

Recommendations for action

Crimes

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- **... in the constitutional protection report published by the *Federal Ministry of the Interior*, a separate chapter on antisemitism should be included regularly in the section on all areas of extremism and, in addition, the statistical data on antisemitic offenses should be shown separately.**
To this end, the concept of hate crime must be separated from (right-wing) extremism; otherwise the categorization is too strongly fixed on the conventional image of right-wing extremism, which hinders the recognition of hate crime.
- **... the entire trial proceedings for hate-based crimes should be recorded in a database.**
In addition to including a breakdown of crimes by type, the database should record statistics on the victims and perpetrators of such offenses as well as on the outcome of criminal proceedings (attitudes, quota of indictments and of prosecution, duration of proceedings, punishment, etc.).
- **... training for police officers and constitutional protection workers specifically for the purpose of recognizing the antisemitic content of statements or actions related to the Israel-Palestinian conflict in the topic area civil wars / crisis zones.**
- **... the institutionalization of cooperation between governmental executive bodies (police, judiciary) and NGOs, as well as other initiatives in the recording of antisemitic offenses.**
Within this framework, the »third party reporting« model practiced in Great Britain should be evaluated to see if it could be adopted in Germany.
- **... a case study on the darkfield of crime motivated by antisemitism.**
- **... an independent evaluation of the PMK (politically motivated crime) assessment system with a review of its theoretical foundations.**
Especially the definitions used and the four dimensions – (1) grade of crime, (2) phenomenal domain, (3) thematic areas and (4) extremist quality – are to be examined along with their use in the investigation practice.

Antisemitic attitudes in the general population

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- **... regular, federally funded monitoring of antisemitic attitudes in the form of a representative population survey as well as qualitative studies taking into account particular population groups.**
As yet there has been no regular monitoring. Studies commissioned by private foundations do not currently focus specifically on antisemitism. Moreover, purely representative population surveys do not provide information on antisemitism within specific population groups (for example, immigrants or young persons). These population groups could be reached at regular (if somewhat longer) intervals, for example through targeted »oversampling« or supplementary studies.

Another goal is to use qualitative investigations to learn more about the changing understanding of antisemitic manifestations and approaches to the topic, as well as the changing individual knowledge bases and (also generatively different) ways of dealing with it.

Of particular interest here are, on one hand, studies on the changing viewpoints of younger people and, on the other hand, on the views of persons with a »migration background.« This includes the question about the degree to which political processes in their countries of origin (such as Russia or Turkey) influence populations with immigrant background living here, and how this affects their attitudes.

Experiences and perspectives of the Jewish population in dealing with antisemitism

Establishment and expansion of reporting and advisory structures

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- **... the establishment of a federal-state commission on antisemitism (→ Central demands) for the creation and promotion of reporting and information centers that record antisemitic assaults, incidents or criminal offenses.**

Here, connections should be made with existing information centers for the purpose of sharing experiences and expertise. Specifically in Berlin, this includes RIAS. It is desirable to extend existing reporting structures to more Länder and/or regions, to make them more accessible to those affected and as easy as possible to reach. Established quality criterion, as well as general obligatory procedures for recording and case documentation, must be observed. In the best case, all documentation should be merged into a shared platform or collection point.

- **... that the aforementioned federal-state commission on antisemitism ensure the establishment of specialized advisory structures and/or cooperation with existing advisory structures for victims of right-wing, racist and antisemitic violence, as well as anti-discrimination information centers.**

Also important here is the training of staff in other general counseling and anti-discrimination centers in order to ensure utilization of initial and referral counseling. It is necessary to raise counselors' awareness of everyday antisemitism and promote the understanding of antisemitism as discrimination. Counseling must be supportive of victims of everyday antisemitism that is below a criminal threshold as well as specialized to address the needs of victims of violent attacks.

- **... that empowerment measures be promoted and expanded by – at the very least – the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) and state programs on the prevention of extremism.**

Jewish organizations, institutions or projects should be specifically promoted in order to establish /increase the effectiveness of spaces for dialogue and shared experience to empower those confronted by various manifestations of everyday antisemitism.

