

# **Annual Report 2019**

# **Berlin Register**

*Recording Far-right and Discriminatory Incidents in Berlin*





# Imprint

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Layout: Michael Mallé  
Print run: 1,500  
Status: Summer 2020  
Photos: Berlin Register

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Supported by the Berlin Senate Department for Justice, Consumer Protection and Anti-Discrimination's programme "Democracy. Diversity. Respect. Against Right-Wing Extremism, Racism and Anti-Semitism".



Senatsverwaltung  
für Justiz, Verbraucherschutz  
und Antidiskriminierung

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# Conceptual Categories:

- Racism with the three sub-categories
  - Antiziganism (e.g. enmity against Roma/Romnja and Sinti/Sintizze)
  - 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)

## Introduction

This is the second edition of the annual report from all Berlin Register Offices. Data from all districts have been included in the evaluation since 2016. In 2019, 3,277 incidents have been documented – motivated by racism, anti-Semitism, antiziganism, far-right attitudes, anti-Muslim prejudice, anti-LGBTIQ\* prejudice, incidents that trivialise the crimes of the National Socialist regime, are directed against people with disabilities or express socially chauvinism. The figures have fallen slightly compared to the previous year, yet the threat faced by people affected by racism, anti-Semitism or anti-LGBTIQ attitudes has nevertheless worsened, for right-wing terrorism is more present than ever before. In 2019 Walter Lübcke's assassination and the Yom Kippur attack on the Halle synagogue have made clear that right-wing terror was by no means buried with the NSU.

The right-wing terrorist attack on a shisha bar in Hanau in early 2020, so-called enemy lists kept by neo-Nazis, suspected far-right networks in the police and the German armed forces, the Bundeswehr, and attacks on homes and shops in the northern part of Neukölln demonstrate the threatening situation that remains for people with a migrant background and political opponents of the far-right. A message is being sent out to those tar-

ted that they may be the next to experience violence. The brutal tone of debate over the last few years has been transposed from the social media into everyday life. The Berlin Register Offices therefore document not only the violent tip of the iceberg, but also incidents which, over and above this, describe a climate in which people with various characteristics are treated with hostility and humiliated.

This booklet contains articles on all Berlin's districts, on city-wide trends and texts from cooperation partners of the Register Offices that have established topic-specific documentation centres for Berlin. Depressing as the individual incidents are, they reveal only a fraction of what happens to people in everyday life in a diverse and open city like Berlin.

We hope to ensure that the perspectives of those affected are more present in public discourse thanks to the second edition of our annual report.

The Berlin Register Offices, Summer 2020

## Types of incidents:

- Propaganda (e.g. stickers and graffiti)
- Public events
- Attacks (e.g. bodily injury, 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)
- Structural disadvantage (e.g. discrimination by public authorities and refusal to provide services)
- Other

# Berlin in 2019

## Lower Overall Figures – Higher Risks for Potentially Affected People

The current year, 2020, began with dramatic events. The racist terrorist attack in Hanau, as well as the coronavirus pandemic with the related societal developments seem to make 2019 recede into the distant past. Are the assessments we made in 2019 still relevant today? What can be said about 2019 that will not immediately be overshadowed by the events unfolding in 2020? The Register Offices are nonetheless, look back, because in order to understand and assess the present, it is well worth reviewing the past year. Analysing the data on racism in everyday life, anti-Semitism, anti-LGBTIQ\* attitudes, social chauvinism, trivialisation of National Socialism's crimes and the activities of the far-right in Berlin serve to heighten awareness of right-wing terrorist threats and their precursors. This article will provide an overview of the main city-wide developments based on data from all the Berlin Register Offices.

The 2019 Comparative Assessment for Berlin includes **data from all 12 Berlin districts**, with an evaluation of a total **3,277 incidents** (2018: 3,405) recorded by the Register Offices, the victim advisory service ReachOut and other cooperation partners by the end of February 2020. On average, 9 incidents per day were recorded, similar to 2018 figures. Mitte remains the district in which the highest number of incidents was documented: 645 incidents in 2019 (2018: 495). With 95 incidents (2018: 78), Spandau remains the district with the lowest number of recorded incidents. 50 % of all incidents (1595) are cases of propaganda. This includes stickers, sprayed slogans, swastikas or posters. In substantive terms, most of the reported incidents could be classified within the categories of racism (1,337 incidents, 42%) and anti-Semitism (598 incidents, 18%).

At first glance, the data for 2019 seem unspectacular because there are few obvious differences to 2018. The total number of incidents, quantitative distribution by districts, the main motives and the distribution of incident types are similar to those in the previous year. There have nevertheless been some changes. Major developments compared to 2018 are:

1. A decline in the number of anti-Semitic incidents and a simultaneous increase in the threat levels for Jewish people
2. Doubling of anti-LGBTIQ\* incidents
3. 28% increase in racist attacks
4. Higher number of demonstrations, but with fewer participants than in the previous year
5. An increase in reports from new cooperation partners concerning discrimination by public authorities and institutions.

<sup>1</sup> In die Zählung rassistischer Vorfälle gehen auch antimuslimische, antiziganistische und Anti-Schwarze Vorfälle ein.



These developments are presented in greater detail below.

### Fewer Anti-Semitic Incidents and Simultaneous Increased Risk for Jews

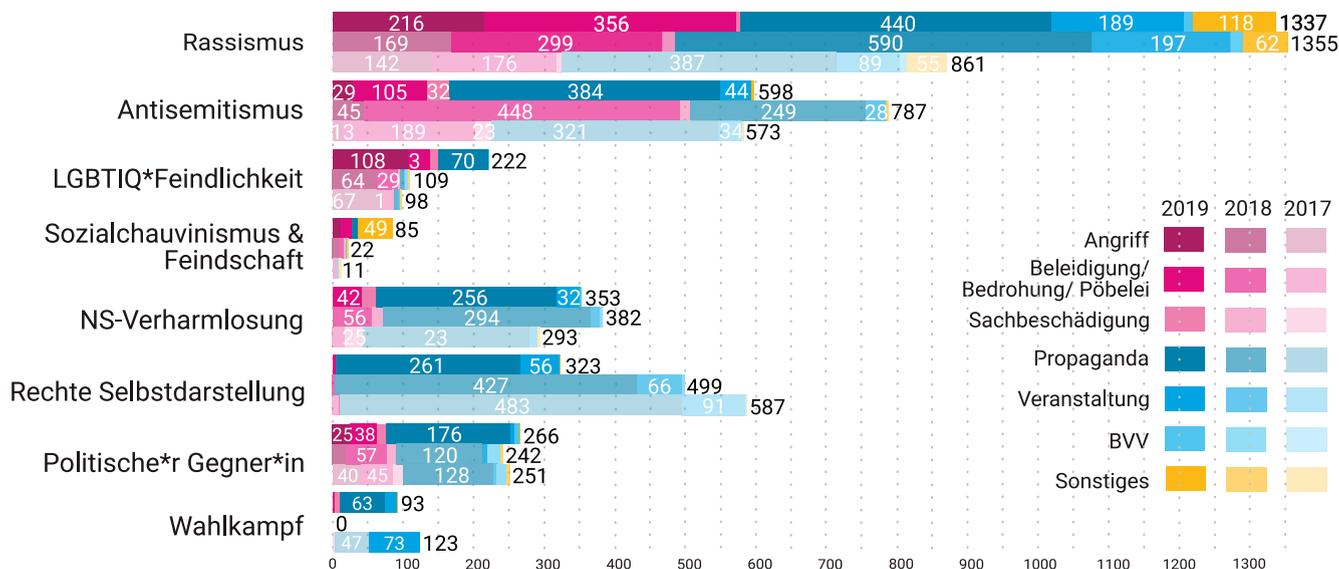
Our records show that the oft-cited phenomenon of anti-Semitism even in the absence of Jews continues to exist, for example in the form of conspiracy theories circulating online. However, the distribution of anti-Semitic incidents in the city makes it clear that Jews are more likely to be attacked where they are visible. Of the 598 documented incidents, 320 occurred on the Internet (2018: 443). Israeli and Jewish institutions, associations and individuals, or those perceived as Jewish, received about 120 times fewer insults and threats by e-mail or in online comments in 2019 than the year before. 80 anti-Semitic incidents were recorded in Mitte (Mitte, Wedding and Tiergarten), 61 in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf and 41 in Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg. The total number of anti-Semitic incidents in Berlin has fallen (2018: 787; 2019: 598), which does not mean that the threat level for Jews has changed. Although anti-Semitic violence has decreased (2018: 45; 2019: 29), it is still present in the public sphere, which people quite understandably find frightening. The attack on the synagogue in Halle on 9th October 2019 has once again shown all Jews living in Germany that they could become the target of deadly terrorist attacks at any time.

In 2019, attacks in Berlin with anti-Semitic motives occurred on public transport, in people's own cars, at school, at home, near Jewish institutions or in the street because those attacked were wearing a kippah, speaking Hebrew or were perceived as Jewish for other reasons. The decreased level of violence is linked to

the break-up of the "Jugendwiderstand" [Youth Resistance – a Berlin-based Maoist, Stalinist and nationalist militant group] and the detention of Usama Z. in an institution. This group and individual had been on the radar for anti-Semitic violence on multiple occasions in the past two years. Examples demonstrate the everyday situations in which people encountered anti-Semitic violence in 2019. In January, a neighbour kicked the door of a Jewish woman's flat several times in Wedding and insulted her anti-Semitically. In mid-April, a 23-year-old man was beaten and injured by members of a group of 10 people in a park in Steglitz on anti-Semitic grounds. At the beginning of July on the city motorway in Schöneberg, a recognisably Jewish motorist was spat at, insulted and forced to slow down by the car in front braking. Shortly before Christmas in Marienfelde, a 14-year-old boy was tied up, choked and subjected to anti-Semitic insults by his schoolmates during physical education lessons.

Five days after a man with a knife in his hand had been stopped by security officers and police outside the New Synagogue on Oranienburger Strasse on 4th October, there was an anti-Semitic and racist terrorist attack on Yom Kippur on the synagogue in Halle and a kebab restaurant. The people in the synagogue escaped uninjured, but the act clearly targeted all Jewish people. A decrease in the total number of anti-Semitic incidents should not be taken as a sign that the all-clear has sounded, as the spread of anti-Semitic ideologies in public debates, the extent of the cultural match between anti-Semitism and society and the self-confident public actions of those who use violence to express their anti-Semitic views are sufficient cause for concern.

# 2019: 3277 Vorfälle in Berlin 2018: 3405 Vorfälle in Berlin 2017: 2800 Vorfälle in Berlin



\*Im Jahr 2017 wurden 5 Vorfälle dem Motiv "Sonstiges" zugeordnet, 2018 waren es 9, 2019 wurde diese inhaltliche Kategorie abgeschafft. Unter der Kategorie Rassismus werden auch antiziganistische, antimuslimische und gegen Schwarze Menschen gerichtete Vorfälle dokumentiert.

## Twice as Many Anti-LGBTIQ\* Incidents

While the number of anti-LGBTIQ\* incidents was around 100 per year from 2016 to 2018, that figure doubled to 222 in 2019. In the past this thematic area stood out because 60 to 75% of the incidents were physical attacks and 15 to 25% were insults and threats. The proportion of violent incidents is lower in all other thematic areas. Hardly any propaganda incidents or anti-LGBTIQ\* events were recorded in 2019. It was also noticeable that gay men were involved in the majority of incidents. Attacks on lesbians and trans people were rarely reported. They accounted for about 10% of all documented attacks. Figures from the Berlin police constituted the main source of data on anti-LGBTIQ\* incidents. The data for 2019 differ from those of previous years in that the total number of incidents has doubled. 70 propaganda incidents contributed to the increase - in 2016 to 2018 there were only 6 to 7 per year. In many cases, these involved the “gays become extinct” graffiti, sprayed in all Berlin districts except Reinickendorf and Spandau in visible locations and often over large areas of several metres. A suburban railway (S-Bahn) train on the Ringbahn (Circle) line was also sprayed with this slogan. A low-level increase in the number of cases involving damage to property can also be identified (2018: 3; 2019: 12). Many of these cases involved damage to the memorial in Tiergarten to homosexuals murdered under National Socialism or to plaques commemorating the gay liberation movement in Moabit. While the number of insults and threats has remained at the same level, i.e. around 30, propaganda cases and attacks increased massively in 2019 (2018: 64; 2019: 108). The documented attacks were mainly directed at lesbian couples and trans men, with an increasing number of cases compared to previous years. There may be various causes for this increase, such as changes in the reporting behaviour of those affected or pubs and bars for trans people opening in the nightlife districts of the city. For example, 19 anti-LGBTIQ attacks were recorded in northern Neukölln alone (2018: 15), 20 in Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg (2018: 13) and 29 in Mitte (2018: 20). The most significant increase in case numbers was recorded in Schöneberg-North. 16 anti-LGBTIQ attacks were documented there (2018: 3). They were directed against bar-goers who were attacked on their way home at night and against trans people who were working as sex workers in Schöneberg-North. Social workers in the association TransInterQueer e.V. helped those attacked to file charges with the police. The increased number of attacks reported reveals to what extent developing trust-based relationships with affected communities can have an impact in shedding light on (previously) unrecorded cases.

## 28% Increase in Racist Attacks

Racist incidents account for approximately 40% of the total number of Berlin-wide documentation by the Registries. This proportion and the total figure have hardly changed compared to 2018. However, changes in the types of incidents indicate that the threat to people affected by racism has become even more

Bezirk	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Charlottenb.-Wilmerd.	105	182	229	246	280	241
Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg	80	89	134	171	241	267
Lichtenberg	105	234	338	268	209	258
Marzahn-Hellersdorf	84	295	354	187	182	154
Mitte	79	190	283	344	495	645
Neukölln	126	133	265	269	360	204
Pankow	167	242	229	230	234	236
Reinickendorf	-	29	68	107	114	107
Spandau	18	39	50	69	78	95
Steglitz-Zehlendorf	-	-	247	236	220	180
Tempelhof-Schöneberg	35	82	119	100	93	126
Treptow-Köpenick	227	305	360	310	447	324
Berlinweit	-	-	160	264	452	440
<b>Summe</b>	<b>1026</b>	<b>1820</b>	<b>2837</b>	<b>2800</b>	<b>3405</b>	<b>3277</b>

Gesamtzahl der Vorfälle in den Bezirken im Jahresvergleich 2014-2019

acute. The number of racist propaganda incidents has decreased by 150 (2018: 590; 2019: 440). As the total number of propaganda incidents within Berlin has not changed significantly, this merely indicates that organised rights groups paid more attention to issues other than racism compared with previous years. Figures have increased in the categories that reflect aggressive acts, i.e. attacks or insults and threats. The number of attacks increased by 28% (2018: 169; 2019: 216) and the number of insults and threats by 19% (2018: 299; 2019: 356). In the category of racist acts of violence, there has been an increase in such acts directed against Muslims (+18) and against Black people (+29). The higher figures for these two groups can be partly explained by the closer cooperation with the counselling centres Inssan and EOTO. Both counselling projects present their work in their own articles in this publication. Targeted promotion of monitoring by the Federal State of Berlin of antiziganistic, anti-Muslim racist and anti-Black incidents, means people affected are encouraged to report their experiences to the counselling centres so that these experiences can increasingly be reflected in the Registers' documentation. People with racist experiences are much more reluctant to report incidents to the police than other affected groups. There are various reasons for this. Some people have had experience of being declared perpetrators themselves or not being taken seriously. Others have experienced torture by police officers in another country. There are also cases in Germany of people not surviving detention. The “Death in Custody” campaign has been addressing such cases since 2019. Against this background, independent, community-based counselling opportunities are particularly important for these victims. That offers them the safe context they need to describe their experiences and receive support to assert their rights. Cooperation between the counselling centres and the Registers adds further detail to the overall detailed depiction of discrimination in everyday life in Berlin.

## More Demonstrations Than Last Year but Fewer Participants

With 346 incidents (2018: 317), the cases recorded account for 10% of the total figure. While racist incidents continue to represent the majority of cases (2019: 189.55 %), the higher figure is due to an increase in anti-Semitic incidents and incidents trivialising National Socialism's crimes. About half of all incidents (2019: 164; 2018: 142) occurred in the Mitte district. All but 50 of the events in this district were motivated by racism. It was observed that

although the number of events held in Mitte did not decrease, the number of participants did. There were hardly any large-scale far-right demonstrations of any kind due to a lack of participants. Most of these events in question are weekly rallies in the government district with a handful of participants.

Specific local circumstances emerge in particular sub-districts. In areas where the NPD is active, so-called “protection zone” patrols were carried out in the style of vigilante groups, with two to five far-righters walking through a sub-district and later claiming to have prevented crimes as a result. These patrols were more frequent in Lichtenberg, Köpenick, Neukölln (Rudow), Pankow and Marzahn.

In Steglitz-Zehlendorf, a parliamentarian, who was expelled from the AfD parliamentary group in the Berlin House of Representatives in 2017, was very active in organising events. He calls his outreach office “Staatsreparatur” [State Repair] and in 2019 organised several rallies and other events that play an important part in enhancing the cohesion of right-wing protagonists at the local level. In Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, several events organised by the so-called New Right took place in the “Bibliothek des Konservatismus” [Library of Conservatism]. The conspiracy ideological group “Blauer Himmel” [Blue Sky] also met in the district. In addition to the New Right and conspiracy-ideological groups, the City-West sub-district was also used as a “venue” by other anti-Semitic protagonists.

### More Reports of Discrimination by Public Authorities and Institutions

People who were treated unfavourably because of their disability or their (presumed) origins turned to various Berlin counselling centres that provide advice on discrimination. In 2019, some of these counselling centres reported cases from their counselling services to the Register Offices in anonymised form. These were cases in which people were denied access to social or medical services, were treated worse than their classmates in schools and vocational training courses, or were dismissed from their jobs because of racist acts by colleagues or superiors in the workplace, as well as controls on public transport or in supermarkets in which the persons concerned were accused of criminal acts. To date, these incidents have been included in the category “other” because only a few were reported to the Registers. In 2014, for example, only 15 incidents were recorded in this category. In 2018 the number was 75, and 174 incidents were recorded in 2019. This now significant increase is due to reports from the anti-discrimination advisory services. 118 of these “other” incidents had a racist background. In 42 cases, people with disabilities were subject to discrimination. They have often already suffered a great deal before reporting incidents, given that those affected have to contact a counselling centre, make an appointment and possibly overcome language barriers, and that the result may be legal action. People affected are under pressure to remain silent because they do not want to lose their job, their place on a training scheme or their home, or because they are dependent on medical treatment or social services. Reporting discrimination and taking action against it requires courage and strength from those affected. It is fair to assume that many cases in this area go unreported. Due to the increased number of incidents, the Berlin Register Offices will establish a new category for these incidents.

### Conclusion

Incidents in 2019 show indicate that people affected by racism, anti-Semitism and anti-LGBTIQ\* attitudes face increased threats. The tendency identified in 2018, whereby words become deeds, continued in 2019. The far-right’s ability to connect and network seems to have decreased in 2019 in terms of street mobilisation capacity. Casual offenders, who are much more likely than neo-Nazis to be responsible for racist, anti-LGBTIQ\* and anti-Semitic violence and threats, continued to feel encouraged by discourses in social media and in society as a whole. The record figure of 390 attacks in just one year, the continuing high level of threats and insults in the offline world and the increased figures for property damage are clear signs of this. Fortunately, Berlin has not been affected by a right-wing terrorist attack such as those perpetrated in Halle or Hanau. However, the conditions for such attacks are certainly present in Berlin. In other words, there are protagonists on the far-right who act as individuals or in groups, asserting ideological links between anti-Semitism and racism. Even if in small numbers, for example, leaflets and self-made stickers from the far-right US „Nuclear Weapons Division“ as well as death threats of the „coup orchestra“ reveal that individuals/groups that sympathise with right-wing terrorist acts are also to be found in Berlin. The continuing series of attacks in Neukölln should also be seen in this context. Fantasies of exclusion and annihilation are even more present in 2019 and trigger fear in many people’s everyday lives.

The figure of 3,277 incidents, the way in which these are distributed across the districts and the places where the crimes are committed reveal that racism, anti-Semitism, anti-LGBTIQ\*-attitudes, trivialisation of National Socialist crimes and social Darwinism are not phenomena that are found solely on the periphery of the city or on the fringes of society, but instead occur at the geographical and social centre of Berlin, where people are moving around and interacting with each other: on public transport, in supermarkets, at school, at work, when flat-hunting, in Job Centres, in blocks of flats or on playgrounds. The Berlin Register’s documentations use many examples to show how attitudes are expressed in actions. It is important to make clear to perpetrators before lethal violence occurs that the most people in society do not support their behaviour and would instead stand with those affected. Data from the Berlin Register Offices provides a basis for local and supra-regional responses and preventive measures, as well as for developing shared counter-strategies.

# Presentation of the EACH ONE Anti-discrimination Project



**EACH ONE Beratung** offers initial and referral counselling for Black, African and Afrodiasporic people in Berlin in all cases of discrimination. In each specific case, those seeking advice are informed about legal issues and appropriate counselling services and, if necessary, referred to other counsellors. EACH ONE is well networked in Berlin and nationwide with anti-discrimination and victim counselling centres, lawyers, psychologists etc.

In **social youth counselling**, young people find both ad hoc assistance with specific issues and ongoing support. EACH ONE accompanies people on their path through life and responds to them in whichever situation they find themselves – with all the questions and problems that are relevant for them at that moment.

**EACH ONE monitoring** makes anti-Black racism in Berlin visible. We want to find ways to counteract it as a community and as a society. Those affected or witnesses can report cases of anti-Black racism to us. We document these incidents and summarise them in an annual report.

Besides consulting and monitoring, EACH ONE is also an **intersectional archive**. In it, we collect knowledge about anti-Black racism, which helps us to develop strate-

gies against discrimination and racism. Knowledge of Black people's experiences, made visible through monitoring of anti-Black racism, is central here.

## Project Aims:

One of the main objectives of EACH ONE Anti-Discrimination is to increase knowledge about racism and discrimination against Black, Afrodiasporic and African people by documenting and archiving knowledge about racism and discrimination, thus creating a means of transferring such information to the worlds of politics, public-sector bodies and academia. Anti-discrimination counselling, introducing the perspective of those affected as well as documenting discrimination, hate speech and racist violence should help ensure that people of African origin can become more aware of their rights and enable self-determined participation in societal life without worrying about exclusion and discrimination, or at least with fewer such concerns.

## Importance of the Project:

It has been shown clearly that there is an enormous need for a professional counselling service from and with people who have similar or the same experiences every day. This strengthens not only the individual seeking advice but also Black people as a

collective, since our counselling centre has significantly expanded the scope to act and resist racist discrimination and exclusion processes. In addition, EACH ONE Anti-Discrimination responds to the great need for systematic documentation and visualisation of the various dimensions of anti-Black racism and how it intersects with other factors that give rise to discrimination. This raises awareness among people of African origin. On the one hand, the monitoring report offers a chance to include anti-Black racism in the canon of administrative and official knowledge. On the other hand, the monitoring has community relevance, because it is primarily about networking, collecting community perspectives and community knowledge, and making these more visible and politically relevant.

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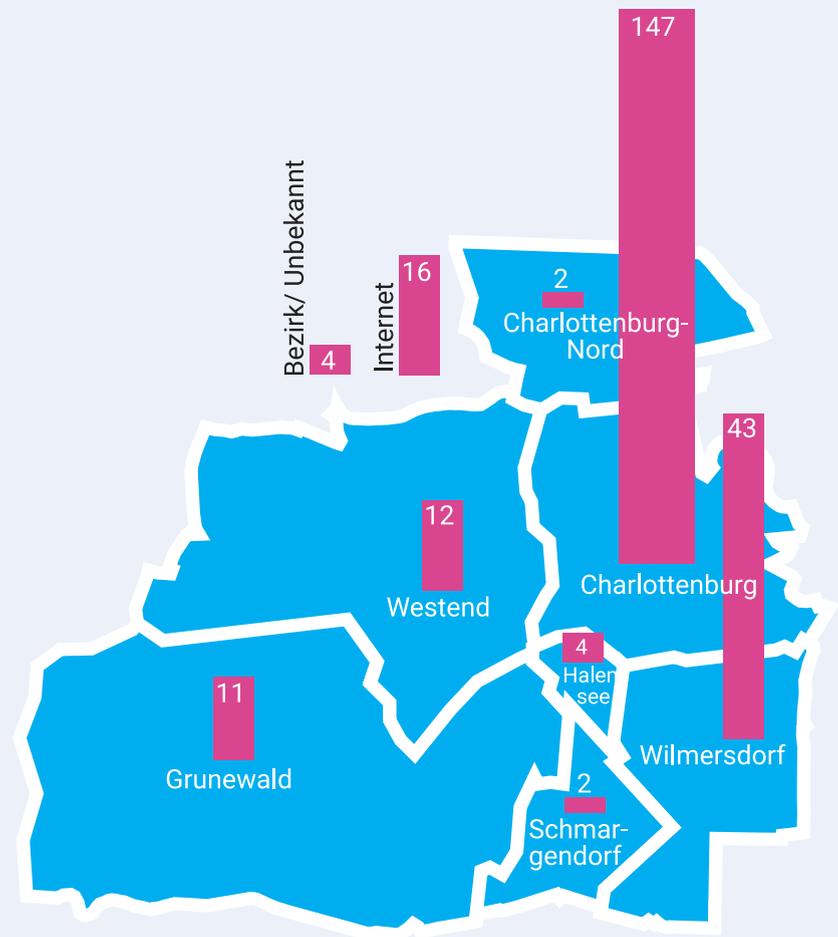
Web: [eoto-archiv.com/anti-discrimination advice](http://eoto-archiv.com/anti-discrimination-advice)





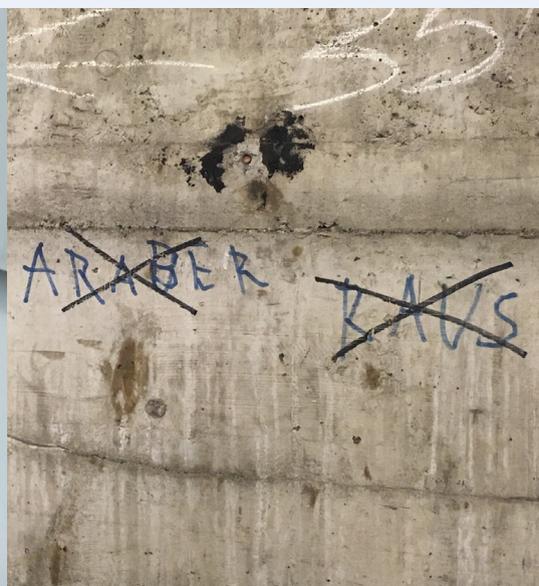
# Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf

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.



NPD sticker in Brandenburgische Strasse

Racist inscription in Bismarckstraße



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**Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf – Venue for New Right Public Events**

241 right-wing and discriminatory incidents were documented in 2019 (2018: 280) in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, which thus ranks 5th in a Berlin-wide comparison. The lower total is largely due to a drop in the number of propaganda incidents in the Grunewald district.

Specifically, an incident occurred in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf every one or two days, at all hours of the day or night, in the street and on public transport.

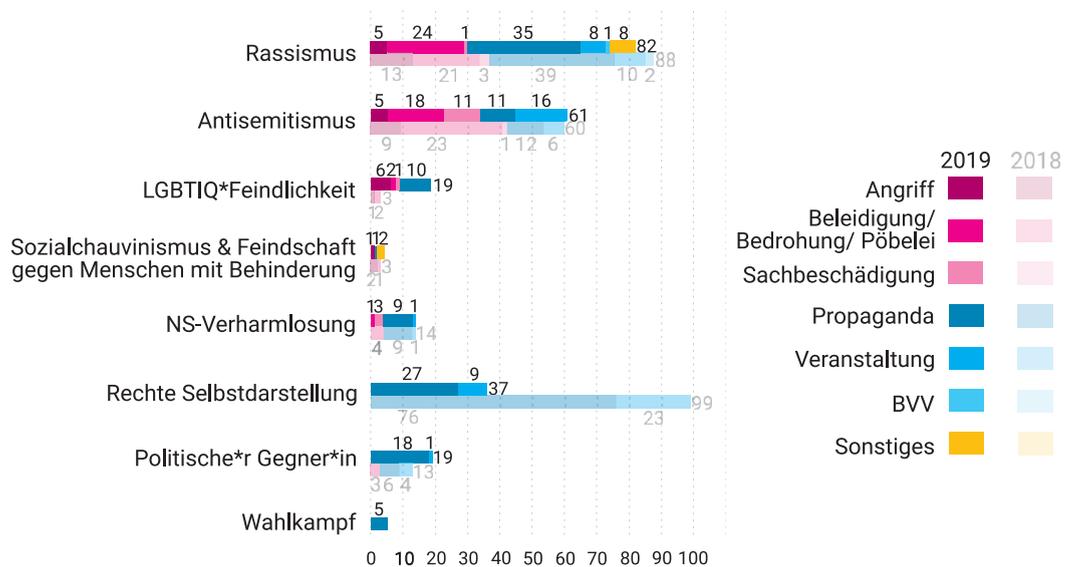
The most frequent type of incident was propaganda (2019: 116; 2018: 142), followed by threats, insults and abuse (2019: 46; 2018: 63) and public events (2019: 35; 2018: 44). Fewer attacks were recorded than in the previous year (2019: 17; 2018: 25); most attacks were motivated by anti-LGBTIQ\* attitudes (6). More than one in two incidents were motivated by racism or anti-Semitism. The third most common motive was right-wing grandstanding (42). There were regular New Right events and anti-Semitic events, such as the Al-Quds march.

