# Annual Report 2018 Berlin Register

Recording Far-right and Discriminatory Incidents in Berlin



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## **Imprint**

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#### Introduction

The Register Offices document incidents in Berlin that are motivated by racism, anti-Semitism, antiziganism, far-right attitudes, anti-Muslim prejudice, anti- LGBTIQ\* prejudice, as well as incidents that trivialise the crimes of the National Socialist regime, are motivated by social chauvinism or directed against people with disabilities. Over and above physical attacks, incidents include physical attacks, insults, discrimination, stickers and slogans, public events or damage to property. When it comes to recording these incidents, it is irrelevant whether or not a crime is involved, as the documentation is intended to describe an ambience within society and to render visible the exclusion of people (and groups).

Each district has a Register Office, which is based in an association that provides support, collects, publishes and evaluates information on incidents. The information comes from contact points such as youth facilities, the local offices of political parties, community centres, as well as from groups and individuals engaged in the local context. Data on all documented incidents from all districts can be viewed on the Internet at <a href="https://berliner-Register Office.de/chronik">https://berliner-Register Office.de/chronik</a>. Only incidents that fit into one of the content-based categories are recorded by the Register Offices (see text box). These draw on research concerning hate-filled attitudes and research on right-wing extremism. All incidents are categorised in terms of an incident type and district.

The history of the Berlin Register Offices' development began in Pankow in 2005. 14 years have passed since then and we have grown into a broad-based civil-society network thanks to particular support from the victim advisory centre ReachOut. During

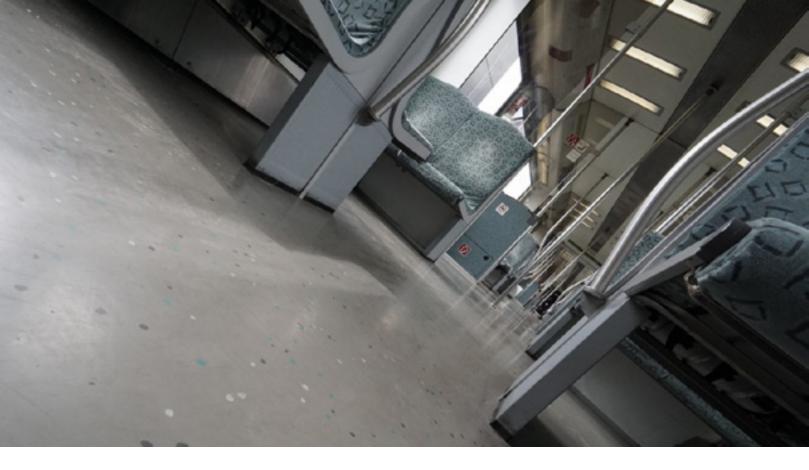
this time there have been changes in the underlying situation, the protagonists and networks and in Berlin as a city. Since 2016 incidents from all districts have been included in the joint evaluation. Public awareness of the Register Offices has grown, leading to a rise in the number of documented incidents. Above all, the changes in the data provide information on how Berlin is developing with regard to the phenomena of racism, anti-Semitism and far-right extremism. There is considerable variation in the local structures in the districts, the range of different contact points, the number of committed people on the spot and their reactions to what is happening every day. Each district therefore draws up a separate analysis of the documented incidents. In order to highlight the specific features of particular parts of the city and shed light on cross-district phenomena visible, the Berlin Register Offices have now begun to compile a joint annual report that will record the specific features of particular parts of the city and cross-district phenomena.

An overview article for the entire city presents common features and central developments. It addresses in greater detail the differing circumstances in the districts, online incidents and difficulties in the designation of discrimination by public authorities. This is followed by a presentation of the various districts. In each article, incidents are listed by category so that districts can be compared. In the second part, a particularly relevant local topic is described for each district that is also of interest to all Berliners

<sup>1</sup>The publications in what are known as the "Mitte" studies and the "Deutsche Zustände" series play a central role in this context, as does the concept of group-based enmity.

#### **Conceptual Categories:**

- Racism with the three sub-categories
  - · Antiziganism (e.g. enmity against Roma/Romnja)
  - Anti-Muslim racism
  - Racism against Black people/ anti-Black racism
- Anti-Semitism (e.g. hostility towards Jews)
- · Anti-LGBTIQ\* attitudes (directed against lesbians, gays, bi, trans, intersexual and queer people)
- Social chauvinism (e.g. hostility towards the homeless)
- Hostility towards people with disabilities/ableism
- · Trivialisation of National Socialism's crimes or glorification of National Socialism
- Right-wing grandstanding (e.g. propaganda promoting far-right groups)
  - Election campaign
- · Political opponents (of the far-right)



Only a small proportion of incidents involving racist, anti-Semitic and anti-LGBTIQ\* attacks and insults are committed by neo-Nazis. Much more often, these phenomena involve occasional and unidentified perpetrators. This type of attack is very frequently observed in inner-city districts, where a high number people encounter one another within a limited space, thus increasing the probability of opportunistic acts. Observing where propaganda appears in the city and its originators, it becomes clear that a neo-Nazi spectrum made up of organised right-wing supporters is still based in Berlin's eastern suburbs. In the west of the city, by contrast, New Right protagonists and institutions can be found. A broad data basis is needed in order to be able to make such statements. Incidents can only be documented and later evaluated if they are reported. The best way to support the

work of the Register Offices is therefore to report incidents and forward information to the Register Offices.

With this first joint overview, we are laying the foundations for a civil-society view of the manifestations and forms of exclusion-driven phenomena and successful strategies to combat these.

The Berlin Register Offices October 2019

#### **Types of Incidents:**

- Propaganda (e.g. stickers and graffiti)
- Public events
- Attacks (e.g. bodily harm, persistent campaigns of intimidating threats)
- · Threats, insults and abuse
- Damage to property (e.g. to memorial plaques or Stolpersteine) [(literally: stumbling stones), a project by artist Gunter Demnig that commemorates people persecuted and killed by the National Socialists]
- · District council meetings (BVV) (e.g. discriminatory motions and speeches in the district council meetings)
- Other (e.g. discrimination by public authorities and refusal to provide services)

#### Berlin in 2018

Do you have any idea what it is like to live and work in Marzahn, Kreuzberg or Charlottenburg? The picture painted by the composition of the incidents recorded by the Register Offices in the various districts might look different from what you expect. And there are reasons for that.

Berlin's urban districts differ in terms of their social structure and infrastructure, their population composition and density, in terms of the proportions of residential, commercial and green spaces, in their transport routes, the tourist attractions found there, their political composition, the influence of volunteers and people engaged in local activism, and in many other respects. These characteristics interact and also affect the number and composition of incidents recorded by the Register Offices in each district. Population density is different in peripheral and innercity districts. The more sparsely populated an area is, the fewer incidents will be reported, while if more people frequent a place, incidents will be noticed more often and reported to the Register Offices. This is particularly true for local centres. However, a higher number of incidents is also recorded for public transport hubs. These are locations where many people come into contact on their way home from work, a demonstration or a party. As a result, many opportunities arise for threats, insults and attacks committed by people with hate-filled attitudes who are prepared to use violence. This phenomenon is particularly noticeable in Mitte, Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg and North Neukölln. These districts or sub-districts within them are at the top of the statistical league table for the number of attacks. This is not solely due to

an organised right-wing scene; the incidents recorded are predominantly occasional acts such as racist and anti-LGBTIQ\* insults and attacks committed by opportunistic perpetrators. In order to track down the organised far right in Berlin, it is crucial to examine propaganda incidents, public events, threats directed at political opponents and damage to property. In these categories, the figures for the sub-districts of Niederschöneweide, Rudow, Buch and Karow are striking, as well as for Steglitz and Zehlendorf. Last but not least, a committed democratic civil society is an important prerequisite when it comes to reporting incidents. After all, incidents are only reported if they are perceived as disturbing and if people are aware of the Register Offices' work. Local networks that are interested in the issues of racism, anti-Semitism, anti-LGBTIQ\* prejudice or the far right and are active in combating such phenomena report incidents to the Register Offices much more frequently than networks that deal with other issues. Areas in which there are no engaged individuals or local initiatives are blank spots on the map for the Register Offices. These regions include residential estates with detached or semi-detached houses, as well as sparsely populated outlying areas with forests and lakes. These contexts should be borne in mind when interpreting Register Office data.





The Berlin comparison for 2018 includes data from all 12 Berlin districts. The evaluation is based on 3,405 incidents (2017: 2,800), which were recorded by the Register Offices, the victim counselling service ReachOut, the Recherche und Informations-stelle Antisemitismus / Department for Research and Information on Antisemitism (RIAS) and the Dokumentationsstelle Antiziganismus /Antiziganism Documentation Centre (DOSTA). The figures recorded for 2018 by the Berlin Register Offices do not reflect everything that happens but only the incidents that have come to the attention of the Register Offices.

On average, 9.3 incidents were recorded per day. The district with the highest number of documented incidents is Mitte. 50 percent of all incidents (1,691) were propaganda incidents. The main motives were racism (1,358 incidents, 40 percent) and anti-Semitism (786 incidents, 23 percent). A total of 605 more incidents were documented than in 2017. One of the reasons for this is increased awareness of the Register Offices and their cooperation partners such as RIAS. In addition, new reporting options such as via Twitter allow information on incidents to be transmitted to the Register Offices with little effort. However, the rise in the number of cases cannot be explained entirely by an improved reporting structure but also reflects a genuine increase. That is clear as certain types of incident can easily be recorded regardless of the number of sources and the level of awareness of the Register Offices. These include public events or acts of violence that are reported to the police. Figures in these categories have also risen.

#### Barriers to Documentation of Discrimination by Public Authorities

An increasing number of discriminatory incidents are being reported to the Register Offices from various Berlin counselling centres active in social or anti-discrimination counselling. These include cases in which employees from the Job Centre or the Youth Welfare Offices refuse to provide services to their assigned clients, cut benefits or make racist comments on the clients' lifestyle. There are a high number of such incidents especially in the context of antiziganism. The Register Offices find out about them

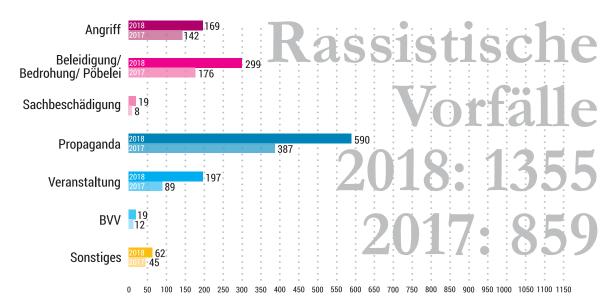
from them through counsellors or family support assistants who accompany the clients and witness such incident. Only a small number of such incidents are reported to the Register Offices, as those affected as well as the people accompanying them may be reluctant to report their experiences to the Register Offices and thus make them public. Job Centres and Youth Welfare Offices, which are observed engaging in discriminatory behaviour can, due to their remit and the powers accorded to them, exert considerable pressure on individuals and associations, threatening their existence by refusing benefits and questioning the award of public contracts to independent organisations. This poses a threat to the very survival of individuals who are dependent on state support. A problematic tendency to exert pressure on those affected can be observed in several districts. In this context it is to establish a different culture concerning errors on the part of the public authorities that would recognise that state structures, like society as a whole, may be shaped by racist prejudices.

#### A Rougher Tone and Reduced Inhibition Threshold for Violence

If we first look at the types of incidents, it becomes clear that, compared to 2017, insults and threats have risen from 459 incidents to 899. The majority of these were motivated by racism and anti-Semitism. The number of public events reported also increased, to 317 incidents (2017: 305). The racist rabble-rousing against refugee accommodation centres in outlying suburbs in eastern Berlin have ceased. Instead, the number of public events in Mitte has once again increased considerably. Almost half of the 142 demonstrations, rallies and information stands were documented in the Mitte district (2017: 84). 121 of them had a racist or anti-Muslim background (2017: 56). With 495 incidents, the Mitte district has the highest number of incidents in the district statistics. Several factors coincide and explain this high number: there are any demonstrations and rallies in this district, along with incidents that occur in the context of these (insults, propaganda), as well as the dense and diverse population figures for the district, together with tourist attractions and transport hubs, so that large numbers of people come into contact with

each other.

Looking at motives for the incidents, three categories show significant increases. Racist incidents rose by a total of 57 per cent, anti-Semitic incidents by 37 per cent and incidents that trivialise the crimes of the National Socialist regime by 30 per cent. Among the racist incidents, the increa-



sed case numbers are due to racist public events, propaganda, attacks as well as insults and threats. Right-wing groups continue to exacerbate tensions so that people with racist attitudes feel legitimised in using violence.

In the thematic field of anti-Semitism, 57 per cent of the incidents recorded involve threats, insults and propaganda on the Internet that are specifically directed against Israeli or Jewish institutions and individuals or those perceived as Jewish. Above all, there has been a huge increase in insults and threats on the Internet (anti-Semitic online incidents: 2017: 254; 2018: 443). Physical attacks have also increased from 13 in 2017 to 45 in 2018. In the case of anti-Semitism, the increase in intimidation and incitement to hatred on the Internet has been accompanied by violence on the streets.

Special attention should also be paid to the category of incidents that trivialise the crimes of the National Socialist regime. This includes symbols such as swastikas, graffiti such as "SS", "NSZone", "18" or "Zyklon B for ..." or the Hitler salute and statements such as "they should be put in a camp" or "into the gas". While in 2015 and 2016 approx. 5-6 percent (2015: 113; 2016: 148) of incidents reported fell into this category, there has been a significant increase to 10 to 11 percent (2017: 293, 2018: 379) of all incidents in the past two years. Incidents that trivialise the crimes of the National Socialist regime constitute a central field for action and campaigns of the far right. Those who use these symbols and terms know what they stand for and use them deliberately.

In order to dominate discourses, they provoke with views that are racist, trivialise the crimes of the National Socialist regime or are anti-Semitic. Once a provocation has stirred up sufficient attention, verbal taunts such as "bird shit of history" or "the memorial of shame" are subsequently relativised as purported "slips of the tongue". The visual language and linguistic terminology documented in the incidents recorded by the Register Offices reflect enmity and derogatory attitudes towards entire population groups, of a type that four years ago could be expected at most from the far right and has now also found its way into other social groups. Designating and addressing potential victims marks them as the (imagined) enemy and sooner or later leads to action.

Berlin's classic far-right milieu, which includes the NPD, the tiny party "Der III. Weg" or Kameradschaft [right-wing male-only fraternity] structures are among them, is weaker than it has ever been before in Berlin. It is visible only in propaganda incidents and isolated events in the areas where its members have traditionally been active in outlying suburbs in eastern Berlin. In the 2017 elections to the Berlin House of Representatives [regional parliament], the AfD reaped the fruits of the work that the NPD had invested in racist mobilisations against refugee accommodation centres in 2015 and 2016. Since then, the party's more action-oriented supporters seem to have lost their motivation. The Pro Deutschland party disbanded at the end of 2017. This resulted in a decrease in incidents in Lichtenberg.

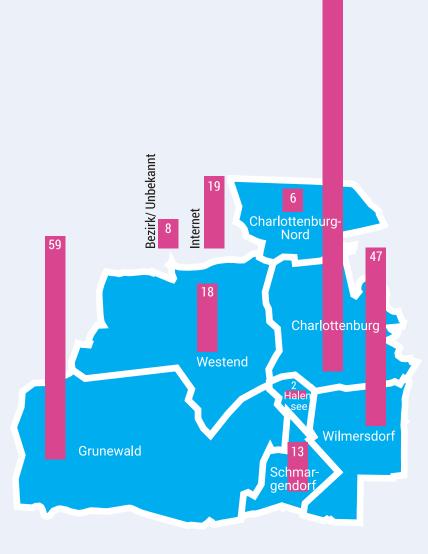
Activities of right-wing parties and the so-called "Identitäre Bewegung" [Identitarian Movement], which led to incidents recorded by the Register Offices in 2016 and 2017 in the southwest of the city, have decreased significantly in 2018. Since the AfD has been sitting in the district councils (BVV) and in the Berlin House of Representatives, a shift of activities to the parliamentary level can be observed. On the one hand, in line with the motto "If you throw dirt at someone for long enough, something will eventually stick", the financing of democracy-promoting projects and bodies working on social projects is being called into question. On the other hand, a large number of parliamentary questions raised establish alleged links between migration, crime and costs for taxpayers.

By way of conclusion for 2018, the situation can be summed up as follows: The inhibition threshold for attacks, threats and insults has fallen. This is not only due to the right-wing scene in Berlin, but also to the political culture, the tone in public debates and the general mood within society. Developments in the three conceptual categories of racism, anti-Semitism and incidents that trivialise the crimes of the National Socialist regime reveal the impact of the New Right's communication and action strategies. The constructed scenario of threat and downfall, the notion that the "white" population's existence is called into question by migration, singles out Muslims in particular as (imagined) enemies and paves the way mentally for violence. Linguistic escalation leads to escalation on the street. This is shown by the composition and the increase of incidents recorded by the Register Offices in 2018.



# Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf

Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf has over 340,000 inhabitants. It encompasses the City-West area around Kurfürstendamm, which plays a central role in Berlin alongside the city's historical centre, as well as encompassing central transport hubs and tourist attractions. Various large-scale public events are held here. That has an impact on the incidents documented in the district and is one reason why many incidents have been recorded in the sub-districts of Charlottenburg and Wilmersdorf.



