assessment rate will be reduced to 7% of income tax or payroll tax, when the taxpayer makes use of a deduction according to the simplified regulation in number 1 of these directives of the top tax authority of the federal states dated 8th August 2016 (Federal Tax Journal 2016 | page 773).

3. In the case of joint taxation of married couples and cohabiting partners (§§26, 26b EStG – German Income Tax Law) a specific cultural affairs levy is made from people obliged to pay cultural affairs tax whose spouse or cohabiting partner are not liable to cultural affairs tax according to §4 section 4 of the Church Tax Law of Northrhine-Westphalia (last updated by article 1 Fifth Amendment dated 19th November 2019 (published in state gazette of laws and ordinances page 860) and levied according to the following table:

| Level | Joint Income | Specific Cultural Affairs Money (€) |
|-------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 40,000-47,499 | 96 |
| 2 | 47,599-59,999 | 156 |
| 3 | 60,000-72,499 | 276 |
| 4 | 72,500-84,999 | 396 |
| 5 | 85,000-97,499 | 540 |
| 6 | 97,500-109,999 | 696 |
| 7 | 110,000-134,999 | 840 |
| 8 | 135,000-159,999 | 1,200 |
| 9 | 160,000-184,999 | 1,560 |
| 10 | 185,000-209,999 | 1,860 |
| 11 | 210,000-259,999 | 2,220 |
| 12 | 260,000-309,999 | 2,940 |
| 13 | 310,000 and more | 3,600 |

The taxable income of the married couple or life partners is to be calculated according to the measures in §51a section 2 numbers 1 and 2 of the Income Tax Law in the version valid for the assessment period 2021.

4. General cultural affairs tax applies to taxable Hindus who are not subject to either payroll or income tax. Cultural affairs payments are to be made to the Hindu Community in Germany. In the case of payroll or income tax payments by taxable Hindus to the tax authorities cultural affairs payments already paid will be offset or returned.

| Annual Income per Person over 18 (€) | Annual General Cultural Affairs Money (€) |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 0 to 5,113,99 | 30,00 |
| 5,114,00 to 7,158,99 | 60,00 |
| 7,159,00 to 9,203,99 | 90,00 |
| 9,204,00 to 12,782,99 | 125,00 |
| 12,783,00 to 20,452,00 | 185,00 |
| over 20,452,00 | 250,00 |

5. The assessment rates in the above paragraph of this HinduKuStBeschl2022NRW and the rates of the specific and general cultural affairs money are also to levied beyond 31st December 2024 should at this point no new cultural tax rates have been agreed and recognised by the state authorities.

6. The publication of this resolution will take place after it has been recognised by the state authorities. The Head Priest will effect publication in the official journal of the Hindu Community in Germany, public corporation following recognition and approval by the state authorities.

Hamm, 25th November 2022

(stamp and signature)

Head Priest of the Hindu Community in Germany

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of the above translation is
herewith acknowledged.

Translator authorised by the German court
Werl, Germany, the 30th October, 2023