**Protagonists and events**

A total of 35 right-wing events were held in this district, 31 in Charlottenburg alone (2018: 44). The same protagonists are still active in the district, such as the group “Blauer Himmel Berlin” [Blue Sky Berlin], the “Bibliothek des Konservatismus” [Conservatism Library], the anti-Semitic campaign “Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions” (BDS) or the “Volkslehrer” [Teacher of the People – a primary school teacher with a historically revisionist and anti-Semitic YouTube channel]. On

1st June 2019 the annual Al-Quds march was held on Kurfürstendamm. This is considered the largest anti-Semitic march in Germany. It brings together protagonists from different spectrums, clearly revealing the overlap between anti-Semitism, far-right ideology and conspiracy ideology. Every year, anti-fascist groups and alliances call for those opposed to the march and its agenda to convey a shared message against any kind of anti-Semitism.

tival “International Secret”. The so-called “People’s Teacher” organised two far-right events on Breitscheidplatz, involving speeches, some with historical revisionist statements. 15 NewRight and right-wing populist events were documented in the “Library of Conservatism” (BdK). The library is regarded as a networking hub for the New Right with a nationwide reach and has holdings of conservative to far-right literature. In this con-



In addition, “ProFemina”, a so-called “pregnancy advice centre”, was established on Kurfürstendamm. It is criticised for deliberately deceiving pregnant women and delaying counselling processes until abortion is no longer possible. It can be assigned to the spectrum of “pro-life” organisations.

The anti-Semitic group BDS also organised disruption and protest actions at the West-end exhibition centre in 2019 during the Fruit Logistica trade fair and the ITB tourism fair. They called for a boycott of agricultural products from Israeli exporters and called Israel an apartheid state. In addition, BDS carried out two disruptive actions at a street festival and as part of a film screening of the German-Israeli film and television fes-

text, the Antifaschistische Pressearchive und Bildungszentrum Berlin (Apabiz) [Antifascist Press Archive and Education Centre Berlin] describes the term “conservatism” as strategic window-dressing.

**Motives: Racism is the Main Category; Rise in Anti-LGBTIQ\* Incidents**

Racist incidents remain at a high level (2019: 82; 2018: 88). The most common category in this context was propaganda; the number of incidents involving racist insults and threats has increased slightly (2019: 24; 2018: 21). The number of incidents motivated by anti-Semitism decreased significantly for Berlin as a whole, but has remained constant at the same level as the previous year in Char-

**Examples of Incidents**

**14th May 2019**

An unknown woman blocked access to a lift for a 38-year-old woman and her child in Wilmersdorfer Strasse in Charlottenburg. The 38-year-old was subjected to anti-Black racist insults, doused with hot coffee and had her hair pulled.

Source: ReachOut Berlin

**28th August 2019**

In the U1 section of the Kurfürstendamm underground station at about 3 p.m., a family with small children was denied access to a kiosk due to the kiosk operator’s antiziganistic attitudes. Family members and the interpreter were prevented from entering the shop to buy water.

Source: Berlin Register

**6th March 2019**

In Uhlandstraße / Lietzenburger Straße in Wilmersdorf, an anti-Muslim sticker with the inscription “Stop Islamisation” was discovered on a letterbox and partially removed. New Right discourse often claims that “Western values” must be defended against Islam. This “völkisch” [ethnic-nationalist – a term with a Nazi taint in German] and racist argumentation is characterised by the concept of “ethnopluralism”.

Source: Register CW

lottenburg-Wilmersdorf (2019: 61; 2018: 60). In particular, the number of cases of anti-Semitic-motivated damage to property has risen (2019: 11; 2018: 1). A significant increase in anti-LGBTIQ\* incidents was documented (2019: 19; 2018: 3). Another 19 incidents were directed against political opponents. In 14 cases, National Socialism was trivialised or glorified. These included, for example, swastika graffiti, such as that on the summit stone at Havelberg, which has seemingly not been removed despite repeated requests for this to be done. The “Gleis 17” [“Platform 17”] memorial in Grunewald was pelted with stones and damaged. Cases involving right-wing grandstanding were documented less frequently this year (42). Three incidents were motivated by social chauvinism. For example, a woman was attacked and pulled out of the train by her hair, and graffiti directed against homeless people has also been reported. During the campaign for elections to the European Parliament, 5 incidents were documented and 1 incident was directed against disabled people.

### Incident Types

Almost half of all documented incidents were propaganda (116), making this the most common type of incident. This figure shows that the organised far-right, which includes the New Right, is active in the district. 35 of these incidents were motivated by racism, 32 related to right-wing grandstanding. In terms of content, refugees, Muslims and migrants were harassed, threat scenarios were invoked and social conflicts were given a racist twist. More anti-LGBTIQ\* propaganda was documented than in previous years (2019: 10; 2018: 0). Hand-written stickers with the inscription “schwul=krank” (“gay=ill”) were repeatedly found at the public transport station. Propaganda against political opponents has tripled (2019: 18). This included stickers, posters and graffiti from the “Identitäre Bewegung” [Identitarian Movement], the “IIIer Weg” [Third Way] or material from far-right mail-order companies. Threats, insults and abuse were the second most frequent category, with 45 incidents (2018: 63). The figure for this category has fallen due to fe-

wer reports of online incidents. The number of threats and insults in the street remained the same. In this context racism (24) was the most common motives (2018: 21): 3 incidents were directed against Black people, 8 were anti-Muslim and 4 were cases of anti-ziganism. The second most frequent motive for threats, insults and vulgarity was anti-Semitism (18), 2 incidents trivialised National Socialism’s crimes and 2 incidents were motivated by anti-LGBTIQ\* prejudice. Four anti-Semitic insults and threats were recorded in the context of the Al-Quds march. At two football matches in the Olympic Stadium, the referee or fans were subjected to anti-Semitic insults and at another match to racist insults. Compared to the previous year, more property damage was documented (2019: 16; 2018: 4). Eleven of the total 16 cases of damage to property were motivated by anti-Semitism, while 3 involved trivialisation of National Socialism’s crimes or glorification of the National Socialist regime. Anti-Semitic texts were scratched into cars and affixed to market stalls, house walls and private homes. These include inscriptions such as “Fuck Israel” and “Jews are child murderers”. In mid-December, the media reported on damage to the Murellenberg memorial in Westend commemorating those murdered under National Socialist military jurisdiction. Almost all the information boards on the memorials were torn down, scratched and defaced in places with swastikas. The number of documented attacks has decreased compared to the previous year (2019: 17; 2018: 25). However, anti-LGBTIQ\* attacks increased (2019: 6; 2018: 1). People were pelted with objects, physically attacked and had eggs thrown at them on Christopher Street Day. Children and adolescents were affected in 3 cases. Most of the attacks took place in the street.

### Sub-districts: Focus on Charlottenburg

A total of 147 incidents occurred in Charlottenburg, more than half of all documented incidents in the district as a whole and a higher figure than in the previous year (2018: 108). The increase stems from the rise in the number of propaganda incidents, which almost doubled in Charlottenburg (2019: 51; 2018:

27). There were also more cases of insults and threats (2019: 36; 2018: 26) and damage to property (2019: 9; 2018: 2). There was a decrease in the number of incidents (2019: 31; 2018: 38) and attacks (2019: 10; 2018: 13). The number of incidents is related to events involving various far-right protagonists and busy locations such as Berlin’s Technical University and Bahnhof Zoo train station. 41 incidents occurred in Wilmersdorf, where graffiti depicting swastikas, SS runes or claiming particular areas as “Nazi neighbourhoods” were reported. In addition, 6 attacks were carried out in Wilmersdorf.

On the Internet, the NPD and AfD Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf primarily documented right-wing and racist incitement (2019: 16). Looking back, 2019 appears average from a Register perspective. Scant attention or resistance is directed against the far-right’s activities at the local level, which means these activities are thus becoming increasingly entrenched.



You can read the more detailed evaluation in the 2019 Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf Register Office report. It is available online as a PDF file or can be ordered free of charge as a print version (in German). See: <https://www.berliner-register.de/charlottenburg-wilmersdorf> or by mail to: [cw@berliner-register.de](mailto:cw@berliner-register.de)

### 25th February 2019

The memorial on Kurfürstendamm in Charlottenburg for victims of the “General Plan Ost” [National Socialist government plan for genocide, ethnic cleansing, and colonization of Central and Eastern Europe by Germans] at the “former site of the Reich Commissariat responsible for consolidation of Ger-

man nationalism”. The glass surface of the column was smashed.

Source: RIAS Berlin

### 6th July 2019

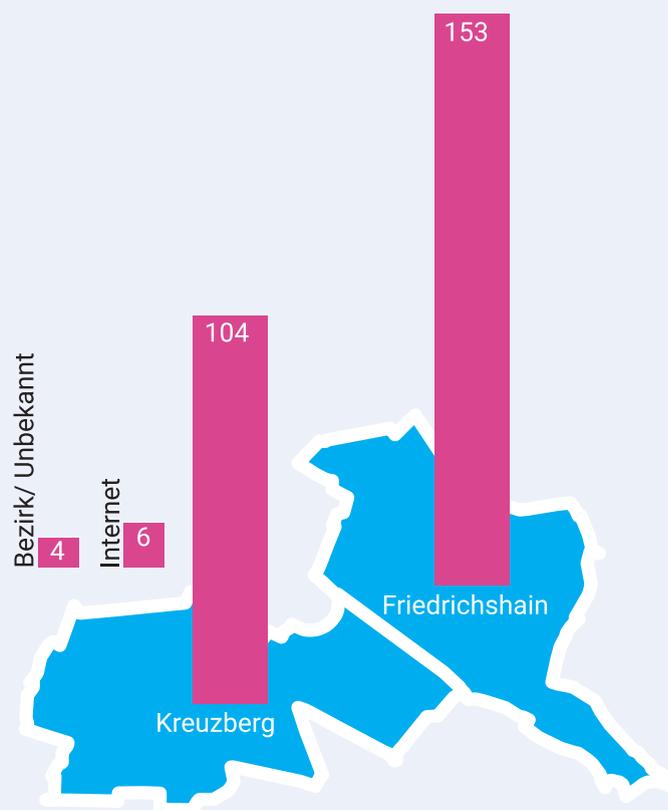
At around 3:20 in the morning, a 28-year-old person was insulted and punched in the face by a 21-year-old man with anti-LGBTIQ\* attitudes out-

side a club in Joachimsthaler Straße in Charlottenburg. The person attacked suffered a facial injury and received outpatient treatment in hospital.

Source: Police report

# Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg

This inner-city district is the smallest and most densely populated in Berlin. Over 290,000 people from more than 150 nations live here. The Oberbaumbrücke bridge connects Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg. Many tourists visit, due to the high number of overnight accommodation options, clubs and bars, especially in Friedrichshain. More incidents occur where many people are on the move. It therefore comes as no surprise that more and more incidents are being reported in and around the public transport system. Most incidents take place at the public transport interchanges on the suburban rail system (S-Bahn) and on the underground (U-Bahn).



Homophobic inscription at Ostkreuz



Racist sticker against Black people in Manteuffelstraße



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**Changes Compared with the Previous Year**

With 267 incidents (2018: 241), a year-on-year increase of 26 incidents was recorded in Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg. The increase can be seen in the categories of attacks, with 54 recorded (+13), propaganda with 115 incidents documented (+10) and other, with 19 cases reported (+8). Other cases include 14 cases of discrimination by public authorities. The most common motives for all reports are racism (124), anti-Semitism (41), LGBTIQ\* hostility (38) and incidents directed against political opponents\* (30).

**Civil Courage in the Face of Threats and Attacks**

The number of anti-LGBTIQ\* attacks has risen from 13 in the previous year to 20. This is also the case in other inner-city districts: in Neukölln there was an increase in anti-LGBTIQ\*- attacks from 15 to 21, in Tempelhof-Schöneberg from 3 to 17 and in Mitte from 20 to 29. A total of 50 insults, threats and abuse were reported (2018: 48). The most common motives in this category are racism (2018: 17; 2019: 29) and anti-Semitism

(2018: 7; 2019: 13). In contrast to other districts, this figure is comparatively high. That is due to a high potential of aware and committed people who report their observations to the Register Office.

Passers-by intervened in 10 cases of attacks, insults and threats. It is fair to assume that the civil courage to intervene prevented something worse, e.g. a threat did not turn into an attack. In 5 cases, however, people who offered assistance became victims themselves. In 1 case they were threatened and in 4 other cases the perpetrators continued to insult the people who offered assistance.

**Spatial Distribution**

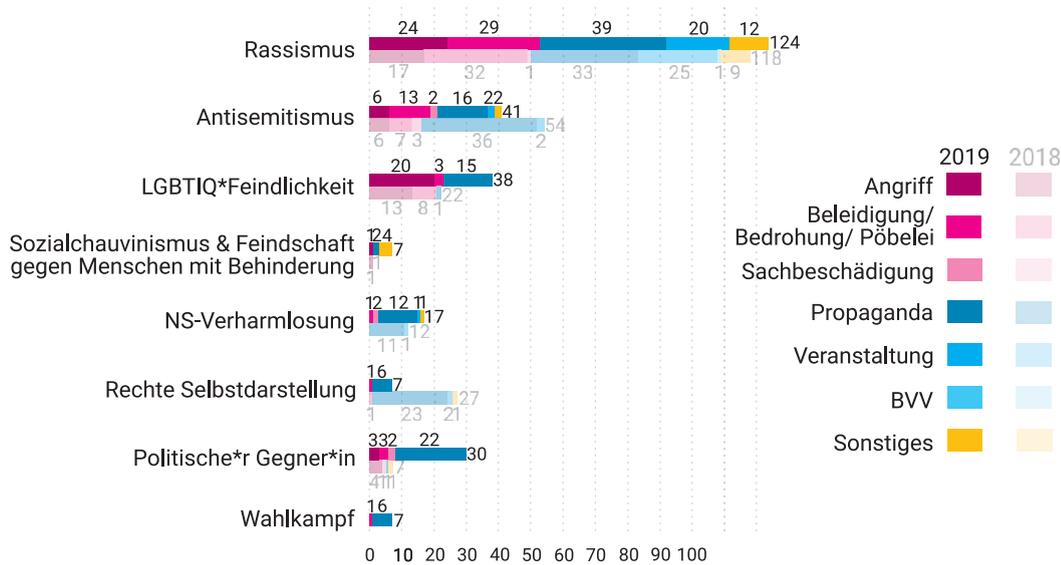
Of the total of 267 incidents, 153 were recorded in Friedrichshain and 105 in Kreuzberg, as well as 3 district-wide and 6 on the Internet. A total of 82 incidents occurred on the S-Bahn (suburban train system) or U-Bahn (rapid transit system), at or in the immediate vicinity of stations (2018: 33). Furthermore, public transport interchanges such as Ostkreuz, Ostbahnhof, Kottbusser Tor or Hallesches Tor were particularly affected.

**Right-wing Protagonists Try to Stir up Trouble in Left-wing Areas**

Racist, anti-LGBTIQ\* and anti-political propaganda against political opponents was documented more frequently than in the previous year (2018: 35; 2019: 76). Cases of anti-Semitic propaganda fell (down from 36 to 16).

Since August 2019 clusters of propaganda-related incidents have been observed in the area between Ostkreuz, Warschauer Strasse and Boxhagener Strasse. Hundreds of stickers appeared, some re-applied several times a day; these were mainly motivated by racism and directed against political opponents (parties, people who assist refugee, etc.). These sticker series were in some cases summarised as one incident per week. There was also a rise in the number of graffitied swastikas, as well as an arson attack on an apartment building, preceded by a threatening letter expressing right-wing sentiment. It is still unclear whether increasing right-wing propaganda in the area could be causally connected to the arson.

In Friedrichshain, and elsewhere, more



**Examples of Incidents**

**7th April 2019**

One man reported that the referee made a racist comment against the players on the BFV/DFB (football associations) report page after a football match he had played in. Source: Recorded by a member of the public

**10th May 2019**

In Karl-Marx-Allee near Weberwiese, homophobic graffiti was reported. The same slogan (“Schwule sterben aus” [“gay extinction”]) has also been reported elsewhere in Friedrichshain, as well as appearing in

various places in Mitte and Pankow.

Source: Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Register Office

**19th June 2019**

A swastika was carved into the glass wall of the lift in the mezzanine floor of Frankfurter Allee U-Bahn (rapid transit system) station. Update: After the BVG public transport company was informed, the swastika was immediately covered with a yellow heart, the BVG logo.

Source: Recorded by a member of the public

**8th July 2019**

A swastika was daubed next to the home of a Jewish family. The other tenants in the house know that the people who live there are Jewish.

Source: Department for Research and Information on Antisemitism Berlin (RIAS)

**28th July 2019**

A 28-year-old man was insulted, mistreated and threatened with a knife by two 22-year-old men with anti-LGBTIQ\* attitudes in his flat on Jungstraße at around 9:45 am.

Source: ReachOut Berlin

and more right-wing stickers for an online shop have appeared, affixed en masse. In terms of content, they were mainly directed against political opponents and/or were motivated by racism.

These stickers are distributed at low cost via the right-wing online shop “Politaukleber” operated by far-right activist Sven Liebich from Halle. It also offers the option of donating so that others can affix stickers for free. The mail order company is more likely to appeal to buyers with no organisational ties, as organised neo-Nazis primarily spread material from their own party or group. In addition, these “political stickers” cover a broad, far-right range of topics. Besides racist motives, especially directed against Black people, there are stickers against political opponents (parties and the anti-fascist movement in general) and historical revisionist provocations, such as the assertion that “Anne Frank would be in the AfD today”. As well as stickers, the site distributes T-shirts, for example with the logo of the “Identitäre Bewegung” [“Identitarian Movement”]. Sven Liebich was already involved in far-right groups about 20 years ago.

In a measure aimed in part at provoking opponents, “Pegida München” recorded video rallies to be held on 4th and 5th October in Görlitzer Park in Kreuzberg and on Schleidenplatz in Friedrichshain. The registrations encompassed a period of two days and were for periods of several hours. Only five people were present at the Kreuzberg rally and attached a racist banner to scaffolding. The banner stigmatised all people who did not look “German”, alleging that they were perpetrators of violence. Propaganda films were shown in a constantly repeating loop at this rally. In both cases the police cordoned off the area. In Friedrichshain, the five people initially in attendance dropped to two after the event was set up. One of these individu-

als was temporarily detained by the police after shouting “Sieg Heil”. The aim of these rallies was to provoke left-wing, politically committed people and those affected by racism into violent protest actions, in order to subsequently present themselves as victims of a diverse society. The rallies failed in this endeavour.

### Summary and Outlook

The growing number of propaganda incidents in this district poses a challenge, as it consolidates the political attitudes of local inhabitants who sympathize with these views. Moreover, far-right and racist propaganda can lower the inhibition threshold for becoming active. Thoughts can be articulated as abuse and threats. Increasingly, the focus is on areas that were largely spared such phenomena in previous years. The area around Kottbusser Tor and between Ostkreuz and Warschauer Strasse is striking. Racist and far-right slogans in public space, renewed on a daily basis, can affect the impression made by streets or entire sub-districts. In order to prevent insidious change, consistent action by local civil society is required. In the area between Ostkreuz and Warschauer Strasse, for example, local residents organise clean-up walks almost every day.

When an increased increase in anti-LGBTIQ\* incidents was recorded in previous years, District Council (BVV) representatives addressed the problem. For example, clubs advised clubbers not to travel home alone at night. As a result, a decrease in attacks and threats was noted. In 2019, these cases have slightly increased again.

The Register is also concerned to note the growing number of incidents in or near public transport. An increase has been recorded for years. Whereas in 2018 this accounted for 14% of all reported incidents, in 2019 it already made up 31% of the total, including 27

propaganda incidents, 22 attacks and 19 public events. This development must be monitored and analysed more closely in subsequent years to tackle the underlying causes.

## Examples of Incidents

### 8th September 2019

In the area between Bahnstrasse, Ostkreuz, Grünberger Straße and Warschauer Straße, several hundred right-hand stickers were discovered and removed last week. The stickers are distributed by a right-wing online portal from Halle. The content was mainly directed against political opponents of the far-right (political parties, people with left-wing views, Fridays for Future etc.) and also included various forms of racism.

Source: Report from a member of the public

### 27th November 2019

In Oppelner Straße, a sticker with the inscription “Rescuing people at sea is not a crime” was sprayed over in one place, inverting the meaning of the statement [a letter was removed in German, turning “Kein” (not) into “ein” (a) – i.e. as if “not” were deleted in the equivalent English sentence].

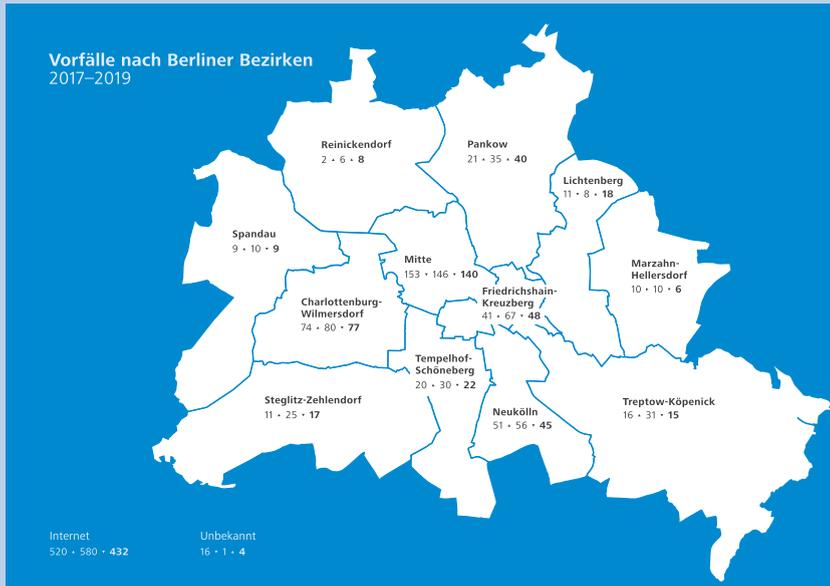
Source: Reported by a member of the public

### 25th December 2019

Around 23:30, a woman travelling on the S8 towards Grünau was repeatedly subjected to racist insults by two men and a woman. Two witnesses intervened opposing the statements made and the apparent neo-Nazis reacted to this by threatening physical violence. The victim later told the witnesses that the harassment had already started on the platform at Landsberger Allee.

Source: Reported by a member of the public

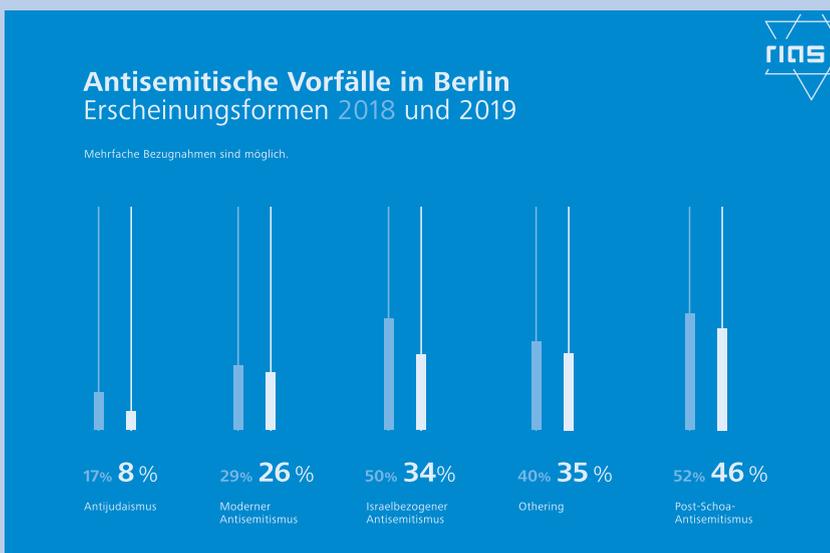
# Anti-Semitic Incidents 2019: An Overview from RIAS Berlin



Since it was founded in 2015, the Department for Research and Information on Antisemitism Berlin (RIAS) has cooperated closely with the Berlin Register Offices. RIAS Berlin and the Berlin Register Offices regularly compare the incidents notified to them, so that all incidents reported to civil society are counted in the respective statistics and duplication is ruled out. Since 2016, RIAS Berlin has used a recording and category system that differs slightly from that used by the Berlin Register Offices, focusing on the specifics of anti-Semitic phenomena and the perceptions of Jewish communities. The differences between the recording methods are explained in the text box.

RIAS Berlin recorded a total of 881 anti-Semitic incidents in 2019. These included 33 attacks, 38 cases of intentional damage to property, 59 threats, 648 cases of violent behaviour (including 54 public events) and 103 mass-mailing anti-Semitic communications. This represents a 19% decrease compared to 2018, when RIAS reported a large rise in the number of anti-Semitic incidents.

The Jewish community's perception of the threat of anti-Semitism was dominated by several far, striking incidents. Three instances of far anti-Semitic violence became known nationwide, including the far-right terrorist attack on the synagogue in Halle (Saale) on Yom Kippur, on 9th October 2019, and an arson attack on the home of a Jewish couple in Lower Saxony. In early October an attempted attack on the Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue by a man with a knife also caused great concern among the Jewish communities for their safety. This is not in contradiction to the noticeable decrease in the number of incidents reported in Berlin, but instead highlights the significance of these serious incidents for the Jewish community.



All types of anti-Semitic incidents did not decrease to the same degree. RIAS Berlin, for example, reported a 25% drop in online incidents such as propagandistic and offensive e-mails. The number of documented offline incidents also fell compared to 2018, although the figure was higher than for all other previous years.

The number of anti-Semitic attacks notified to RIAS Berlin fell by 28%. However, this positive development does not include the number of attacks on Jewish people and people perceived as Jewish, which actually increased compared to the previous year from 19 (2018) to 25. Violent anti-Semitism also affected non-Jewish people, albeit to a lesser degree, such as political opponents in various conflicts. Contrary to the declining overall trend, the number of

## Differing Incident Categorisation by the Berlin Register Offices and RIAS Berlin

- RIAS Berlin uses a categorisation system based on years of work by the British Jewish charity Community Security Trust (CST), which has been adapted for the German context. RIAS Berlin defines **far violence** as physical attacks or assaults that could result in loss of life or cause serious bodily harm. Since recording of incidents began here in 2015, no cases of far violence motivated by anti-Semitism have been documented for Berlin. Three such cases were recorded in Germany as a whole in 2019, including the aforementioned attack on the synagogue in Halle (Saale) on Yom Kippur and an attempted arson attack on the home of a Jewish couple in Lower Saxony. RIAS Berlin defines **attacks** as incidents in which people are physically attacked without this resulting in life-threatening or severe physical injuries. This category also includes attempted physical attacks. The two categories of “far violence” and “assault” largely correspond to the Register category of “attack”, but in contrast to the latter, do not include persistent campaigns of intimidating threats. RIAS Berlin defines **intentional damage to property** as damage to or defacement of Jewish property with anti-Semitic symbols, posters or stickers. This also includes damage to or defacement of memorial plaques and places of remembrance for the victims of the Shoah, e.g. memorials, plaques, Stolpersteine [stumbling blocks – small brass plaques set in the street outside former homes of victims of

National Socialist extermination or persecution], as well as the offices of organisations dealing with these issues. This category corresponds approximately to the Register category of “damage to property”.

A **threat** is defined as any clear and specific written or oral threat of violent action that is addressed to an individual or institution. Incidents of this kind are classified by the Registers either as an “attack” (if the threat is part of an insistent campaign of intimidating threats) or as “threat/insult/abuse”.