Right-wing sticker in Emser Straße

"Identitäre" and neo-Nazi stickers at the TU



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The Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf Register Office researched and documented a total of 280 far-right and discriminatory incidents in the district in 2018. This is 14% more than in the previous year (2017: 246; 2018: 280). Since the Register Office began recording incidents in 2013, the number of incidents in the district has been rising constantly. The most frequent types of incidents were propaganda incidents (2018: 142), followed by threats, insults and abuse (2018: 63) and public events (2018: 44). Right-wing grandstanding was the most common motive (2018: 99). Racist incidents were the second most common category and have increased (2017: 77; 2018: 88). The number of incidents motivated by anti-Semitism remained high despite a slight decrease (2017: 67; 2018: 60) and is the second highest of the Berlin districts. This is a particular trait of this district, along with the appropriation of space by the New Right.

In concrete terms, a discriminatory incident occurs in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf every one to two days, at all hours of the day or night, on the street, in the train or in the immediate vicinity, most often in

the period from April to July. Despite a decline in the absolute number of incidents compared to the previous year, most incidents were documented in the sub-district Charlottenburg. The trend toward consolidation of the New Right has continued. In Berlin as a whole, 3,405 incidents were documented. Compared with the other Berlin districts, Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf ranked 4th in terms of the number of incidents.

#### Most Frequent Type of Incident: Propaganda

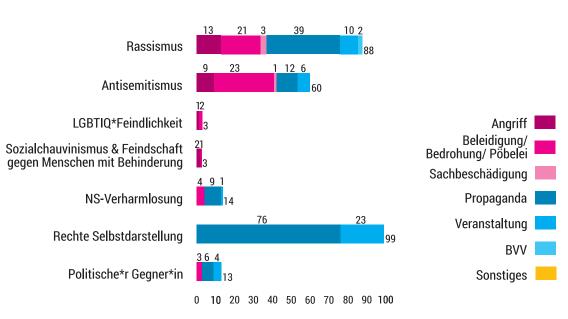
Propaganda was the most common practice adopted by the far right and populist right in the district of Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf and accounted for half of all incidents in the district with 142 incidents. This includes, for example, poster or sticker campaigns by right-wing groups or campaigns that promote their political agenda and are placed in public space, as well as graffiti with National Socialist symbols and hate posts online. Of course, we might ask ourselves - what do we care about the stickers on a lamppost? The issue at stake is the perception of public space, the way in which hate-filled attitudes are rendered visible in a way that can lead to normalisation of such views if no resistance is offered, while at the same time intimidating the people affected. In addition, such phenomena also offer a snapshot of the areas where right-wing groups are active.

Threats, insults and abuse were the second most common phenomenon (2018:

63) and the figure remains at a high level as in the previous year. The people affected are mostly people assumed to have a migrant background or people perceived to be Jewish. The threats and insults often occur in chance situations, based on supposed attribution of membership of such groups. A development can be observed here: The documented insults and threats now occur less in the digital world, but are instead directed at individuals in a targeted or spontaneous way. While half of all documented threats and insults were motivated by anti-Semitism (2018: 32), racism was the second most common motive (2018: 21).

The number of attacks has increased by 40%, from 18 to 25. Anti-Semitic attacks have tripled (2018: 9; 2017: 3) and about half of the attacks (13) were motivated by racism

In Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf 44 public events were held by right-wing populist or far-right groups or groups promoting conspiracy ideologies. The New Right, in particular, has established itself in the district and has established an important venue



#### 1st April 2018

In a small convenience store on the platform of the U9 underground line in Charlottenburg, the operator of the convenience store was subjected to anti-Semitic insults. A woman in her 50s, who is apparently banned from the store, yelled at the operator. In the course of the dispute, she called the operator a "dirty Jewish pig" and "dirty Jewish vermin". A witness subsequently expressed solidarity with the store operator. Source: RIAS Berlin

#### 29th May 2018

On Reichweindamm in Charlottenburg-North, a glass bottle was thrown out of a window at a 6-year-old girl and a 7-year-old boy at around 18.45 for racist reasons.

Source: Reach Out Berlin

#### 30th May 2018

Flyers from the "#120db" campaign organised by circles around the far-right Identitäre Bewegung were displayed at the student canteen (TU Mensa) in Hardenbergstraße. The "#120db" campaign uses the debate on sexualised violence against women to spread racist and anti-Muslim views.

Source: Anlaufstelle AStA TU

#### Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf

with the "Bibliothek des Konservatismus" [Library of Conservatism]. The district is also home to the editorial offices of the newspaper "Junge Freiheit", one of the main media of the New Right, the "Epoch Times", and the headquarters of the New Right magazine "CATO".

"Blauer Himmel Berlin", a group that promotes "Reichsideologie" [i.e revanchist views that reject the legitimacy of the modern German state] meets monthly. At its meetings, conspiracy ideology theses are presented and anti-Semitic stereotypes are reproduced. The "Dienstagsgespräche" [Tuesday Conversations] are a far-right series of public events that have been organised since the 1990s. Numerous public events in the district also function as networking meetings, offering protected and sometimes long-established spaces for protagonists of different spectrums.

In 2018, the annual Al-Quds march took place in Charlottenburg with about 1,200

participants. This is the largest anti-Semitic march in Berlin, organised by Quds-AG, which calls for Islamic conquest of Jerusalem combined with threats of extermination against Israel. During the 2018 march, the destruction of Israel was again propagated and anti-Semitic terrorist organisations were glorified.

#### **Motives: Rise in Racist Incidents**

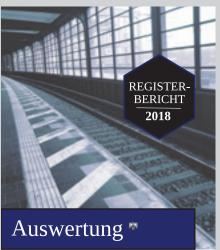
In 2018, the number of racist incidents (88) has increased and is again back at the high level of 2016 (2016: 86; 2017: 77; 2018: 88). The number of racist insults and threats has almost doubled. There were 13 attacks based on racist motivations. Twelve incidents were directly directed against Muslims or against Islam as a religion. Antiziganism was a motive in eleven incidents, almost half of which concerned discrimination by public authorities.

Right-wing grandstanding was the most common motive (2018: 99), and included 76 propaganda incidents and 23 public events. Right-wing structures are clearly manifesting their presence and becoming established in public space.

The number of incidents motivated by anti-Semitism (2017: 67; 2018:60) decreased slightly compared to the previous year, because fewer propaganda incidents (2018: 12) were documented. 32 insults and threats and nine attacks were motivated by anti-Semitism. Elaborately produced anti-Semitic caricatures and leaflets were displayed, CD-ROMs with anti-Semitic content were distributed or "conversations" conducted in the form of tags in public toilets.

There were 14 incidents that trivialised the crimes of the National Socialist regime or glorified National Socialism, two cases of social-chauvinism and three anti-LGBTIQ\* incidents. The Register Office assumes that the number of unreported incidents is higher.

#### **Publikationen**



extrem rechter und diskriminierender Vorfälle in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf im Jahr 2018

You can read the detailed analysis in the "2018 Register Office Report – Evaluation of Far Right and Discriminatory Incidents in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf in 2018" (available in German).



Further information on the structures and strategies of the New Right in Charlot-tenburg-Wilmersdorf can be found in the study: "Machtergreifung beim Mettbrötchen – Raumnahme der Neuen Rechten in Westberlin".

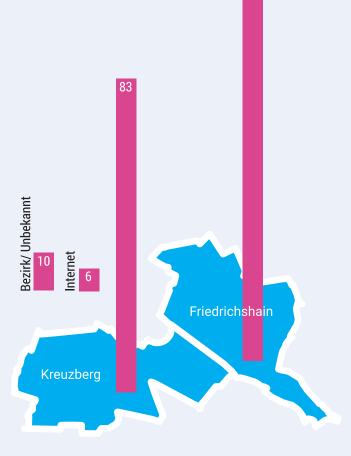
#### 4th September 2018

A "Dienstagsgespräch" ["Tuesday Conversation"] was held at 19.30 at Brauhaus Lemke (a beer hall) in Charlottenburg. An employee working for the NPD Member of the EU Parliament gave a presentation. Other well-known neo-Nazis from the Berlin NPD participated as well as parts of the Berlin AfD and the Identitäre Bewegung. The "Dienstagsgespräche" are a far-right series of events that been held in

Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf since the 1990s.
Source: Twitter

# Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg

The inner-city district is the smallest and most densely populated in Berlin. Over 285,000 people from more than 150 nations live here. Its distinctive landmark is the Oberbaumbrücke, which also connects the very different sub-districts of Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg. Increasingly, the Register Office is receiving reports of incidents, especially at large stations where several lines intersect (e.g. Ostkreuz or Kottbusser Tor), which are present in both sub-districts.



"No Islam – AFD" inscription, Warschauer Straße

Swastika in Wrietzener Karree



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## Rise in Propaganda and Attacks - Racism and Anti-Semitism Are the Most Frequent Motives

In 2018, the Register Office recorded 241 incidents, 63 more than in the previous year. The most common motives are racism (103) – including anti-Muslim racism (16) and anti-Black racism (13), anti-Semitism (54), followed by right-wing grandstanding (27), anti-LGBTIQ\* prejudice (22).

With 105 incidents, propaganda is once again the number one category by far. This is followed by the category insult/threat/abuse with 48 incidents and 41 attacks. In 2018, nine more attacks were recorded than in the previous year. 22 of these occurred in Friedrichshain and 19 in Kreuzberg.

One particularly horrifying example is an attack motivated by antiziganism in which an air pistol was used to attack a 7-year-old girl in Straße der Pariser Kommune. In 2015 a boy was already seriously injured here by an air gun.

A total of 33 incidents occurred on trains in the suburban rail system (S-Bahn) and on the underground (U-Bahn), in stations or in the immediate vicinity. The main stations affected were Ostbahnhof. Frankfurter Al-

LGBTIQ*feindliche Vorfälle in Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg					
Jahr	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Angriffe Pöbelei/ Beleid./ Bedroh.	9	16 2	9	13 8	
Propaganda	1			1	
Gesamt	13	18	10	22	

lee and Kottbusser Tor.

In general, it can be observed that hatefilled right-wing propaganda is steadily increasing. It can be viewed as intellectual arson.

#### Incidents involving racism and anti-Semitism motives are also on the increase.

Conversations with victims and witnesses indicate that many incidents go undetected. It is often not possible to subsequently record them in the documentation as the incidents cannot be reconstructed with sufficient concrete information.

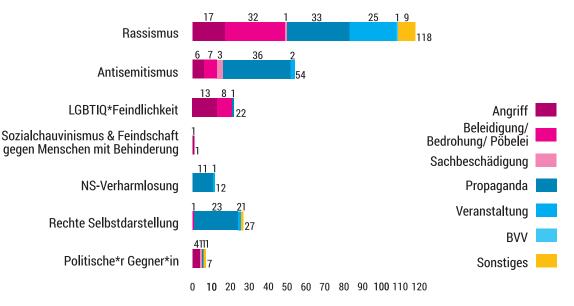
Further Increase in Anti-LGBTIQ\* Incidents 2016 saw a pronounced in anti-LGBTIQ\* attacks in Kreuzberg. Possible reasons were discussed by district councillors and civil-

society protagonists and clubs and restaurateurs were informed about the threats to their guests. Potential victim groups were encouraged not to move around alone at night and at interchange stations. After a slight decline in 2017, the figures rose again in 2018.

#### Racial Profiling – Rise in Incident Reports

Racial profiling (RP) is the term used to describe the action of police and security authorities based on stereotypes and external characteristics, after a person is judged to be suspect on the basis of criteria such as "race", ethnicity, religion or national origin rather than on the basis of concrete suspicions. RP is criticised as discriminatory and ineffective and is banned in the UK and the US. In Germany there is no explicit legal

regulation and critics categorise RP as an aspect of institutional racism.



#### What Does Racial Profiling Mean?

After a trip on a crowded underground train, police officers stand on the platform checking people's ID. Often visible minorities (e.g. Black people, Roma/Romnja, Muslims) are stopped solely because of their appearance. As purported crimi-

#### 14th July 2018

During a police operation in Görlitzer Park at about 20:00, a young Black man was sitting on a bench eating. A policeman approached him, told him to stop to eating, asked him to show his identity card and to leave the park. The man wanted to finish his meal first. The police officer then pulled the man's wallet out of his pocket and hit him with a baton. The young man screamed "Leave me alone" when the police officer pulled out his pistol and pointed it

at him. A witness, who was selling food nearby and observing the situation, stood between the young man and the police officer, talking insistently to the police officer. She was afraid of being shot. Another passer-by came along and also addressed the policeman: "Please don't shoot". The policeman called for reinforcements by radio. The witness said that there was no problem and no reinforcement was necessary. A video shows that two policemen came running up and handcuffed him. The

young man was covered in blood and was apparently taken to hospital. A third blond young policeman pointed his gun at onlookers who had gathered along the path.

Source: Report by witnesses

nals, the people concerned are harassed and marginalised. Such behaviour by the police and other authorities responsible for law and order is prohibited in Germany. The Berlin campaign "Ban Racial Profiling: Abolish Dangerous Places" is campaigning to ban RP by law. Until the police can ensure and prove that RP does not play a role in their work, politicians must remove police powers to stop people when there are no grounds for suspicion. Various local initiatives against racism, discrimination, repression and criminalisation are taking part in the campaign. Info at: kop-berlin.de/beitrag/ dieberliner-kampagne-ban-racial-profilinggefahrliche-orte-abschaffen. Increasingly, the Berlin Register Offices are being informed of incidents in the context of the Berlin police undertaking "stop and search" operations. Mitte, Neukölln and Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg are particularly affected. In Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, most particularly at Görlitzer Park, Black people are widely stigmatised on suspicion of selling drugs or it is assumed that Black people are basically criminals. (See example below)

#### **Increasing Number of Public Events**

Since 2017 there has been a sharp increase in the proportion of public events reported. 21 of 31 public events reported in 2018 relate to a group that has been regularly distributing donations to homeless "compatriots" at Ostbahnhof since the end of 2016. It thus ignores the professional homeless assistance service offering food, clothing and medical care, which has existed there since 1994.

The far-right group "Hand in Hand / Mut zur Wahrheit" ["Hand in Hand / Dare the Truth"] from the Havelland region adopts an outwardly social veneer. It is associated with the Thürgida movement [Thuringian branch of the anti-Muslim Pegida movement] and maintains contacts with nationalist and far-right networks as well as rocker groups like Hells Angels.

Its Facebook page shares posts in this vein, supports anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, and features the following post: "Are there any homeless people on my list? Would like to try out a new lighter".

In 2018 the group expressed its thanked for support at Ostbahnhof to activists from right-wing groups like "Schlesische Jugend" [Silesian Youth], "Bautzen - Wir für uns" [Bautzen - We for us] or "Deutschland wehrt sich" ["Germany fights back"]. A video on YouTube shows a "homeless man from Ostbahnhof" on the stage of "Hand in Hand", agitating against the government. The stage was part of a right-wing march in Berlin on 26th May 2018.

Efforts to prevent this group from operating in front of Ostbahnhof have so far been unsuccessful. In 2016 the railway police chased them from the station forecourt to the car park and neither the police nor the public order office have felt responsible since, although a table is regularly set up there without permission.

#### **Outlook**

Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg is a nightlife district where too many incidents occur. The Register Office evaluation describes the problem. Civil society protagonists are needed to develop strategies to take action based on the analysis.



# Lichtenberg

Almost 290,000 people live in the district of Lichtenberg. The district has a very different population composition depending on the district part (Hohenschönhausen, Lichtenberg, Karlshorst). Lichtenberg has been a district with an active and well-organised far-right scene for over 30 years. In recent years, this has been pushed back by civil society commitment and problem-conscious action by the district.

Rassismus

Antisemitismus

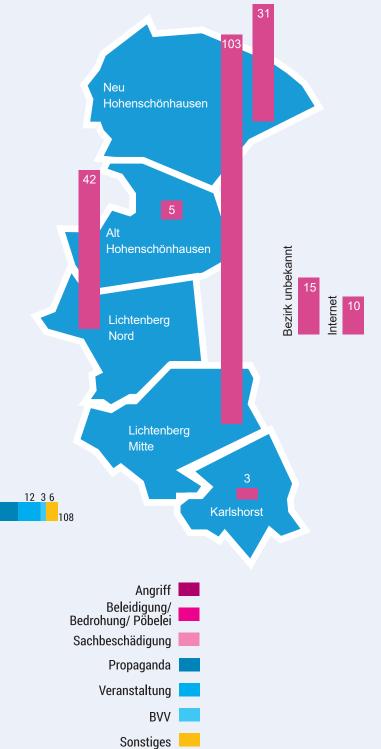
LGBTIQ\*Feindlichkeit

NS-Verharmlosung

Rechte Selbstdarstellung

Politische\*r Gegner\*in

Sozialchauvinismus & Feindschaft gegen Menschen mit Behinderung



0 **10** 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 **100** 110

5 2 18 331

32

13 1

NPD activists during a "protected zones" patrol

"Nazi Kiez" ["Nazi neighbourhood"] sticker in the Weitling neighbourhood





#### Kontakt: Lichtenberger Register

Fach- und Netzwerkstelle Licht-Blicke, pad gGmbH Sewanstraße 43, 10319 Berlin

Tel.: 030 - 50566518

Mail: register@licht-blicke.org Facebook: Lichtenberger Register In 2018 a total of 209 incidents were recorded (2017: 273). Far right and right-wing populist activities are thus stabilising at a level that would have been unthinkable just five years ago.

An incident occurs on almost two out of three days. An attack or threat is reported nearly every weekend. The people affected are attacked mainly as a result of racism. Children, young people and pregnant women are increasingly affected.

The number of racist propaganda incidents in the district decreased noticeably again last year. The rabble-rousing against refugees seen in 2015 and 2016 has now ceased. Disagreements on such issues are now no longer being fought out on the streets with demonstrations, damage to property and leaflets, but have been delegated to the parliamentary level through elections. In this context, the "Alternative für Deutschland" (AfD) always combines rejection of refugees with other issues such as criminality, homelessness, the housing market, violence against women or protecting the established social fabric. Their underlying strategy is always to pick up on social conflicts and reinterpret them as ethnic conflicts.

Activities of the far right and right-wing populists in the district and the continuing high numbers of attacks and threats offer no grounds to hope that the social tensions will ease.

#### Half the Incidents Occurred in Lichtenberg Centre

103 incidents, or one in two, were recorded in Lichtenberg Centre in 2018 (2017: 101). Ten of the 21 attacks and twelve of the 26 public events took place here, including the conclusion the Hess March with more than 700 participants, as well as the only campaigning action of the "Identitäre Bewegung" in the district.

A slight drop in incidents was recorded in

Lichtenberg North (2017: 54; 2018: 42) last year. The areas around Frankfurter Allee and Siegfriedstraße adjacent to Lichtenberg Centre were particularly affected by the activities. In the Neu-Hohenschönhausen sub-district (2017: 50; 2018: 31) the number of incidents continued to decline. Six attacks and three incidents involving threats/insults/abuse took place here, some in the immediate vicinity of refugee accommodation centres. A public event in a hall organised by the "völkisch" [ethnic-nationalist – a term with a Nazi taint in German] wing of the AfD with Björn Höcke was also held here.

#### **Racism is the Most Prevalent Motive**

Half of all incidents in 2018 were motivated by racism, with 109 cases (2017: 97). In addition, eight incidents were recorded in the category of anti-Muslim racism (2017: 14) and eight cases as motivated by antiziganism (2017: 3). These constituted about half of the reported activities of far right and right-wing populist protagonists and non-organised perpetrators of violence. In glorification of National Socialism and incidents that trivialise the crimes of the National Socialist regime (2017: 55; 2018: 39) the far-right scene clings to a topic that sets it clearly apart from right-wing populists. The decline in NS-related incidents can be explained by the organisational weakness of local organisations.

On 32 occasions (2017: 29) political opponents were the target of actions by far-right or right-wing populists. Right-wing grandstanding was recorded in 21 cases (2017: 45). These incidents included above all NPD information stands or distribution of flyers and stickers of the NPD, the "Junge Nationalisten" ["Young Nationalists"] and the party "Der III. Weg" party. Anti-Semitism was the motive in four cases (2017: 6). The number of anti-LGBTIQ\* incidents fell to two (2017: 4), but both were attacks.

#### **Increase in Attacks and Threats**

With 121 incidents, propaganda represented the largest category among the incidents reported (2017: 195). However, the overall number decreased significantly. This was due to the dissolution of the "Pro Deutschland" party and the "Autonome Nationalisten Berlin" [Autonomous Nationalists Berlin]. 26 public events were reported in Lichtenberg last year (2017: 20). The slight increase is due to competition in the district between the two neo-Nazi parties NPD and "Der III. Weg". In addition to the usual NPD information stands, these incidents involved above all the NPD's "Protected Zone" actions and the "Winterhilfe" [Winter Aid] actions of "Der III. Weg". The number of attacks increased again slightly in 2018 to 21 (2017: 18). The attacks mainly affected people assumed (rightly or wrongly) to be migrants and refugees. The number of incidents involving threats/ insults/abuse also rose to 21 incidents (2017: 16). The number of incidents of damage to property (2017: 16; 2018: 5) decreased significantly last year.

Discriminatory motions or statements were reported seven times in the Lichtenberg District Council (BVV) (2017: 7).

Looking back over the total number of Register Office annual overviews of documented incidents in Lichtenberg from 2007 to 2018, it becomes clear that last year marks the end of a pronounced downturn in the figures. While the number of incidents in Lichtenberg fluctuated between 100 and 150 until 2014, they rose significantly in subsequent years, up to 339 incidents in 2016. Since then, the figures have been falling again, but will in all probability stabilise at around this level. The activities of far-right and right-wing populist protagonists in the district and the continuing high numbers of attacks and threats do not give reason to hope that the number of incidents will continue to decrease in coming years.

#### 4th March 2018

A group of youths who had previously provoked an argument in the tram inflicted a knife wound in the back on a 58-year-old man when getting off the tram at the "Zingster Straße" station at around 4.45 in the morning. The police investigations revealed that the attack had a racist motive. Source: Berlin Police

#### 20 April 2018

Around 22:00 a man and a woman

were subjected to racist insults by two men in front of a bar in Margaretenstraße. The woman was throttled at the neck and pushed to the ground. The men then ordered their dog to bite the woman's companion, which it did. When witnesses intervened, the attackers fled towards Wönnichstraße. Source: Berlin Police

#### 25th April 2018

Around 18.15 a 24-year-old man was grabbed by an unknown man in an

anti-LGBTIQ\* motivated attack and flung to the ground in Seddiner Strasse in Friedrichsfelde. Source: Berlin Police

#### 27th April 2018

Around 12.30 a 2-year-old girl was shoved with a bicycle by a cyclist in an anti-Muslim motivated attack in Malchower Chaussee in Malchow. Source: ReachOut Berlin

# New Developments in Classical Neo-Nazism & "Völkisch" Mobilisation

The far-right milieu is in a state of flux nationwide. The weakening of neo-Nazi organisations through civil society resistance, on the one hand, and the increased appearance of right-wing populists as direct competitors, on the other hand, have significantly reduced the significance of the far right. This also has an impact on the district of Lichtenberg and the local far-right groups.

When the Berlin Register Offices were first established in the eastern districts of the city from 2005 on, the incident figures were shaped by activities undertaken by the far right. In some areas, the NPD set the tone, whereas elsewhere it was so-called free Kameradschaft [right-wing male-only fraternity] structures, such as the Lichtenberg "Kameradschaft Tor" and the "Autonome Nationalisten Berlin". Through demonstrations, propaganda and attacks, the neo-Nazis tried to create zones dominated by fear. Acting in close proximity to their homes, they tried to dominate politically the neighbourhoods where they lived and socialised. Not infrequently, people assumed to be migrants and left-wing youths were the targets of attacks and threats. By creating meeting places, pubs with a far-right focus and clothes shops, they tried to establish their own network of contact point. The long-standing campaign for a "National Youth Centre" was an expression of these efforts.

#### **Rearguard Action**

Due to political resistance from civil society, anti-fascist organisations, district politicians and in part due to police repression, most of the meeting places were closed in the following years and the relevant organisations were forced into retreat.

Areas such as the Weitlingkiez (Lichtenberg), Brückenstraße (Treptow-Köpenick), Niederschönhausen (Pankow) or parts of Hellersdorf, which were characterised by very active neo-Nazi organisations between 2000 and 2009, now display an altered social structure, in many cases also due to increased awareness of the problem and noticeably weakened neo-Nazi circles. Racist mobilisation against refugees and refugee accommodation centres from 2014 to 2016, which was largely structurally dominated by neo-Nazis, did not lead to a significant increase in support for the NPD and other neo-Nazi organisations. The emergence of the "Alternative für Deutschland" (AfD) as a party that appeared more attractive to voters also plunged the NPD into electoral insignificance in its previous strongholds.

#### **Consequences of Unimportance – Where Did They Go?**

The ensuing strategy discussions within the neo-Nazi milieu have meanwhile led on the one hand to a renewed focus on provocative political actions for the (press) public (NPD "protected zones" campaign) and to a focus on glorifying National Socialism on the other hand. The clearest sign of this is the number of people who attended the "Rudolf Hess" commemoration march in Berlin in August over the last two years. Between 700 and 1,400 neo-Nazis marched through the city.

The neo-Nazi party "Der III. Weg" takes the same line and, with its openly Nazi programme, is appealing to those in the neo-Nazi milieu who find the NPD too "soft".

#### "Der III. Weg" – A National Socialist Party on the Margins of Legality

"Der III. Weg" party was founded in Heidelberg in 2013 to provide a legal refuge for neo-Nazi organisations affected by bans, such as the Kameradschaft [right-wing male-only fraternity] network "Freies Netz Süd" (FNS). "Over and above its activities in Rhineland-Palatinate and Bavaria, the party is mainly active in eastern German states. Regionally it is divided into so-called "local units" [using the German term "Verband" in a military sense], whose smallest sub-units the neo-Nazis call "bases" [using the word "Stützpunkt", a German term for a military base]. The "Stützpunkt Berlin" belongs to the "Gebietsverband Mitte". It also includes the federal states of Brandenburg, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia, all of which are in former East Germany. Although "Der III. Weg" is registered as a political party, in contrast to the NPD, it does not pursue any party-political goals and only occasionally takes part in elections." (apabiz)

The Berlin "base" encompasses a low double-digit number of neo-Nazis, some of whom are former Kameradschaft activists. The focus of their political actions is on the Lichtenberg Weitlingkiez, although activities have also been reported in Pankow, Hellersdorf and Treptow-Köpenick. Since the party sees itself as a National Socialist cadre party, its focus is on internal training and events. Over the past year, it mobilised for its march on 1st May 2018 in Plauen, which attracted nationwide media interest due to its martial appearance, as well as for its campaign "Deutsche Winterhilfe". As the name of that scheme indicated "Der III. Weg" here openly refers to the winter campaigns of the NSDAP under National Socialism. For racist reasons, donations of clothing and food were distributed exclusively to German homeless people in Lichtenberg station [which is called a "Kältebahnhof" i.e. the public transport company allows the homeless to shelter there in winter].

#### The "Völkisch" AfD Wing

The AfD's "völkisch" [ethnic-nationalist – a term with a Nazi taint in German] wing also fishes in far-right waters. Several AfD functionaries in the Berlin local associations can be categorised as belonging to this wing, including the AfD parliamentary group in the Berlin House of Representatives. Their coordinator is Thorsten Weiß from Reinickendorf, who made his website available for the event organised by this "wing" in April 2018. The event, held in Wartenberg (Lichtenberg), attracted more than 200 "wing" supporters who listened to speeches by the AfD politicians Björn Höcke, Jörg Meuthen, Andreas Kalbitz, but as well as by David Eckert, then Berlin JA [AfD youth organisation] Chairman. Insults against democratic politicians and their supporters were accompanied by shouts of "deport them" from the audience.

The event demonstrated – both in terms of the numbers in attendance and the presence of numerous relevant party officials – the Berlin potential of the "völkisch" AfD "wing". In this context, this "wing" within the AfD specifically took a stand against the AfD regional association, which it perceived as moderate.

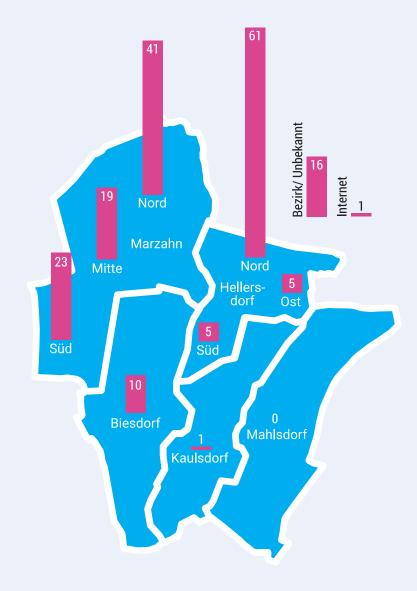
While the old far-right protagonists are thus increasingly fading into insignificance and becoming more radical in terms of both contents and acts in order to attract public attention, the AfD's "völkisch" wing presents itself as a safe haven and a far-right party that appeals to voters.



## Marzahn-Hellersdorf

The district of Marzahn-Hellersdorf lies on the eastern edge of Berlin and has a population of just under 270,000. Marzahn-Hellersdorf's various sub-districts (Hellersdorf, Marzahn, Biesdorf, Kaulsdorf, Mahlsdorf) are characterised by extensive housing estates (detached and semi-detached housing) and areas of system-built high-rise housing with a very heterogeneous population.

An organised right-wing scene has existed in the district for many years and has in the past also been able to draw on a comparatively high mobilisation potential. However, the district also has stable and growing civil society structures that counteract attempts at right-wing mobilisation.



Glorification of Hitler in Marzahn-Hellersdorf

Islamophobic inscription on pipe systems



#### Kontakt:

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In Marzahn-Hellersdorf, the total number of incidents recorded in 2018 remained largely constant at a high level compared with the two previous years (187 incidents in 2017; 182 in 2018). There are still problems with right-wing extremist and discriminatory ideologies and hate-filled behaviour in the district. This can be seen from the high number as well as the type of incidents reported. At the same time, Marzahn-Hellersdorf has an increasingly strong civil society with many committed individuals who are working to foster a spirit of living together in solidarity in a very diverse range of projects, as well as within the framework of the "Bündnis für Demokratie und Toleranz Marzahn-Hellersdorf" [Marzahn-Hellersdorf Alliance for Democracy and Tolerance].

#### **Type of Incidents**

Overall, the figures regarding the type of incidents have remained at a comparable level to previous years. The number of incidents in the propaganda category has altered only slightly (111 in 2017; 116 in 2018). Only the sharp decrease in the

number of public events (7 in 2017; 3 in 2018) stands out, although it should be noted that 2018 was not an election year. There has also been a slight shift towards a lower number of attacks but a higher number of incidents involving threats/insults/abuses. These developments can be interpreted against the background of a social ambience that continues to be full of enmity ("everyday racism") while at the same time organised neo-Nazi structures in the district have grown weaker.

#### **Content of Incidents**

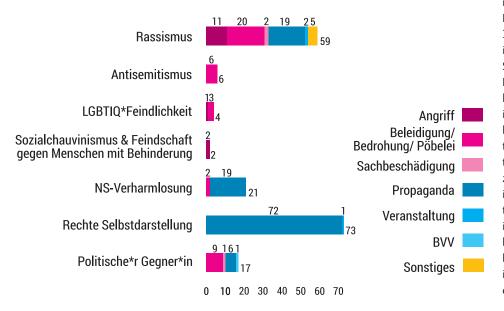
Overall, year-on-year comparison of the content of documented incidents shows continuities in several respects. In 2018, the number of incidents in the category of racism decreased in comparison with the previous year (52 in 2017; 39 in 2018). At the same time, however, there has been an increase in some sub-categories of racism such as Islamophobia and antiziganism and in some other categories. Overall, all incidents motivated by group-related enmity are roughly constant year-on-year. If all incidents involving group-

related enmity are added together, the figures are roughly constant year on year. The overall impression of a broadly similar overall political scenario in the district as in 2017 is also supported by the evaluation of the other categories: The decline in the figures relating to incidents that trivialise the crimes of the National Socialist regime and attacks directed at political opponents is accompanied by an increase in the number of cases recorded in the category of right-wing grandstanding (57 in 2017; 73 in 2018). The decrease in the category of incidents involving political opponents is probably also because 2018 was not an election year.

#### **Location of Incidents**

For Marzahn-Hellersdorf as a whole, the incidents recorded continue to take place mainly in the large housing estates. However, this is probably also because more people live there and more incidents are observed and reported in public spaces. In Hellersdorf, the highest number of incidents is still recorded in Hellersdorf North (56 in 2017; 62 in 2018). The trend of a shift

in incident figures from Hellersdorf-East to Hellersdorf-North continues. In Marzahn, the highest number of incidents is reported in Marzahn-South and especially Marzahn-North. In 2017, Marzahn-Centre still had the highest number of incidents in the entire district. A shift of the local focus from Marzahn-Centre to these two neighbouring sub-districts can thus be observed (Marzahn-North: 17 in 2017; 41 incidents in 2018). The residential areas (detached and semi-detached housing) in Kaulsdorf and Mahlsdorf show largely constant and comparatively low case numbers. Biesdorf, with 10 incidents, is to a certain extent an exception.



#### 25th August 2018

On the S-Bahn line 7 heading towards Ahrensfelde, racist insults and attacks against several people occurred during the night from Friday to Saturday (between 1 and 2 in the morning). A middle-aged man who had apparently been drinking ran riot in the S7 between Nöldnerplatz and Lichtenberg and subjected two people to racist insults. When the two people left the S-Bahn at Lichtenberg station, the man directed his anger at another man and also subjected

him racist insults. In the end he even kicked the young man several times. At that point two courageous passengers came to the young man's aid and intervened. Subsequently, the police were informed and arrested the perpetrator at Springpfuhl S-Bahn station. The victim apparently suffered no injuries.

Source: Eyewitness / Marzahn-Hellersdorf Register Office

#### 1st September 2018

Around 12 midday, while work was underway to set up the pro-democracy festival "Schöner leben ohne Nazis" [Live Better Without Nazis] in Hellersdorf, an unidentified woman approached a stage technician and threatened him with comments along the lines of: "We will all come by later and bring our baseball bats so that we can have fun". The party went off without a hitch.

Source: Police / Marzahn-Hellersdorf Register Office

#### **Summary & Outlook**

The number of far-right and discriminatory incidents reported in 2018 has remained at approximately the same level as in the previous year. Some of the developments that emerged last year, such as the further decline in the public number of events and public appearances with far-right links, continued in 2018. Individual attempts from the neo-Nazi spectrum (above all the NPD and "Der III. Weg") to gain a stronger foothold in the district again – in particular the NPD's "protected zones" campaign – received scant support.

Nevertheless, particular attention must be paid to the activities of neo-Nazi groups in 2019 as well, because an increase in their activities is to be expected against the background of the elections in 2019 and the loss of votes from the NPD to the AfD. Particular attention should be paid to the aforementioned "protected zones" campaigns, as these can attract attention with comparatively little effort. Neo-Nazi groups try to take advantage of tensions in certain crime-prone areas of the district. These actions, however, have not yet been able to stop the NPD – and the organised neo-Nazi spectrum as a whole – from growing less significant and becoming weaker and nor have they been able to stop the migration movements within the far-right milieus.