RIAS Berlin categorises as **abusive behaviour** all anti-Semitic statements against Jewish or Israeli individuals or institutions, as well as anti-Semitic insults or comments against other individuals and institutions. This also applies to anti-Semitic statements made online, provided these are directly addressed to a specific individual or institution. Anti-Semitic damage or defacement of non-Jewish property is also regarded as abusive behaviour. As a sub-category of abusive behaviour, RIAS Berlin records public events – events open to the public – if anti-Semitic content can be detected either at the public events or in the announcements and calls for such events. Cases of abusive behaviour are recorded in the Berlin Register under the categories “threat/insult/abuse”, “propaganda”, “damage to property”, “public event” or (e.g. in the case of discrimination) “other”.

Finally, the category of **mass mailings** includes mass mailings of anti-Semitic material addressed to a large circle of people – these are mostly online incidents. The Register Offices include all of these incidents in the category of “propaganda”.

- In contrast to the Berlin Register Offices, which monitor the social media activities of

relevant Berlin-based right-wing extremist individuals and groups and record the results of this monitoring as incidents in their documentation, RIAS Berlin only records online incidents if these are addressed to individuals or institutions, e.g. in the form of e-mails, Facebook comments and other direct messages.

- RIAS Berlin regularly receives statistics on anti-Semitic crimes, including brief descriptions of the factual details, from the Berlin Police’s Criminal Investigation Reporting Service – Politically Motivated Crime [often referred to by its German acronym: KPMD-PMK]. Drawing on these statistics, the project includes all anti-Semitic incidents in its own statistics, adjusted to exclude duplication and non-specific propaganda crimes – in contrast to the Berlin Register Offices, which only include crimes known to the police if these crimes have been notified through some other channel (e.g. through a separate report, a police publication or through the victim advisory centre Reachout).
- Anti-Semitic incidents may be accompanied by one or more additional motives such as right-wing grandstanding, trivialisation of National Socialist crimes, racism, etc. Since the Berlin Register Offices assign incidents thematically in each case, it is possible that an incident motivated by anti-Semitism may be included in the statistics by the Berlin Register Offices under a different category, because in the specific case in question this other category is viewed as constituting the principal feature of the incident, rather than anti-Semitism. RIAS Berlin also records such incidents in its own statistics of anti-Semitic incidents. Data are compared with a view to ensuring that as many cases as possible are categorised in terms of the same phenomenon.

anti-Semitic threats also increased by 28%. Even though there were fewer incidents involving brutalised forms of anti-Semitism in the context of rallies and other public political disputes, anti-Semitism remained a threat to Jews in 2019 – despite a total 204 fewer incidents than in the previous year. Almost two thirds of the individuals affected were Jewish or were labelled as Jewish (213), almost as many as in the previous year (220). Compared to 2018, institutions such as Jewish and Israeli organisations or civil society initiatives were less affected by anti-Semitism: The number of incidents directed against them fell by 33%.

In contrast to the previous year, Israel-related anti-Semitism played a smaller role: the absolute number of incidents involving stereotypes in this category almost halved compared to the previous year and accounted for 34% of the total figure. Associated to-

pics were less in the focus of the media in 2019 than had been the case in 2018 (50%), when Israel celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the modern state and the US Embassy in Israel was moved from Tel Aviv-Jaffa to Jerusalem. Furthermore, anti-Semitic attitudes in addressing National Socialism and the Shoah constituted the most frequent manifestation of anti-Semitism in Berlin.

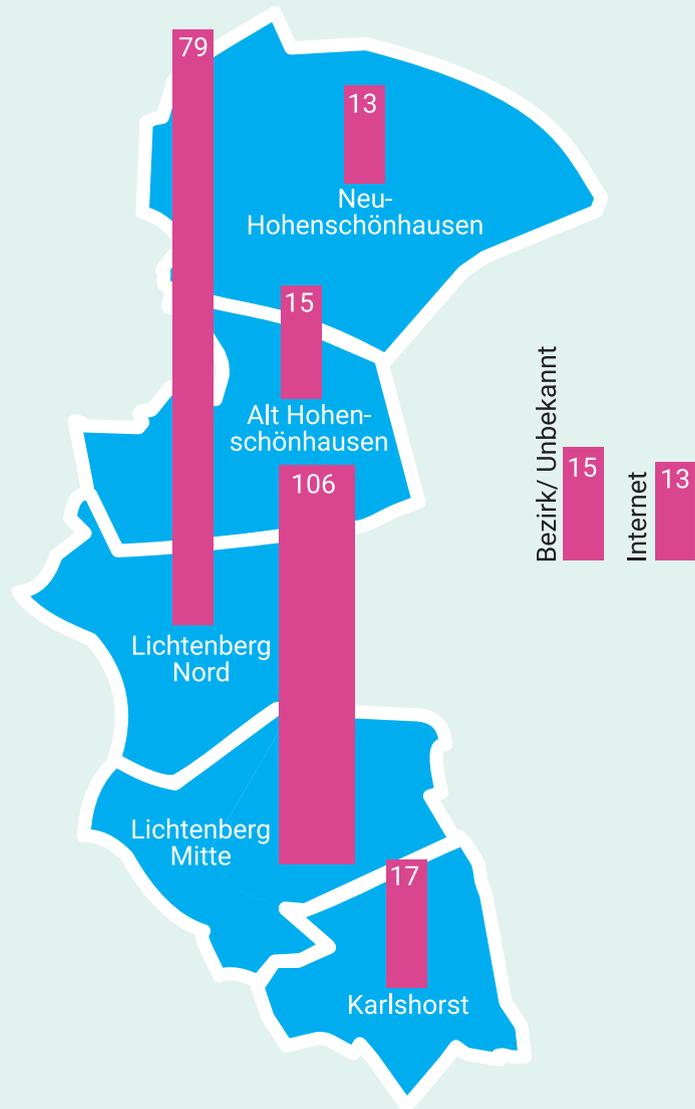
Once again, the districts that documented most incidents in specific geographic settings were Mitte (140) and Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf (77). The number of incidents reported in these districts reached a similar level as in the previous year. In most other districts there were significant decreases of between 20% and 52%. One notable exception is Pankow, where the number of incidents increased from 35 (2018) to 40 – thus almost doubling compared to 2017 (21 incidents). There was also a significant albeit smaller in-

crease in Lichtenberg (from 8 to 18 incidents). Immediately after the attack in Halle (Saale), a difficult time for the Jewish community, additional victimisation was reported through numerous other incidents with explicit reference to the terrorist attack. As a result, October, which had been a relatively quiet month in previous years in terms of anti-Semitism, was the month with the highest number of incidents in 2019.

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# Lichtenberg

Over 290,000 people live in the district of Lichtenberg. The composition of the population varies hugely in the various sub-districts within the district (Hohenschönhausen, Lichtenberg, Karlshorst). Lichtenberg has had an active and well-organised far-right scene for over 30 years. In recent years, it has been possible to force the right-wing scene into retreat thanks to civil society commitment and actions undertaken by the district authorities in response to the problem.



Neo-Nazi inscription in Lichtenberg-Mitte



"Identitäre" information stand in Karlshorst



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### Lichtenberg and the Far Right, As Exemplified by “Der III. Weg”

The figures recorded by the Lichtenberg Register Office have risen by more than 20 % from 2018 (210 incidents) to 2019 (258 incidents). This increase stemmed primarily from the activities of far-right protagonists during the European Parliament election campaign and the activation of more people reporting incidents in the district thanks to new communication channels and new Berlin-wide cooperation partners. The Register Offices documented incidents relating to anti-Semitism, anti-Black and anti-Muslim racism as well as antiziganism; data from the extended access options via the social media for people reporting incidents were also included. Extreme right-wing parties instrumentalised the European Parliament election campaign for provocative actions aimed at stirring up trouble. The party “Der III. Weg”, which campaigned for votes on the far-right alongside the NPD, the “Die Rechte” party and the “Alternative für Deutschland”, blatantly referenced classic National Socialism. The neo-Nazi party “Der III. Weg” put up “Volksverräter” [“traitor to the people”] posters outside Lichtenberg town hall. In addition, posters of democratic parties were deliberately pasted over, defaced and destroyed. Democratic protagonists understood the “Volksverräter” posters on the lampposts as a threat. The aim of this provocative poster campaign was not only to position the party as a National Socialist party and intimidate political opponents, but above all to create a scandal in the press.

The district of Lichtenberg hit the headlines several times last year as a result of racist and anti-LGBTIQ\* violence. This is also reflected in a general increase in the number of attacks and threats reported to the Register. There were on average two attacks and almost three cases of threats, insults or abuse every month. Most recently, two les-

bian couples were insulted and beaten up in Hohenschönhausen in separate incidents on the same evening in December 2019. The majority of those affected in incidents here were attacked and threatened as a consequence of racism.

#### Motivation:

##### Almost Half the Incidents were Racist

The number of racist incidents remained at a high level, independent of current affairs or local political events. 109 racist incidents were documented in 2019 (2018: 110). These include propaganda (32) and public events (14) as well as cases of threats/insults/abuse (14) and attacks (17).

Political opponents were targeted in 41 cases (2018: 32), mostly in the form of propaganda, but two attacks and five threats were also directed against political opponents.

In 2019, the party “Der Dritte Weg” organised two campaigns against political opponents from the spectrum of democratic parties. In the run-up to the party’s central march on 1st May in Plauen, propaganda material was affixed in a targeted fashion at the offices of other political parties. This party’s designation of its own march as a “workers’ day of struggle” is a strategy that seeks to appropriate their political opponents’ holidays and symbolism and redefine their content. In December, the neo-Nazi party launched a campaign that proclaimed “Rudi Dutschke would be one of us today”. Using abridged quotations from the student activist, the campaign attempted to suggest that Dutschke had represented nationalist theses in the 1970s in line with the neo-Nazi party. The posters and stickers were deliberately affixed to offices of Die Linke [the Left Party] and the Greens.

National Socialism was glorified in 32 incidents (2018: 39). This included graffiti in the form of swastikas and other National Socialist symbols and in the form of references to National Socialist officials, such as “Der Dritte Weg” stickers commemorating Hitler’s de-

puty Rudolf Hess. 24 discriminatory incidents were recorded in the context of the election campaign.

There was an increase above all in hostility to LGBTIQ\* individuals (2018: 2, 2019: 14) – including four attacks – and in anti-Semitism (2018: 4, 2019: 12). Right-wing grandstanding (2018: 21, 2019: 23) mainly involved propaganda. One anti-homeless attack and two cases of discrimination based on disability were categorised as social chauvinism (2018: 1, 2019: 3). Even if the organised right-wing is still relevant in Lichtenberg, racism is a problem facing all of society independent of these protagonists, as is reflected in the data from the Lichtenberg Register Office.

#### Types of Incidents:

##### Increase in Propaganda, Attacks, Threats and Damage to Property

Almost two thirds of all incidents involved propaganda (2018: 121, 2019: 150), which is not unusual for a district with organised right-wing structures. The increase by 31 incidents was partly triggered by responses to the European Parliament elections and the activities of far-right parties. On the other hand, an increasing number of people perceive far-right propaganda in the cityscape as a problem and report it directly to the Register using their smartphones. This shows that higher figures can reflect both an increased number of incidents and greater awareness among local residents.

Another trend that has emerged over the past year is that, although fewer far-right party stickers have been spotted, more motifs are available on the Internet or are designed by the parties themselves. This suggests that more people who are not connected to the organised neo-Nazi scene are using sticker propaganda. The current potential of people with racist views, who also act in racist ways, has only partially been mobilised by far-right parties.

There were notable increases in figures for

#### 5th May 2019

In Schulze-Boysen-Str. and Wilhelm-Guddorf-Str. several election posters of the Greens and die Linke [the Left Party] were deliberately covered with stickers that can be ordered by mail from a neo-Nazi company. Some of the stickers targeted the parties directly (“Die Stasi” – [the GDR state security service]), others were directed against other political opponents (“Dumm Dümmer Antifa” [Stupid Stupid Antifa] or were motivated by anti-refugee views (“Stop the NGO

people-smuggling Mafia”)). Recently, election posters of the aforementioned parties were destroyed at Nöldnerplatz. Source: Lichtenberg Register Office

#### 30th July 2019

The Lichtenberg NPD carried out a racist “protection zone” patrol with four neo-Nazis in Vincent-van-Gogh Str. Source: Lichtenberg Register Office

#### 21st December 2019

An 18-year-old and a 19-year-old woman

were insulted by a man with anti-LGBTIQ attitudes at around 3.45 am at the Hohenschönhauser Str. / Weißenseer Weg tram stop. In the tram, the 19-year-old was pushed to the ground by the perpetrator and kicked in the face several times. The 18-year-old was punched in the face. At around 4.00 am, two women aged 28 and 29 were insulted at the Altenhofer Strasse tram stop by a man with anti-LGBTIQ views, who also attacked them in the tram.

Source: ReachOut Berlin, Berlin Police

the categories of insult/threat/abuse (2018: 21, 2019: 34) and attacks (2018: 22, 2019: 28). Again, these attacks were mainly for racist reasons (21 attacks, 19 threats).

The number of public events (2018: 26, 2019: 16) decreased. There was no march last year and only one NPD rally in the district with four participants. Only the NPD and the "Identitäre Bewegung" organised information stands. The "Schutzzonen" [protected zones] campaign (10 tours), in which NPD activists presented themselves as vigilantes, was also less intense than in the previous year.

The Rudolf Hess March, which had also passed through Lichtenberg in 2018 with several hundred neo-Nazis, was not held in 2019. Along with cancellations of other regular far-right events – such as the May 1st rally at Prerower Platz and the historical revisionist rally on May 8th in front of the Deutsch-Russisches Museum in Karlshorst [German-Russian Museum – the site of ratification of the instrument of surrender at the end of WW2], the cancellation of the Hess March was an indication of the current weakness of the organised far-right in Berlin. Especially during the election campaign, the number of cases of damage to property rose (2018: 5, 2019: 13). In 5 cases, discriminatory assertions in the district council (BVV) were recorded (2018: 7). In the category "other" (2018: 8), 12 cases of discrimination were reported to the authorities (2018: 8). These were mostly motivated by antiziganism.

**Sub-Districts: Lichtenberg Centre as a Hub of Far-right Activities**

Lichtenberg Centre is again the sub-district with the highest number of incidents (2018: 104, 2019: 106). With the exception of incidents at meetings of the district council (BVV), most of the attacks and threats in Lichtenberg took place in this sub-district, especially in the area around Lichtenberg station. During the election campaign, pos-

ters of democratic parties were destroyed, sprayed or covered with far-right stickers, especially in the Victoriakiez area.

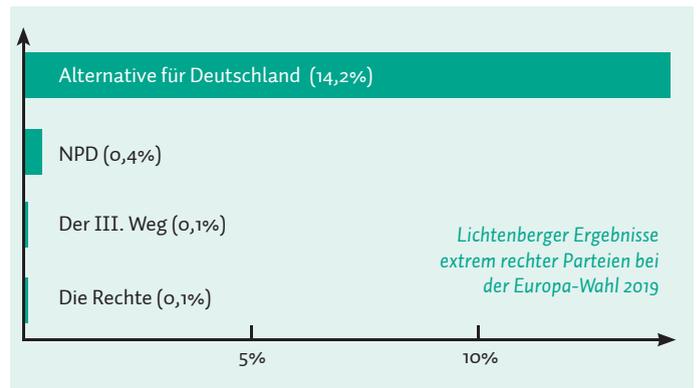
There was a significant increase in cases reported in Lichtenberg North (2018: 42, 2019: 79). In addition to standard stickers from the "Identitäre" and text graffiti of "Combat 18" (aka Kampfgruppe Adolf Hitler, banned since January 2020), several attacks and threats were recorded here, as well as 8 cases of discrimination by the public authorities. In the Neu-Hohenschönhausen sub-district (2018: 31, 2019: 13) there was a pronounced drop in the number of incidents reported. On three occasions, "protection zones" or stands promoting the NPD party were organised here. The number of cases reported in Alt-Hohenschönhausen (2018: 5, 2019: 15) increased. Five attacks took place in this sub-district alone, including two attacks on lesbian couples in December and one racist-motivated attack with a dog. In Karlshorst (2018: 3, 2019: 17), there was primarily an increase in the number of incidents involving sticker-based propaganda. The "Identitäre" also organised an information stand in this sub-district.

The precise location of 15 incidents could not be determined and these incidents thus categorised as district-wide. 13 incidents from the Internet were recorded, primarily racist comments and other comments by the NPD trivialising National Socialist crimes.

**Shift in Mainstream Appeal of the Far Right**

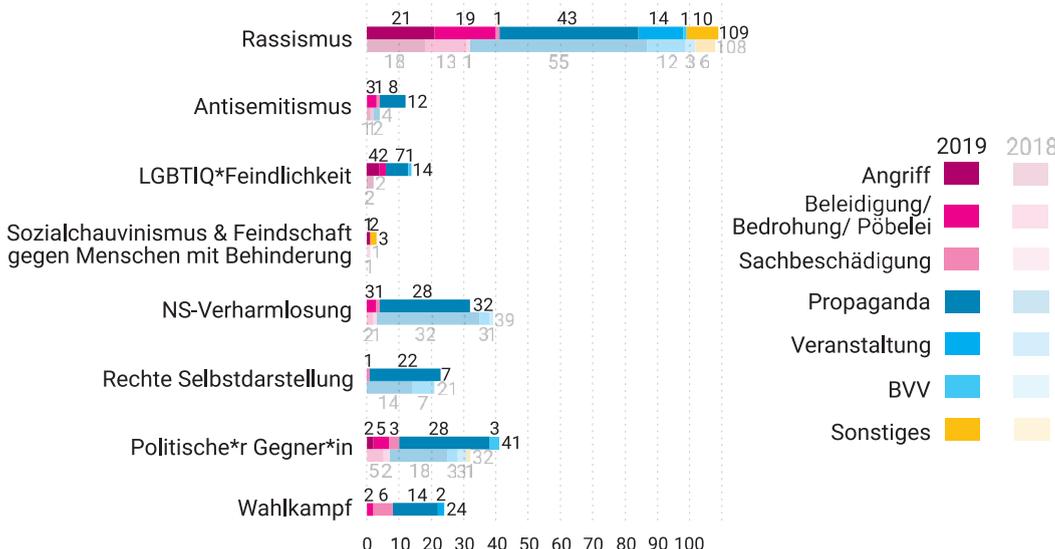
Looking back over the past years, it becomes clear that there was a significant increase in the number of cases reported by Register Of-

fices in the years shaped by disputes over the refugee accommodation centres in 2015 and 2016. Incidents reported to the Register Offices doubled in this period. Far-right protagonists discovered that they could not prevent the opening of refugee accommodation could not be prevented despite massive street mobilisation. The resulting perceived powerlessness of so-called "besorgte Bürger" [racist/right-wing individuals in the guise of "concerned citizens"] in the face of this social development turned into racist violence. Racist mobilisation only began to decline after the AfD won seats in the Berlin House of Representatives [parliament of the Federal State of Berlin] and on various district councils. As a result, the demands of right-wing demonstrators were transferred from the



streets into the parliamentary context. Even though the racist mobilisations have ended, the number of racist attacks and threats has risen continuously in recent years.

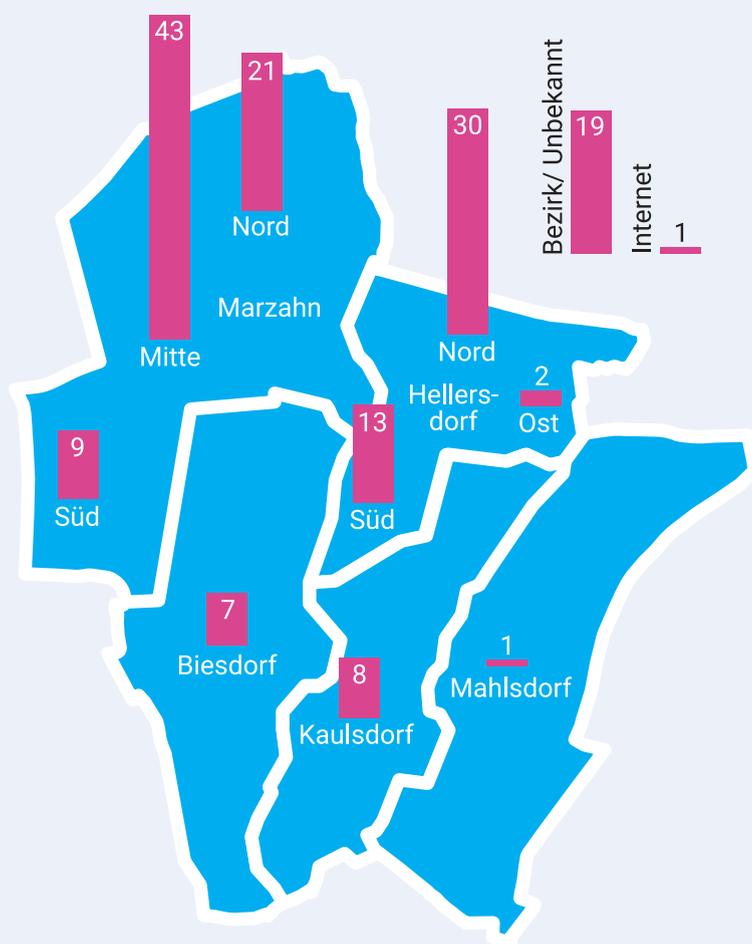
The nationwide trend for other far-right parties to lose ground to the AfD is also noticeable in Lichtenberg. This applies in terms of voter numbers as well as to the visibility of various parties and issues in the media and in parliamentary bodies. In recent years, parties like "Pro Deutschland", "Nein zum Heim" initiatives [opposed to refugee accommodation in the sub-district] and Kameradschaft [right-wing male-only fraternity] structures like the "Autonome Nationalisten Berlin" have announced that they were disbanding. The NPD is scarcely apparent in the district and tries to present itself in campaigns that rarely run under the party label. Only the neo-Nazi functionary party "Der III. Weg" continues to operate as it had done previously. Its elitist strategy of limiting itself organisationally to a few long-standing and ideologically trained neo-Nazi functionaries has enabled it to survive its actual insignificance better than other far-right organisations.





# Marzahn-Hellersdorf

Marzahn-Hellersdorf lies on the eastern edge of Berlin. The district has just under 270,000 inhabitants and a very heterogeneous population structure in its various sub-districts (Marzahn North, Marzahn Centre, Marzahn South, Biesdorf, Kaulsdorf, Mahlsdorf, Hellersdorf North, Hellersdorf East and Hellersdorf South). As well as having the largest contiguous area of prefabricated concrete-slab high-rise housing in Europe, Marzahn-Hellersdorf, with its “Gardens of the World”, complex is one of the greenest districts in Berlin. There is also one of the largest areas of semi-detached/detached homes. For years, an active far-right scene has existed in the district, which between 2013 and 2015 showed comparatively high mobilisation potential, instrumentalising racism. In addition to the permanent grandstanding of far-right protagonists, racism continues to be a frequent motive for incidents in the district.



Swastika at a tram stop in Marzahn North



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## Marzahn-Hellersdorf

In 2019, 154 incidents were recorded in Marzahn-Hellersdorf (2018: 182). Despite the decrease in the number of incidents reported, far-right and discriminatory activities in the district thus persist at a high level. For years, parts of the far-right scene have acted as self-appointed “wardens”, launching attacks on the Internet on democratic public events that promote solidarity-based co-existence and oppose right-wing incitement to hatred, as well as deliberately disrupting such events on the spot. At the same time, civil society involvement is growing within the framework of alliances in the district and new groups at the Alice-Salomon Hochschule in Hellersdorf.

### Type of Incidents

The number of incidents reported has decreased compared to the previous year by about 15% (28 incidents). This development is mainly due to the decrease in the number of incidents in two categories: on the one hand, incidents of threats, insults and abuse (2018: 40; 2019: 23) and, on the other hand, propaganda incidents (2018: 116; 2019: 104). One of the reasons for this decline the erosion of the reporting basis. The high fluctuation of staff in facilities in the district that are relevant for reporting incidents (e.g. staff in refugee accommodation centres) plays a major role in this context.

At the same time, there was an increase in the number of public events (2018: 3; 2019: 10),

primarily due to the activities of the far-right parties in the context of the 2019 European Parliament elections. The number of attacks also increased in 2019 (2018: 14; 2019: 15).

### Content of the incidents

There was a racist background to most of the attacks and threats recorded by the Marzahn-Hellersdorf Register Office. 14 out of 15 attacks were motivated by racism, as were 17 out of 23 incidents in the category threat/offence/abuse. The attacks were mostly carried out by unknown perpetrators who suddenly used violence in encounters in the supermarket, on the street or in train stations.

A year-on-year comparison of the motives underlying the documented incidents shows that the decline in overall figures is primarily limited to the category “right-wing grandstanding” (2018: 73; 2019: 34). The total number of incidents investigated in the field of “group-focused enmity” area (anti-Semitism, racism – with the sub-categories of anti-Muslim racism, anti-Black racism and antiziganism), among others, has remained largely constant (2018: 65; 2019: 62). An increase in the number of cases was even observed in 2019 in some categories, such as “trivialisation of National Socialist crimes” (2018: 21; 2019: 27). These incidents mainly related to swastika graffiti in public spaces, but also to “Hitler salutes” in public.

The number of incidents in the category “ca-

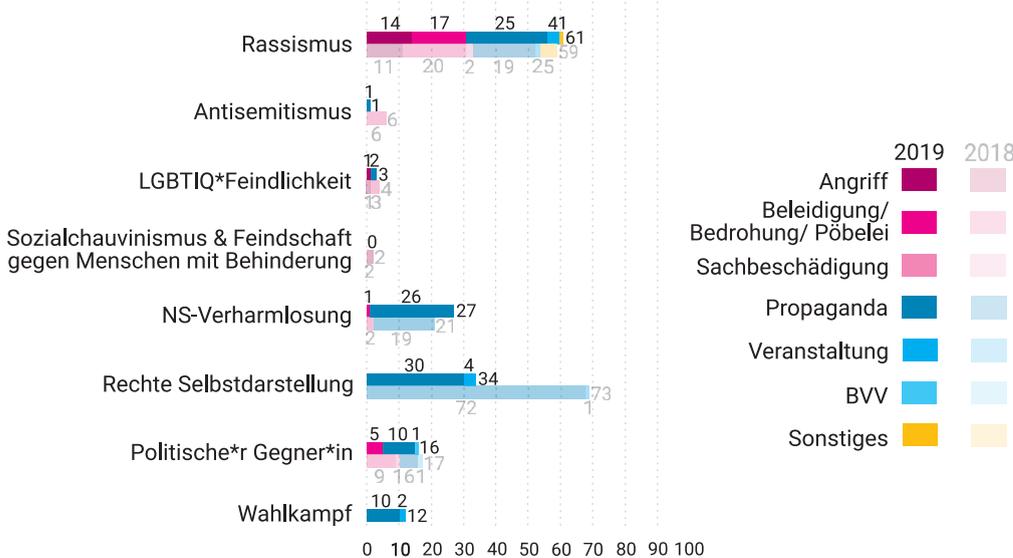
ses related to election campaigns” increased in 2019 due to the European Parliament elections, (2018: 0; 2019: 12). The election campaign in the district in part involved aggressive, demagogic content propagated by parties on the far-right as well as on the basis of “völkisch” [ethnic-nationalist – a term with a Nazi taint in German] authoritarian populism. In this context, for example, the brutal NPD posters with the slogan “Migration kills”.

The highest number of incidents was recorded in May (34). This can be attributed to incidents linked to the European Parliament elections. Despite the fall in the total number of incidents recorded, it therefore cannot be assumed that the general political mood in the district has changed fundamentally.

### Locations of Incidents

For Marzahn-Hellersdorf as a whole, the incidents recorded mainly continue to take place on the large housing estates. This is probably also because more people live there in comparatively confined spaces and a higher number of incidents are observed and reported in public spaces. In Hellersdorf, the highest number of incidents is still to be found in Hellersdorf North. Particularly noticeable incidents included the repeated appearance of graffiti with the logo of the far-right “Identitäre Bewegung”. Nevertheless, the total number of incidents recorded in Hellersdorf-North fell sharply in 2019, while figures rose in Hellersdorf-South. Within Marzahn, the highest case numbers appear in Marzahn-North and Marzahn-Centre.