It is noticeable at district level that the AfD, especially towards the end of 2018, adopted a far more aggressive stance in the district council meetings (BVV) and also vis-à-vis the Register Office, for example publicly opposing certain entries in the annual overview of incidents drawn up by the local Register Office. With regard to local hotspots, a "shift to the margins" of the district can be observed. In Marzahn, for example, the focus of documented incidents has shifted from Marzahn-Centre

to Marzahn-Nord. Likewise in Hellersdorf: Hellersdorf-North has recorded the highest number of documented incidents by an even larger margin than the year before. The high figure and the content of the incidents indicate that there is still a relatively high level of support among inhabitants in this district population for far-right and right-wing populist views, as also largely reflected in election results in 2017 and early 2019. There is thus still a need for civil society in Marzahn-Hellersdorf to resolutely oppose neo-Nazi and right-wing populist developments in the district



#### 8th September 2018

As part of its "protected zones" campaign, the NPD Berlin carried out a campaign at the Alt-Marzahn harvest festival. At least five NPD members were in attendance with printed red or black T-shirts or waistcoats with "Schutzzone" [protected zone] printed on them. In the course of the racist "protected zones" campaign, the NPD had already carried out patrols in trains on the suburban rail network.

Source: Marzahn-Hellersdorf Register Office

#### 10th October 2018

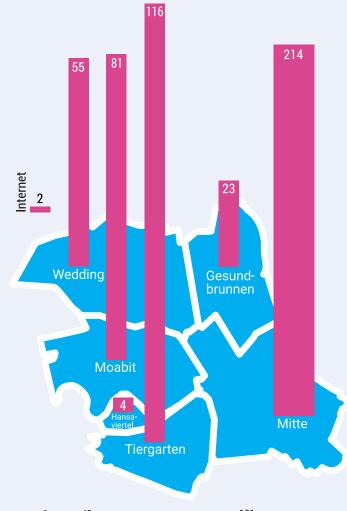
Photos of the AfD politician Jessica Bießmann from Marzahn-Hellersdorf were published on a social media platform; they show Ms Bießmann and in the background wine bottles with a Hitler label. Several years ago, Ms Bießmann posted the photos on a social media platform herself. When confronted with the accusations, Ms Bießmann stated that they were ten-year-old photographs taken in the flat of a friend in Chemnitz. She had not noticed the so-called "Führerwein"

["Führer wine"]. On 7 November, Ms Bießmann was expelled from the AfD parliamentary group in the Berlin House of Representatives. However, according to current information, Ms Bießmann is still a member of the party at the end of

Source: Marzahn-Hellersdorf Register Office



The district Berlin Mitte comprises the sub-districts Mitte, Moabit, Tiergarten, Wedding, Gesundbrunnen and Hansaviertel. The total population figure for this district is 379,610. The district includes the government quarter, where a particularly large number of rallies and demonstrations are held, as well as many transport hubs, busy public squares and shopping areas, where unfortunately there are also a particularly high number of incidents. It also includes residential areas that are increasingly coming under pressure from gentrification, with a particularly high number of poor and unemployed people, as well as a particularly large number of migrant associations.

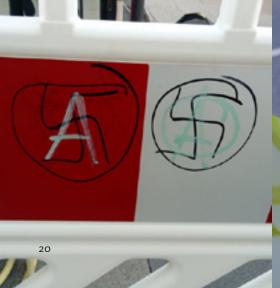




10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200 210

Painted swastikas in Mitte

 $Advertising \ for former \ weekly \ events \ organised \ by \ B\"{a}r GiDa \ [Berlin \ branch \ of \ the \ anti-Muslim \ Pegida \ movement]$ 





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People have become much less inhibited about express racism, anti-Semitism and hostility towards anyone classified in any way as 'different' and 'foreign' have fallen. As a consequence, however, the boundary between words and acts has also shifted. This was also reflected in the rise in the number of documented incidents in the Mitte district, which increased to a total of 495 incidents in 2018, compared to 344 incidents in 2017, making the Mitte district, as in the previous year, the district with the highest number of incidents of all Berlin Register Offices.

#### **Type of Incidents**

There was a particularly striking increase in the total number of incidents involving threats and insults from 48 (2017) to 136. This is the clearest indication that inhibition thresholds are now lower. Attacks in Mitte are still on the same high level as in 2017, with 62 attacks in 2018 and 60 in 2017. As in the two previous years, no other district in Berlin experienced so many physical attacks. Propaganda incidents also remained on the same high level as in the previous year with 133 cases reported (2017: 132). There was also significant increase in the number of reports concerning public events such as rallies and demonstrations from 84 (2017) to 148. 14 cases of damage to property were recorded (2017: 11). Eight incidents were recorded in the category "other", mostly relating to refusals to provide benefits and discrimination by the public authorities.

#### **Rise in Racist Incidents**

51.1% of people living in the Mitte district have a migrant background. This is the highest figure in all Berlin districts. The increased number of incidents in the Mitte district is particularly due to the rise in racist incidents from 145 in 2017 to a total of 272 in 2018. This total number of racist

incidents also includes the separately recorded categories of anti-Muslim racism (2018: 73), anti-Back racism (2018: 31) and antiziganism (2018: 13). The increase in racist threats and insults was particularly striking, rising from a total of 26 (2017) to 75. However, there were also 25 attacks (2017: 26) motivated by racism. Hostility towards refugees and immigrants formed the principal motivation for most of the 42 racist propaganda incidents, as well as for the sharp increase in racist public events reported (121). The attacks and the racist threats and insults did not stem primarily from actions undertaken by people organised in far-right organisations, their immediate circles or at their events, but rather occurred mainly in everyday life, often on public transport or at and near underground and suburban railway stations. A right-wing populist party in the parliaments, and thus greater publicity for right-wing populist and racist statements and forms of discourse, as well as selfconfirmation and being closed off to other discourse in far-right bubbles on the Internet, contribute a shift in what people consider can be said, which ultimately also increases violence. In addition, it should also be assumed that these incidents represent only a negligible percentage of the racist discrimination that actually takes place on a daily basis.

#### **Anti-Semitism in Mitte**

The number of incidents involving anti-Semitism remained similarly high in the Mitte district, where there is particularly large number of Jewish institutions, with 91 incidents (2017: 95). In 2016 there were only 58 incidents. There was however a decrease in anti-Semitic propaganda incidents, which fell from 51 to 26 in the Mitte district. There were fewer anti-Semitic public events (2017: 16; 2018: 10) and fewer cases of damage to property (2017: 7; 2018:

4). However, the number of incidents involving threats and insults increased significantly from 17 in 2017 to 37 and the number of attacks rose from eight to 13. In this respect, it can be assumed that firmly established right-wing populism also has a disinhibitory effect here and contributes to an increase in anti-Semitic abuse and attacks. At many racist antirefugee events in Mitte, for example, it could be observed that comments with an anti-Semitic tenor were made and widely tolerated, for example, when conspiracy ideologies repeatedly referenced George Soros, the US investor with Jewish and Hungarian roots who founded the Open Society Foundation, who was said to be behind alleged "population replacement plans" by means of immigration policy. On the other hand, the right-wing narrative of anti-Semitism as an "imported problem" that allegedly occurs primarily among Muslim immigrants, cannot be confirmed in quantitative terms in Mitte.

#### **Further Developments**

The disinhibition tendency, which affects several types of motives that reinforce each other, is also revealed in the significant rise (from 16 to 36) in the number of that incidents trivialising the crimes of the National Socialist regime or glorify National Socialism also. In Mitte, the Register Office recorded ten incidents of abuse such as Hitler salutes in public, 19 incidents of propaganda, such as swastikas graffitied on walls, five public events and two incidents of damage to property underpinned by these motives. Incidents of right-wing grandstanding also increased in Mitte, going up from 36 in the previous year to 44. These included 40 propaganda incidents and four public events. Actions against political opponents fell slightly (2017: 26, 2018: 19). These included three attacks, seven threats and insults, six

#### 17th January 2018

Franz Wiese, an AfD member of the Brandenburg regional parliament, and the Märkisch-Oderland AfD once again called for demonstrations with the slogan "Merkel must go!" About 25 people demonstrated outside the Federal Chancellery from 18.00. Speeches were made in a racist tenor against the Federal Government's refugee and migration policy.

Source: Berlin-Mitte Register Office

#### 18th September 2018

By Tiergarten, a young Black woman was subjected to racist insults and threatened at around 16:00 by a group of white youths consisting of three boys and a girl. Passers-by intervened when one of the boys was about to hit the young woman and prevented this.

Source: Berlin-Mitte Register Office

#### 3rd October 2018

On the fringes of the "Wir für Deutschland" march, a participant called out to

counter-demonstrators: "Come here, vermin, into the gas chamber!
Source: Jewish Forum for Democracy and Against Anti-Semitism (JFDA)

#### 12th December 2018

In a late-opening convenience store at the Bellevue S-Bahn station, a customer insulted the salesperson in a racist manner. When the salesman banned him from the shop, the customer threw small change at him.

Source: Berlin Register Office via Twitter

propaganda incidents, two cases of damage to property and one public event. Anti-LGBTIQ\* incidents rose from 23 in the previous year to 30. 20 of these were, as last year, particularly brutal physical attacks. In addition, as in previous years, the memorial in Tiergarten for homosexuals persecuted by National Socialism was damaged twice, as was another memorial in Tiergarten commemorating the pioneers of the first homosexual emancipation movement.

#### **Anti-Black Racism**

In the context of the Berlin Senate's consultation process on measures to implement the goals of the 2015-2024 UN International Decade "People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice and Development", associations representing the growing African diaspora in Berlin as well as Black German interest groups called for measures to render visible incidents that reproduce this specific form of racism. Since October 2018, the Berlin Register Offices have therefore recorded separately incidents that can be attributed to this form of racism against Black people and will in future make these particularly visible in their annual evaluations. Since 2017, the Mitte Register Office has been endeavouring incidents involving anti-Black racism separately, as in recent years, many African associations, shops and restaurants have become established in the Wedding sub-district, and many people from the African diaspora are based here. In 2018 31 incidents were reported to us. 20 incidents involved threats and insults, five were physical attacks, six were propaganda incidents. One incident of discrimination against an Afro-British group in a fast-food restaurant was classified in the category "other". However, the number of unreported cases in this area that the Register Offices have only just begun to record separately is certainly still particularly high. In addition, as in the case of incidents of anti-Muslim racism, one problem when recording data is that police reports, for example, often do not allow conclusions to be drawn about the form of racism.

#### **Racist Public Events**

Due to its central location, Berlin-Mitte hosts a particularly large number of public events. These are particularly concentrated in the sub-districts Mitte, Tiergarten and Moabit, where many central squares and government buildings are located. In 2018 the number of relevant public events rose to 142 compared to 84 in 2017. Of the-

se, 121 were racist, while the figure was 197 racist public events out of 317 public events reported throughout Berlin. Racist/anti-refugee rallies have also largely shifted from the outlying suburbs to Mitte

The racist rallies and demonstrations showed that the various right-wing populist, radical and far-right spectrums are increasingly mixing and radicalising. A considerable number of these racist rallies were weekly events, such as those of the anti-Muslim racist BärGiDa and the far-right group "Wir für Deutschland" [We're for Germany]. Participation in marches of the two organisations BärGiDa and "Wir für Deutschland" did decrease significantly to mostly only 20 to 30 participants. Nevertheless, on 3rd March 2018 about 500 participants followed the "Wir für Deutschland" call to demonstrate at the "Nein zur GroKo" [No to the Grand Coalition] demonstration. Most participants came from the far right and neofascist spectrum, but AfD members and supporters also took part and were among the speakers. On 3rd October 2018, more than 1,000 right-wingers followed their call to mark the "Tag der Nation" ["Day of the Nation"].

Under the slogan "Merkel has to go" a rally of various district associations of the Brandenburg AfD and a group close to Franz Wiese, an AfD member of the Brandenburg Landtag (regional parliament), was held every week in front of the Federal Chancellery. These weekly rallies were attended by an average of 20 to 30 participants.

However, high numbers could however be mobilised many to participate in some demonstrations in 2018. On 20 May 2018, for example, there was a bicycle demo [with cyclists converging on a central point] with a rally organised by "Biker for Germany" in cooperation with a woman's organisation, "Frauenbündnis Kandel" "for the protection of our women, children and senior citizens ...", as was stated in apparently harmless terms in the call to demonstrate, with around 1000 participants. However, the spokesperson for "Biker for Germany" talked in his speech about "asylum policies that harm the people" and denounced the purported German "cult of guilt".

However, the largest number of demo participants were reached in 2018 in Mitte at the AfD demonstration on 27th May 2018 with the slogan "Future for Germany – for freedom and democracy" with about 5,000 participants in the Berlin govern-

ment district. At the opening rally, AfD Federal Executive Board Member Beatrix von Storch stated: "The rule of this Islam in Germany is nothing other than the rule of evil".

Another large demonstration with the slogan: "Stop the migration pact – Merkel must go" was held on 1st December 2018 with around 1,000 participants. Among the participants were neo-fascists, "Reichsbürger", members of the "Identitäre Bewegung" and high-ranking AfD politicians.

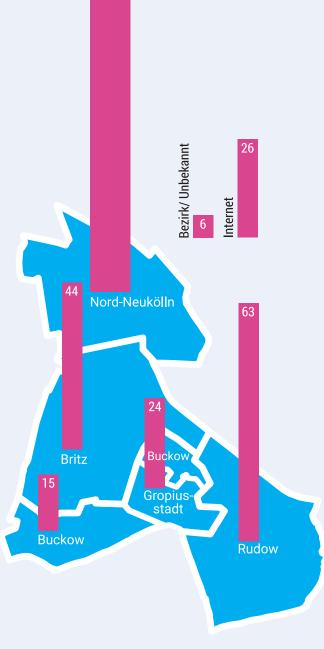
Even if only the larger racist events and those organised on a regular basis in Mitte are considered here, these observations provide support for the idea that the various individuals and groups on the right-wing populist and far-right spectrum are increasingly mixing and radicalising. This also applies to the AfD, as can be seen from its public events, which mostly attract large parts of these increasingly far-right hybrid milieux without anyone seeming to be bothered by this. Topics, motives, ideologies and forms of discourse diffuse and mix between the various right-wing groups across this spectrum. Ideological backdrops and forms of action of the so-called New Right are combined with old far-right ideologies and often also with anti-Semitic conspiracy myths and right-wing populist political forms. The overarching common ground shared the various sub-spectrums is, however, a "völkisch" [ethnic-nationalist - a term with a Nazi taint in German] nationalism, expressed with varying degrees of clarity. The views mutually affirmed in their beliefs are then manifested in everyday life in the increased number of cases.

#### **Civil Courage**

Finally, however, a point that may be encouraging should be underlined. Passersby and witnesses have shown civil courage in 36 incidents involving threats/insults/abuse or attacks and have tried to intervene in various ways against attackers and abusers.



Just over 320,000 people live in Neukölln. From the perspective of the Register Offices, the district can be divided into two parts. On the one hand, there is the innercity sub-district of Neukölln North and on the other hand the southern sub-districts: Britz, Buckow, Gropiusstadt and Rudow. Very busy public transport routes, frequented not only by local residents but also by tourists, run through the district: underground lines 7 and 8 as well as the Ringbahn (Circle Line of the S-Bahn suburban railway network) and the associated public transport interchanges. The diversity of the subdistricts is also reflected in the nature of the incidents.



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NPD flyer in Britz

Removing propaganda in Neukölln



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In 2018, the Neukölln Register Office recorded 360 incidents (2017: 269). Everyday forms of

exclusion and discrimination increased. Furthermore, there was a rise in incidents involving threats and insults (2017:36; 2018:84) and a high number of attacks (2017:36; 2018:43) were recorded. The far-right and right-wing populist spectrum in Neukölln remains well established. After racist-motivated incidents (129), glorification of the National Socialist regime was the most common motive with 99 incidents. Propaganda predominated in terms of types of incidents (169). About half of all incidents were recorded in Neukölln North (182). Right-wing attacks against civil society activists, which had been ongoing since 2016, became less pronounced.

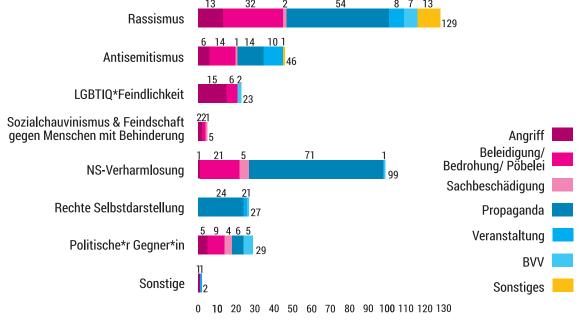
#### **Sub-districts**

The number of reports from North Neukölln continued to increase (2017: 132; 2018: 182). This is where most attacks and threats/insults/abuse occurred, especially in the nightlife districts. These included racist, anti-LGBTIQ\* and anti-Semitic violence. An increase was also recorded in Rudow (2017: 48; 2018: 63). As in previous years, racist propaganda and glorification of the National Socialist regime dominated here, which can be attributed to the NPD, the socalled "Identitäre Bewegung" and other farright groups. In Britz the number of incidents reported remained constant at 44 (2017: 40). In Gropiusstadt, 24 incidents were registered,

in Buckow 15. Propaganda in connection with glorification of the National Socialist regime, racism and right-wing grandstanding was recorded in particular. 26 incidents were documented on the Internet. Racist propaganda accounted for the majority of these. In 11 cases there were racist threats and insults directed against political opponents. In the past, the south of Neukölln has often been the scene of far-right violence and right-wing propaganda. In 2018, as in previous years, there were numerous cases of stickers, graffiti and flyers with racist or far-right content or glorification of the National Socialist regime. Almost twothirds of the propaganda incidents reported in 2018 were recorded in the southern part of Neukölln, which is evidence of a far-right scene based there. This is also suggested by several public events with a racist theme, such as the NPD "protection zones" campaign in Gropiusstadt. The series of attacks against committed members of democratic civil society, which began in 2016, also continued, albeit with fewer incidents than in the previous two years. In the south of Neukölln, two arson attacks and one persistent campaign of intimidating threats occurred in 2018. The targets here were people who took a stand against right-wing extremism and populism or were involved in helping refu-

#### Breakdown of Motives

Racism with the subcategories anti-Black racism, anti-Muslim racism and antiziganism) was the most common motive (2017: 78; 2018: 129). In terms of the type of incidents, propaganda, incidents involving threats/ insults/abuses and public events increased in particular. The marked increase in incidents involving glorification of the National Socialist regime (2017: 49; 2018:



#### 1st February 2018

At about 2:40 in the night from Wednesday to Thursday a car was set on fire in Britz. It was a total write-off. The owner of the car runs a bookshop in Rudow and is involved in the initiative "Neuköllner Buchläden gegen Rechtspopulismus und Rassismus" [Neukölln bookshops

against right-wing populism and racism]. There had already been attacks on his bookshop and his car in previous years. 20 minutes later, at around 3:00, another car was set on fire in Rudow. The car was completely gutted in the fire. The car's owner is a member of the DIE LINKE Neukölln executive committee and is

involved in civil society initiative. In both cases, a right-wing motivation for the crime is assumed. The policing arm of the state security service has launched an investigation.

Sources: Die LINKE Neukölln, Neuköllner Buchläden gegen Rechtspopulismus und Rassismus [Neukölln Bookshops Against 99) is due to graffiti, threats and insults, which point to a content-related radicalisation of farright protagonists. The number of anti-Semitic incidents remained high (2017: 45; 2018: 46). Apart from 14 propaganda incidents, 14 incidents involving insults and threats (2017: 5), six attacks (2017: 1) and ten public events (2017: 8) were documented. In 29 cases, the focus was on political opponents who stand up against the right and support refugees.

The right-wing attack series in the district decreased, which is reflected in the decreasing number of attacks from 14 to five. At the same time, threats/insults, propaganda and damage to property increased. The motif of right-wing grandstanding (2017: 34; 2018: 27) - i.e. propaganda and events of right-wing groups for grandstanding - refers to the firm anchoring of far-right protagonists in Neukölln. 23 cases of anti-LGBTIQ\* prejudice have been registered (2017: 15). The high level of escalation is conspicuous here: of 23 incidents, 15 were attacks and six insults and threats. For the first time since the Neukölln Register Office was established, five incidents of social chauvinism were reported, including an arson attack on a sleeping homeless person in February 2018.

#### **Development of Incident Types**

Propaganda is the most frequently recorded type of incident (2017: 140; 2018: 169), including countless swastika graffiti or racist and anti-refugee stickers. There was a huge rise in the number of incidents involving threats and insults (2017: 36; 2018: 84). They were primarily motivated by racism, glorification of the National Socialist regime and anti-Semitism. There were 43 attacks (2017: 36), including arson and persistent campaigns of intimidating threats directed to people in their homes. LGBTIQ\* people were attacked 15 times. 13 attacks were motivated by racism, anti-Muslim prejudice or antiziganism. Other attacks involved anti-Semitism, political opponents, social chauvinism and glorification of National Socialism. Twenty-one mostly anti-Semitic and racist public events were documented. 13 incidents of damage to property particularly affected people or groups actively involved in democratic movements or civil society campaigns against the right and against racism. 16 incidents can be traced back to the District Council (BVV) (2017: 7). AfD representatives disseminated racist positions, defamed civil society involvement and made statements hostile to LGBTIQ\*. In the category "other", 14 cases of discrimination public authorities and racial profiling by the police were recorded.

#### **The Neukölln Attack Series**

Personal threats, lists of enemies published on the Internet, smashed windows, hallways daubed with Nazi symbols and nightly arson attacks on cars and cafés number among the kind of acts that politically engaged people in Neukölln must be prepared to face.

While the Anton-Schmaus-Haus was already set on fire twice in 2011, more than 50 attacks on political activists have been committed throughout the district since June 2016, including 16 arson attacks. The people affected by the attacks are people who fight against rightwing structures and support refugees. They are, for example, organised in trade unions, are involved in political parties, do youth work or run alternative pubs. And that makes them opponents of the far right. To illustrate the vehemence of the attacks, it is worth looking back: On the night of 27th June 2016, unidentified persons set fire to the car of an SPD politician in Rudow. The entrance to a house in the Schillerkiez neighbourhood was also daubed with right-wing slogans. On that same night, unidentified persons threw jars of paint into the windows of a flat and a shop in the Weserkiez neighbourhood. In August 2016, a Facebook page run by Nazis published several "enemy lists". These lists contained the addresses of pubs, alternative projects, offices of political parties and refugee accommodation centres. The next major wave of attacks followed on 12th December 2016, when windows of residential buildings and shops were smashed again, this time in the centre and south of Neukölln. The sad climax was an attempted arson attack on an apartment building in the Weserkiez neighbourhood. This house contained not only an alternative café but also several rented flats. Fortunately, no one was injured. Things were not calm in 2017 either: in January alone, three more car fires followed in Britz. In February, threats were again made against residents of Neukölln North, and there was another car fire in Rudow.

The frequency and continuity of these attacks is unparalleled in Berlin and can be explained by the situation on the ground. In Neukölln, politically engaged people do not hide away but instead have a public presence. They take a visible stand against right-wing ideologies and the networks and structures behind them. In this way they become targets for the right-wing scene living in the district. In recent years this circle of neo-Nazis has not received any public support for its ideology in Neukölln. The militant deeds are regarded as one of the few effective means against those who think differently. They are intended to intimidate those who are politically engaged and to persuade them to give up or move. Because right-wing politics in the sense of the NPD and the Autonome Nationalisten could not be consolidated either at the parliamentary level or on the streets, the perpetrators compensate for their political inability to act through militant deeds.

The realisation that such deeds strengthen civil society networks and increase the repressive pressure exerted by the police and judiciary has not yet dawned. Only the decline in the number of attacks offers some hope that the neo-Nazis of Neukölln will change their way of thinking.

Right-wing Populism and Racism], Berlin Police, Mobile Beratung gegen Rechtsextremismus Berlin [Mobile Counselling against Right-wing Extremism, Berlin]

#### 14th May 2018

Four eleven-year-old girls were subjected to racist abuse by an unknown man on the sports field of their school in Hänselstraße at around 14:30. The man also threatened to shoot the girls. Charges were filed. Source: Tagesspiegel, written question in the Berlin House of Representatives

#### 21st December 2018

Around 14.30, four young men threatened a woman in an anti-trans manner and pursued her rapidly three streets further.

Source: Neukölln Register

# 10 civil courage

Gestaltung: Luise Bofinger

# What can you do? CiVil 10 points for courage.

Again and again people are insulted, threatened and attacked in public. They become victims because their skin is not white, because they think and live differently from the majority. Each of us can help by overcoming our own fear and intervening when others are in danger.

The following ten points tell you how to go about it:

#### 1. Stay calm!

Concentrate on doing what you have set out to do. Do not let feelings of fear or anger distract you.

#### 2. Act immediately!

Always react and always do so immediately; do not wait for someone else to help. The longer you hesitate, the more difficult it will be to intervene.

#### 3. Get help!

In the S+U-Bahn: Call the police with your mobile phone (110) or use the emergency brake in the station. On the bus: alert the bus driver. On the street: shout loudly, preferably "Fire!!!"; everyone reacts to that.

#### 4. Unsettle the offender!

Scream a loud and piercing scream. This also works if words fail you.

#### 5. Stand by the victim!

Make eye contact with the victim.

This will reduce his or her fear. Speak directly to the victim: "I will help you.

#### 6. Attract attention!

Speak to other bystanders directly. Call bystanders to take responsibility: "You in the yellow jacket, please call the bus driver". Speak out in a loud voice. Your voice will give you self-confidence and encourage others to intervene.

#### 7. Do not use violence!

Do not play the hero and do not put yourself in unnecessary danger. Do not use weapons (these often lead to escalation).

Never touch the perpetrator; this can quickly lead to aggression. Do not let yourself be provoked.

### 8. Do not provoke the perpetrator!

Do not use informal, first-name styles of address with the perpetrator to ensure other people don't think you know each other. Do not stare directly into the perpetrator's eyes, as this could make him or her even more aggressive. Criticise the attacker's behaviour but not the attacker as a person.

#### 9. Call the police!

Observe closely and remember the faces, clothing and escape routes of the perpetrators. File charges and report as a witness.

#### 10. Be prepared!

Think of a situation in which a person is harassed, threatened or attacked. Think how you would feel in such a situation. Think about what exactly you would do in such a situation.



 ${\it Racist stickers on advertising bill boards}$ 

"Nazi neighbourhood" marks in public space





#### Kontakt:

#### **Pankower Register**

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Tel.: 030 - 443 71 79

Mail: moskito@pfefferwerk.de Twitter: @RegisterPankow In 2018, the Fach- und Netzwerkstelle gegen Rechtsextremismus, für Demokratie und Vielfalt [expertise and network centre against right-wing extremism, for democracy and diversity] [moskito] registered a total of **234 incidents** in 2018, which were based on the motive of group-related enmity (racism, anti-Semitism, anti-LGBTIQ\* prejudice, etc.) and/or a right-wing populist, far-right to neo-Nazi attitude. Compared to previous years, the number of reports has remained largely unchanged (2016: 229; 2017: 230).

#### Everyday Racism: From Abuse to a Punch in the Face

Racism is the main motive of the reports in the Pankow Register Office with 118 out of a total of 234 incidents. Compared to 2017, when 82 reports with a racist motive were recorded, this represents a large increase. Racism is evident in everyday life in the Pankow district: 28 of 50 reported incidents classified as insults/abuses/threats had racism as a motive. For example, on 21 February, a person was called "monkey" by a woman on a bicycle. On

another occasion, a 35-year-old woman called a refugee "subhuman" at around 2:00 (22nd February). On 3rd October, people were insulted from a passing car in Prenzlauer Berg with the words "Shut up. Today is Germany Day. Fucking Kanaken [derogatory term for non-Germans]". In Karow, on 14 December, insulting remarks were directed at women who are People of Colour in a l department store. These were repeatedly and loudly accompanied by insulting and mocking statements, including condescending remarks about physiognomy/body shapes. In addition, on 19th December, a woman who is a Person of Colour was approached by a man in Karow, Germany and asked what she thought she was doing here in Germany and told that "they should all be kicked out". Finally, "Germany for the Germans" was shouted at the woman.

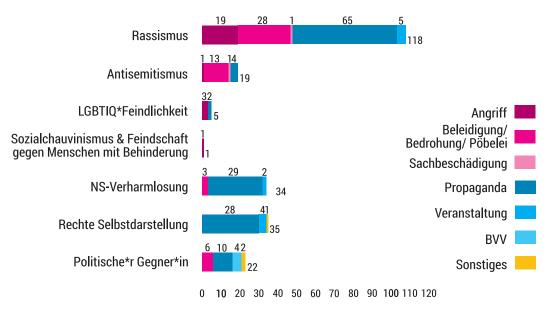
In addition, in 2018, people also experienced hostility because of their (presumed) Muslim faith. On 12th March, one man insulted another with the following words: "Fuck off, you fucking Muslim". On another occasion a woman dressed

in a chador was insulted in the afternoon because of her clothing (17th July). In Heinersdorf on 25th August, a man insulted a woman wearing a headscarf.

In addition, there were repeated incidents at the beginning of the year in which bus drivers did not stop at bus stops when black people, People of Colour or people with a refugee background wanted to alight from the bus or were waiting at the bus stop. This happened in Karow and Buch, leading Pankow's Integration Officer to write a letter to the BVG [Berlin public transport company]. The BVG stated that it would not tolerate such behaviour and gave assurances that it would take steps in-house when it received information about the place, time and bus route in question.

Racism is the main motive underlying 19 of 24 attacks that took place in the Pankow district in 2018. At the beginning of March, there was an attack in Karow by a group of almost 15 people, who first spat on and insulted refugee youths and then atta-

cked, pursued and hit them. On 4 May in Prenzlauer Berg, a woman was first insulted and then throttled by a man in front of her flat door. In Heinersdorf, on 9th May, a man threw a glass bottle at a small group of people after subjecting them to racist abuse. In Pankow-Centre, a woman was first subjected to racist insults by another woman on bus route 255 and then hit in the face. The husband of the woman who committed the attack also joined in,



#### 9th February 2018

In the Prenzlauer Berg sub-district, two young men were attacked in the evening, around 21:00 pm, in the S-Bahn, in a homophobic attack. As reported by the men attacked themselves, one 17-year-old and one 18-year-old man were in an S-Bahn on the line heading to Storkower Straße. When the train stopped at Schönhauser Allee station and the doors opened, the couple reported that they were been suddenly attacked by three men and pushed off the train. They fell

and were hit and kicked several times while lying on the ground. Both men suffered injuries during the attack. They eventually managed to escape from the thugs themselves by running into another S-Bahn suburban train. The assaulted men first sought medical treatment themselves and reported the attack last night to a police station.

Source: Police press release of 11.02.2018

#### 12th May 2018

In the sub-district of Pankow, a man shouted "Heil Hitler" at the corner of Berliner Strasse and Granitzstrasse. A demonstration was just passing him. A passer-by standing nearby made a very loud comment on this slogan.

Source: VVN-BdA [The Association of Persecutees of the Nazi Regime/Federation of Antifascists] Pankow

talking loudly about Adolf Hitler's continuing legacy and threatening further assault. The bus driver rushed over and forced the attacking couple off the bus. In Weißensee on 13th August, three men were first subjected to racist insults and then hit by another man.

#### Location of Incidents in the District of Pankow

As in the year before, most of the reports came from the sub-district of Prenzlauer Berg. A total of 69 out of 234 incidents were registered here. Berlin-Buch and Pankow came second with 42 entries each. In Pankow, the number of incidents rose sharply compared to the previous year (2017: 33; 2018: 42) and were at a similar level to 2015 and 2016, while in Berlin-Buch incidents decreased slightly (2016: 31; 2017: 47; 2018: 42). In Karow, a total of 28 incidents were registered in 2018, which is the lowest level since 2015 (2018: 28, 2017: 30, 2016: 43, 2015: 35). In the Weißensee sub-district, the number of notifications fell very sharply (2018: 19, 2017: 34, 2016: 20, 2015: 17).

#### **Development of Incident Types**

Almost 60% of all incidents were propaganda offences. Compared to 2017 the number decreased (2016: 131; 2017: 154; 2018: 140). Since 2012 the number of reports in this category has almost tripled. The number of attacks has doubled, from twelve in 2017 to a total of 24. Incidents involving insults/abuses/ threats have risen sharply (2016: 28; 2017: 30; 2018: 50). Even at the height of racist street mobilisation in 2015, fewer incidents involving insults/ abuses/threats were registered, with 38 entries were recorded. The number of public events in 2018 was at the same level as in 2013 with 11 events reported. Compared to the 30 incidents reported in the two previous years, 2015 was particularly striking with 44 public events reported.

#### Overview of Motives Underlying Incidents

The main motive in 2018 was racism. This has increased continuously since 2013.

(2013: 45; 2015: 106; 2018: 118). The second main focus is glorification of National Socialism with 34 incidents. Incidents with this motivation are at a similar level to that in 2017 with 31 entries. Right-wing grandstanding, on the other hand, declined sharply (2016: 91; 2017: 66; 2018: 33). Incidents directed at political opponents have remained at a similar level since 2013 with just over 20 incidents (2014: 23; 2015: 29; 2016: 23; 2017: 17; 2018: 22). The number of incidents involving anti-Semitism has increased from 12 incidents in 2017 to 19 last year. The increase in incidents is related to the establishment of the Department for Research and Information on Antisemitism (RIAS) and greater awareness of its work.



#### 17th August 2018

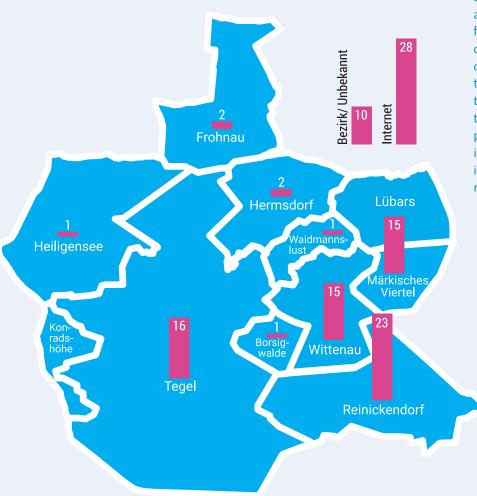
On 17th August, a Jewish woman in Prenzlauer Berg was insulted and abused by a man shouting "Out with the Jews". The woman could be recognised as an orthodox Jew due to her headscarf. Source: RIAS

#### 18th September 2018

In the sub-district of Pankow, a café near a youth centre was the scene of assault and racist abuse. When the people running the café tried to close at 22:00, one guest would not leave. He pushed the people running the café behind the counter and then punched the young people in the face several times. On leaving, he threw chairs at them. In the restaurant across the street, he threatened guests, making racist remarks such as "I am a German in Germany". The police arrested

the perpetrator and are investigating. Source: [moskito] Fach- und Netzwerkstelle gegen Rechtsextremismus, für Demokratie und Vielfalt [expertise and network centre against right-wing extremism, for democracy and diversity]





In the district of Reinickendorf, the number of registered incidents rose slightly from 107 in the previous year to 114 in 2018. As in the previous year, most incidents occurred in the subdistricts of Reinickendorf, Tegel, Märkisches Viertel and Wittenau. Racism was again, as in other districts, the most frequent motive. Anti-Muslim and anti-Black racism, antiziganism and other racist incidents accounted for almost three-quarters of all incidents. One particular feature of the district in 2018 was that, contrary to the Berlin-wide trend, there was anti-refugee mobilisation. In addition, the involvement of various political parties, a newly founded citizens' initiative took part in the campaign of incitement to hatred directed against refugee accommodation centres.