The shift of the local hotspots towards Marzahn-North, noted in last year’s annual report, has thus not continued. Instead, the activities of neo-Nazi and far-right groups and parties are increasingly concentrated in Marzahn-Centre. The “Eastgate” shopping centre played a special role in this context. Neo-Nazi protagonists and groups tried to use local conflict situations around the shopping centre (reports of youth crime) to mobilise support. As a result, Eastgate and the area around it formed a local hotspot, also in the light of in the NPD’s racist “protected zones” campaign in



## Examples of Incidents

### 14th May 2019

A swastika was painted on a bin at the bus stop in Havemannstraße/corner of Rabensteiner Straße (bus line 197). The slogan “Nazikiez” [“Nazi neighbourhood”] was written next to it.

Source: Eyewitness

### 25th May 2019

The small neo-Nazi l party “Der III. Weg” organised campaigns in Marzahn-Hellersdorf and Treptow-Köpenick on the day before the European Parliament elections. At the “Eastgate” shopping centre, eight members of this small neo-Nazi party, wearing

uniform-style clothing printed with party symbols, had themselves photographed with a banner. Furthermore, displays with far-right slogans were on show and flyers were apparently distributed.

Source: Marzahn-Hellersdorf Register Office

2019. This campaign has so far met received little support from the general public. For the NPD, however, it had the positive effect of making neo-Nazi protagonists from the district appear more united again after internal disputes.

Since 2017 Marzahn-North and Marzahn-Centre have alternated within Marzahn as the sub-districts with the highest number of reported incidents. The sub-districts dominated by semi-detached and detached houses (Kaulsdorf, Mahlsdorf, Biesdorf) continue to show largely constant and comparatively low case numbers. If anything, the significant increase in recorded incidents in Kaulsdorf (2018: 1; 2019: 8) may be noteworthy but is probably due to a higher number of people submitting reports.

**Summary & Outlook**

It is unlikely that the lower number of far-right and discriminatory incidents reported to the Register Offices compared to last year is due to a genuine decrease in the number of incidents, as the number of motivated by racism attacks has remained constant compared to last year.

In addition, the district continues to have a special significance for Berlin-wide structures of the far-right. After the election in December 2019, the Berlin NPD's Regional Chairman is still from the Marzahn-Hellersdorf district NPD association. In addition, two neo-Nazis from the district will exercise observer functions within the NPD party executive. This development underlines the central role of the district association for the party structures. The efforts of individual neo-Nazi protagonists and groups to increase their visibility in the district again – the NPD's "protected zones" campaign is particularly noteworthy in this context – have met with little response from the general public.

One important meeting place of the far-right scene in Marzahn-Hellersdorf has disappeared as the pub "Viwa" at the Cottbusser Platz underground station has changed hands. The small neo-Nazi party "Der III. Weg" also complains about a lack of premises in the district. Accordingly, the local neo-Nazis are becoming increasingly active in other

places. Although the organised far-right is currently of little relevance, the spectrum of neo-Nazi supporters in the district can still mobilise some of the local population on specific individual issues, as became apparent in the racist demonstrations against the refugee accommodation centres in 2013 to 2015. This was demonstrated most recently at the topping-out ceremony for the new refugee accommodation centre at Murtzaner Ring, which was accompanied by massive racist rabble-rousing on the Internet.

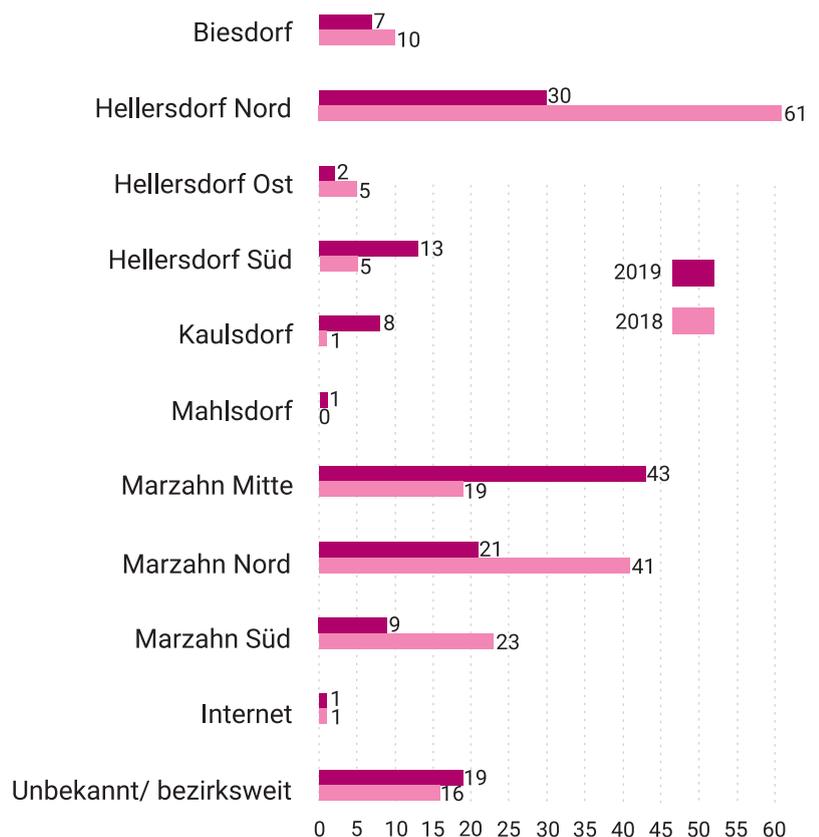
Notching up 19% of the vote in the European Parliament elections, the AfD was again the party with the second highest number of votes in the district. The district association's clearly "völkisch" orientation does not seem to affect its appeal for voters. A study conducted by the police indicates that most of the AfD members of the BVV [district council] have previously attended an event of the far-right "wing" of the AfD.

The AfD's increasingly aggressive behaviour towards democratic and civil society initiatives in the district, especially since the end of 2018, poses a particular challenge for local civil society. This includes a large number of enquiries in the district council meetings about the financing or functioning of the Register Office and many other democratic protagonists. That forms part of AfD attempts to silence democratic protagonists.

In terms of local hotspots, 2019 saw a concentration of incidents in

Marzahn-Centre and Hellersdorf-North. The high number of incidents and the content of these incidents further illustrate the presence of the far-right and of "völkisch"-authoritarian populism in the district, which should not be underestimated. Approval among part of the local population for the issues they promote and their slogans is also reflected in the election results. The work of committed representatives of democratic civil society that do exist in Marzahn-Hellersdorf will therefore continue to be valuable and indispensable in 2020 in decisively counteracting these developments in the district. The many different individuals reporting to the Register Office and the Register's various contact points in the district also make an important contribution to these efforts.

**Vorfälle in den Ortsteilen 2018 und 2019**



Source: Eyewitness / M-H Register Office

**20th July 2019**

A 13-year-old girl had her headscarf ripped off by a 29-year-old woman with anti-Muslim views at around 4.20 pm in Eichhorster Straße. The 13-year-old was throttled and hit.

Source: ReachOut

**27th November 2019**

In the afternoon, a family was subjected to racist insults by an individual outside Marktplatz Center [a shopping mall]. The individual in question entered the shopping mall and continued to proclaim racist slogans. At that point a passer-by intervened.

# Brief Description of the DOSTA Project – Evaluation of Incidents Motivated by Antiziganism in 2019

**Amaro Foro e.V. is a self-organised migrant youth group of Rom/nja and non-Rom/nja and represents mainly non-German Rom/nja in Berlin, who have to fight against structural disadvantages.**

**Amaro Foro e.V. has continuously recorded incidents in Berlin motivated by discriminatory views and antiziganism since 2014. The project “DOSTA - Antiziganism Documentation Centre” was developed for this purpose. The project arose out in response to the need to offer support to people affected by antiziganism through initial counselling, educational work about possible courses of action, the offer to accompany people affected to counselling bodies as well as empowerment work. Discriminatory comments and acts are still an everyday experience for Roma/Romnja and Sinti/Sintize living in Berlin (and for people considered to belong to these groups). Antiziganistic incidents occur in public authorities, at work, on the housing market, in schools and kindergartens, as well as in all other areas of life.**

By documenting the incidents and their consequences, “DOSTA” aims to create an overview for the Berlin public authorities as well as for relevant civil society protagonists in order to initiate targeted steps to prevent and combat antiziganism. Documentation is published annually to shed light on the social and institutional exclusion mechanisms that affect people from an actual or ascribed Roma background and thus to heighten public awareness of antiziganistic discrimination.

The project also focuses on initiating countermeasures, so that in some cases direct intervention takes place with the support of the project staff. At the same time, media reports and Internet posts with antiziganistic traits are documented and evaluated. The cases reported are recorded anonymously and subsequently categorised and evaluated by the project staff (on the basis of the type of incident and the context in which they occurred). The assessment of the people affected plays a decisive part in this process.

In 2019, the project recorded about 120 incidents involving discrimination and antiziganism. As in previous years, most cases of discrimination were recorded in the areas of “contact with welfare authorities” and “everyday life and public space”. The most common

forms of discrimination are in the categories of “racist propaganda”, “racist insults”, “criminalising insinuations”, “refusal to rent” as well as “refusal to accept applications” or various “refusals to provide services” on the part of the relevant public authorities.

The number of recorded incidents should not be viewed as representative of the extent of the phenomenon in Berlin. It remains fair to assume that only a few incidents are reported and that the number of unreported incidents is much higher. This is because those affected are often not informed about possibilities for intervention or are uncertain about taking countermeasures due to concerns about further victimisation. A further aspect when considering the likely number of unreported cases is also related to the limited reporting capacities of the counsellors/staff in the contact points, as incidents are often not reported against the backdrop of stressful everyday counselling activities. Evaluation of the media reporting in question above all reveals the persistence of antiziganistic clichés. A total of about 50 articles were classified as antiziganistic; these include supra-regional pieces on the “child benefit debate” in summer 2019 and reports in local and Berlin media. In the latter case, a Roma identity is still frequent attributed to individuals and groups when addressing the topics of crime, homelessness and what are known as “problem buildings”.

In addition, the DOSTA team also dealt last year with the topic of racial profiling or rather the topic of antiziganism in the police, after a clearly antiziganistic passage was included in the Police Crime Statistics (PKS) published in 2018. Intensive public relations and political work was conducted in cooperation with the Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma [Central Council of German Sinti and Roma] and other civil society protagonists. This led to a declaration by the Berlin Senate Department for the Interior and Sports] that such material would never again be included in the Police Crime Statistics (PKS) and would also be removed from the online version of the statistics.

Evaluation of the documented incidents in 2019 indicates that antiziganism is still considered a widely accepted form of racism. This is precisely why it is crucial to ensure that manifestations of antiziganism, including subliminal discrimination against people who self-identify as Roma or have a Roma background ascribed to them, are made visible, as well as

to take steps to ensure broader public awareness of the problems of social exclusion in everyday life. The experience that Amaro Foro e.V. has gained in the course of the project shows that in many cases interventions are not possible due to a lack of or insufficient legal protection. For this reason, Amaro Foro e.V. together with Berlin anti-discrimination counselling centres, supports the adoption by the Federal State of Berlin of an anti-discrimination bill (Landesantidiskriminierungsgesetz LADG) that would close the gaps in legal protection in the General Act on Equal Treatment Act (Allgemeines Gleichbehandlungsgesetz, AGG). Other relevant demands arise in this respect. Long-term support for implementation of targeted offers for those affected is crucial to inform the people concerned about their rights and intervention options, thus help to make them stronger. In the area of asylum law, there are calls for withdrawal of the safe-country-of-origin rule and for a return to fair, individual asylum procedures. There is also an urgent need to establish a right of residence for people who have lived here for many years, particularly in the case of children born and brought up in Germany, as well as for asylum seekers who have been victims of racist violence. Finally, in the area of the media, the discriminatory media reporting that has been recorded is the basis for demands that the German Press Council return to the original wording of its guidelines concerning references to ethnic origin in crime reporting.

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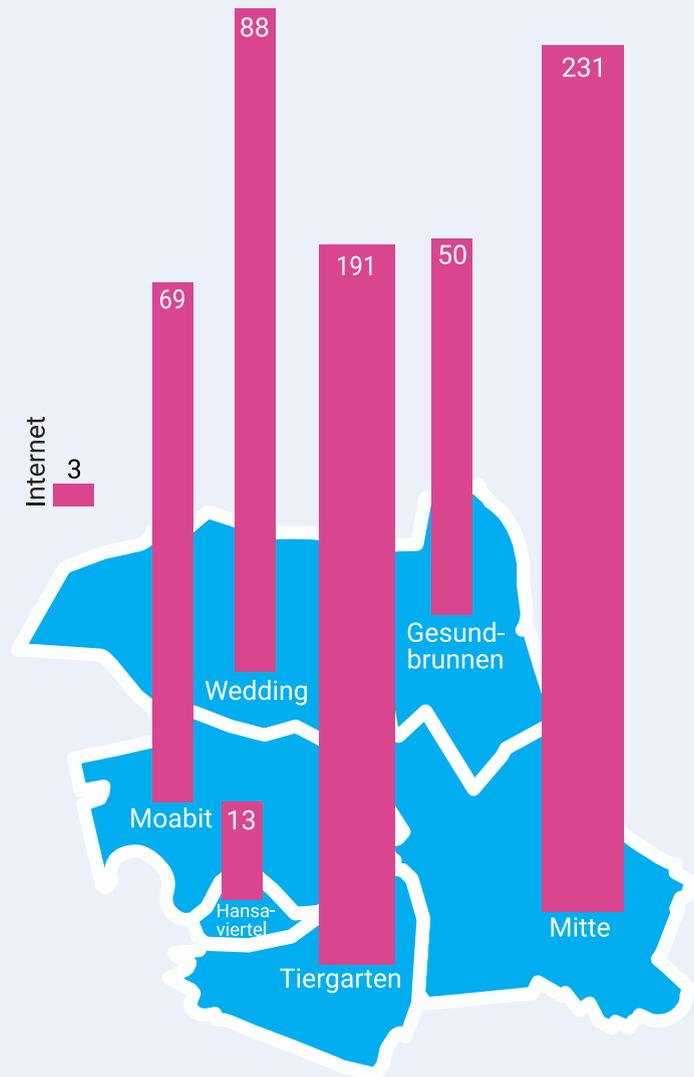
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# Mitte

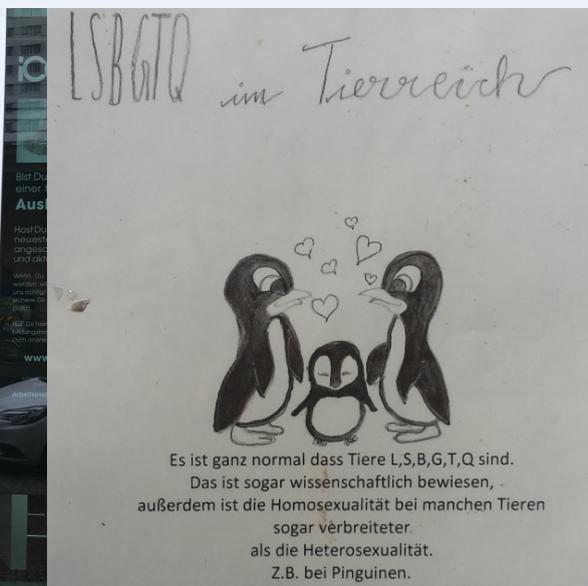
The district Berlin Mitte comprises the sub-districts Mitte, Moabit, Tiergarten, Wedding, Gesundbrunnen and Hansaviertel. Almost 390,000 people live here. The district includes the government quarter, where a particularly large number of rallies and demonstrations are held, as well as many transport hubs, busy public squares and shopping areas, where unfortunately there are also a particularly high number of incidents.



Homophobic graffiti in Mitte



School pupils in Mitte encounter anti-LGBTIQ\* slogans



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While incidents decreased throughout Berlin, a total of 645 incidents were recorded in the district in mid-2019, compared to 495 in 2018 and 344 in 2017. As a result, the district of Mitte recorded the highest number of incidents of all Berlin Register Offices, as was also the case in the past two years. People have continued to grow less inhibited about expressing racist, anti-Semitic and anti-LGBTIQ\* opinions or even attacking others for such motives. There has also been a clearer shift in boundaries this year than last year – with a move from slogans to deeds. The total figure for physical attacks and campaigns of intimidating threats rose from 62 in the previous year to 96. This increase was particularly marked in the case of attacks motivated by racism, which rose from 25 to 46. This was the only district in Berlin in which so many attacks occurred.

### Type of Incidents

In 2018 there was already a marked increase in insults and threats, which rose from 48 (2017) to 136 (2018). In 2019 such incidents increased further to 142. The rise in attacks (from 62 to 96) was particularly alarming in 2019. Only a very small proportion of these attacks and insults came from far-right protagonists and public events organised by them. These incidents mainly occurred in everyday contexts, in public places and more clearly than in the previous year also among neighbours. In public transport alone and at transport hubs such as public transport interchanges, 132 attacks and insults were recorded. Propaganda incidents, such as cases of stickers and graffiti, which are also used to mark out territory, also rose from 133 (2018) to 184. Damage to property was recorded mainly at memorials for victims of National Socialism, doubling from 14 to 28. The figures on damage to property also include 3 incidents in which a man set fire to cars in Mitte, seeking to blame and thus discredit the left-wing milieu as the supposed perpet-

erator. Refusals to provide service and cases of discrimination by public authorities and in the workplace were recorded in the category “Other”. The number of such incidents has risen significantly from 8 in the previous year to 31. A particularly high number of public events such as rallies and demonstrations are held in the Mitte district, with its various government institutions and central squares. The number of such public events also increased further from 142 to 164. However, fewer participants could be mobilised, so that the events were mostly poorly attended. These rallies and demonstrations are increasingly streamed on the Internet and information about them is distributed through a variety of right-wing populist and far-right Internet media. They thus contribute to consolidation of right-wing, racist and anti-Semitic world views in Internet “opinion bubbles”.

### More Racist Incidents, Particularly Racist Attacks

As in the previous year, the increase in incidents recorded in the Mitte district is particularly due to the increase in racist incidents, which have increased from 145 (2017) to 272 (2018) and in 2019 to a total of 324 incidents. Racially motivated attacks in particular increased from 25 to 49. However, racist threats and insults also continued to rise significantly from 75 (2018) to 94, as did racist propaganda incidents, which went up from 42 (2018) to 55, and racist refusals to grant social security benefits and discrimination by the public authorities, which are also included in the category “Other”. Most (113) of the 164 public events reported were also racist. They were directed against migration in general and against refugees. The clichés about purported enemies that were deployed at these events mainly involved Muslim and Black men, as well as all those who allegedly contribute to enabling migration to Germany and wish to grant migrants rights and opportunities to participate in Germany. To this end, material promoting

conspiracy ideologies about alleged plans for “population exchange” was again disseminated in 2019.

The total figure for recorded incidents of anti-Muslim racism dropped from 73 to 63. This can be explained by the drop in the number of “BärGiDa” [Berlin branch of the Islamophobic “Pegida” movement] marches, which had a particularly anti-Muslim racist tenor; in 2018 these marches were still taking place on a weekly basis, while at most they were held once a month in 2019 due to ever decreasing mobilisation. Attacks, threats and insults, however, increased in 2019. This year there were more cases of aggressive attacks against Muslim women wearing headscarves in everyday settings, on public transport and near their homes, often in the presence of their children. Antiziganistic incidents increased only slightly from 13 to 15 but attacks and insults also increased in this context. This included a life-threatening knife attack on the underground in Wedding, for which the perpetrator has since been convicted of attempted murder and grievous bodily harm. In addition, the monument to the Sinti/zze and Rom/nja persecuted under National Socialism was damaged twice.

### 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. In recent years, many African associations, shops and restaurants have become established in Mitte and especially in the Wedding sub-district,

#### 30th March 2019

Around 10:30 a.m., a 49-year-old woman, a 54-year-old man and a 29-year-old man on the underground line 6 between the underground stations Afrikanische Straße and Rehberge were insulted and attacked by a 37-year-old woman due to antiziganism. The 29-year-old and the 49-year-old were suffered life-threatening injuries due to knife wounds and the 54-year-old suffered injuries due to being pushed. On 4th November 2019, the perpetrator was

sentenced by the Berlin Regional Court to four years and nine months imprisonment for attempted murder in one case and inflicting intentional dangerous bodily harm in the case of the other multiple offences.

Sources: ReachOut, police report

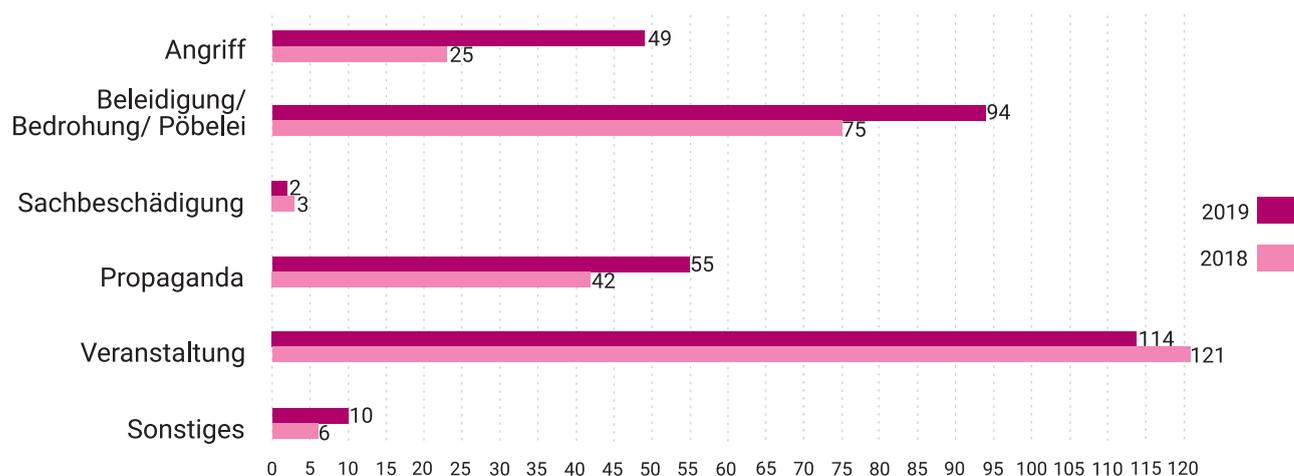
#### 15th April 2019

Two anti-racist refugee stickers were discovered and removed from the outside of the window of the bar run by an association in Moabit involved in supporting

refugees and from a nearby junction box. The stickers originate from a far-right mail-order company in Halle run by a former member of the banned “Blood & Honour” movement. The exterior of the association’s bar had been covered with similar racist anti-refugee stickers on several previous occasions and had been harassed with hate comments on its Facebook page.

Source: Berlin-Mitte Register Office

## Rassistische Vorfälle 2018 und 2019



and many people from the African diaspora are based here. In Mitte, the total number of incidents in this thematic area increased from 31 to 41 in 2019 and the increase here was also in particular due to attacks (11) and insults and threats (23). Two public events opposing the decolonisation movement in Berlin were also recorded; these events aimed to legitimise the German colonial past through sugar-coated depictions of the purported benefits for people affected by colonial oppression and exploitation.

The crimes of colonialism, on the other hand, were denied or trivialised in order to continue ignoring the enduring developmental consequences of colonialism and the ways in which these reproduce racism. These public events included one organised by the AfD parliamentary group in the Bundestag, at which the advertised lecture by a US political scientist was given the tagline “Taking stock of German colonialism – Why the Germans have no need to apologise for the colonial era or indeed pay for it”. Through this event, the AfD opposed any attempt to include German colonial history, along with its crimes and consequences, in the German culture of remembrance as a means to call for decolonisation and oppose racism.

### Anti-Semitism in Mitte

More anti-Semitic incidents have also been reported and recorded in the Mitte district, with its many Jewish institutions, than in other districts. There was already a pronounced increase in 2017, from 58 (2016) to 95 incidents. In 2018, figures remained at this high level with 91 incidents and fell only slightly in 2019 to 80 incidents. There were fewer attacks in 2019 than in the previous year (8 instead of 13), as well as fewer cases involving insults (20 instead of 37). Thwarted attacks, such as an attempted attack with a knife in front of a synagogue, and actual attacks, such as the attack on Yom Kippur in Halle, create feelings of insecurity among Jews in Berlin. In addition, the number of anti-Semitic public events rose from 12 to 17 and there was a significant increase in material damage to memorials commemorating the persecution of Jews under National Socialism and the Shoah, with figures rising from 4 to 10. Hate mail sent by email or post to Israeli and Jewish institutions and individuals in the district also increased slightly, contrary to the Berlin-wide trend. That means there is no reason to sound the all-clear here either. In addition, it could be observed even more clearly than in the previous year that there was a widely tolerated anti-Semitic tenor to

comments made at many racist and anti-refugee public events in Mitte. Inter alia, there were repeated references in terms of conspiracy ideology to 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, nor indeed within German history.

### Twice as Many Anti-LGBTIQ\* Incidents

A significant increase in the general trend towards lowered inhibitions [in expressing discrimination] was also recorded in anti-LGBTIQ\* incidents. The number of such incidents more than doubled from 30 (2018) to 63 (2019). They included 29 homophobic and transphobic physical attacks, which were mostly particularly brutal, seven cases of insults, nine cases of damage to property – in particular repeated damage to the memorial for homosexuals persecuted under National Socialism in Tiergarten – and an increase in anti-homosexual and anti-transsexual graffiti and stickers.

### 25th April 2019

When a woman wearing a headscarf and pushing a pram, with a second small child holding her hand, got onto a train on the U9 underground line heading towards Osloer Straße at the underground station Turmstraße at around 5:30 pm, two old “white” women made loud, clearly audible anti-Muslim and racist insulting remarks about, among other things, the number of children in Muslim families.

Source: Berlin-Mitte Register Office

### 11th May 2019

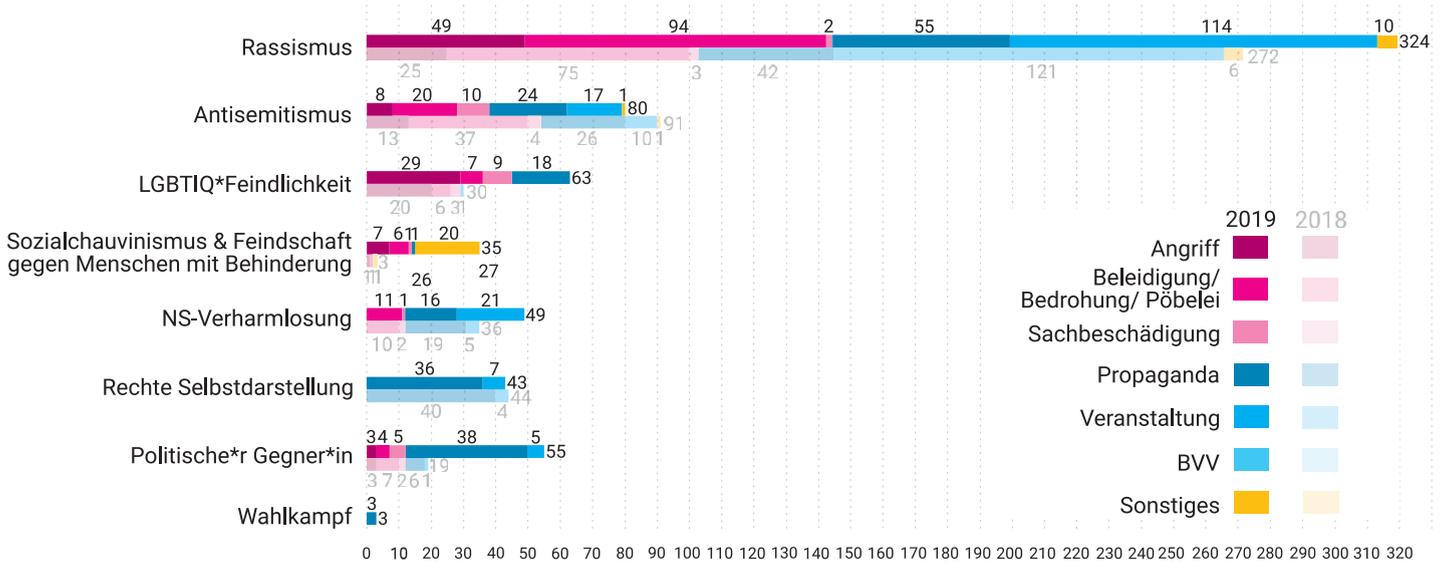
Starting at 11:00 a.m., a small rally of the Reichsbürger group “Staatenlos. Info” was held at Platz der Republik in front of the Bundestag building. In speeches to about 20 participants, the Federal Republic and its government were delegitimised, racist, anti-refugee comments were made hostile and there was also incitement to hatred of political opponents.