Protests against racism

Memorial rally in Reinickendorf



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The number of attacks in 2018 remained high, with 12 attacks. From 2012 to 2014, the number of attacks fluctuated between 3 and 5, and has been about twice as high since 2015 (2015: 9; 2016: 12; 2017: 10). Most attacks took place in the sub-districts of Reinickendorf and Wittenau. As in the previous year, they were mainly motivated by racism. There was one anti-lesbian attack, one anti-Semitic attack and one attack motivated by anti-Muslim racism. In at least one case motivated by racism the victim had a refugee background. The attacks were mainly carried out by individual men on their own and mostly took place in broad daylight and in public space.

The number of incidents recorded involving threats, insults and abuse rose further to 22 (2016: 9; 2017: 19). On multi-

ple occasions bus and underground passengers insulted other people present directly or talking loudly about them out in a derogatory fashion. In at least 4 cases, women who were recognisable as Muslims were affected. Threats were also made by neighbours. Black children and young people are regularly exposed to abuse in educational institutions.

With 50 registered incidents (2016: 40; 2017: 42), the field of propaganda again accounted for the largest share of the total figure. About half of these (27 incidents) took place online. These include the primarily racist Facebook posts of the Reinickendorf NPD. On Facebook the Reinickendorf AfD also shared posts by Björn Höcke, the leader of the far-right AfD "wing", as well as a campaign by the far-right "Identitäre Bewegung". The NPD also distributed leaflets. The other pro-

paganda incidents appear to have been caused by individuals distributing stickers and flyers from various, sometimes sectarian, organisations. Swastikas and anti-Semitic graffiti were spotted at various bus stops.

The number of public events reported fell to 16 (2016:5; 2017: 23). It is noticeable, however, that the NPD has become much more active again after a year when it did not organise any of its own public events. It organised 6 events for party members and an information stand. The 8 incidents categorised as "other" (2016: 0; 2017: 9) are almost exclusively discrimination by public authorities and service providers motivated by antiziganism.

#### Anti-refugee Mobilisation against New Refugee Accommodation Centres

Since 2014, there had been regular anti-re-

#### 8th June 2018

At a playground on the Zabel-Krüger-Damm in Waidmannslust, a racist attack occurred at around 17:30 after a dispute among children. A 23-year-old woman throttled an 11-year-old boy, lifting him up and squeezing the air out of him. According to police reports, she allegedly threatened and insulted him in the process. When a witness tried to intervene, she was threatened by a 23-year-old woman accompanying the woman. The State Security Service is investigating and examining whether there is a racist background to the attack.

Source: Police report no. 1268 of 9 June 2018

#### 14th March 2018

The AfD and CDU stirred up a mood against refugees moving into the district with various motions in the Reinickendorf District Council. The AfD parliamentary group submitted a motion entitled "Do not accept any more refugees in Reinickendorf" (Official Document/ Drucks. 0908/XX). In it, it called on the District Administrative Office to lobby the Senate and the Berlin State Office for Refugees to ensure "that no more refugees come to Reinickendorf until all refugees who

are obliged to leave the country have left the district". By linking the question of housing for refugees to external factors, the AfD called into question refugees' fundamental statutory legal entitlement to protection and accommodation. By classifying the matter as urgent, the CDU group on the District Council introduced a very similar recommendation at the same meeting entitled "Be consistent in deporting asylum-seekers who are obliged to leave the country" (Official Document/Drucks. 0954/XX). The CDU adopted the AfD's argumentation from the January meeting in its motion, asser-

fugee rallies and attacks in the vicinity of refugee accommodation centres throughout Berlin, especially in some districts in the eastern part of the city, such as the sub-district of Buch in Pankow, Marzahn-Hellersdorf and Treptow-Köpenick. While the racist rallies have ceased in these districts, developments moved in the opposite direction in Reinickendorf. The mood against housing refugees in the district intensified in Reinickendorf and new forms of protest against refugee accommodation centres emerged.

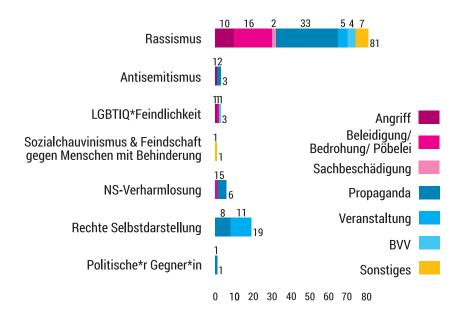
16 incidents were directed against refugee accommodation centres in the district that were being built or planned. A modular refugee accommodation centres in the Märkisches Viertel area was completed during the year. At the same time, other locations for modular refugee accommodation centres in the district were under discussion.

In a series of motions filed in the District Council (BVV), the AfD group expressed its opposition to refugees moving into the district. The local debate on housing for refugees took on a new tenor as the CDU group in the District Council also submitted its own motion against new refugee accommodation centres, thus making anti-refugee attitudes appear more socially acceptable.

The Reinickendorf AfD systematically stirred up fears about refugees by claiming a rising crime rate in Märkisches Viertel and alleging that this was linked to the still unoccupied refugee accommodation centre. On 20th September, the AfD organised a "Citizens' Dialogue" next to the completed refugee accommodation centres in Märkisches Viertel to talk about the supposedly rising crime rate. The NPD distributed propaganda material at two of the locations discussed and incited animosity with hate-filled posts on Facebook directed against the planned refugee accommodation centres and the people who would like there. They also mobilised for an information event organised by the Senate [government of the Federal State of Berlin]on 26th November, at which some of those present spread the far-right conspiracy myth of "Umvolkung" [a term in Nazi ideology used to describe a process of assimilation of members of the German people leading them to abandon their language and origins].

In September, a "Citizens' Initiative against the MUF [Modular Refugee Accommodation Centre] at Paracelsusbad" was founded; from the outset it was hostile to refugees and supported by AfD politicians. The citizens' initiative distributed flyers around Paracelsusbad on 14th September and organised a rally in front of the baths on 12th October, attended by over 100 people. The initiators of the initiative had already made racist comments about refugees in the Facebook group "Mein Reinickendorf" [My Reinickendorf] in the previous months.

In 2018, the boundaries of what it is considered acceptable to say continued to shift in Reinickendorf as well. In particular, blanket rejection of refugees seems to be viewed as a legitimate position by more and more people. It remains to be seen whether in future supporters of the NPD and AfD will close ranks in rabblerousing against refugee accommodation centres. Experiences from other districts such as Treptow-Köpenick show that the continuing devaluation of refugees also lowers the inhibitions to use violence against them. It is therefore important to take consistent prior action to counteract the normalisation of racist language, including in the form of leaflets and rallies. Racist statements and motions in district council politics must be identified as such. In the case of incidents involving insults and abuse, resolute intervention can prevent physical attacks.



ting that a significantly higher number of deportations would be possible and would lead to fewer refugee accommodation centres having to be built in the district.

Source: Drucks. 0908/XX, Drucks. 0954/XX

#### 28th June 2018

A member of the Facebook group "Mein Reinickendorf" made statements inciting hatred against the refugee accommodation centre that is to be built next to the Paracelsusbad. The people who would in future live there were portrayed as a burden and threat. They were ironically

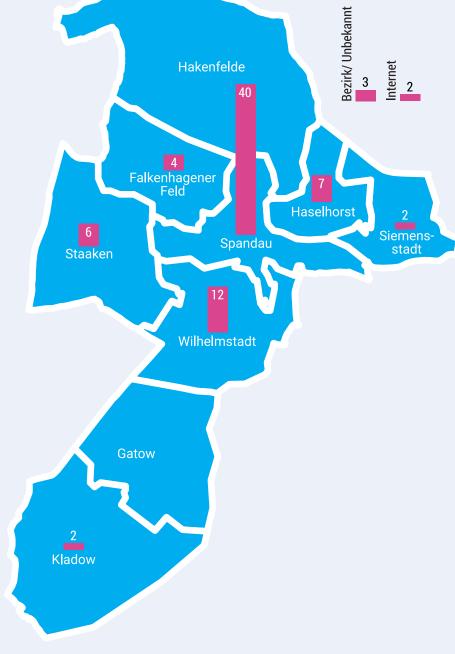
described as "golden treasures" who "would be delighted" to "stroll" through the neighbouring allotment gardens, i.e. to break in without permission. In addition, it was claimed the "several hundred guests of Frau Raute Presswurst" – a [derogatory] reference to Angela Merkel - would also harass the underground train drivers. Various members and an administrator of the "Mein Reinickendorf" Facebook group made derogatory comments about refugees and other migrants, who were described as "golden treasures" ["Goldstücke": a term frequently used with heavy sarcasm by the German far right to descri-

be Black men that it alleges are involved in crime], "lining their own pockets", "mobs of females" or "Merkel's guests". Taking in people who were seeking protection was described as a conspiracy by a political elite. The future residents of the refugee accommodation centre – mostly imagined as young men – were portrayed as a threat to supposedly uniform "German" culture, as sexual and paedophilic sex offenders, as a financial and social burden, as uncultured and disrespectful, and as swindlers who had allegedly obtained their protected status fraudulently.

Source: Reinickendorf Register Office



The Spandau Register Office was set up in 2014 by the "Gesellschaft für Interkulturelles Zusammenleben GIZ gGmbH". This is an organisation that has promoted a diverse, non-discriminatory society since 2009. As well as offering language and integration courses, for refugees and migrants, the organisation also offers various counselling services. It also serves as a base for the WiA office (Willkommen in Arbeit / Welcome to Work) and Spandau's "Integrationslotsen" ["Integration Facilitators" - volunteers or employees who provide assistance with integration issues to migrants]. Through the mediation by these projects, the Register Office can directly reach out to people who are affected by discrimination. They often report racist insults in public space, but also unequal treatment or exclusion by public authorities (Job Centre, Social Welfare Office) or public institutions.



Antiziganistic inscription in Wilhelmstadt

Anti-refugee sticker in Siemensstadt



#### Kontakt: Registerstelle Spandau

GIZ gGmbH Reformationsplatz 2 13597 Berlin

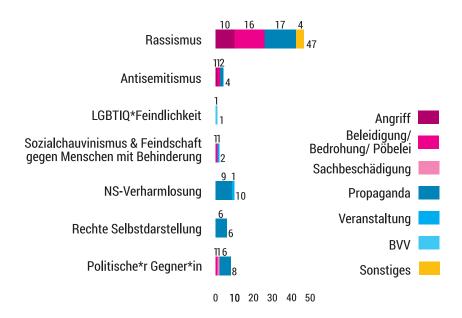
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While only 18 incidents were reported in 2014, the 2018 overview included 78 incidents. Spandau is thus the district in Berlin with the lowest incident figures. However, a high number of unreported incidents can be assumed in Spandau, i.e. incidents that remain "unreported" because, for example, the effort involved in reporting seems too great, the people affected do not (yet) know about the Register Office, there is a language barrier or contact with a "reporting office" is avoided due to negative experiences.

The difficulty in establishing a districtwide network of individuals/groups that report incidents is also due to the structure of Spandau: the actual centre of the district is located in the sub-district. also called Spandau, is located, with the town hall, the offices of the public administration and other authorities, the market square and the long-distance and regional railway station. Spandau is the terminus of the U7 underground line and all Spandau's bus routes intersect here. Many different people come into contact with each other in this sub-district. Most public events and rallies in the district also take place here. Since 2014, most reported incidents have occurred in the Spandau sub-district.

In the remaining eight sub-districts, with their extensive residential areas, small centres and few civil society protagonists, it is still difficult to ensure that the Register Office is known everywhere and to involve everyone equally in the network; the number of incidents reported from these sub-districts has consequently been relatively low so far.



#### **Type of Incidents Reported**

In 2018, most incidents reported (40 and 51% respectively) were in the propaganda category (stickers or graffiti sprayed in public places), while incidents involving threats/ insults/abuse accounted for 24% of all incidents (19). A change is apparent compared to previous years, as from 2014 to 2017 the most frequent type of incident involved threats/ insults/ abuse (2014: 13 and 72%; 2017:32 and 46%), followed by propaganda (2014:2 and 11%; 2017: 22 and 32%). This change could be explained by the increasing public presence of rightwing groups and parties. There is no networked right-wing scene in Spandau but there are far-right individuals do exist who stick up racist stickers, spray swastikas or use other symbols glorifying National Socialism.

The third most frequent type of incident in 2018 was 11 attacks (14% of all incidents), two of which involved people accompanied by children and two of which

involved minors. Most attacks in Spandau were committed in 2016 (2016: 13 i.e. 26%; 2017:9 i.e. 13%). Attacks most frequently take place on the street, at bus stops or in the public transport system (in stations or on means of transport). In 2018, however, attack also occurred in refugee accommodation centre, at a children's playground and in a residential building.

#### Motives Underlying the Incidents Reported

Since 2014, the motive for most incidents is racism. In 2018 there were 47 incidents (60%), with 40% of all racist incidents being explicitly anti-Muslim. Incidents motivated by antiziganism or anti-Black racism were also represented in the single-digit range. No significant changes can be observed here compared to 2017. The number of incidents motivated by anti-Semitism is still single-digits and has not changed compared to the previous year. 14 incidents involved right-wing grand-

#### **27th March 2018**

A 14-year-old girl was subjected to racist insults, punched on the shoulder and threatened by a woman in a hallway in a residential building in Seeburgerstraße at around 10:00.

Source: ReachOut/Berlin Police

#### 17th April 2018

A Muslim woman was greeted by an elderly lady on the way with "Grüß Gott" [conservative/southern German for "Good day"] and returned the greeting. The lady subsequently expressed

outraged that the Muslim woman was "walking around here in Germany in a headscarf"!

Source: GIZ gemeinnützige GmbH

#### 1st September 2018

A right-wing sticker was discovered on the driver's side of a car in Haselhorst: "Führerhaus - Fahrer spricht Deutsch" ["In the driver's seat (with an association evoked with the term "Führer" – Driver speaks German"] in Fraktur font [associated with National Socialism].

Source: GIZ gemeinnützige GmbH

#### 11th October 2018

A swastika was drawn in chalk on a house wall in Romy-Schneider-Straße in Haselhorst.

Source: Reported by a member of the public

standing or glorification of National Socialism or trivialisation of its crimes; this is roughly the same level as in the previous year and the incidents in question can be categorised attributed mainly as propaganda. The number of incidents directed against political opponents (mainly stickers and graffiti) rose slightly compared to 2017.

#### **Incidents in the Sub-districts**

Since 2014, the highest number of incidents were reported for the sub-district of Spandau although incident figures in the other eight sub-districts have risen slightly compared to previous years. Most incidents outside the Spandau sub-district were reported from Wilhelmstadt, followed by Haselhorst. Significantly more incidents were reported from both these sub-districts than in 2017 (50%). Most incidents in Wilhelmstadt were motivated by racism, while in Haselhorst the main focus was on right-wing grandstanding and glorification of National Socialism or trivialisation of its crimes.

#### **Positive Development**

The establishment of the Partnership for Democracy in 2017 in Spandau with a focus on "youth participation" and "groupfocused enmity" provided an important impetus for the Register Office and led to expansion of the district network, which made it possible to better reach out to the target group of young people. In addition, the exchange round on value formation for people involved in youth work, established in 2018, shows that new forms of democratic participation have been developing in the district since 2017, leading to greater awareness of exclusionary phenomena. The diversity working group founded by young adults in 2018 is a further example of increased civil society involvement to combat the right. The 2017 and 2018 Hess commemoration event, which could be prevented in Spandau together with protagonists from other districts, also provides a good example of a functioning network of democratic stakeholders with good contacts to the Spandau Register Office.



# Steglitz-Zehlendorf

Just over 300,000 people live in Steglitz-Zehlendorf. The various sub-districts could not be more different, for example in terms of their accessibility or social structure. This is also reflected in the recorded incidents and the probable level of unreported incidents in the district. Lichterfelde and Dahlem are among the sub-districts that are more highly frequented as they contain transport hubs or a large number of institutions, such as the Free University (FU). However, sub-districts in what is known as the lake area, such as Wannsee or Lankwitz, are also part of the district. The highest number of incidents was reported in the centres of the Zehlendorf and Steglitz sub-districts.



Illegally posted "Identitäre Bewegung" posters

Racist insult on stickers



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In 2018, the Steglitz-Zehlendorf Register Office documented 220 incidents in the district. That is 15 incidents fewer than in 2017, which was not an election year.

In 2018 the threefold increase in incidents involving threats/insults/abuse from 8 to 25 is striking. In addition, the number of attacks has increased slightly to a total of 9 (2017: 5). There was a fall in the number of propaganda incidents to 174 (2017:200) and in the number of public events reported, which went down from 19 to 4. Most of the incidents reported occurred in the sub-districts of Zehlendorf with 73 incidents (2017: 67) and Steglitz with 60 (2017: 90). In terms of the type of incident, incidents with a racist background predominated, including both incidents directed against people with a history of migration or refugees in general, and incidents aimed at specific groups such as Muslims or people read as being Muslim. The second most common motive was right-wing grandstanding, where the number of incidents reported fell by almost half to 77 (2017: 136). Overall, there is pronounced propaganda activity in the district, which also has a numerical impact (2018: 174 out of 220).

In order to be able to better assess the district of Steglitz-Zehlendorf in a Berlinwide comparison, it is important to bear in mind that this is not an inner-city district, the district is neither a tourist focal point nor does it have a well-developed "nightlife scene", and there are few highly frequented public transport interchanges or larger shopping areas. It should also be taken into account that the Steglitz-Zehlendorf Register Office is the most recently established Register Office in Berlin and that there are only a few networks in the district that take action, for example, against right-wing extremism or to promote a society based on solidarity.

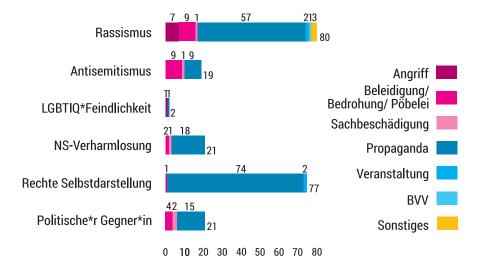
#### **Specific Traits of the District**

One particular feature compared to other districts is the strong local AfD, which has networked ties on various fronts and is divided into various wings or movements. Due to its strength as a district association, the influence of the Steglitz-Zehlendorf AfD extends not only to the level of the Federal State of Berlin, but also beyond Berlin, thanks to the Christian Wolff Bildungswerk, with which it has close ties. Individual members also have contacts to protagonists involved in a spectrum ranging from the New Right to far-right groups, such as the "Identitäre Bewegung", as well as links to circles that promote conspiracy theories. They are also in close contact with New Right media contacts, some of which they write or have written articles for in the past. Overall, there are various overlaps in terms of the people involved.

Another protagonist in the district is the "Identitäre Bewegung" ("IB"). It first appeared in 2018 in Steglitz-Zehlendorf with an information stand (incident 7.1.2018). At times, a member of the AfD and of

the "Burschenschaft Gothia" [right-wing student fraternity] also took part, which also indicates a strong interdependence of these three organisations. Especially in Steglitz-Zehlendorf, networking between AfD, "Burschenschaften" and the "Identitäre Bewegung" is very pronounced. In the past, Gothia has made premises available on several occasions and members of these organisations live together in the Gothia building.

Individuals and their activities played a major role in determining the mood in the district climate, such as MP Andreas Wild (independent for the AfD in the Berlin House of Representatives), who repeatedly attracted attention in 2018, both at city and district level. He continued the public rallies he had organised in 2017, in which he mainly spread racist content, called for people to travel together to Pegida demonstrations in Dresden or provoked people by wearing a "Nazi symbol", the blue cornflower, in the Berlin House of Representatives and by disruptive provocation in connection with an event in



#### 29th July 2018

A 37-year-old man was subjected to racist insults and throttled by a 48-year-old man in Altmarkstraße in Steglitz at around 22:35

Source: Berlin Police

#### 16th August 2018

Two stickers with the slogan "Keine Mensur ist illegal" ["No traditional fencing is illegal" i.e. as practiced by right-wing fraternities. At the same time, the sticker puns on pro-refugee stickers that state "Kein Mensch ist illegal" ("No human being is illegal")] were discovered and removed in Zehlendorf-Mitte. These stickers are distributed by the "Identitäre Bewegung Bayern". Source: hassyernichtet

#### 6th August 2018

Several swastikas were discovered at the formerly left-wing student café next to the Otto Suhr Institute at the Free University.

Source: Steglitz-Zehlendorf Register Office

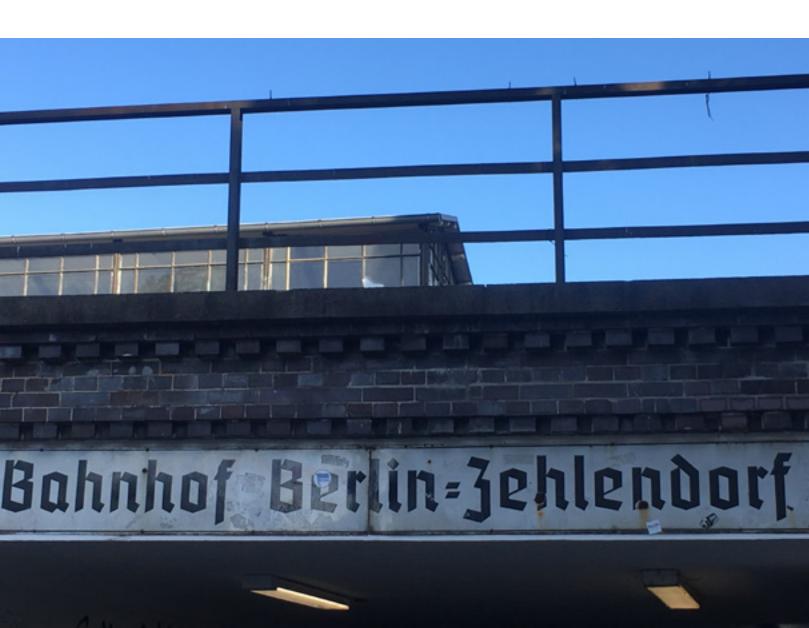
memory of the victims of the Shoah. In addition, he did not shy away from contact with right-wing circles, as in the case of the so-called "Volkslehrer" [Teacher of the People – a primary school teacher with a historically revisionist and anti-Semitic YouTube channel] incident (26.11.18). The high level of activity of the Steglitz-Zehlendorf AfD and right-wing supporters in the district was made visible by Wild's regular events and the district AfD "Stammtisch" get-togethers. A central location, which is also the office of Andreas Wild, is the "Staatsreparatur", which is used as a venue for public events. Overall, there is a strikingly large number of rooms are available for these groups in the district. The right-wing scene can use its own premises and readily finds landlords willing to rent rooms to it and therefore has an easy time.

#### **Qualitative Evaluation**

Qualitative changes in propaganda incidents should be highlighted, which are not limited to stickers but increasingly include graffiti, as well as the increase in verbal and physical violence. In addition to the rise in the number of swastikas, these incidents include mainly scribbled graffiti at public transport locations such as bus stops, as well as direct deeds such as damage to property. When analysing the graffiti in the district, it is noticeable that the abbreviation AfD was often used in addition to a slogan. This was the case in 18 incidents. It should be noted that AfD members are not necessarily responsible for these incidents, but that the term "AfD" seems to have become a rallying cry for those on the right. The increased level of graffiti also shows that in Steglitz-Zehlendorf, as elsewhere, right-wing protagonists are seeking to occupy space, which is not limited to moving into an area and using premises for events, but is above all reflected in the streetscape.

It is important to point out here that this presence in the streetscape is intended to make the activities of the right-wing milieu and its ideas appear "able to constitute the mainstream". Furthermore, it seeks to intimidate certain groups of people or make them aware that they are unwelcome here.

The number of incidents involving threats/ insults/abuses has risen sharply in Steglitz-Zehlendorf in 2018. This increase of documented threats etc. to 25 (2016:4; 2017:8) can be attributed on the one hand to greater awareness or networking of the Register Office in the district, and on the other hand shows that this Berlin-wide trend is also reflected in Steglitz-Zehlendorf. As these incidents took place mostly in everyday life and the perpetrators, as far as is known, are not known right-wing extremists, it can also be assumed that the perpetrators themselves cannot be assigned to the right or right-wing extremist spectrum, although their words and deeds can.



## What is the "New" Right?

With increasing rabble-rousing against refugees since 2015, the Sarrazin debate, the electoral successes of right-wing populist parties and the accompanying displacement of discourse to the right, there is now increasing public awareness of the concept of the "New Right".

When referring to the "New Right", it is clear that this is done in distinction to what could be termed the "Old Right". Many people still seem to be able to recognise the "Old Right" (see page 16) by means of typical codes from that milieu (such as swastikas, HH etc.) or clothing. It is more difficult to define the "New Right" because not only has its appearance changed, but also its strategies and forms of action. However, this grouping is by no means a new phenomenon. Only now, however, have "new" rightwing protagonists been able to take action, as their ideas have recently fallen on more fertile ground and new possibilities have become available to them. Especially through social networks, it is easy for them to spread content and appear as a larger group than they actually are - online "filter bubbles", financial means etc. make it possible. The movement is thus a very successful "fake giant" that becomes visible again and again through its deeds in offline life.

Although the "New" Right often does not directly refer historical National Socialism, there is a remarkably clear ideological continuum with its content. In substantive terms, these protagonists span a right-wing conservative to national spectrum. They pursue an intellectual rather than an action-focus orientation and work with a communication strategy designed to re-purpose familiar concepts (e.g. democracy, freedom of opinion, etc.). They pretend to present a supposed "new" alternative to the "mainstream", often referred to as the "Lefties and Greens". However, their concepts only appear new or modern at first glance. They are however underpinned by a profoundly regressive ideology.

The range of the movement is wide, as it has a variety of protagonists and forms of action. The "New Right" movement is a network connecting individuals, publishers and media such as newspapers and magazines with numerous "New Right" publications, and various groupings, often with overlaps in the people involved. Key figures include Götz Kubitschek and Jürgen Elsässer with his magazine "Compact". Institutions such as the "Institut für Staatspolitik" [the so-called Institute for State Politics] or the publishing house Antaios Verlag play an equally important role. The activist part of the "New Right" includes the far right, purported youth organisation "Identitäre Bewegung" (IB). It exists not only in Germany, but also in France and Austria, where it is much more activist than in Berlin.

#### **Protagonists and Activities in Berlin**

The focus of the "New Right" in Berlin is primarily on the "well-off" western part of the city, which is considered to be middle-class and conservative, namely Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf and Steglitz-Zehlendorf. Spatial entrenchment of the "New Right" has been observed there for about 20 years. As well as affording

scope to connect to conservative intellectual circles or, for some issues, people who promote conspiracy theories, the large number of rooms available has also contributed to the establishment of the "New Right" in these two districts.

For example, one central location is in Charlottenburg is: the building of the Foundation "Konservative Bildung und Forschung" [Conservative Education and Research], which houses the Bibliothek des Konservatismus Library of Conservatism (BdK). Approximately 30,000 books by "New Right" and conservative authors are available there. In addition, public events take place there regularly. This makes the BdK an important venue for public events in the district. The editorial offices of the conservative weekly newspaper "Junge Freiheit", the headquarters of the "New Right" magazine "Cato" and the "Epoch Times" are also located in the immediate vicinity. Some right-wing and conservative student fraternities in former West Berlin are also located there, including the far-right fraternity "Gothia" in Zehlendorf. Their "Gothenhaus" offers affordable accommodation and serves as a networking and event location. The spatial proximity to each other and the number of available rooms in western Berlin are a favourable starting point for strong networking and twofold membership.

In the parliaments, substantive and ideological issues are represented primarily by the AfD, which is part of the "New Right". Even if the party leadership has tried to distance itself from positions that are too extreme or to distance itself for strategic reasons, the underlying ideology remains the same. Moreover, its youth organisation, the "Junge Alternative" (Ja), maintains close links with the "Identitäre Bewegung". The activities of the "Identitäre Bewegung" have declined since the AfD moved into the Bundestag - into the public realm. However, this does not hold true for general activity of the "New Right". Overall, the rise of the "IB" and the strengthening of the "New Right" have revived and radicalised large sections of the "Burschenschaft" rightwing student fraternity] milieu. The extremely conservative values and concepts of a "conservative revolution", authoritarian tendencies and the scope to provide rooms for events as well as affordable housing for activists proved to be beneficial.

#### What Exactly Is the Problem?

The protagonists of the "New Right" suggest their ideas have scope to connect to multiple issues and contexts. They pick up on existing prejudices, (existential) fears, a sense of competition, unfulfilled wishes and existing social inequality and instrumentalise these. The effect of abridged statements is intensified on social media through the way in which "filter bubbles" function. The threat posed by the "New Right" emanates inter alia from its potential for mobilisation and radicalisation, among other things.

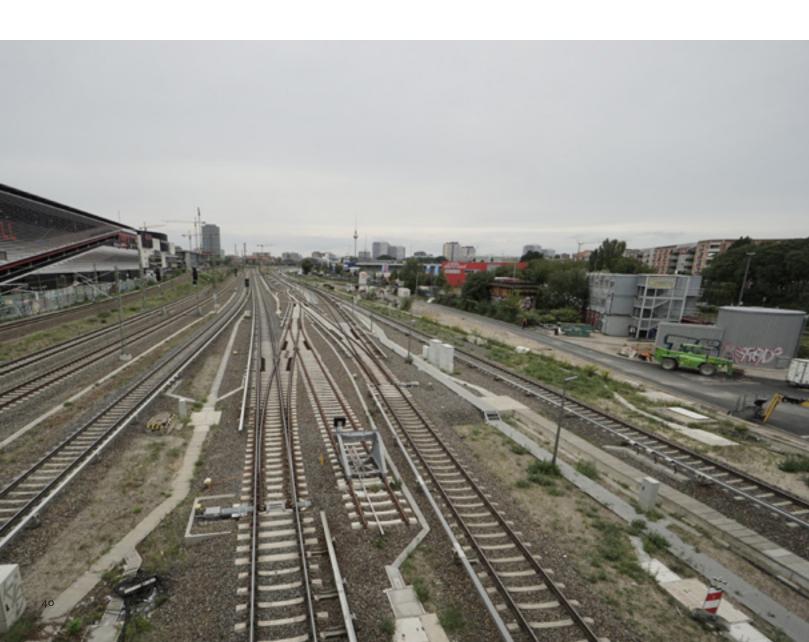
Provocative acts such as pronouncements about the "Memorial of Shame" are used in a targeted manner. Anyone who gets upset is accused of restricting freedom of expression. The "New Right"

#### Berlin

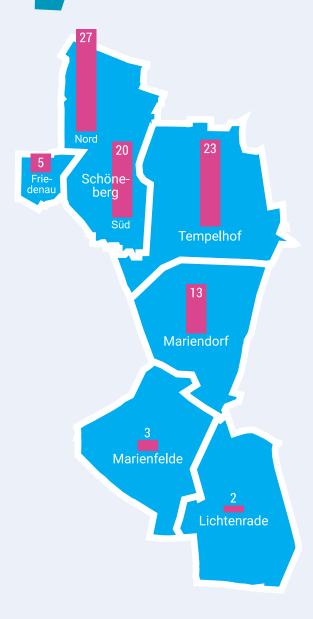
also uses newly appropriated or freshly coined terms for this purpose. For example, the term "ethnopluralism" is used instead of "racism". It is thus claimed that the unchanging cultural identity of a people must be protected from "alien" influences. This concept is part of a racist, nationalist and far-right ideology. It justifies the exclusion and devaluation of migrants. Another term is "Umvolkung" [a term in Nazi ideology used to describe a process of assimilation of members of the German people leading them to abandon their language and origins], which is used by conspiracy theorists. It presumes that the native, supposedly "autochthonous" population is being replaced by migrants, especially from Muslim countries. Conspiracy theorists claim that this replacement process is controlled by elites within society (in politics and the media). Debates on this purported "Umvolkung" generally have anti-Semitic connotations. Other terms of this kind are freedom, identity, homeland, Occident, tradition and people. They are all key concepts of democratic consensus and attempt to connect with existing ideas and conservative circles. They are deployed to shift discourse further and further to the right.

It should be noted that "New Right" protagonists are not only opposed to migration but reject liberal and democratic values in general. Furthermore, their approach is anti-emancipatory, anti-feminist and reproduces conspiracy theory. Their success in disseminating their ideas is due both to a targeted strategy of appropriating space that differs from that of "classical" neo-

Nazis and a strategy of appropriating words. The consequences are reflected in the composition of the incidents recorded by the Register Offices. Racism and enmity towards minorities in the mind give rise to acts on the streets. This leads to an increase in direct attacks such as acts of violence and threats.



## Tempelhof-Schöneberg



Tempelhof-Schöneberg is a district with almost 350,000 inhabitants. The seven subdistricts (Schöneberg-Nord, Schöneberg-Süd, Friedenau, Tempelhof, Mariendorf, Marienfelde, Lichtenrade) have very different structures. These range from the metropolitan Wittenbergplatz in Schöneberg, the gay-friendly so-called "rainbow district" around Nollendorfplatz and the urban villas in Friedenau to village-like structures with the old village ensemble in Marienfelde and high-rise housing estates on the outskirts of town in Lichtenrade. The degree of networking and options for recording incidents vary greatly as a function of these different contexts, which also holds true for the numbers of reports from the various sub-districts.

Extremely right-wing election proposition

Sticker against the European Migration Pact



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In the Tempelhof-Schöneberg district, the Register Office recorded a total of 93 incidents in 2018. That means seven fewer reports than during the previous year. Compared to Berlin-wide incident levels, Tempelhof-Schöneberg has few documented incidents, despite politically engaged neighbourhoods and various contact points.

More than half of the incidents reported occurred in the Schöneberg sub-district (Schöneberg-North: 27; Schöneberg-South: 20), followed by Tempelhof (23). Compared with the previous year, the number of incidents in these sub-districts have increased. A significant decrease was recorded in Friedenau (2017:22; 2018:5). In Marienfelde and Lichtenrade the number remained at a low level with a total of five incidents reported. The necessary network structures are not yet sufficiently developed here, so that it can be assumed that a high number of incidents are still unreported.

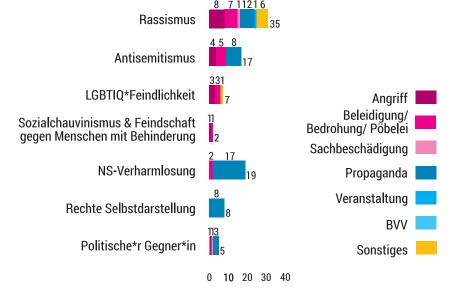
### Racism and NS Glorification Are the Main Motive

Glorification of the National Socialist regime was one of the main motives (19). In this context, propaganda was the principal form of incident reported, often in the form of swastikas and graffiti with a positive NS reference. A second main motive was racism (19). If incidents motivated by anti-Muslim prejudice (8) or antiziganism (7) are added, incidents motivated by racism constitute the principal category, as in the Berlin-wide comparison (34). People were insulted, hit and bullied because of the colour of their skin or due to the religion or origins attributed to them. Racist slogans were written on letterboxes, at bus stops and in other public places and posters and stickers with racist content were disseminated in the district.