Source: Berlin-Mitte Register Office

### 17th July 2019

Outside the Federal Chancellery, opponents of compulsory measles vaccination held a rally. Among the demonstrators were numerous known neo-Nazis, representatives of the radical and far-right, “Querfront” [“cross-front”] activists, right-wing esotericists and proponents of conspiracy ideologies. Propaganda material relativising the Shoah was distributed with no sign that this disturbed other participants at the rally.

Source: Berlin-Mitte Register Office



The general tendency towards lowered inhibitions [in expressing discrimination] was also reflected in the increased number of both attacks on homeless people and cases of insults and threats targeting people with disabilities. In addition, in these two fields we also recorded more incidents involving discrimination by the public authorities and refusals to grant social security benefits in 2019.

#### Further Developments

There was also a significant rise in incidents in which the far-right targeted political opponents: an increase from 19 (2018) to 55. These, however, included only three attacks and four cases of insults, and were otherwise propaganda incidents, such as stickers opposing the Antifa. Incidents involving glorification of National Socialism and trivialisation of its crimes also increased (from 36 to 49 incidents), mostly involving abuse such as Hitler salutes and swastikas. 21 public events were reported as being mainly neo-Nazi and historically revisionist. Nevertheless, the neo-Nazi and organised far-right in the form of the NPD, the micro-parties “Die Rechte” and “Der III. Weg” and “Kameradschaften” [right-wing student fraternities] have very little support in the district. Only activities by

the Turkish fascist organisation Ülkücü [Idealist Hearths], commonly referred to as the “Grey Wolves”, have increased significantly in 2019. Neo-Nazi right-wing parties and “Kameradschaften” have never been particularly active in the district. Instead, hybrid milieu of right-wing populists and the far-right have formed in connection with particular events in recent years, as in the context of “BärGida”, “Wir für Deutschland” or right-wing “gilets jaunes”. In 2019, these have increasingly been reduced to radical nuclei and have brought fewer and fewer followers onto the streets, so that the organisers have now reduced or even stopped their marches. The far-right “Identitäre Bewegung” has also increasingly proved to be a “pseudo giant” [i.e. not nearly as large as it pretends] and organised significantly fewer public activities in 2019 with declining numbers of participants. Nevertheless, there was an increase in the total number of rallies organised by these hybrid milieu, in particular by those associated with the “Reichsbürger” movement, although overall participation declined. In the social media channels, this section of the political spectrum is becoming more radical and is gaining supporters, with the AfD likewise seeking to gain support from such voters. In May 2019, for example, the AfD parliamenta-

ry group in the Bundestag organised what it called the “1st Conference of the Free Media”, inviting numerous bloggers close to the AfD, anti-Muslim racist and far-right bloggers, as well as bloggers from esoteric-völkisch and esoteric/anti-Semitic circles.

The targeted rhetoric, which is based on fear and scaremongering, is directed at people with existential fears who confirm each other’s convictions in Internet “opinion bubbles” and subsequently feel compelled to put their convictions into practice. This can be seen in the figures from the Mitte Register Office. Looking ahead to 2020, two demonstrations of anti-vaccination activists in Mitte, held in 2019 with several thousand participants, reveal that anti-vaccination circles and esoteric circles were already well networked with the far-right before the coronavirus pandemic. Participants in these events were unperturbed by comparisons that trivialised the crimes of the National Socialist regime, by anti-Semitic conspiracy ideologies and by the blatantly far-right demonstrators. The so-called “hygiene demonstrations” (2020) against public health measures to stem the coronavirus pandemic did not appear out of thin air, but rather built on the networking evident at the anti-vaccination demonstrations (2019).

#### 9th October 2019

During a guided tour organised by the “Berlin Postkolonial” association in the Afrikanischer Viertel area, an elderly man with a German flag sewn on his sleeve approached the group of about 30 students taking part in the tour at around 4: 30 pm in the vicinity of Petersallee near the entrance to the “Togo” allotment complex and commented on the presence of the Black leader of the event with: “The harassment-[N-word] again”.

He then repeated the “N” word in further insults. After being loudly criticised by several people, he retreated to a nearby apartment building.

Source: Berlin-Mitte Register Office, Berlin Postkolonial

#### 15th October 2019

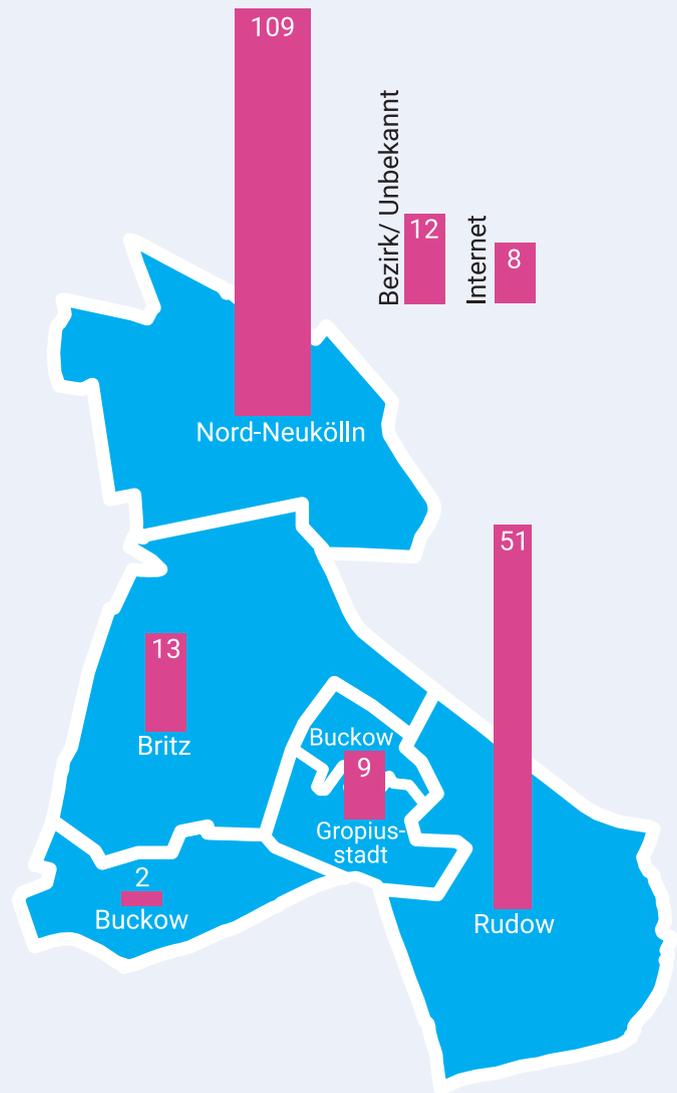
Shortly after the attempted attack on the synagogue in Halle by Stephan B., “Free Step” [in English] was graffitied on a stele at the Memorial to the Murdered

Jews of Europe in Ebertstraße in Mitte. It can be assumed that it was addressed to the anti-Semitic perpetrator of the attack as a message of solidarity. On the previous day, damage to the information board at the memorial had already been discovered.

Source: Department for Research and Information on Antisemitism Berlin (RIAS)

# Neukölln

Almost 330,000 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 inner-city 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 sub-districts is also reflected in the nature of the incidents.



Neo-Nazi markings in the cityscape



Irmela Mensah-Schramm removing neo-Nazi slogans



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**Neukölln: Fewer Incidents, More Attacks**

In 2019, 204 incidents were documented in the Neukölln district (2018: 364). This corresponds to an overall decrease of 78 %. 2018, however, represents an exception in the documentation. Figures from a parliamentary question on right-wing terrorism in Neukölln that was dealt with in writing by the Berlin House of Representatives have been included in our records as this was such a burning topical issue locally. That led to a sharp increase in the figures for incidents reported. In 2018, 104 incidents were included in the documentation on the basis of written parliamentary enquiries. The corresponding 2019 parliamentary enquiry lists 88 incidents. However, as the Register Offices mainly record incidents reported by civil society, these figures from the written parliamentary enquiry, which was also submitted in 2019, were not taken into account again as incidents. This is to ensure that it remains possible to compare the various districts' figures for incidents reported.

This factor explains much of the decline in the figures. In order to nonetheless enable more precise statements about developments in the district, 2017 is also taken as a point of reference here.

In particular, reports of propaganda incidents decreased (2019: 92; 2018: 169; 2017: 140). Similarly, the number of reports in the threat/offence/abuse category decreased compared

to the previous year (2019: 29; 2018: 84). This means that they have returned to roughly the level of the preceding year (2017: 36). In terms of propaganda, the incidents reported mainly contained content that could be attributed to right-wing grandstanding. This suggests that there are still protagonists from the organised right-wing scene in the district. Racism and anti-Semitism were the most common motives underlying incidents of threats and insults.

**Key Developments in 2019**

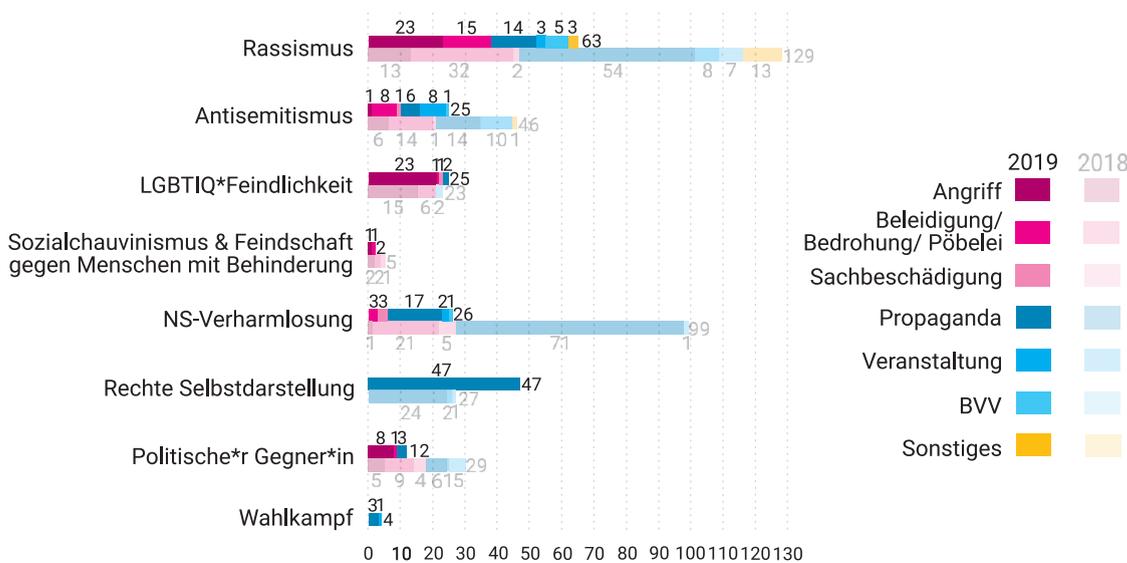
Despite the fall in overall figures, propaganda (92 incidents) remained the most common type of incident in 2019. This included swastika graffiti, racist and anti-refugee stickers, flyers of far-right and right-wing populist groups, and anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim graffiti. 28 of the reports came from North Neukölln, the rest from the southern part of Neukölln, i.e. from the sub-districts Britz, Buckow, Gropiusstadt and Rudow.

As in previous years, North Neukölln was the sub-district with the highest number of incidents (2019: 109; 2018: 182; 2017: 132), followed by Rudow (2019: 51; 2018: 63; 2017: 48). The number of incidents reported in the remaining sub-districts was considerably lower – also compared to 2017. Significantly fewer incidents were recorded in Britz (2019: 13; 2018: 44; 2017: 40). The high number of incidents in

North Neukölln can be explained by the fact that this sub-district contains places where those affected and perpetrators may come into contact due to the Ringbahn [Circle Line on S-Bahn suburban rail system], the underground lines 7 and 8 and many pubs that attract a left-wing or LGBTIQ\* audience. Rudow has had an active core of the right-wing scene for many years, which is responsible for the propaganda incidents, attacks and damage to property. As this group increasingly realises it is under observation, fewer incidents occur. In Gropiusstadt there were 9 incidents (2018: 24; 2017: 13) and in Buckow only 2 (2018: 16; 2017: 9). There was also a decline in the number of online incidents, which had been recorded for the first time in Neukölln in the previous year (2019: 8; 2018: 27).

Likewise, fewer public events were reported (2019: 14; 2018: 21; 2017: 26). Here, too, the majority took place in North Neukölln. About half were reported as anti-Semitic incidents. The other public events involved so-called “protection zone patrols” organised by the NPD and two actions organised by the “Identitäre Bewegung”. There was a drop in the number of cases of damage to property reported (2019: 5; 2018: 13; 2017: 20). There was a further decrease in the number of incidents involving the district council (BVV). Here 7 incidents were documented (2018: 16; 2017: 7). The majority of these were racist, anti-Semitic or anti-Muslim

statements by members of the district council. In the category “other”, 3 incidents of official discrimination were recorded (2018: 14; 2017: 4).



**Highest Number of Attacks**

It is important to refer back to 2017 as well when it comes to interpreting developments due to the different sources used for data. The situation is different, however, with regard to the number of attacks. Here, using the

**25th February 2019**

In Karl-Marx-Strasse, a 37-year-old man was attacked by two unidentified persons at around 15: 50. Anti-LGBTIQ\* insults were directed at the 37-year-old man, who was held down and hit in the face by one of the two unknown men. Source: ReachOut Berlin

**13th March 2019**

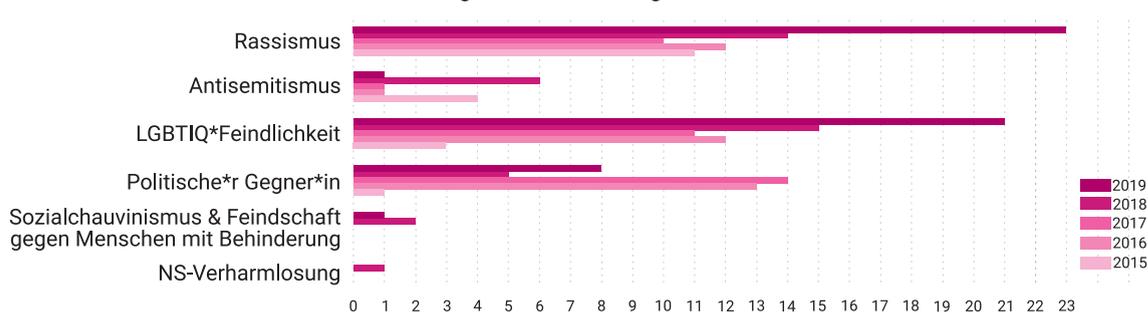
At around 21: 40, a 44-year-old man in a supermarket in Reuterstraße was subjected to anti-LGBTIQ\* insults from another man. He was pushed and his arm was twisted. Source: ReachOut Berlin

**16th March 2019**

In the night from Friday to Saturday, the hallway in a residential building in

North Neukölln was defaced with red paint. The sprayed graffiti contained the full name of a person living in the house in combination with the death threat “9 mm for ...” and a Celtic cross symbol. Charges were filed with the police. The incident is part of a series of far-right attacks: during the same night, the facades and hallway of four apartment buildings in North Neukölln were defaced with paint. Names of private individuals

Entwicklung der Motive der Angriffe in Neukölln von 2015 bis 2019



same methods as in previous years, the figures were compared with police reports and the record of incidents reported to the victim advisory centre ReachOut.

54 documented attacks in Neukölln accounted for over a quarter of the incidents in the district and represent a further increase compared with the previous year (2018: 43; 2017: 36).

Most of these attacks occurred in North Neukölln, mainly in highly frequented public places, for example on public transport or in squares. The most frequent category was attacks motivated by racism (2019: 23; 2018: 15; 2017: 8). There was also an increase in anti-LGBTIQ\* attacks (2019: 21; 2018: 15; 2017: 11). It is fair to state that there is still a lot of right-wing propaganda, not only in the southern parts of Neukölln. This includes stickers from far-right parties and small parties such as the “Der III. Weg” or the NPD, as well as many junction boxes or bus stops defaced with swastikas or Celtic crosses. While the propaganda incidents in the district as a whole show that there is a resident organised right-wing scene, in the north of Neukölln the public realm, with its transport links and nightlife areas, provides an environment in which attacks are frequent.

### Increased Reports of Anti-LGTBIQ\* Incidents

Although the figures have fallen in almost all other categories, the number of anti-LGTBIQ\* incidents had remained stable or risen slightly (2019: 25; 2018: 23). 21 of these 25 incidents are attacks (2018: 15).

As in other districts (such as Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg or Tempelhof-Schöneberg), the number of anti-LGTBIQ\* attacks reported has

increased in Neukölln.

All the attacks reported took place in public, mostly in busy locations and streets and mostly in the evening or at night, as the community participates visibly in the district’s nightlife.

Public spaces remain more dangerous for certain groups and people than for others. It must still be assumed that there are a considerable number of unreported cases in this area. With regard to Berlin-wide developments, the reporting and notification behaviour of those affected has changed and as a result more people are making their experiences public. The reduced inhibition threshold for reporting is also due to community-based counselling work.

However, changed reporting behaviour cannot be detected in all areas. Although it can be assumed that those affected by anti-LGTBIQ\* attacks are also the target of threats or insults, only 1 such incident was reported in Neukölln in 2019, which also represents a decline compared to the previous year (2018: 6). That means there is still a need to ensure that those affected are taken seriously, that support is provided to encourage people to report incidents and as well as to motivate people to intervene when attacks occur.

### The Series of Attacks in Neukölln

Even if debate on the topic has become somewhat calmer, the 2019 series of attacks remains as topical as ever. Critical enquiries at the parliamentary level and pressure from civil society protests have contributed to the retrospective publication of investigation results. In addition, the scandals concerning police work have kept the problem on the agenda. In recent years, there have been arson attacks on

cars and cafés, specifically targeting left-wing, politically active people and collectives. The Anton Schmaus-Haus der Falken had already been set on fire twice in 2011 and since June 2016 there have been more than 50 attacks targeting politically active people, including 16 arson attacks.

In addition, spray-painted and scribbled graffiti threats have been made against individuals on and in the buildings where they live. The last recorded case of threats and death threats was in March 2019. House walls were sprayed with the words “9mm for XY” and the full names of people living there were indicated. Since then, the situation has grown calmer and no incidents reported could be directly categorised as forming part of the series of attacks. Nevertheless, swastikas marking buildings and shops are seen at regular intervals, especially in northern Neukölln, as well as broken windows in left-wing restaurants. Although the number of attacks is decreasing, possibly due to increased attention and observation by the police, the streetscape in southern Neukölln is often characterised by far-right graffiti and stickers.

There is constant criticism of the investigations due to the continuing failure to identify those responsible for the series of attacks. In this spirit, weekly demonstrations of those affected are still being organised in front of the Berlin Criminal Police Office and there are still calls for a committee of enquiry to be established.

In many cases it remains unclear whether specific cases of arson, damage to property and attacks can be ascribed to the perpetrators of the Neukölln series of attacks. In this context the people affected criticise the frequent failure to recognise racism as a motive for such crimes, which means that this is therefore not investigated.

living there and active in left-wing and anti-fascist contexts were sprayed on the houses, along with death threats or other threats.

Source: Neukölln Register Office, MBR, taz

### 23rd June 2019

On the evening of 23rd June, a person was attacked by a group of four or five young people at Kottbusser Damm. First the individual in question was

sprayed with water. When the individual addressed the young people in reaction to this, this person was pushed to the ground and kicked several times. When witnesses came to help, the group fled. The person suspected that the attack was because of their appearance and sexual orientation.

Source: Berlin Police

### 30th September 2019

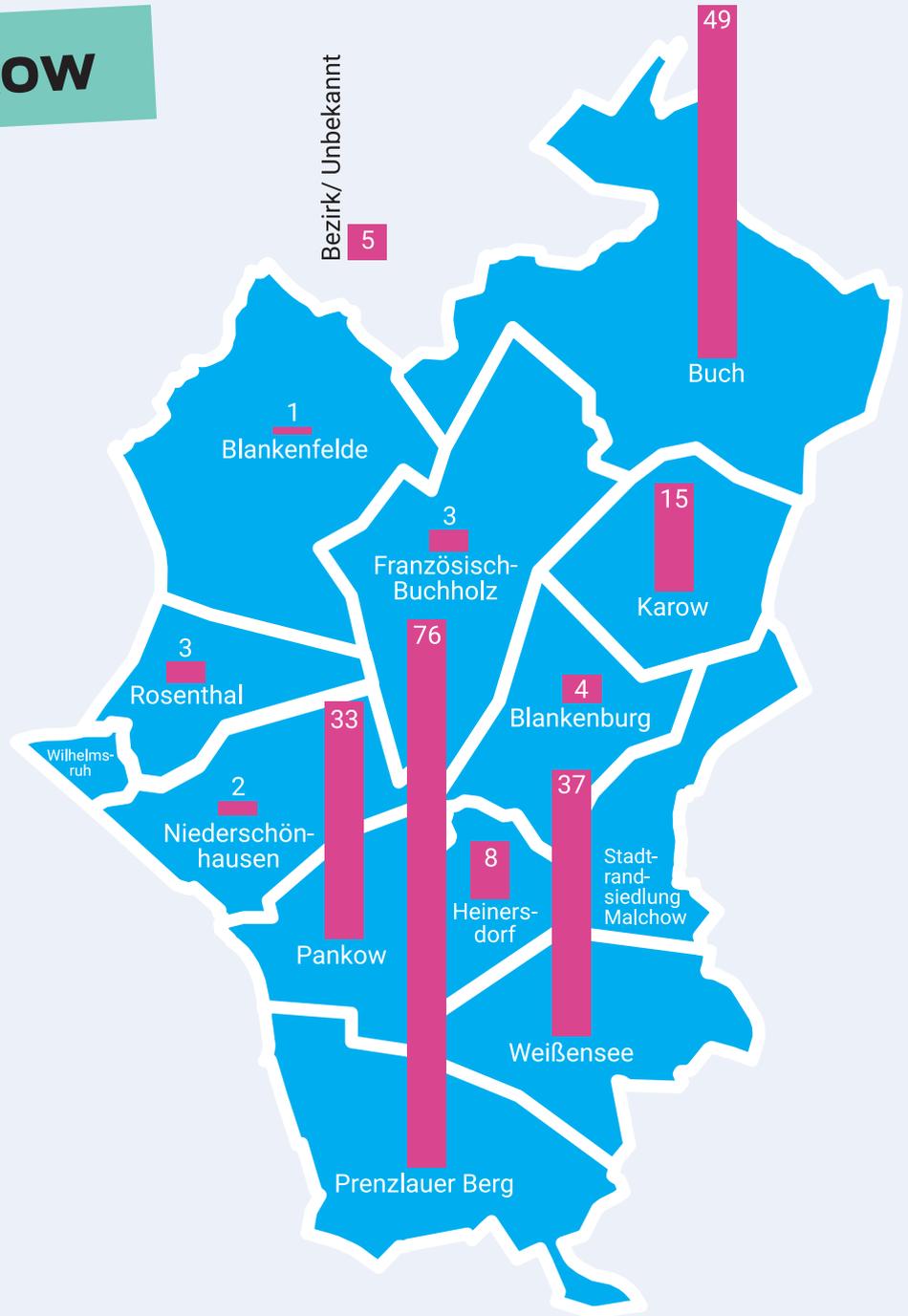
A woman and a man, both aged 34, were in Roseggerstraße with a bicycle trailer for children at about 6:30 p.m. The woman was subjected to racist insults by a 49-year-old man and a beer bottle was thrown at the man who was with her.

Source: ReachOut Berlin



# Pankow

With almost 410,000 inhabitants, Pankow is currently Berlin's most populous district and population figures continue to grow. Prenzlauer Berg is the sub-district with the highest population density in the entire district. Almost 165,000 people live in this sub-district, while "only" 53,700 people live in Weißensee. Towards the north, the district is divided into a further eleven sub-districts and covers a relatively large area; an average of 3,925 inhabitants per square kilometre live in the district.



Overpainted swastikas on a monument in Prenzlauer Berg Fake party stickers for the European Parliament elections



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In 2019, the Fach- und Netzwerkstelle gegen Rechtsextremismus, für Demokratie und Vielfalt [expertise and network centre against right-wing extremism, for democracy and diversity] [moskito] recorded a total of 236 incidents for the Pankow district, based on group-related misanthropy motives (racism, anti-Semitism, anti-LGBTIQ\* attitudes, etc.) and/or a right-wing populist, far-right to neo-Nazi attitude. Compared to previous years, the number of reports increased slightly (2018: 234; 2017: 230). Most incidents occurred during the period of the European Parliament elections (April: 26; May: 43). In general, it can be seen that racist or anti-Semitic incidents are carried out by different perpetrators. Neo-Nazis or far-righters also play a role, but are not the main perpetrators. Incidents directed at political opponents, on the other hand, almost exclusively involve by neo-Nazis or those on the far-right.

### Two Sides of Pankow – Prenzlauer Berg and Berlin-Buch

As in previous years, Prenzlauer Berg is the sub-district in which the highest number of incidents are reported. A total of 77 incidents were recorded here. This sub-district is the most densely populated in the Pankow district, has an active nightlife and a number of central transport hubs (e.g. the S-Bahn stations Schönhauser Allee, Greifswalder Straße or Storkower Straße). Compared to the previous year, there has been a slight increase in incidents reported (2018: 69, 2017: 61). Berlin-Buch continues to rank second with 49 incidents reported, which is roughly the same as the level in recent years (2018: 42, 2017: 47). Right-wing and neo-Nazi groups of friends can still be found here. The Pankow NPD views this sub-district as a central field of action in which it distributes flyers or affixes stickers. The number of

incidents in Weißensee has risen sharply from 19 (2018) to 37 (2019). This increase is due on the one hand to new reporting possibilities via social media and on the other hand to the growing number of far-right racist stickers. On the other hand, the number of incidents in the Pankow sub-district fell from 42 in 2018 to 31 reports. That figure is similar to the level of incidents recorded in 2017 and the number of incidents in Karow has also fallen (2019: 15, 2018: 28, 2017: 30). Persons who affixed right-wing or neo-Nazi stickers here in previous years no longer appear to be active in the district.

### Slight Increase in Attacks – Fewer Threats

The majority of reports (57%) continue to concern propaganda offences. Compared to the previous year, the number of such incidents has again decreased (2019: 134; 2018: 140; 2017: 154). The number of attacks has increased slightly to a total of 28 (2018: 24; 2017: 12). Incidents involving insults, threats and abuse have decreased compared to the previous year (2019: 39, 2018: 50, 2017: 30). The number of public events reported has increased from 11 in 2018 to 16. Compared to 2014, 2015 and 2016, however, the figure has fallen steadily. Those years marked the apex of racist street mobilisation against refugee accommodation centres.

In 2019, a total of 6 cases of property damage were reported and 3 BVV motions were also notified. The number of incidents reported in the “other” category has risen to 10. In particular, incidents were reported that involved discrimination by the public authorities. These related almost exclusively to the Pankow Job Centre.

### Motives for the Incidents

As in previous years, the incidents in 2019 were primarily motivated by racism. The

figure for such incidents has fallen compared to the previous year (2019: 93; 2018: 118; 2017: 82). The second most frequent motive was right-wing grandstanding (2019: 44, 2018: 33, 2017: 66). Incidents based on the glorification of National Socialism or trivialisation of its crimes have risen steadily over the past three years (2019: 39; 2018: 34; 2017: 31). There were 21 reports of incidents targeting political opponents and likewise 21 reports of anti-Semitic incidents. Anti-LGBTIQ\* incidents were recorded 7 times. 10 incidents occurred in connection with the European Parliament election campaign.

### Racism

A total of 93 incidents were motivated by racism. This was a lower figure than in the previous year. Nevertheless, it cannot be assumed that tensions have eased. Instead, racism in everyday life remains a problem in the district: 19 out of 28 attacks had racist motivations.

Here are a few examples that illustrate various facets of racism:

#### Attacks Involving Anti-Muslim Racism

In Prenzlauer Berg on 12th January, a man (49) was first subjected to racist and anti-Muslim insults by another man (50) and then grabbed by the neck and throttled. In April, a family, also in Prenzlauer Berg, was first spat at and then insulted by a man with anti-Muslim racist views. At the Greifswalder Straße S-Bahn station in the same month, a woman was first subjected to anti-Muslim and racist insults by a man and was subsequently kicked in the stomach. The offender gave the Hitler salute and disappeared. The woman concerned broke her arm when she fell.