More incidents with anti-Semitism as a motive were reported than in previous years (2016:11; 2017:14; 2018:18). These

included four attacks and five threats. Since the middle of the year, an Israeli restaurant in Schöneberg has received increasing numbers of hate mails containing denials of the Shoah, glorifications of National Socialism and threats of destruction. One e-mail contained the following threat: "People like you will be the first to be in danger". Several anti-Semitic incidents had already occurred around the restaurant in December 2017, after an incident that occurred in front of the restaurant had attracted broad public attention. One of the attacks was perpetrated by a person who had attracted attention by displaying posters with various anti-Semitic assertions and conspiracy myths at various locations in Berlin throughout the year. Five of the eight reported anti-Semitic propaganda incidents in the district are also related to this person, who likes to display these signs in public places, especially during demonstrations.

Fewer incidents were reported and researched in the areas of right-wing grandstanding (2017:21; 2018:8) and anti-LGBTIQ\* prejudice (2017:16; 2018:7). In particular, fewer anti-LGBTIQ\* attacks and insults were recorded; as there may be various reasons for this, e.g. the withdrawal of people who might potentially be affected from public space, the lower figure does not necessarily indicate an actual decrease.



#### **Propaganda Incidents Most Frequent**

As in previous years, the vast majority of the incidents registered in 2018 were propaganda incidents (48). The most frequently documented type of incident in this category was glorification of the National Socialist regime (17), which occurred mainly in the form of graffitied swastikas. However, other symbols and slogans such

#### 13th August 2018

In Tempelhof, a Black woman was continually harassed, pressured and insulted by her neighbours for several months. This included receiving letters with racist content and food being thrown at her window panes. In addition, one of her children was approached by a neighbour and asked "why she and her mother do not go back to where they came from". Source: Tempelhof-Schöneberg Register Office

#### **21st August 2018**

A 30-year-old woman travelling with her mother and sister on a train on the underground line 6 was shouted at around 10:00 by a 65-year-old man out of racist motivation and hit on the head with a branch. Other passengers intervened and pushed the perpetrator off the train at the Ullsteinstraße underground station. A 54-year-old witness filed charges and was later able to identify the perpetrator.

Source: Berlin Police



as "88", "Nazi neighbourhood" or "Nazis vote" were also discovered in the district. In Friedenau these far-right slogans appeared throughout the year in connection with agitation against political opponents. A total of four such graffiti were discovered there in the same streets. This may not seem so relevant at first glance, but these symbols and graffiti glorifying the National Socialist regime are used with deliberate intent, serve to appropriate space and help shape the streetscape. Right-wing grandstanding was also part of the propaganda in the district (8), as were anti-Semitism (8), anti-Muslim racism (7) and racism (5).

#### **Number of Attacks Roughly Constant**

Incidents involving threats, insults and abuse decreased slightly in 2018 compared to the previous year (2017:21; 2018:18). The predominant motives for these incidents were racism (7) and anti-Semitism (5).

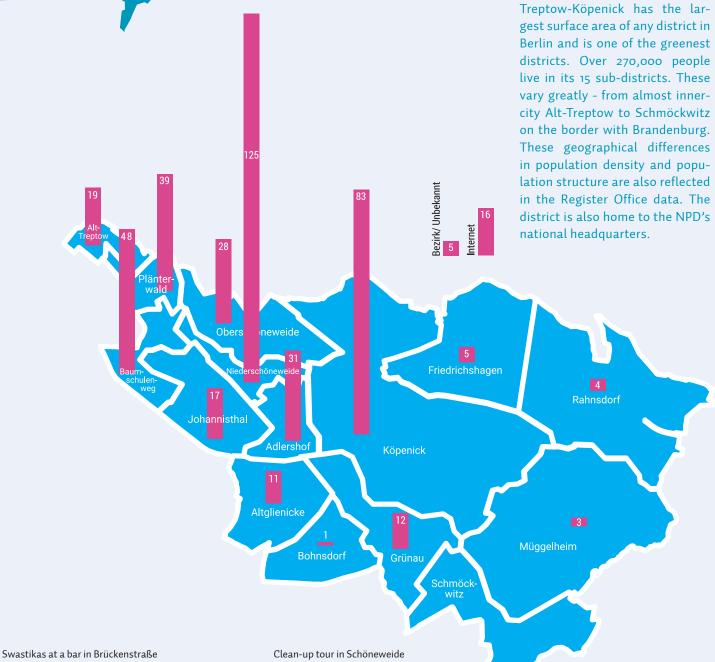
The number of documented attacks remained roughly constant (2017:18; 2018:17). In eight cases the victims were attacked due to racist motivations. The attacks took

place in public places and streets as well as on public transport. In three cases people were attacked by members of groups.

In one case, violence was directed against three homeless men who were kicked and hit. In another case, a young man was attacked after asking another man about the right-wing symbolism of his tattoo.

Seven incidents were categorised under "Other". These include five incidents of antiziganistic discrimination by the public authorities, one case of anti-LGBTIQ\* discrimination, and expressions of anti-Semitic conspiracy myths by a taxi driver.

## Treptow-Köpenick





#### Kontakt: Register Treptow-Köpenick

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In 2018, 447 incidents were documented (2017: 310), which represents an increase of approximately 44% over the previous year. With the exception of the drop in the number of incidents in 2017, the trend observed in previous years continued, with increasing numbers of incidents.

The increase is particularly pronounced in the case of incidents involving insults/ threats/abuse (+206%). They rose from 18 incidents in the previous year to 55 in 2018, reaching a new record high since being documented by the district's Register Office. The number of attacks and persistent campaigns of intimidating threats have also increased by 8 incidents to a total of 30, the highest level in 2016. It has become clear that the overall number of violent assaults, whether physical or verbal, continues to increase. Half of these incidents were motivated by racism in 2018.

In the field of propaganda, a shift towards racist propaganda is particularly evident. Propaganda incidents have risen overall (+45%), but especially those motivated by racism (+220%). In 2018, propaganda served less for political grandstanding and thus

for advertising, but was directed more in a discriminatory manner against the people it intended to exclude, seeking to make this intended exclusion clear to them. Racist content is again being used increasingly by far-right organisations and parties. It can be assumed that this content will be considered to have greater scope to connect to multiple issues and contexts than was the case a few years ago and that these farright organisations and parties will seek a rapprochement with racists who are not yet organised within political structures.

In 2018 Niederschöneweide is again the subdistrict with the highest number of reported incidents (125). It can still be assumed that (formerly) politically organised neo-Nazis living there are responsible for a large proportion of the incidents. This massive increase (+ 184%) in incidents shows that increasing social engaged with racist issues has the potential to reactivate right-wing structures that had already been rolled back.

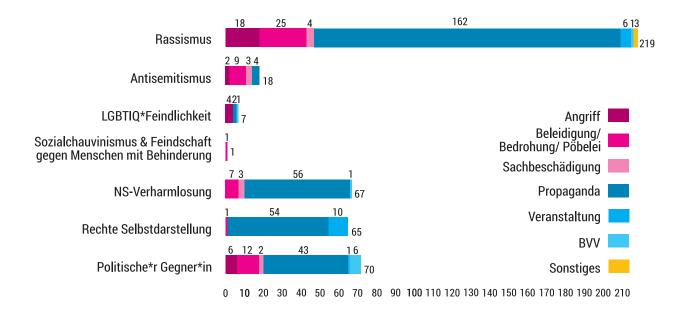
Meanwhile, high numbers of incidents involving racism have been documented, although there have not been racist protests against refugee accommodation centres. The increase in racist attacks in 2016 could

still be attributed to these protests and their impact, but such events did not take place in 2018. There are grounds to fear that the increasing racist debates in society will continue to have an effect on peaceful coexistence within society and that racism is likely to be expressed with increasing violence.

At the same time, several incidents were documented in 2018 in which people courageously intervened and stood by the people affected. The (extreme) right-wing has struck back against this civil courage and renewed commitment to a tolerant and open society. Nevertheless, only a strong and active civil society can counter the shift to the right and thus halt the current developments.

#### In-depth Analysis: Niederschöneweide

In 2018 there was a sharp increase (+ 184%; 2017: 44) in the number of incidents in Niederschöneweide, which rose to 132. With this new record high number of incidents, the small sub-district, where only 4.5% of Treptow-Köpenick's inhabitants live, even surpasses entire districts in other parts of Berlin and in 2018 will account for about 30% of all incidents in the district.



#### 11th January 2018

At the bus station at Schöneweide a cyclist was shoved by a man so that she fell onto the tram tracks. When the cyclist got up, he punched her in the face and called her "fucking lefty scum".

Source: Zentrum für Demokratie

#### 16 July 2018

Three men loitered at night on the tram tracks and the construction site on the Sterndamm by Schöneweide S-Bahn/suburban railway station. There they

shouted for about 10 minutes "Germany for the Germans, out with the foreigners out" and several times "gas and kill all the Jews". When two People of Colour walked past them on the pavement, they immediately threw stones and bottles from the construction site at them. The victims fled towards the forecourt area outside Schöneweide station. Later, the two men, on a destructive rampage and shouting anti-Semitic and far-right slogans, continued towards Michael-Brückner-Str. and later turned into Spreestr.

Source: Berlin Register Office

#### **30th July 2018**

Approximately 40 neo-Nazi graffiti were discovered on the route from S-Bahn station Schöneweide along Kaisersteg to Wilhelminenhofstr. These were mainly the inscription "NSDAP" (25 times) and "White Power" [in English], but also "Anti-Antifa" and "Good Night left Side" [in English].

Source: Zentrum für Demokratie

This sub-district has always had a special status within Treptow-Köpenick because of its history. The development of Brückenstraße as a focal point of neo-Nazi infrastructure with several pubs/shops and the nationwide influx of neo-Nazis from 2009 to 2014 led to an increase in the number of incidents. This was also accompanied by growing awareness among civil society. As a result, the number of incidents reported has been very high for years and the structure of individuals/groups reporting incidents has remained stable. When looking at Niederschöneweide, the high number of incidents involving threats/insults/violence (22 out of 55) is striking. In addition, there were four attacks. Half of these attacks or incidents involving threats and insults occurred at the Schöneweide S-Bahn suburban train station. A cluster of attacks at transport hubs is not unusual, as many people come together there. However, this kind of large number of acts of violence did not occur at any other station in the district. The motives for attacks in Niederschöneweide reflect the general trend in the district. There has consequently also been a pronounced increase in incidents involving racism here. In contrast to other sub-districts, however, the percentage of attacks directed at political opponents is higher.

The number of propaganda-related incidents (98) is very high for such a small district. In most cases these involved stickers (also in larger quantities). With a general shift in propaganda content towards racism, it above all sends a message to those affected that they are not wanted in the district. In addition, racism is thus transported into everyday perception (especially when such large quantities of propaganda are involved) and is gradually normalised. The composition of the propaganda reveals a high proportion of organised structures. Neo-Nazi organisations (approx. 37%) predominate strongly, outnumbering groups that can be classified as belonging to the New Right (15%). Some stickers, but especially graffiti, do not offer scope to determine the underlying organisational contexts, but most of the content had Nazi connotations (32%), indicating an ideological proximity to neo-Nazism. The rest had racist content. This composition indicates that in the district there is an increasing amount of propaganda on the streets by neo-Nazis and politically organised racists. People were directly affected in 30 of the incidents reported in Niederschöneweide. In contrast to the institutions and parties concerned, the incidents involving people and businesses affected by racism are sometimes associated with high financial losses and/or with massive potential for threats. For example, a pram belonging to a Black person was repeatedly soiled and rendered unusable in the building where they lived. In addition to the financial damage caused, these incidents are also accompanied by persistent campaigns of intimidating threats that impinge on the private lives of those affected. Among the affected tradesmen, the Vietnamese fruit and vegetable stand at the Schöneweide S-Bahn station was particularly targeted. At least 7 times the person running the stand had to remove stickers and graffiti from it. The frequency of these incidents indicates that this is not a random target. The person running a shisha bar in Brückenstraße was hardest hit. The bar suffered enormous damages in the night after the opening.

### In-depth Analysis: Assaults and Civil

In 2018, the number of attacks increased by 8 incidents to a total of 30. However, more incidents were documented in 2018 where people courageously intervened and thus potentially contributed to preventing an attack. However, the increase is particularly pronounced for incidents involving insults/ threats/abuses (approx. 206% rise). These rose from 18 incidents in the previous year to 55 in 2018, reaching a new peak for the period since the district's Register Office began recording incidents. In summary, there were 85 incidents (attacks and incidents involving insults/threats/abuse) in the district. The development is very similar throughout Berlin. The number of attacks rose slightly (2017: 267; 2018: 309), but there was a marked rise in the number of incidents involving insults, threats and abuse (2017: 459; 2018: 898). This reveals that the development observed in the district is embedded in a Berlin-wide development.

In the district, 61 of the documented assaults took place in a public environment, such as on the street, while shopping, in restaurants/snack bars or on public transport. The number of incidents increased in particular during the summer months, when many people spend time outside. These are above all the settings in which moral courage was shown. When discriminatory or far-right acts are committed in public, the perpetrators thus reveal their hate-filled attitudes. That is also the case irrespective of whether incidents involve directly addressing people affected. Furthermore, if such public statements remain unchallenged, a climate of acceptance is created that can lead to further discriminatory acts or even

In 18 incidents (6 attacks, 12 insults/threats/bullying) it was reported that people showed moral courage. In almost all cases passers-by intervened. In doing so, they displayed three forms of moral courage: they showed solidarity with those affected (5), they contradicted discriminatory and/or far-right statements (10) or they called the police (3). It is difficult to say whether this succeeded in preventing attacks, as the intention of the perpetrators is not clear. However, in five attacks the perpetrators stopped harassing the people affected after passers-by intervened and fled.

Civil courage remains the only way to stand by the people concerned in specific situations. Civil courage helps to prevent worse incidents from occurring and helps to counteract normalisation of hate-filled attacks. Given current developments in incidents, it will remain an important part of societal engagement in future and should be further promoted, for example through training courses.

#### 3rd August 2018

At the corner of Britzer Str./ Fennstr. about 20 NPD anti-Muslim stickers were discovered and removed. Source: Zentrum für Demokratie

#### 10th August 2018

Graffiti with the letters "IB" (Identitäre Bewegung) and the party's symbols were daubed twice on the fruit stand in the Schöneweide suburban railway (S-Bahn) station.

Source: Zentrum für Demokratie

#### 1st October 2018

A Black person was not served at Rossmann in the Zentrum Schöneweide shopping centre. She was not served until she had let all the white customers go ahead of her and was the only one left at the cash desk.

Source: Treptow-Köpenick Register Office

# Advisory & Documentation Centres in Berlin

#### Antidiskriminierungsnetzwerk Berlin /Anti-discrimination Network Berlin (ADNB)

The ADNB is a non-governmental and independent counselling centre primarily for people living in Berlin who have experienced racist and related discrimination. More information is available (in English) at: https://www.adnb.de/en/

## Antifaschistisches Pressearchiv und Bildungszentrum Berlin e.V /Antifascist Press Archive and Education Centre Berlin e.V. (Apabiz)

apabiz runs an archive and offers events and workshops around topics related to the far right. More information is available (in German) at www.apabiz.de.

#### Dokumentationsstelle Antiziganismus (DOSTA) / Documentation Centre Antiziganism

AmaroForo documents incidents motivated by antiziganism in Berlin. More information about the documentation project (in German) can be found here: http://amaroforo.de/antidiskriminierungsarbeit.

#### Dokumentation und Beratung bei Anti-Schwarzem Rassismus / Documentation and Advice on Anti-Black Racism

People affected by anti-black racism can contact the anti-discrimination counselling service at Each One Teach One e.V. EOTO and the Initiative Schwarzer Menschen in Deutschland document incidents of anti-Black racism. (Information is available in several languages (via a translation button marked "Sprachen" on the website) www.eoto-archiv.de/antidiskriminierungsberatung/

### Kampagne für Opfer rassistischer Polizeigewalt (KOP) /Campaign for Victims of Racist Police Violence (KOP) (Website available in German)

www.kop-berlin.de

## Kontakt- und Beratungsstelle für Flüchtlinge und Migrant\_innen e.V. (KUB) /Contact and Advice Centre for Refugees and Migrants (KUB) (Website available in German)

www.kub-berlin.de

## Mobile Beratung gegen Rechtsextremismus in Berlin (MBR) / Mobile Counselling against Right-wing Extremism in Berlin (MBR)

The MBR offers counselling and support to all people who are committed to a human rights-oriented and democratic everyday culture in Berlin. (Website also available in English) www.mbr-berlin.de

## Reachout - Opferberatung und Bildung gegen Rechtsextremismus, Rassismus und Antisemitismus / Reachout - victim counselling and education against right-wing extremism, racism and anti-Semitism ReachOut advises victims, relatives and witnesses of racist, right-wing and anti-Semitic violence. (Some website information also available in English) www.reachoutberlin.de

## Recherche und Informationsstelle Antisemitismus Berlin (RIAS) / Research and Information Centre Anti-Semitism Berlin (RIAS)

RIAS documents anti-Semitic incidents in Berlin, which can be reported via www.report-antisemitism.de. (also in English)

## OPRA - Psychologische Beratung für Betroffene rechter, rassistischer und antisemitischer Gewalt / Psychological Counselling for People Affected by Right-wing, Racist and Anti-Semitic Violence (Website in German) www.opra-gewalt.de/

#### Verband der Beratungsstellen für Betroffene rechter, rassistischer und antisemitischer Gewalt e.V. (VBRG) / Association of Counselling Centres for Victims of Right-wing, Racist and Anti-Semitic Violence (VBRG)

On the website you can find guides for affected persons and their relatives in various languages as PDF files. www.verband-brg.de/material/#publikationen

Mobiles Beratungsteam Berlin für Demokratieentwicklung / Mobile Advisory Team Berlin for Democracy Development (Website in German) www.mbt-berlin.de/mbt