#### 17th January 2019

A 1 x 1m black Celtic cross was discovered in the Französisch Buchholz area near Pasewalkestraße. In the neo-Nazi scene, the Celtic cross is used as a symbol for the supremacy of the “white races”.

Source: NEA

#### 14th February 2019

In the district of Pankow, a 39-year-old man was insulted and punched in the back of the head by a neighbour with anti-Semitic views at around 1: 20 pm

in an apartment building on Wisbyer Straße.

Source: ReachOut

#### 3rd April 2019

In the district of Pankow, a woman in a group in Breite Straße made an anti-Black threat. She asserted that all “Blacks should be shot”.

Source: [moskito]

#### 10th August 2019

In the Berlin-Buch sub-district, an incident involving racist insults took place at around 16: 55 in Franz-Schmidt-Straße in front of the Buch Bürgerhaus. A woman, who was out with her child, was attacked by another woman (about 50 years old), who came from the Buch Bürgeramt (public administration offices) and abused with the assertion “You’re a slut to have a [N-word] child. Slut!”.

Source: [moskito]

**Attacks Involving Anti-Black Racism**

On 1st May, a Black woman on the U2 underground line in Prenzlauer Berg was first jostled and then elbowed in the face by a group of young men getting off at a station. As a result, the woman fell and cut her face. On 13th June a Black man was spat at in Karow. The man was waiting at a bus stop when a car stopped in front of him, a person from the car spat at him and then “gave him the middle finger”.

**Attacks Directed at Refugees**

On 17th August, unknown persons attempted to break into a shared flat where young refugees were living in Prenzlauer Berg. Two men and one woman kicked the front door and shouted racist insults and threats. Neighbours intervened, which ensured the attackers were not able to enter the flat. The police were called in and began an investigation. Almost a week later, on 26th August, people tried to break into a refugee accommodation centre in Französisch-Buchholz. The security staff present were able to prevent the situation from deteriorating. In Berlin-Buch on 7th December, a young refugee was prevented from boarding a bus by a woman, and was also jostled and subjected to racist

insults. When the young man tried to shove past the woman, two men joined in and tried to beat up the young man. Another person threw a bottle at the young person. The bus driver intervened and threw the assailants off the bus.

20 out of 39 incidents involving insults, threats and abuse were motivated by racism. On 13th January, for example, there were cries of “fucking foreigners” from across the street in the Pankow district. The cries were directed at a Person of Colour. On 3rd April, a woman in Pankow, who was travelling in a group, said in a conversation that all “Blacks should be shot”. In Berlin-Buch on 19th July, one man gave the Hitler salute to another and shouted: “This is our country!” In the district of Pankow, on 23rd October, a couple was abused and insulted with the term “Rassenschande” [“racial defilement”: an anti-miscegenation concept in Nazi German racial policy].

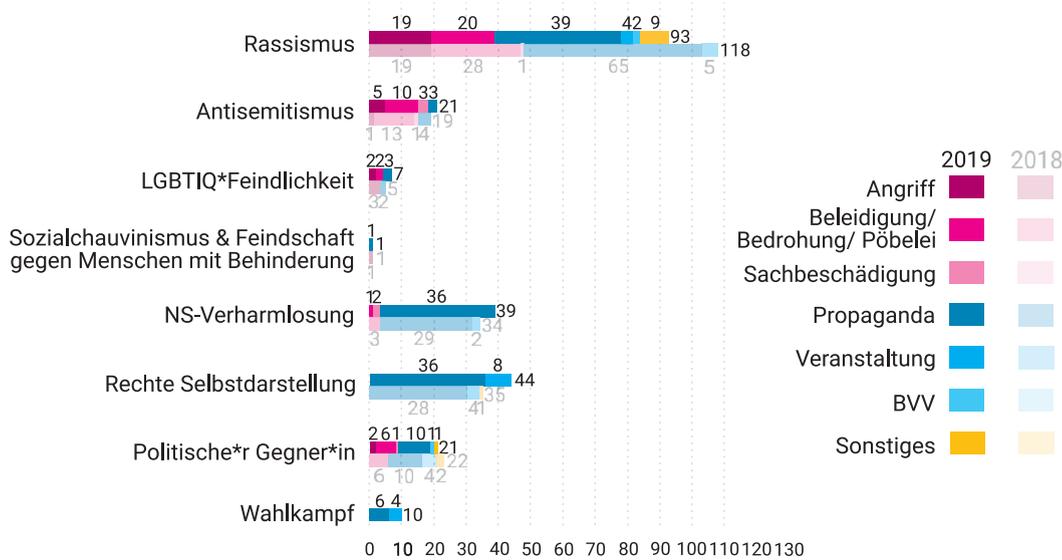
A total of 39 of the 134 incidents of propaganda that were reported had a racist background. They included stickers, flyers or graffiti directed against Muslims, Black people or refugees.

**Anti-Semitism**

Most anti-Semitic incidents occurred in the inner-city sub-district of Prenzlauer Berg. Jewish daily life unfolds openly here in the form of restaurants, cafés and the synagogue. However, serious anti-Semitic incidents also occurred in other sub-districts.

5 out of a total of 21 anti-Semitic incidents reported were attacks. On 14th February, for example, a man in the Pankow district was first subjected to anti-Semitic insults and subsequently punched in the back of the head. In Prenzlauer Berg, an attempt was made to break into a flat on 3rd September and the person affected was insulted with the words “dirty Jew”. In Karow, at the end of October, a man was subjected to anti-Semitic insults. When he retorted verbally, the man who had insulted him subsequently attacked him and beat him up. This 70-year-old man was injured on his head and chin. In mid-November, a 76-year-old man in the district of Pankow was first subjected to anti-Semitic insults by young people and then hit in the face. A total of 10 incidents reported concerned anti-Semitic insults, threats and abuse. There were incidents of scribbled graffiti

intended to serve as markings, for example the word “Jew” was scribbled on a car (4th October), and doorbell signs in Weißensee were also marked “Jew” (9th January, 25th January). At Pankow S-Bahn station, a man suddenly shouted over to a group of about 15 people: “You dirty Jews, you’re all going to dying”. A civil society project in Prenzlauer Berg received the call:



**4th October 2019**

In the district of Pankow a car was defaced and marked with the word “Jew”.  
Source: RIAS

**26th October 2019**

In the Niederschönhausen sub-district, shortly before 9 p.m., a 42-year-old man in Dietzgenstraße was insulted and hit by a man of the same age in an incident with racist and anti-LGBTIQ motivation.  
Source: ReachOut

**16th November 2019**

In the Berlin-Buch sub-district, a party of young people was held near the former THW grounds. Among other things, the neo-Nazi slogan “Sieg Heil” was shouted there.  
Source: Pankow Live of 18.11.2019

“I would like to report 12 million German victims killed by a Semitic god”.

2 anti-Semitic graffiti were reported in Weißensee: a crossed-out Star of David had been sprayed alongside a slogan directed at another tagger.

### NS Glorification

A total of 39 incidents involved NS glorification or trivialisation of National Socialist crimes. This included two incidents of damage to property: On 7th May, the Soviet memorial in Berlin-Buch was defaced on the day before commemoration of the liberation from National Socialism. On 16th November the memorial plaque for victims of the SA concentration camp at the water tower in Prenzlauer Berg was damaged. Most of the 36 cases of damage reported involved propaganda: a large number of cases of swastika graffiti were reported, as well as posters bearing the words “NS AREA” or “NAZI KIEZ” [“Nazi neighbourhood”] graffiti.

### Political Opponents

A total of two attacks were directed against political opponents: On April 4th, a man in Berlin-Buch was first insulted, then hit and kicked because of his left-wing views. Again in Berlin-Buch, after a rally commemorating liberation from National Socialism on 8th May, a man was

physically attacked by another man who grabbed at his face. However, the man who had been attacked was able to defend himself.

6 incidents concerned cases of insults, abuse and threats. For example, there were two cases of people shouting “fucking bloodsuckers” and in one incident a woman was insulted as an “Antifa cunt”. In a similar vein, the mailbox of members of a democratic party in Berlin-Buch was filled with insulating foam. Most of the incidents targeting political opponents were propaganda offences (10). This included, for example, a series of far-right stickers that used derogatory slogans to imitate the advertising of democratic parties.

### Weak Neo-Nazi Scene

Organised neo-Nazis currently make up only a small part of the far-right spectrum. A few neo-Nazis are organised in the district association of the neo-Nazi party NPD Pankow and its youth organisation (Junge Nationaldemokraten (JN)). The main form of action was distributing flyers or affixing stickers of the NPD or JN. In addition, a few walks were organised as part of the “Create protected zones” campaign. This campaign was organised by the NPD nationwide. Individual neo-Nazis without organisational ties still live in the

Pankow district. At the moment they do not appear to be involved in public political activities.

### Outlook

In the next few years, incidents are still likely to occur at central traffic hubs in the district. These are: S-Bahn station Schönhauser Allee, S-Bahn station Greifswalder Straße, S-Bahn station Storkower Straße and S-Bahn station Pankow. However, incidents also occur repeatedly at Antonplatz in Weißensee, as various tram and bus lines converge here. In the north of Pankow, especially in Berlin-Buch, there will continue to be active neo-Nazis or members of the far-right who will continue trying to convey their world view to the public. Political opponents are likely to be targeted on May 8th at the Soviet memorial in Berlin-Buch as well as at commemorations for Dieter Eich, who was murdered by neo-Nazis on May 24th 2000.

## Cooperation Partners

### INSSAN

The Network against Discrimination and Islamophobia was established 10 years ago as an independent contact point for people affected by anti-Muslim racism.

The project focus is on community empowerment. Within this framework, free empowerment and awareness-raising workshops are offered. In addition, Inssan is a contact and advice point for affected people, supports and accompanies them, e.g. to appointments addressing discrimination in the workplace or to court hearings. The counselling has a positive bias towards those seeking advice.

Inssan documents and evaluates reports of anti-Muslim racism and hate crime.

The aim of the documentation is to make discrimination against Muslims visible, as many incidents have previously remained

invisible.

Discrimination can occur in many different areas of everyday life:

at school, at work, when job-hunting, when looking for accommodation, in the supermarket, on public transport, when dealing with public authorities or simply in the street.

Under the link [inssan.de/meldung](https://www.inssan.de/meldung), an easily accessible system allows incidents to be reported directly via an incident report form.

The Network against Discrimination and Islamophobia is a project of Inssan e.V. and is funded by the Senate Department for Justice, Consumer Protection and Anti-Discrimination (Berlin State Office for Equal Treatment and against Discrimination – LADS).



## Netzwerk gegen Diskriminierung und Islamfeindlichkeit

### Contact:

#### Netzwerk gegen Diskriminierung und Islamfeindlichkeit

Inssan e.V.  
Gitschiner Str. 17  
10969 Berlin

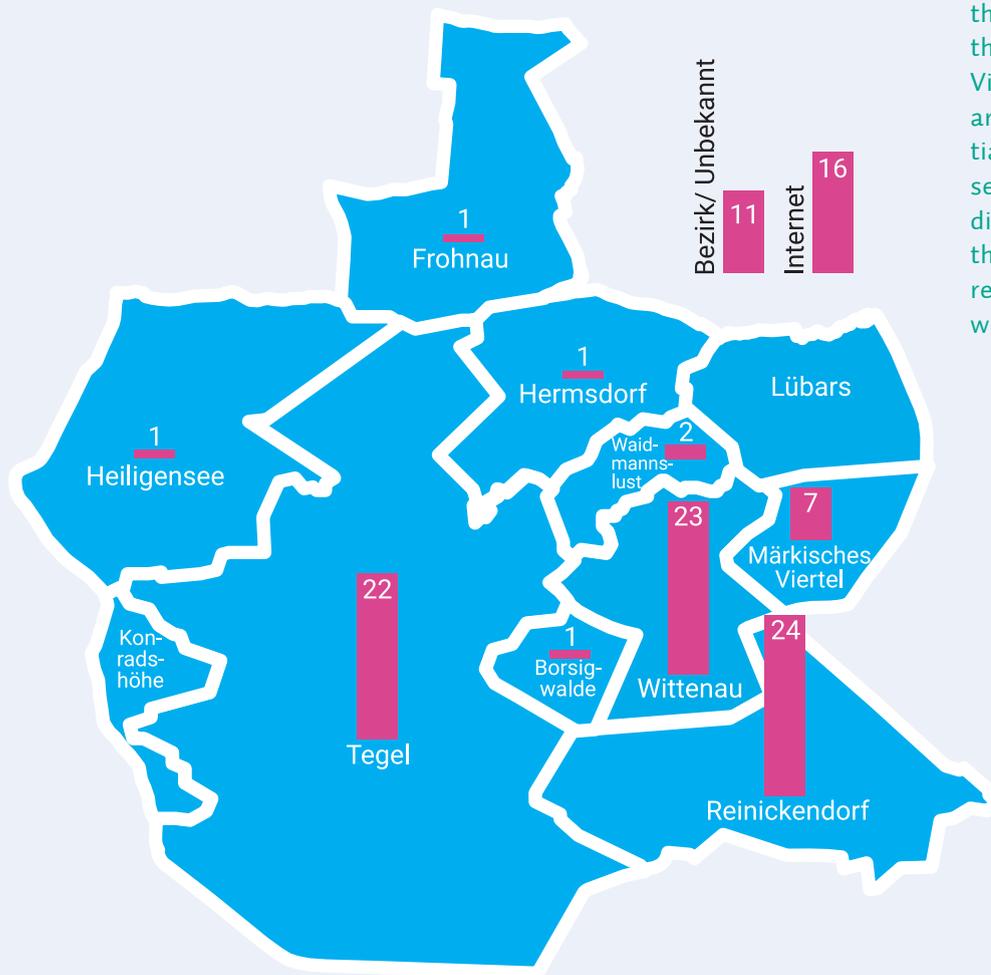
Tel.: 030 - 2061 9639  
Email: [antidiskriminierung@inssan.de](mailto:antidiskriminierung@inssan.de)  
Web: [www.inssan.de](http://www.inssan.de)

### Social Media:

Facebook: Netzwerk gegen Diskriminierung und Islamfeindlichkeit  
Instagram: [@inssan.e.v](https://www.instagram.com/inssan.e.v)  
Twitter: [@InssanV](https://twitter.com/InssanV)

# Reinickendorf

The district of Reinickendorf with its eleven sub-districts (Reinickendorf, Borsigwalde, Wittenau, Märkisches Viertel, Lübars, Waidmannslust, Hermsdorf, Frohnau, Heiligensee, Konradshöhe and Tegel) extends from Wedding to the northern outskirts of Berlin. Reinickendorf has a comparatively small population of just under 270,000 inhabitants, concentrated in the areas near the city centre and in the large housing estate, Märkisches Viertel. The remaining sub-districts are strongly characterised by residential estates made up of detached houses. For more than two decades, the district mayor has been a member of the CDU. The district councillors currently include CDU representatives as well as an SPD and an AfD politician.



Anti-Semitic graffiti on Buddeplatz

Anti-refugee sticker in Gotthardstr



## Kontakt:

### Register Reinickendorf

Stiftung SPI - Geschäftsbereich  
Lebenslagen, Vielfalt & Stadtentwicklung

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In 2019 a total of 107 discriminatory incidents and far-right activities were documented in Reinickendorf. That means the figures are roughly at the same level as in the two previous years (2017: 107; 2018: 114). If incidents that took place on the Internet not included, the number of incidents rose slightly from 86 to 91 offline cases.

As in the other districts, propaganda accounted for the majority of incidents. In contrast to districts with a very active far-right scene, however, the proportion of propaganda cases in Reinickendorf is below 50%, so that other types of incidents correspondingly make up a higher proportion of the total. Incidents involving threats, insults and abuse rose slightly to 25 documented incidents (2018: 22). Figures for the remaining categories of other incidents fell slightly. With 10 recorded cases, the number of attacks remained at the same higher level as that has been recorded since 2015. The attacks had predominantly racist motivations (8 incidents, 1 of which was an anti-Muslim incident), but also involved anti-LGBTIQ\* prejudice (2 incidents). They took place in the sub-districts of Tegel, Märkisches Viertel, Wittenau and Reinickendorf. The attacks occurred in the street and on public transport (4 incidents in each category), but also on a bathing beach at Lake Tegel. As far as is known, in all cases the attacks were perpetrated by men. The perpetrators attacked mainly in the afternoon and evening and were usually alone. The people affected were women, alone or in small groups, sometimes with babies, passengers on the underground, other men on their own or heterosexual couples or families. In contrast to the previous year, none of the attacks reported were perpetrated by women. Witnesses intervened courageously in at least three cases. Reports concerning 15 public events (2018: 16) reveal that there are also meeting

places and venues for the far right in Reinickendorf. Eight of the documented events were supported by the AfD, six by the NPD and an independent neo-Nazi group from the circles around the neo-Nazi magazine "Recht und Wahrheit". In addition, 6 other incidents were recorded, mostly cases of discrimination (2018: 8), 3 incidents in connection with the district council (2018: 4) and 2 cases of damage to property (2018: 2).

The majority of incidents continued to be motivated by racism, although there was a significant increase in the number of anti-Semitic incidents and incidents involving glorification of the National Socialist regime. Incidents involving hostility to lesbians, homosexuals and transgender people also doubled compared to the previous year, with 6 incidents reported (2017: 1; 2018: 3).

Racism in its various forms remained the main motive in 2019, although the total number of racist incidents dropped significantly to 59 (2018: 81). The documented cases in the sub-sectors of anti-Muslim racism (2018: 9; 2019: 7) and anti-Black racism (2018: 4; 2019: 3) fell slightly. Incidents motivated by antigypsyism halved (2018: 9; 2019: 4). Significantly fewer cases than in the previous year were also classified as grandstanding by far-right organisations (2018: 19; 2019: 11). In contrast to the previous year, the European election campaign was once again an election campaign to which 5 incidents were assigned. As in the past, the documented cases of social chauvinism remained very low at 2 incidents (2018: 1), although a large number of unreported cases can be assumed.

As in previous years, most incidents were concentrated in the sub-districts of Reinickendorf, Wittenau and Tegel. The three sub-districts recorded similar figures. As before, the Reinickendorf sub-district is at

the top of the list with 24 incidents (2017: 33; 2018: 21). However, incidents in Wittenau and Tegel both increased significantly, so that both sub-districts are almost on a par, with 23 (2017: 10; 2018: 16) and 22 (2017: 11; 2018: 16) incidents respectively.

In the Märkisches Viertel, on the other hand, only half as many incidents were documented as in previous years (2017 and 2018: 15) with 7 incidents. In the other sub-districts, no incidents or at most 2 incidents were reported, which is partly due to the continuing structural weakness in terms of the number of people reporting incidents. There are to date no contact points here and hardly any individuals who report incidents. One incident was recorded as a district-wide incident (2018: 2). In 10 other cases the exact locations of the incidents were either not known or were rendered anonymous at the request of those affected (2018: 9).

### Anti-Semitism and Glorification of the NS Regime

With 13 incidents in 2019, glorification of National Socialism and trivialisation of its crimes was the second most common motive underlying incidents Reinickendorf. Figures related to such incidents have risen continuously in recent years, although they remain at a comparatively low level. The figure is roughly twice as high as in previous years (2017: 5; 2018: 6). The number of incidents motivated by anti-Semitism was also twice as high as in the previous year (2017: 1; 2018: 3; 2019: 6). These figures show that relativisation of National Socialism and anti-Semitism has now also arrived in parts of everyday life where one might initially have imagined it would occur. Although there are fewer active neo-Nazi structures in Reinickendorf than in other districts, there are people here who deface railway stations or the streets with graffiti in that spirit or who equate current government policies with

#### 11th August 2019

Around 9 pm, two women aged 28 and 37 were subjected to a racist attack in the Wittenau S-Bahn station, committed by a 37-year-old man who had been drinking. The two women were sitting on a bench, accompanied by two babies in their prams, and were talking in Turkish. The 28-year-old was roughly grabbed on the shoulder by the man, who shook her and told her to speak in German. When she told him to let go of her, he threatened the two women, took a metal ratchet from his belt and was

about to hit them. The women fled into a train. Witnesses took the attacker's tools from him and detained him until the police arrived.

Source: ReachOut, Federal Police

#### 15th September 2019

A meeting of the AfD's "völkisch" wing was held in a pub regularly frequented by the AfD in Wittenau. Several AfD politicians from the Berlin House of Representatives were on the panel. Among the more than 50 participants at this event there was also a Berlin-based

AfD Bundestag member.

Source: MBR

#### 22nd December 2019

On the last weekend before Christmas, the NPD Mitte-Reinickendorf district association organised a Christmas dinner in a pub on Residenzstraße in Reinickendorf-East and, in the National Socialist tradition, what is known as a "Julfest". The NPD youth organisation, JN, participated with an information stand.

Source: Reinickendorf Register

National Socialism. It is noticeable that anti-Semitism occurred in 3 cases (2018: 0) in the form of verbal abuse and insults, i.e. the protagonists aggressively directed anti-Semitic statements at other people. In one case, a check-in employee at Tegel Airport subjected a traveller to anti-Semitic insults. In addition, however, there also continued to be incidents of people leaving slogans in public places secretly and without being identified. For example, a young person was observed putting up the slogan "Jew Zyklon B" on a climbing frame in the Reinickendorf district in the evening. Cases of glorification of the NS regime included events and commemoration campaigns by the NPD and other neo-Nazis with demonstrable references to National Socialist ideology and practice (4 incidents) as well as associated stickers and swastika graffiti (3 incidents). In addition, a politician made statements that trivialised the crimes of the Second World War and Facebook discussions attempted to equate the NSDAP with Bündnis 90/Die Grünen.

able: the initiatives against the construction of multi-storey shelters for refugees, so-called MUFs, in Kreuzberg and Reinickendorf. In Kreuzberg's Ratiborstraße, residents protested with a view to preserving small businesses on the planned site and ensuring that very old trees would not be felled. In Reinickendorf, too, protection of historical monuments and nature conservation were cited as purported motives in protests against the construction of a MUF at Paracelsusbad in 2018. Conserving old trees on the grounds of the Karl Bonhoefer psychiatric clinic was also used as the main argument against the construction of a refugee accommodation centre in 2019. Protection of existing structures and institutions, heritage conservation and nature conservation are legitimate interests that must be taken into account when searching for suitable locations. In contrast to the local residents' initiative in Kreuzberg, some of the protests against the refugee accommodation centre in Reinickendorf in 2018 and 2019 were classified as hostile

structures and cut down trees. The protests were thus clearly not directed against refugees in general but against the specific details of the construction project. In Reinickendorf, however, there were no expressions of solidarity or constructive alternative solutions for the site. In addition, there were other factors that justify interpreting the protests in a broader context. In 2018, for example, a citizens' initiative opposing construction of refugee accommodation at Paracelsusbad and the associated activities was classified as hostile to refugees, because leading figures in the initiative had made sweeping derogatory statements about refugees.

In February 2019, the AfD launched an online petition against the construction of refugee accommodation on the grounds of the Karl Bonhoefer Clinic. In August, a motion in the Berlin House of Representatives also addressed the development plans. In September, supporters of a newly founded citizens' initiative, "Bürgerinitiative KaboN-Park: Unser Amazonas in Reinickendorf i. G." (Citizens' Initiative KaboN Park: Our Amazon in Reinickendorf i. G.), which apparently has close links to the AfD, disrupted the district council's meeting by distributing leaflets and holding up a banner.

The AfD texts avoid anti-refugee statements, but must be evaluated in the context of the party's overall policy, which is aimed at resisting the presence of refugees and devaluing refugees. In addition, the Reinickendorf AfD has generally stirred up public opinion against refugees being housed in the district, for example alleging that re-

fugee accommodation centres would mean rising crime rates.

To evaluate protests against such accommodation centres, the following questions can be asked: Does the initiative support housing for refugees as a general principle? Is it working on constructive alternatives? How do those involved talk about refugees in other contexts? And finally: Are those involved also committed to heritage conservation and nature conservation in other contexts? If not, unexpected outbursts of indignation that do not arise in other contexts may also be an indication of anti-refugee sentiment. The classification of the aforementioned citizens' initiative as being anti-refugee was based on an appraisal of these considerations.

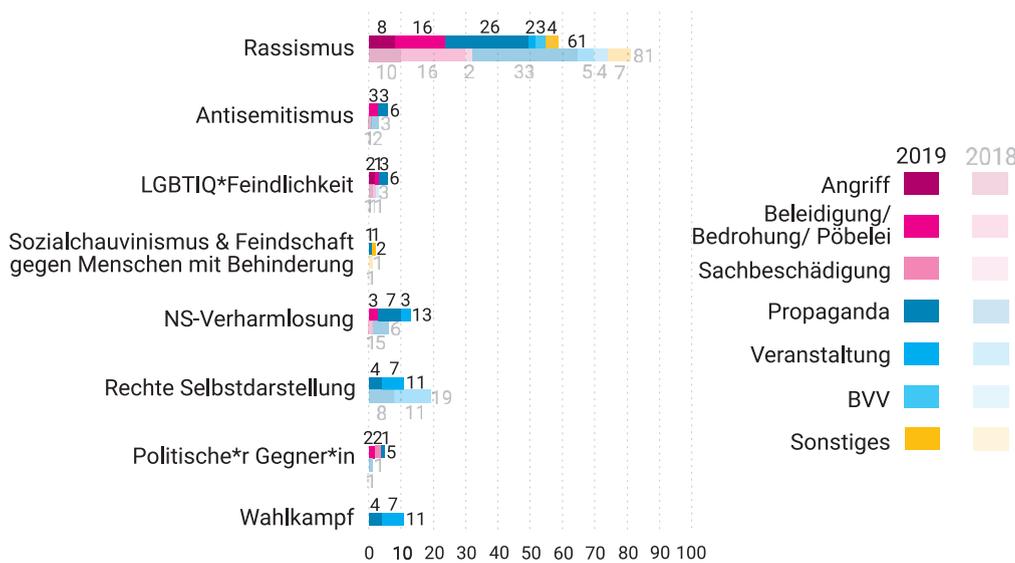
In 3 cases passers-by, as also reported in incidents involving anti-Semitism, however, abused other people by yelling National Socialist slogans or with Hitler salutes. For example, an older man accompanied by a woman shouted "Sieg Heil" to a group of young people at the Alt-Tegel underground station, probably out of racist motives. In everyday conversations, too, people made racist remarks or trivialised the crimes of National Socialism. For example, one person in a lift remarked entirely out of the blue: "Hitler - that was not the worst time for Germany".

**Covert Racism in Protests against Refugee Accommodation Centres**

At first glance they are hardly distinguish-

to refugees by the Reinickendorf Register and were thus included in the district's record. In these cases, arguments such as nature conservation and heritage conservation were classified as pseudo-reasons, intended to conceal a general anti-refugee attitude that was opposed to any refugee accommodation in the district, but seeking to deflect possible accusations of racism through these purported arguments.

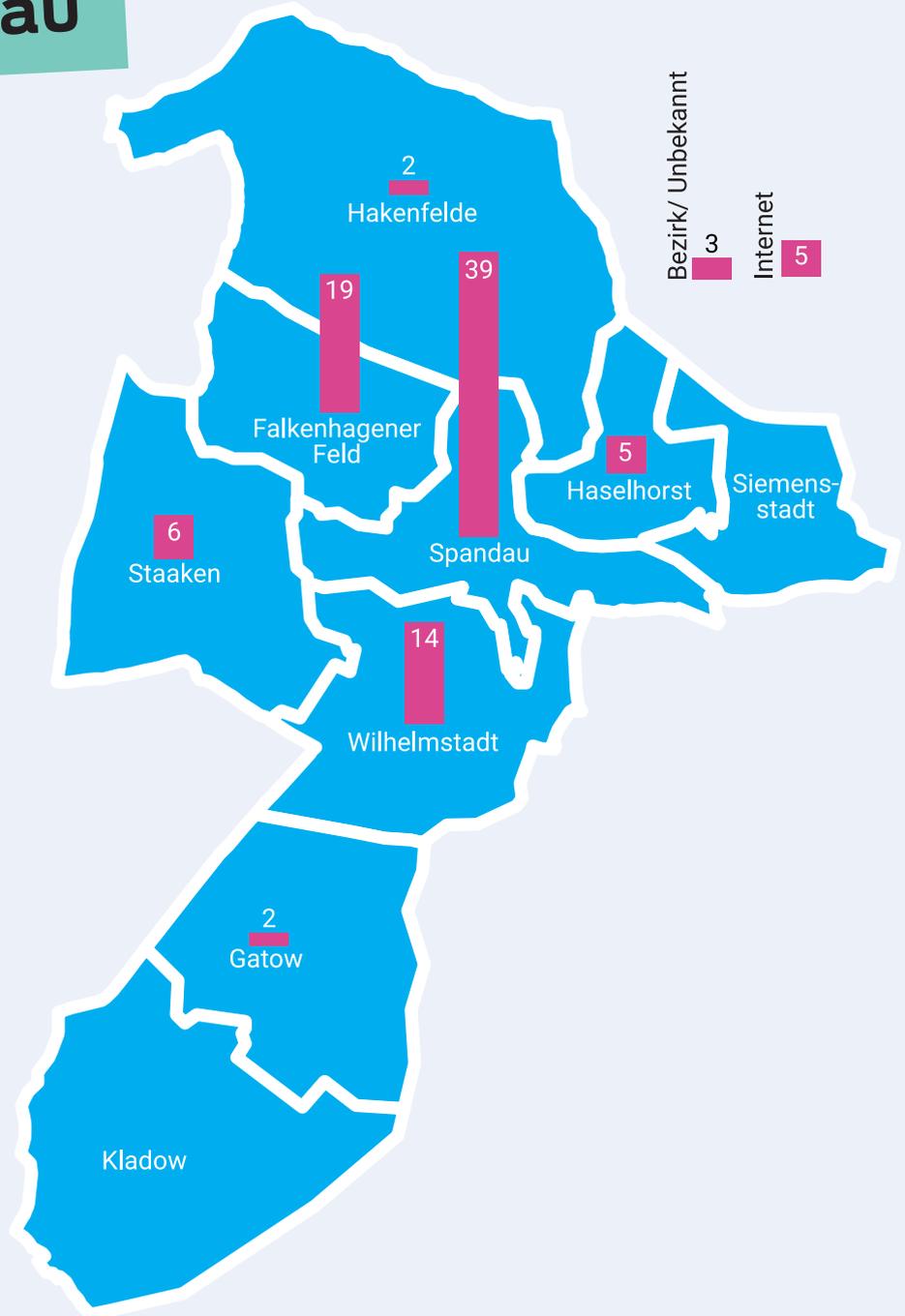
In what was this different to the situation in Kreuzberg? In Kreuzberg, the residents took a clear stand from the outset in favour of reception and humane accommodation of refugees. They also worked on concrete alternatives, such as smaller accommodation units on the site that could be fitted in without having to demolish existing





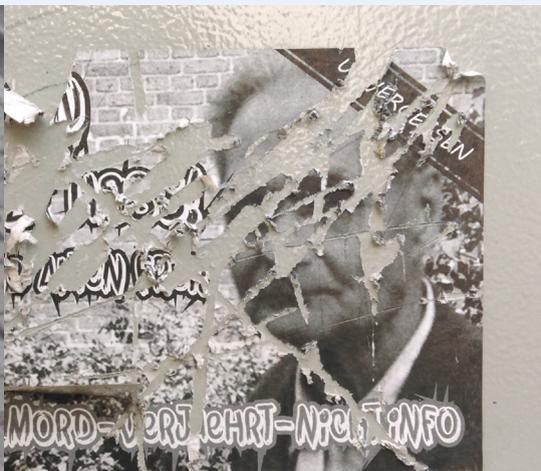
# Spandau

The district of Spandau lies on the western outskirts of the city and has a population of just under 250,000. The sub-district of Spandau is located in the centre of the district and is well connected to Berlin's inner-city districts by underground line 7, the S-Bahn and the regional train. The offices of the public administration are located here, this is where the district council meets and there is a pedestrian zone with numerous shops. In addition to the tranquil old town, the district also encompasses sub-districts characterised by high-rise housing estates and others in which semi-detached or detached houses and green spaces dominate the cityscape.



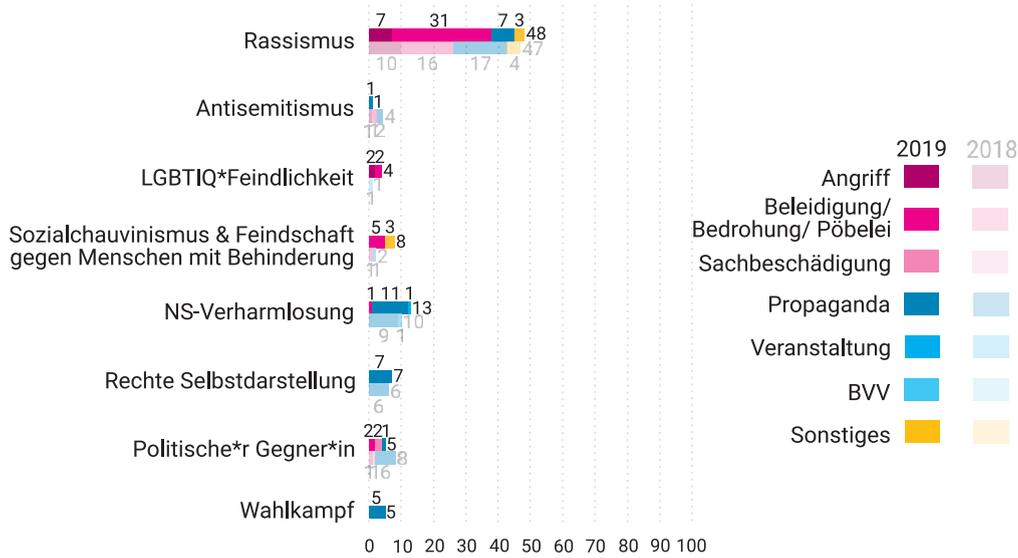
Fake party sticker for the European Parliament elections

Stickers in Spandau glorifying the NS regime



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One particularity in Spandau compared with other districts is that propaganda incidents do not account for the majority of cases reported, but rather incidents in the category threat/offence/abuse. The only exception is 2018, when propaganda was the most common type of incident. In 2019 propaganda incidents constituted the second most frequent type of incident, with 33 cases reported (2018: 40). These included stickers, graffiti slogans and flyers. In Spandau, a total of 9 attacks were reported in 2019, constituting the third most frequent type of incident, as in

2018 (2018: 11). The highest number of attacks was recorded in Spandau in 2016. 13 attacks were reported in that year. 2016 marked the peak of racist street mobilisation against refugee accommodation centres.

The Spandau District Register Office was set up in 2014 by the “Gesellschaft für Interkulturelles Zusammenleben GIZ gGmbH”. This is an organisation that offers further education, literacy and integration courses, and also houses 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]. As soon as it was established, refugees and migrants, who are often affected by racism and discrimination, were able to report their experiences to the Register Office directly and through translation by colleagues. Thanks to the work of the “Partnerschaft für Demokratie” [“Partnership for Democracy”] in Spandau, the Register Office network could be expanded, with five new contact points added in 2019. The reach of the Register Office has thus increased in various districts, which has led to a continuous increase in the number of incidents recorded. The number of incidents recorded has risen from 18 in 2014 to

78 in 2018.

**Evaluation by Type of Incident**

In 2019, 95 incidents were recorded by the Spandau Register Office, 22% more than in the previous year, but still the lowest number of incidents compared with the other Berlin districts. The increase can be explained by the extension of the network in this district to include new civil society protagonists. Almost 50 % of the incidents, and thus the most frequent type of incident, were incidents in the threat/offence/abuse category. With 46 incidents, the number of incidents in this category has risen significantly compared to the previous year (2018: 21). Two thirds (31) of these incidents were motivated by racism:

**22nd December 2019**

A Muslim woman wearing a headscarf walked past an older couple (a man and a woman). The woman made scornful and insulting remarks about the traditional clothing worn by the Muslim woman.

**Motives for the Incidents Reported**

The incidents recorded by the Register Offices are also categorised according to their motive. In Spandau, racism has constituted the most common motive in incidents reported since the 2014 Register Office was established (2019: 48 incidents). The category of racism additionally includes anti-Muslim racism, anti-Black racism and antiziganism. One incident in two that was reported in Spandau was motivated by racism and racism accounted for as many as 78% of the attacks reported. 7 of the 9 attacks had racist motives and 2 had anti-LGBTIQ\* motives. As in the previous year, the second most frequent motive was the trivialisation of the crimes of the NS regime or glorification of

**Beispielvorfälle**

**8. Januar 2019**

Eine Frau mit Migrationshintergrund, die von Obdachlosigkeit bedroht war und deshalb im Sozialamt um einen Termin zur Wohnungsvermittlung bat, bekam die Antwort, es gäbe keine Termine, weil es seien keine Makler. Als die Frau fragte, ob sie neben diese trat und nicht zu einem Termin fragte, bekam sie einen Termin. (Das Datum wurde anonymisiert.)  
Quelle: Bürger\*innen-Meldung

**15. Februar 2019**

Kurz vor Mitternacht wurde in der Westertalstr. im Falkenhagener Feld eine Frau von einem Mann LGBTIQ\*-feindlich beleidigt. Die Frau wurde beleidigt und bedroht. Die Frau wurde beleidigt und bedroht. Die Frau wurde beleidigt und bedroht.  
Quelle: Register Spandau

**15. März 2019**

Eine Frau mit Migrationshintergrund arbeitete in einer Firma mit insgesamt neun Mitarbeiter\*innen in Gatow. Sie hatte bemerkt, dass alle Kolleg\*innen am Montag der Woche eine längere Pause machten, um gemeinsam zu essen. Nach einigen Wochen fragte sie ihre Kollegen an, dass sie sich anschließen würde. Dies wurde ihr mit der Begründung abgelehnt, sie seien eine geschlossene Gruppe.  
Quelle: Gesellschaft für Interkulturelles Zusammenleben GIZ gGmbH

National Socialism, with 13 incidents (2018: 9). These incidents involved giving the Hitler salute, as well as swastikas or other NS symbols:

**30th April 2019**

A man gave the Hitler salute on a sports field at Földerichplatz and mimed a Hitler-style moustache. Witnesses called the police, whereupon the man was arrested.

As elsewhere in Berlin-wide, there was an increase in incidents involving anti-LGBTIQ\* prejudice (2018: 1, 2019: 6) and prejudice against people with disabilities (2018: 1, 2019: 5). In both categories there are new cooperation partners throughout Berlin who forward anonymised information from anti-discrimination counselling to the Register Offices.

**Distribution of Incidents by Sub-district<sup>1)</sup>**

Since 2014, the highest number of incidents have been reported for the Spandau sub-district. One reason for this is its central location: with stations on the long-distance and suburban railway networks, the terminus of the U7 underground line and bus stops for all Spandau bus lines, it is an important transport hub where many people come into contact. The town hall and citizens' office [with various municipal services and registration of residents], job centre and social security office, which are all places in which discrimination may potentially occur, are also located in this sub-district, as well as the market square and the square in front of the town hall, where public events (e.g. election campaign events)

and rallies are held. The other sub-districts have small centres with few civil society protagonists and are characterised by residential estates with high-rise buildings, but above all by detached and semi-detached homes and extensive green spaces. In 2019, for the first time, more than half of all incidents (55 %) were reported from sub-districts other than the Spandau sub-district. This indicates that it has now proved possible to persuade civil society protagonists in these areas to cooperate with the Register Office too.

**Falkenhagener Feld – The Sub-district with the Highest Increase**

After the Spandau sub-district, the Falkenhagener Feld sub-district has the highest number of reported incidents, so the incidents from this sub-district will be analysed in greater detail below. Compared to the previous year (2019: 19; 2018: 4), the number of incidents reported has increased significantly. 11 incidents were reported in the school context. All incidents were insults. Four of the insults came from the teaching staff. Pupils were either addressed directly or insulting remarks were made to colleagues about the families of the pupils. All insults were motivated by racism or specifically by anti-Muslim racism:

**7th November 2019**

A teacher at one school said about her pupils: "No wonder they are like that; Arab families do not educate their children."

The 7 insults by school pupils were either anti-LGBTIQ\* (3) or racist (2) and were addressed

directly to someone present. In 2 cases, the word "disabled" was used to make negative comments to someone present.

**13th December 2019**

One teenager said about another teenager with dyed hair: "Are you gay or what?" and continued to bitch about him with his friends: "Hey, look at the state of him; he's gay!"

These 11 incidents in just two months reveal the everyday discrimination found in schools. The incidents reported are exclusively insulting statements made in public. With a total of 57 mainstream secondary schools in Spandau, it can be assumed that a large number of incidents go unreported.

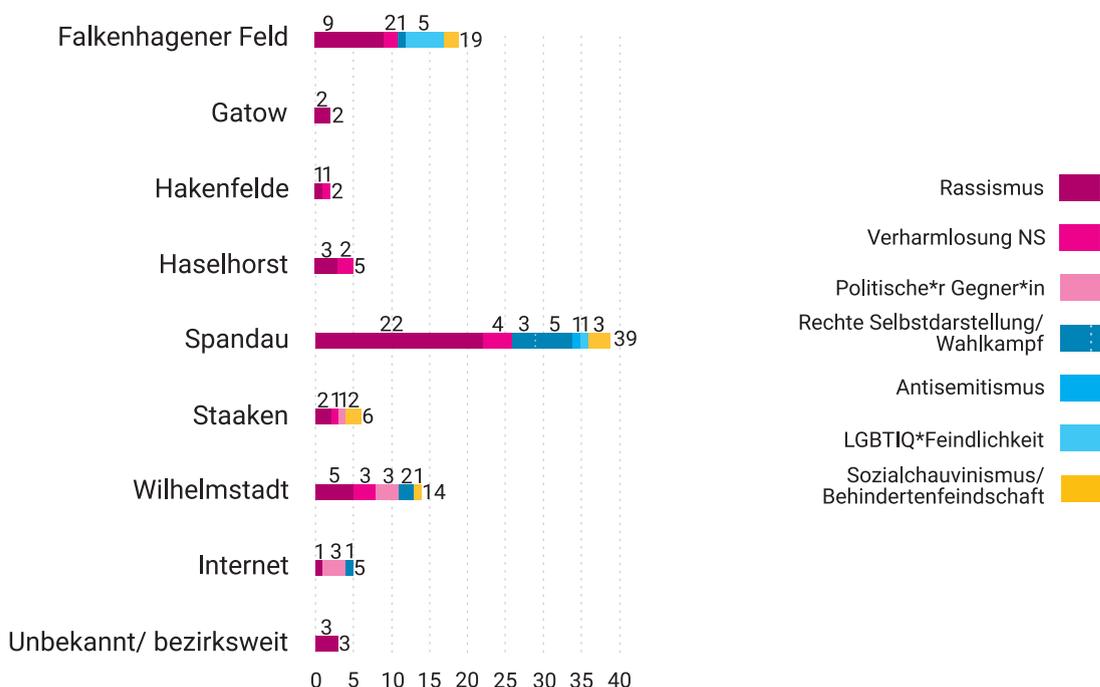
The number of incidents in the Falkenhagener Feld sub-district is twice as high as the figure in 2018, even if the "school incidents" are not included; that is particularly remarkable as only 6 incidents were reported between 2014 and 2018 and the increase cannot be explained by new individuals reporting cases, in contrast to the situation concerning incidents in the school context. Over and above the quantitative increase, the nature of the incidents reported is also worrying. Whereas in previous years the incidents reported were almost exclusively propaganda incidents, last year 4 out of 19 incidents were attacks, the rest involved threats/insults/abuses. Two of the attacks were motivated by anti-LGBTIQ\* prejudice and two were motivated by racism:

**September 2019**

A 67-year-old man was subjected to LGBTIQ\* insults and kicked in the stomach at around 1: 20 pm in the street "Am Kiesteich" in the Falkenhagener Feld sub-district

The number of reports is slowly but steadily increasing in Spandau. The reach of the Register Office network is gradually growing as racism, anti-Semitism and the activities of the far-right are addressed in civil society and in political discussions at the local level.

**Verteilung der Motive in den Spandauer Ortsteilen 2019**



1) The district of Spandau has nine sub-districts, one of which, with the old town as its centre, is also called Spandau

# Steglitz-Zehlendorf

Over 310,000 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.



Home-made "Fuck Islam" sticker

Swastika graffiti



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In 2019, the Register Office documented 180 incidents in the district. There were 40 incidents fewer than in the previous year. This decrease is partly because new-right protagonists are less active on the streets. For example, fewer propaganda cases involving the “Identitäre Bewegung” were documented. The highest number of incidents (59) was recorded in the Steglitz sub-district (2018: 60), followed by Zehlendorf, with 39 incidents (2018: 73) and Lichterfelde with 32 (2018: 22). May was the month with the highest number of incidents (21), which can be attributed to activities during the European election campaign. In 2019 most incidents had racist motivations (2019: 68). The majority of the incidents reported occurred in public places. In areas not in the public gaze, such as in residential contexts, public authorities, schools and universities, it can be assumed that there are more incidents than are reported by those affected.

**Threats and Physical Attacks**

The number of attacks has increased and amounts to 10 in 2019 (2018: 8). Most of these attacks (6) were motivated by racism. There has been an increase in the number of attacks in the last three years. The number of attacks has doubled since 2017 (5). However, it has not again reached the highest level recorded, which was in 2016 (15). The number of incidents involving threats, insults and abuse (19) remains high (2018: 25). More than half of these incidents (10) were racist. The higher number recorded in 2018 can be explained mainly by the fact that anti-Semitic bullying of a pupil at the John F. Kennedy School became public. The overall figure for anti-Semitic incidents has fallen; 6

such incidents were documented (2018: 19). A particularly serious assault occurred on 18th June 2019 in a park on Grunewaldstraße. In an anti-Semitic attack, a 23-year-old man was hit and injured by one man in a group of 10.

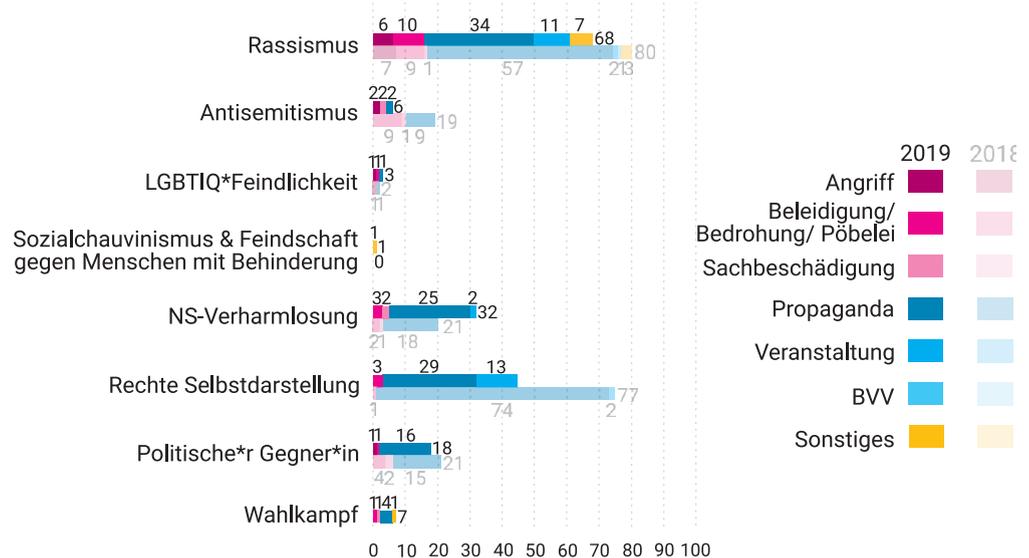
**Rise in Trivialisation of NS Crimes**

There has been a particularly sharp rise in incidents whose background is trivialisation of National Socialist crimes, i.e. swastikas, Hitler salutes etc. There were 32 cases of trivialisation of National Socialist crimes (2018: 20), which represents an increase of 60% compared to the previous year. In the district graffiti that make clear NS references, such as “Nazi Zone”, swastikas or other graffiti are particularly noticing. In Steglitz-Zehlendorf incidents involving trivialisation of Nazi crimes as well as right-wing propaganda incidents with direct NS reference have not yet been noticeably addressed as a political issue. Such trivialisation of Nazi crimes does nonetheless occur and is increasing even such a “middle-class” district without deeply entrenched neo-Nazi or Kameradschaft structures. In recent ye-

ars, perpetrators in the district could be categorised as belonging to the New Right. The increased prevalence of NS symbolism therefore suggests content-related radicalisation of this milieu. The implementation of a so-called hero commemoration ceremony by the “Identitäre Bewegung” on 20th November at a cemetery in the district also reinforces this thesis. In the so-called hero commemoration ceremony, neo-Nazis try to convey a historical-revisionist picture of National Socialism and the crimes of the Wehrmacht.

**New Right Networks in Steglitz-Zehlendorf**

Along with Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, Steglitz-Zehlendorf remains one of the New Right hotspots in Berlin. As well as the strong AfD district association, the “Identitäre Bewegung” and the presence of various student fraternities, of which at least “Gothia” has direct connections to the AfD and the “Identitäre Bewegung”, politically active individuals from such circles, e.g. Andreas Wild, are based here. (New) Right-wing networks have not just formed recently, but,



**Examples of Incidents**

**12 January 2019**

A 19-year-old man wearing a kippah was subjected to anti-Semitic insults by another man. The perpetrator apparently also threw a stone at him. The police are investigating.  
Source: Stadtrandnachrichten, Berlin police

**11th April 2019**

A 39-year-old man was subjected to racist insults, grabbed by the neck,

pushed and hit by a 50-year-old man on Steglitzer Damm at around 7.15 pm.  
Source: ReachOut, Berlin Police

**17th November 2019**

A swastika drawn with an Edding marker pen was discovered on a postbox in Elisenstrasse/Südenstrasse. A short time earlier, the slogan “AfD Zone” had been written on the same postbox, also using Edding marker.  
Source: Antifa Recherche Southwest

**2nd December 2019**

A piece of racist and anti-Semitic graffiti was discovered at the underground station Rathaus Steglitz and removed. It read: „Remember Kanaken [derogatory term for non-Germans]! We once had 6 million Jews here”.  
Source: Initiative “Hass vernichtet” [“Hate destroys”]

like “Gothia”, have a long tradition in West Berlin (in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf and in Steglitz-Zehlendorf). Their right-wing conservative, elitist and generally anti-Semitic ideas form the basis for their good connections with the “Identitäre Bewegung” “Junge Alternative” and AfD sympathizers in the course of the debates on the right to asylum rights and immigration into Europe. The infrastructure of these networks is being used more intensively, making them more noticeable, and therefore is a need to monitor their activities more closely.

However, there is a tendency for more differentiated right-wing structures to emerge in the district, as already indicated in 2018. The right-wing periphery of CDU or FDP voters no longer appear to be moving closer to the issues that the AfD has been seeking to put on the agenda. This can be seen in the stagnating share of votes [for the AfD] in the district. That means that accordingly, a focus on far-right voter groups has emerged. This is particularly evident at events organised by Andreas Wild. He tries to connect different spectrums on the far-right. To this end, Wild uses the regular events entitled “Blauer Dialog” [“Blue Dialogue”], to which he invites not only “Der Volkslehrer” [a far-right video blogger], but also speakers from the so-called “Männerschutz” [men’s protection] milieu, such as Leyla Bilge, the editor of the far-right magazine “Compact”, Jürgen Elsässer, or Kay Nerstheimer, an AfD representative who was convicted of incitement of masses [“Volksverhetzung”, a concept in German criminal law that refers to incitement to hatred against segments of the population] and expelled from the party.

Wild, who was expelled from the AfD Bundestag parliamentary group and belongs to the AfD “wing”, which includes members under observation by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, was elected Deputy Chairman of the AfD district executive committee in 2019. This shows that the far-right positions have many supporters in the district association. Such views do not fall on barren ground, as was also made clear by a citizens’ meeting in the town hall on the subject of “refugee accommodation”. There, various participants stood out due to the racist statements they made.

### Propaganda Still the Most Frequent Type of Incident

Propaganda incidents are defined as affixing posters, stickers and graffiti in public places. Of the 111 propaganda cases, the largest proportion (29) is due to far-right grandstanding, although a decline can also be observed here. In 2018 there were still 74 propaganda cases involving right-wing grandstanding as a motive. Most of these cases could be attributed to the “Identitäre Bewegung”. The decrease described here is due to the more limited activism of these protagonists on the streets. All in all, the peak phase for the so-called “Identitäre” in Berlin seems to have ended. In addition to lower levels of propaganda, this is also reflected in the absence of large-scale mobilisation campaigns or symbolic actions that attract a lot of public attention.

Looking at changes in the type of incidents in recent years, it becomes clear that there has been a marked decline in the number of incidents specifically in the propaganda category.

Whereas there were 200 propaganda incidents – mainly stickers – in 2017, there were only 111 in 2019. Back then, propaganda incidents accounted for 85% of all documented incidents, whereas in 2019 it will be 62%. The percentage share of different incidents shows, as was already apparent last year, a qualitative shift away from low-threshold incidents such as stickers towards scribbled graffiti (2019: 31) in the propaganda category, as well as a rise in the number of public events (2019: 26; 2018: 4; 2017: 19).

### Conclusion

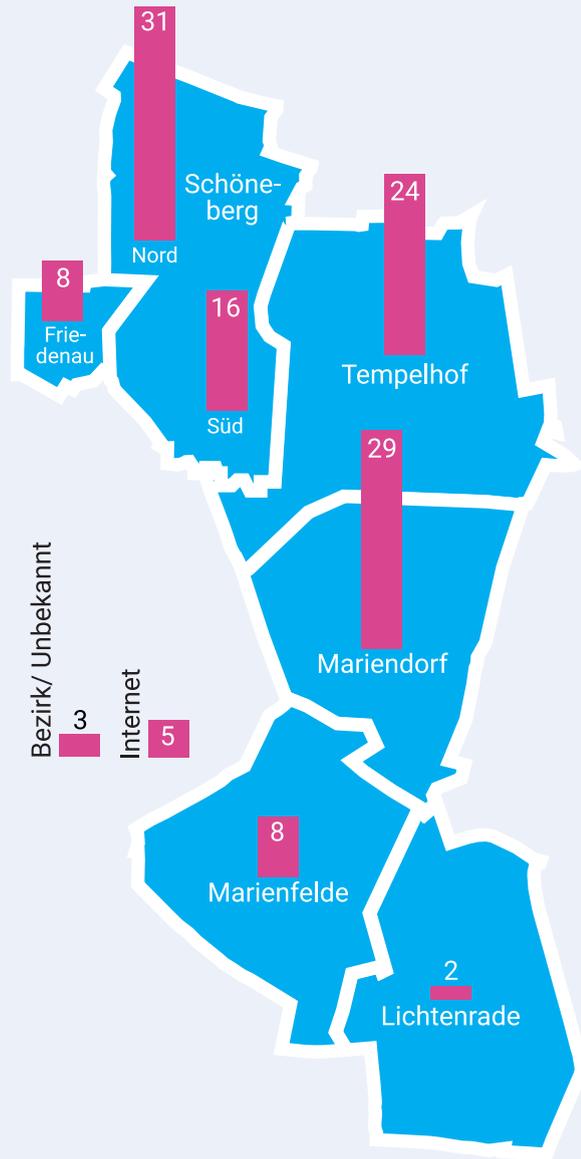
The next few years will show to what extent (re)grouping processes in the AfD’s environs will continue to develop and whether the type of the incidents that occur will shift further towards the fields of action of the far-right. It also remains to be seen how the increasing awareness of the Register Office’s work will affect documentation of incidents. Despite the overall decline in the number of incidents, a significant number of unreported cases is likely to persist. Incidents of hostility towards people with disabilities and homeless people, antiziganism, anti-Black racism and incidents directed against LGBTIQ\* appear to be particularly under-reported.

In the fourth year of the Steglitz-Zehlendorf Register Office, one positive observation is that the topic of discrimination or rather anti-discrimination is addressed more frequently in the district. Increasing activities in these areas indicate growing interest from public-sector stakeholders. However, incidents are still mainly reported by people who are already aware of these issues.



Neo-Nazi “claiming of space” with sticker in Steglitz-Zehlendorf

# Tempelhof-Schöneberg



With more than 350,000 inhabitants, Tempelhof-Schöneberg is the third most populous district in Berlin. The seven sub-districts (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.

NPD election flyers for the EP elections in the district

“Identitäre” sticker



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## Tempelhof-Schöneberg

In Tempelhof-Schöneberg, the Register Office recorded a total of 126 incidents in 2019. Compared to the previous year (2018: 93 incidents), 32 more incidents were reported, i.e. an increase of one third. Compared with the situation in the rest of Berlin, Tempelhof-Schöneberg is thus a district in which relatively few incidents have been reported.

### Media Interest Only in Isolated Cases

Incidents that cannot be considered everyday attracted media attention: On 8th October 2019, a so-called “Dienstagsgespräch” [“Tuesday Conversation”] was held in a restaurant in Friedenau, at which the Swiss Holocaust denier Bernhard Schaub gave a lecture. This series of events has been regularly organised since the 1990s by a former party official of the Republikaner and the NPD. Civil society protests accompanied the event. The owner of the restaurant, who felt deceived by the far-right, made use of his right to enforce the rules of his establishment and broke off the meeting. Only a few weeks later, on 15th November 2019, there were

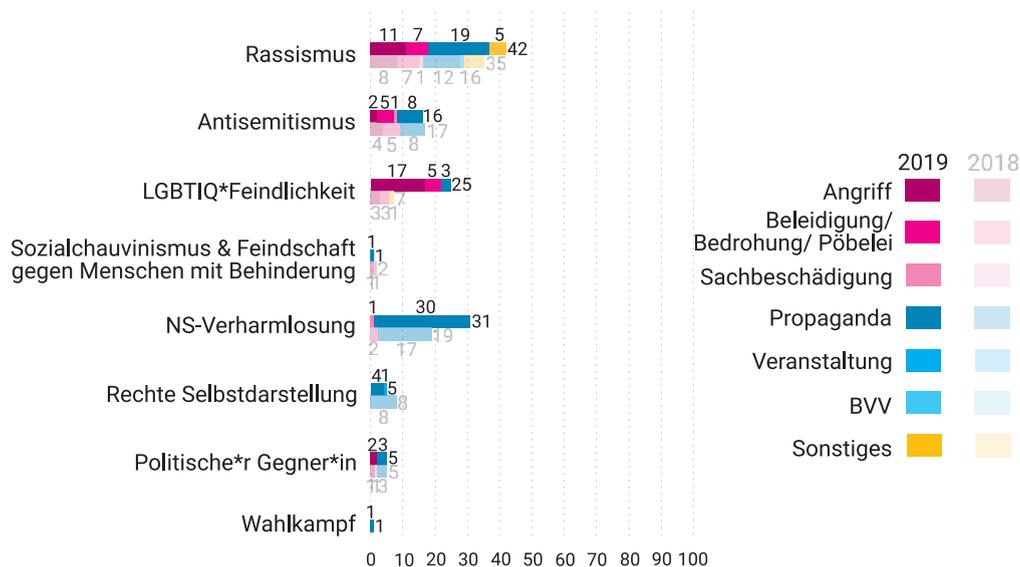
anti-Semitic slogans were shouted and political opponents attacked in the context of an amateur game of men’s football in Marienfelde. Supporters of the host club, which is known for its anti-racist commitment, were insulted and attacked by unknown individuals after the match. Both incidents were covered by the press, but also attracted attention from local politicians and civil society. While the press does notice (rather atypical) incidents like these, barely any public attention is paid to most of the incidents recorded. However, recording these incidents can be important for social work within the local community and educational activities, for civil society initiatives and for district offices in order to identify problem areas and discrimination hotspots.

For example, a socio-spatial cluster of incidents can indicate the formation of far-right connection or even underlying local support for certain forms of discrimination. The highest number of incidents was reported for the sub-district of Mariendorf (2019: 29; 2018: 13), followed by Schöne-

berg-North (2019: 28; 2018: 27), Tempelhof (2019: 24; 2018: 23) and Schöneberg-South (2019: 17; 2018: 20). The number of reported incidents remained at a low level in the sub-districts of Friedenau (2019: 8; 2018: 5), Marienfelde (2019: 7; 2018: 3) and Lichtenrade (2019: 2; 2018: 2). In addition, there were a number of incidents that can be classified as district-wide (3) and online incidents related to the district (5).

While the numbers suggest a hotspot of discriminatory incidents in Mariendorf, the nature or type of incidents differs from sub-district to sub-district. For example, the increase in the number of attacks in the district as a whole (2019: 25; 2018: 17) resulted from the massive increase in the number of anti-LGBTIQ\* attacks (17), particularly in Schöneberg-North. Throughout Berlin, 390 attacks were recorded in 2019. In contrast, Mariendorf mainly recorded incidents in propaganda category, again concerning the trivialisation of National Socialist crimes or glorification of National Socialism. The negligible number of incidents in Lichtenrade and Mariendorf is probably also due to reporting structures not yet being established there.

The majority of incidents recorded involved racism (2019: 40; 2018: 34). An enormous increase was recorded for incidents involving trivialisation of National Socialist crimes or glorification of National Socialism (2019: 31; 2018: 19), which can be explained mainly by an increased number of propaganda incidents. anti-LGBTIQ\* incidents – mainly physical attacks – also increased significantly year-on-year (2019: 25; 2018: 7). The number of



## Examples of Incidents

### 7th April 2019

Around 2 a.m. a 29-year-old trans person working as a sex worker in Frobenstraße was subjected to anti-LGBTIQ\* insults by two unknown men and attacked with a hockey stick. Source: ReachOut Berlin / Berlin Police

### 16th October 2019

On a building container in Salzburger Straße in the sub-district Schöneberg-Süd, graffiti attacking Israel’s legitimacy was found. Using a stencil-style

template, the inscription “No Pride in Israeli Apartheid” [in English] was applied three times. Anti-Semitism concerning Israel is among the repertoire of anti-Semitic prejudices. Source: Department for Research and Information on Antisemitism Berlin (RIAS)

### 26th November 2019

Racist graffiti was reported on the timetable information at the “Volkmarstraße” bus stop where buses leave for Steglitz (on the corner of

Colditzstraße) in Mariendorf. Source: Berlin Register Office via Twitter

### 19th December 2019

A 14-year-old boy was tied up, strangled and subjected to anti-Semitic insults by fellow pupils during sports lessons at a secondary school in the street Alt-Marienfelde in the district of Marienfelde. The boy suffered red marks on his neck due to the attack. Source: Der Tagesspiegel



Swastika in Felixstraße in Tempelhof

anti-Semitic incidents also remained at the same level, although such incidents had declined throughout Berlin in the previous year (2019: 16; 2018: 18).

### Across the District: Still Marked Racism and Anti-Semitism

There continues to be a high level of racist incidents throughout Berlin and in the district. There was a massive increase in racist attacks (2019: 11; 2018: 5) and 7 cases were reported in the category insults/threats/abuse (2018: 7). Of the total 42 racist incidents recorded, 8 can be classified as anti-Muslim racism (2018: 8), 3 as anti-ziganism (2018: 7) and 1 incident as anti-Black racism (not yet recorded separately in 2018).

The proportion of incidents motivated by anti-Semitism has also remained at the same level for years. Various districts and sub-districts of Tempelhof-Schöneberg are closely linked to Jewish history in Berlin and are still centres of Jewish life in the city today. In 2019, however, the incidents reported were spread over the entire district, whereas in the previous year they were still concentrated in the Schöneberg-North district. A significant decline in the figures could be observed here (2019: 5; 2018: 15). The number of attacks motivated by anti-Semitism also declined (2018: 4; 2019: 2). This also confirms the Berlin-wide trend, which suggests that the highest figures for anti-Semitic violence were recorded in 2018. Nevertheless, shocking cases of anti-Semitic violence were documented, such as the mistreatment of a 14-year-old pupil by his classmates on 19th December 2019 during sports lessons at a secondary school in Marienfelde.

### Schöneberg-North: Rise in Anti-LGBTIQ\* Attacks

In 2019 there was a massive increase in anti-LGBTIQ\* attacks, after the number had declined in the previous year (2019: 17; 2018: 3). Most of these attacks can be narrowed down to Schöneberg-North and specifically the Nollendorf neighbourhood. The sub-district has a reputation as the centre of the lesbian-gay subculture in Berlin. Of 16 attacks, 15 had anti-LGBTIQ\* motives. People who have been out to bars are often affected and are suddenly attacked on their way home at night. Another victim group that has scarcely been in the public eye are trans people who are sex workers in Frobenstraße. They are repeatedly threatened by groups of men in cars, have objects thrown at them or are attacked. One example is an attack on 7th April 2019, in which a 29-year-old trans person was attacked by two men with a hockey stick.

The rise in the number of cases can be explained by a change in how often incidents are reported to the police as well as increased public awareness thanks to work by social workers from the association TransInterQueer e.V. In contrast, more low-threshold anti-LGBTIQ\* incidents such as insults, threats and abuse (5) and propaganda (3) are less frequently included in the incidents documented. This in turn can mean that such incidents are perceived by those affected as part of everyday life and are therefore reported less frequently.

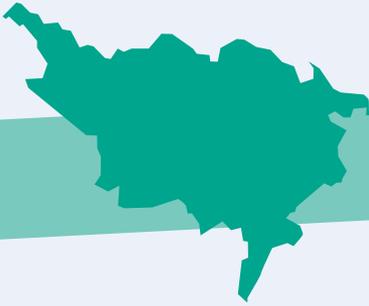
### Mariendorf: Graffiti glorifying National Socialism

Among the propaganda incidents reported for Mariendorf (2019: 28; 2018: 11), 15 glori-

fied National Socialism or trivialised National Socialist crimes. Eleven cases were classified as racist (including anti-Muslim racism); 2 cases were categorised as right-wing grandstanding, 1 case was classed as anti-Semitism. Many of the incidents involved graffiti at bus stops – swastikas were found alongside anti-Muslim and racist inscriptions. At one bus stop, the slogan “Nazi Kiez” [“Nazi neighbourhood”] was reported. This type of propaganda activities, often initiated by individuals, serves to lay claim to the social space. As well as the cases in Mariendorf, propaganda incidents were also reported frequently from Tempelhof (2019: 14; 2018: 7) and Schöneberg-North (2019: 9; 2018: 11).

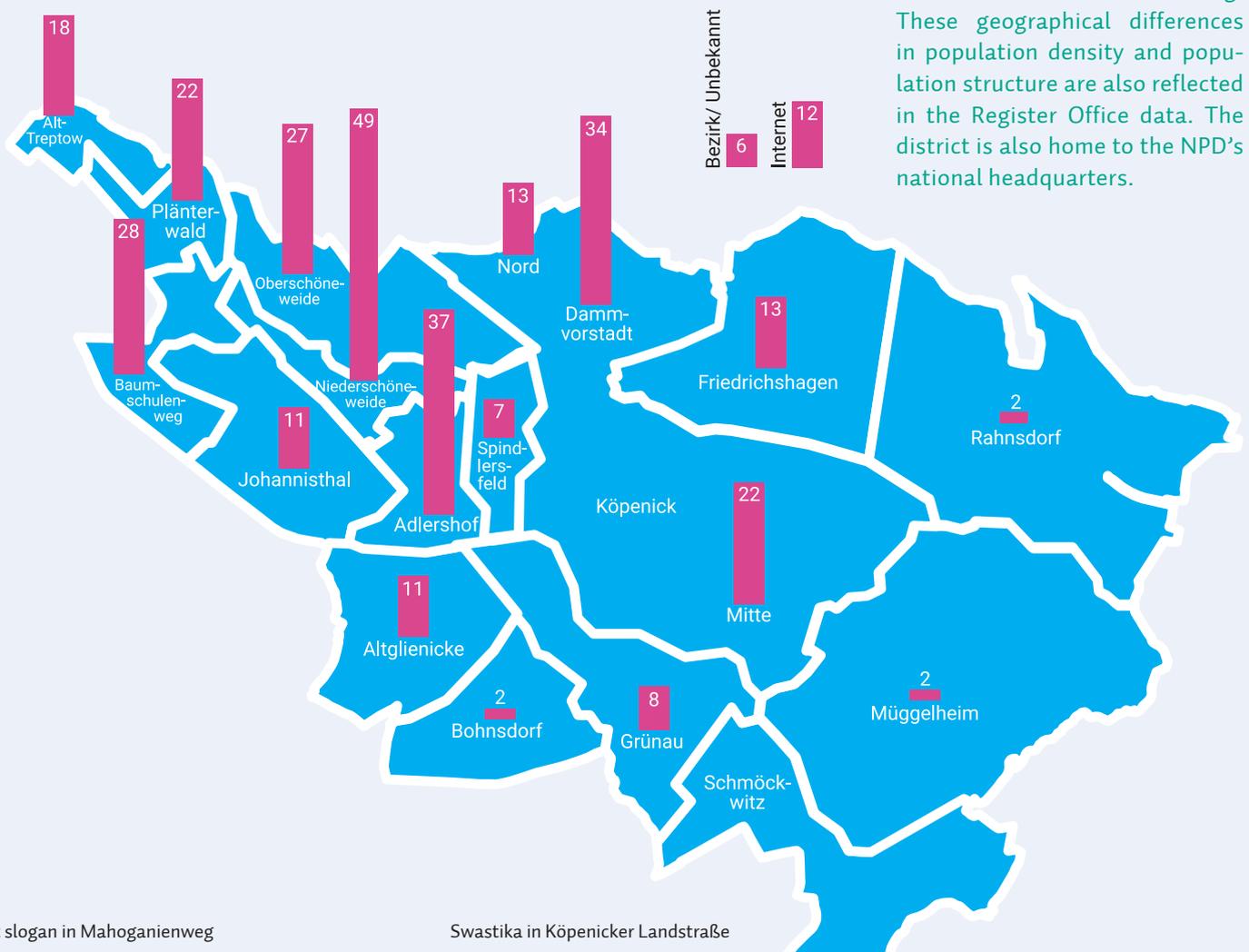
### Outlook

For Tempelhof-Schöneberg a heterogeneous picture emerges: while the number of anti-LGBTIQ\* attacks in Schöneberg-North is striking, propaganda incidents dominate in Mariendorf. There is a significantly high level of racist incidents throughout the district. It is important for civil society and politicians at the district level to establish sustainable communication channels and nationwide networks.



# Treptow-Köpenick

Treptow-Köpenick has the largest surface area of any district in Berlin and is one of the greenest districts. Over 270,000 people live in its 15 sub-districts. These vary greatly - from almost inner-city Alt-Treptow to Schmöckwitz on the border with Brandenburg. These geographical differences in population density and population structure are also reflected in the Register Office data. The district is also home to the NPD's national headquarters.



Racist slogan in Mahoganienvweg

Swastika in Köpenicker Landstraße



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In 2019, 324 incidents were documented (2018: 447). This corresponds to a decrease of 28 %. Consequently, while the number of incidents is not back at the level of 2017 (310), it is approaching that level again. The decrease can be explained by 125 fewer incidents reported in the category of propaganda alone.

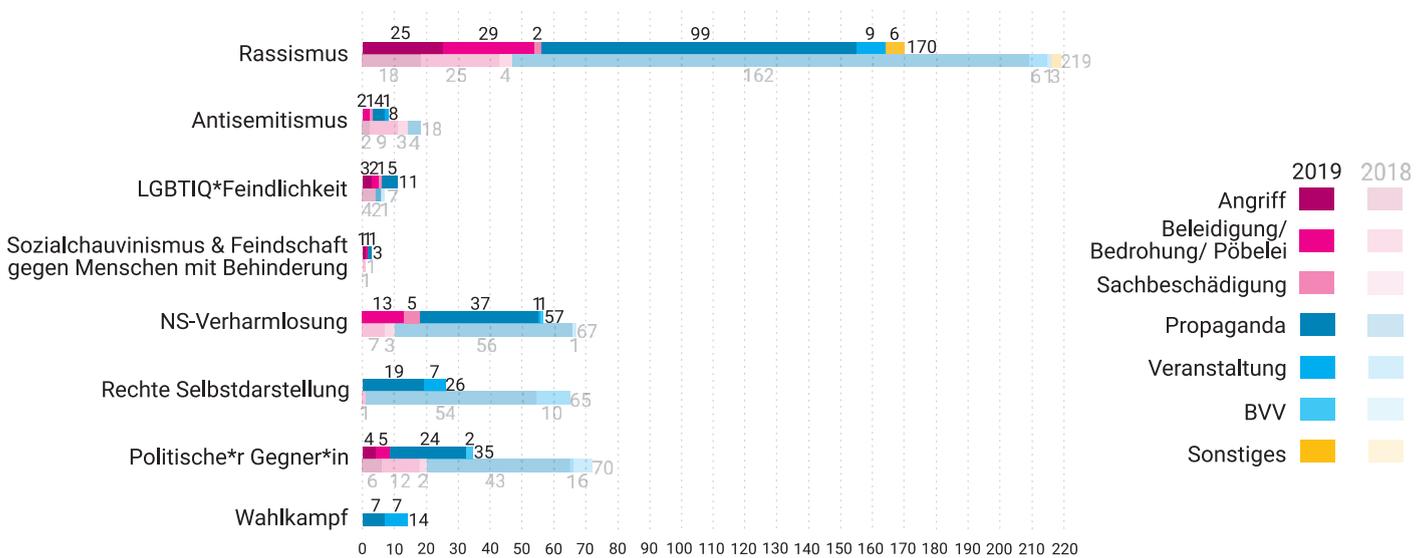
The number of attacks reported increased by 3 to 33 in 2019, the highest level since the Register Office began collecting data in the district. The number of incidents involving threats, insults and abuse fell slightly (- 3). However, in contrast to 2018, no Internet-based incidents were reported. In terms of the total number of incidents, there has been a fall in each category of motivations underlying incidents, with the exception of racism. In this category there was a further increase of 39 %. There has been a particularly pronounced drop in the number of reported incidents involving propaganda (- 125). After a massive increase in 2018, the figures are again in line with previous years. This can be attributed in particular to those districts that recorded a high increase in such incidents in 2018, namely Niederschöneweide, Baumschulenweg and Plänterwald. Propaganda incidents there are now almost back at the 2017 level.

European Parliament elections were held in 2019. Almost exclusively in this context, public events also increased (+ 8). The classification of incidents by content shows that the proportion of racist incidents in particular rose sharply by 49%, while the proportion of incidents glorifying National Socialism or trivialising its crimes also increased by 11%. In this thematic context, incidents involving threats, insults and abuse have in particular increased by 6 incidents, hitting a total of 13. These incidents involved Hitler salutes and/or slogans. The number of anti-Semitic incidents has almost fallen by almost half to a total of 8 incidents (- 9). In this category there was a particularly pronounced decline in the number of threats and attacks which have fallen sharply (- 9).

Despite the massive decline in total incidents (- 76), Niederschöneweide is still the sub-district with the highest number of incidents (2018: 125; 2019: 49). There was a decline not only in propaganda incidents (- 59) but also in the number of attacks and threats (- 7). Nevertheless, Niederschöneweide was still the sub-district with the highest figures in these categories. The highest number of attacks occurred in Friedrichshagen. There were 5 in total, which is a sudden increase, as no attacks

had been documented in the district since an attack on a refugee accommodation centre in 2016. In Adlershof, too, the number of attacks increased once again (+4) and has now reached at a new record level of 13 attacks.

The repeated high level of attacks (2019: 33; 2018: 30) and incidents in the threats/insults/abuse category (2019: 52; 2018: 55) in connection with the nationwide developments in the field of right-wing terrorism suggest a further increase in violence in the coming year is likely. Given that 2021 is an election year (elections both in Berlin and for the federal government), the political discussion will probably be exacerbated again, especially in the area of racism. Racism is likely to remain the main motive. With such prospects, anti-racist and anti-fascist commitment is all the more necessary and will remain so in future. It is therefore important that civil society protagonists and local residents, despite experiencing regular hostility and attempts at delegitimation, take action to foster solidarity-based cooperation in daily life, as exemplified in 2019 in Friedrichshagen and Adlershof.



Examples of Incidents

**18th March 2019**  
A mother was playing with her small child on a playground in Köpenick North until several residents started insulting her from their balconies, for example yelling: "Piss off, you anti-social bunch!"  
Source: Zentrum für Demokratie

**20th May 2019**  
In the evening, a man insulted another man on the corner of Bahnhofstr./Seelenbinderstr., calling him "homo" and stating that he belonged on a train to Auschwitz. As the perpetrator continued

on his way, he made the Hitler salute to a tram driver.  
Source: Zentrum für Demokratie

**22nd September 2019**  
Two men were talking about football on the S-Bahn near Schöneweide station when one of them suddenly made racist and anti-Semitic remarks. When the other man expressed his disagreement, the man he had been talking to sprayed him in the face with pepper spray at very close range.  
Source: ReachOut

**5th October 2019**  
A harvest festival ceremony was held at the NPD national headquarters in Seelenbinderstr. In the evening, very loud live music was played with lyrics inciting to hatred. Furthermore, the event was not registered with the police. Witnesses called the police. During the police check there were several cries of "Sieg Heil" shouts. The party was subsequently disbanded and those identity of those present as ascertained and several charges were filed.  
Source: Berlin Police

# Focus of Analysis: Racist violence

Racist violence has been on the rise throughout **Berlin** since 2017. The number of attacks (212) is almost at the same level as its peak in 2017 and has increased by 41 compared to the previous year. Incidents of threats, insults and abuse (356) have even increased markedly since 2016. In 2019, they increased by a further 43 compared to the previous year. In 2019, racism is the most common motive for 58% of the attacks and threats documented in Berlin.

In **Treptow-Köpenick**, too, the number of attacks has been rising again since 2016. 2019 saw the highest number of attacks (33) since the Register Office began collecting data. The same applies to attacks motivated by racism (25), which are also at a new high. They make up 76% of all attacks.

There was already a particularly high level of incidents in this category in 2016, although this could be attributed to the racist protests against refugee accommodation centre (see Evaluation 2017). At that time, there were increased incidents of assault, especially in the vicinity of refugee accommodation centre. However, these protests ended completely in 2017 and thus no longer have any influence.

In 2019, all motives for attacks and threats are declining, except in the category of racism. There has been an increase of 39% in that category compared to 2018. The proportion of racist attacks and threats in the respective categories is 61%, the highest level since the Treptow-Köpenick Register Office was established.

### Case Study: Adlershof

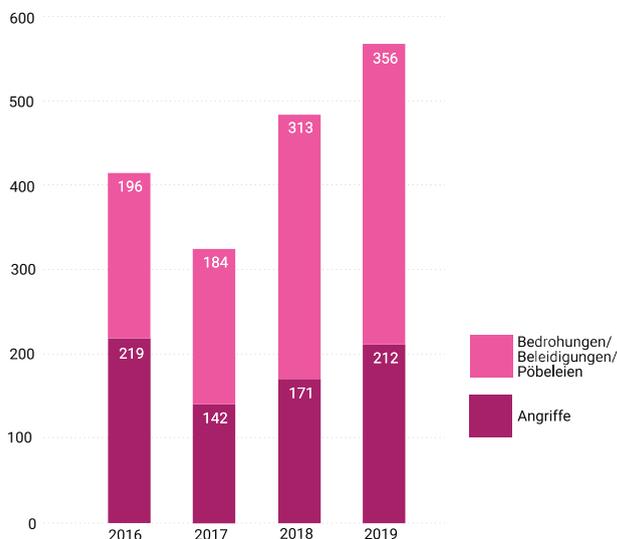
Adlershof is the sub-district with the highest percentage of racist incidents in the district. The figure is roughly 70%. The total of 25 racist incidents can be divided into 4 attacks, 5 incidents in the category threats/ insults/ abuses, 1 case of damage to property, 14 propaganda incidents and 1 public event. In addition, Adlershof is the sub-district with the highest number of racist attacks in Treptow-Köpenick in 2019.

In 2017 these were all still took in the S-Bahn or at the station. In contrast, all attacks and threats in 2019 took place in the northern (older) Adlershof.

In 2019 two groups of people were victims of racist violence and damage to property on several occasions – a family and people running a snack bar. Within one month, a family was attacked three times at their home in Adlershof for racist reasons:

**25th May 2019:** In Adlershof, the letterbox of a house was destroyed, the fence was broken and the entrance to the flat was defaced with dog excrement. This was the beginning of a series of racist incidents.

Entwicklung der rassistischen Übergriffe von 2016 bis 2019



**17th June 2019:** Four children were subjected to racist insults by a woman in front of their flat. The woman stopped her car, rolled down the window and said that Muslims were bad and that they should leave Germany. When the children’s father and a passer-by arrived, the woman drove away.

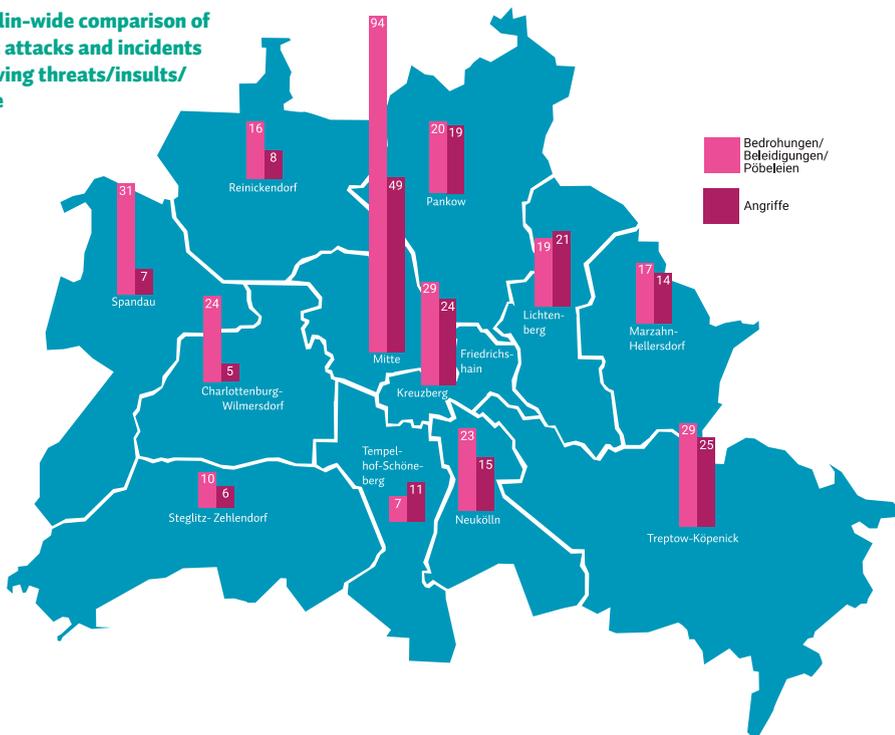
**22nd June 2019:** During the night of 22nd to 23rd June, two shots were fired at the front door of a family’s flat in Adlershof. Fortunately, the parents and their four children were not harmed; the metal bullets that were fired got stuck in the door. The second group of people affected on several occasions were the people who ran and worked in a snack bar, which was attacked twice in 2019.

**25th April 2019:** In the early afternoon a car slowly drove past a snack bar in Dörpfeldstr./ Friedenstr. The person in the passenger seat gave the middle finger and shouted out to the people working there: “Off you go to the gas chamber”. Afterwards the car drove off quickly.

**9th June 2019:** A snack van standing in Dörpfeldstraße was sprayed with a swastika and the slogan “Off to the gas chamber, damned Muslims, get lost” during the night and doused with butyric acid.

Such series of attacks are not a new phenomenon in Adlershof. In 2015, for example, a Turkish tradesman suffered multiple damage to his property. In one night, the shop windows of his two businesses in Adlershof were destroyed and about a month later his car was set on fire. Another example is a local politician whose car was also set on fire in 2015. In 2016, the wheel nuts on his car were loosened and after his death in 2018, his widow received a mocking condolences card from the right-wing scene.

A Berlin-wide comparison of racist attacks and incidents involving threats/insults/abuse



# 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/>

## **Antidiskriminierungsberatung Alter oder Behinderung / Anti-discrimination Advice for the Elderly or People with Disabilities**

This advice centre is a contact point for people who feel discriminated against because of their age or disability. Information (in German): <http://lv-selbsthilfe-berlin.de/antidiskriminierungsberatung>

## **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](http://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://amarofo.de/antidiskriminierungsarbeit>

## **Dokumentation und Beratung bei Anti-Schwarzem Rassismus / Documentation and Advice concerning 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 documents 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/](http://www.eoto-archiv.de/antidiskriminierungsberatung/)

## **Kampagne für Opfer rassistischer Polizeigewalt (KOP) /Campaign for Victims of Racist Police Violence (KOP)** (Information available in German): [www.kop-berlin.de](http://www.kop-berlin.de)

## **Kontakt- und Beratungsstelle für Flüchtlinge und Migrant\_innen e.V. (KUB) /Contact and Advice Centre for Refugees and Migrants (KUB)** (Information available in German): [www.kub-berlin.de](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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 guides for affected persons and their loved ones are available in various languages as PDF files. [www.verband-brg.de/material/#publikationen](http://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](http://www.mbt-berlin.de/mbt)

[www.berliner-register.de](http://www.berliner-register.de)