Inclusion of Jewish perspectives in committees and preventative work

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- **... an increased inclusion of Jewish scholars, experts and institutions in state / civil society committees that are dedicated to promoting democracy, combating antisemitism and racism**
- **...an increased inclusion of Jewish perspectives and expertise in various funding programs for historical and political education, antisemitism prevention and intervention.**

Both these recommendations emphasize the recognition of the right of Jews to participate in defining and recording antisemitism as well as to be included in related political negotiations. Discrepancies in the definition of antisemitism – as with definitions of other forms of degradation and exclusion – have up to now mostly been ascribed to a »divergent view« on the part of the affected minority and far too seldom seen as a relevant space of perception and experience that must be taken into account in the definition.

Research

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- **... the initiation and promotion of interdisciplinary studies with a qualitative and quantitative orientation on the perspectives, experiences, perceptions and expertise of Jews regarding antisemitism.** Jewish perspectives on antisemitism must be recorded at regular intervals in order to broaden data from surveys of the non-Jewish majority population and to discover and empirically secure indications of developments or new phenomena. Seen empirically, there is a comparatively large research field that remains to be addressed.
- **... the initiation and promotion of application-oriented basic research and practice-oriented research on preventive measures, not only as low-financed follow-up research or retrospective evaluation but rather evaluated as an independent field and with financial security. Targeted calls for proposals within the framework of the federal program »Demokratie leben!« (Live Democracy!) and / or the Federal Ministry for Research and Science would be necessary.**

Media discourse

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- ... **monitoring of social networks by both federal agencies and NGOs, with the results provided to the state and federal Offices of Criminal Investigation.**
A systematic monitoring, including a corresponding analysis of social media, is technically possible but requires financial support for the necessary personnel.
- ... **increasing the pressure on platform operators by the *Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection*, and enforcement of the list of measures compiled in December 2015.**
This should be supported by an inter-ministerial initiative that creates mechanisms for better reporting and subsequent removal of antisemitic and discriminatory content from the Internet.
- ... **using existing and new instruments to delete the social bots and fake accounts through which antisemitic hate speech is spread.**
- ... **training employees of major communication platforms to recognize and eradicate the newer forms of antisemitism as well as antisemitic code words.**
- ... **strengthening civil society players to help them counter hate speech on the Internet, for example through relevant funding programs of the *Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth*.**
- ... **the targeted promotion of counter speech, for example with the help of journalists as »fact-checkers,« in order to expose lies quickly and block their further dissemination.**
- ... **support and maintenance of critical foreign-language reportage by Germany's *Radio and Television Council*, aimed at providing the various migrant communities in Germany with a critical counterbalance to the propagandistic media coverage in their countries of origin.**

Antisemitism and political parties

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- ... **that all parties regularly evaluate their own programs against antisemitism as well as questions about antisemitism in their own ranks, and have outside evaluations as well.**
The democratic parties should (1) regularly deal with the question of which activities they are undertaking against current antisemitism and to what extent, for example, the recommendations of the *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* are taken into account and (2) deal self-critically and voluntarily with possible antisemitic tendencies in their own ranks, not merely exploit such cases offensively when they occur in other, competing political parties.
- ... **founding a cross-party parliamentary group in the Bundestag and state parliaments that deals with the issue of antisemitism and publishes a related report at regular intervals.**
- ... **that the *Left Party* critically observe the anti-Israel tendencies among some of its members and check for antisemitic tendencies.**
- ... **that the *Alternative for Germany* party clearly distance itself from those of its legislators who express antisemitic views, and that the party eschew antisemitic tendencies within its ranks, if it considers itself a democratic party that is opposed to antisemitism.**

Antisemitism in political movements and organizations

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- ... **that the *Federal Ministry of the Interior* again include a separate chapter on »Antisemitism in Right-Wing Extremism« in its annual constitutional protection report (→ Recommendations on crime).**

- ... that a chapter on antisemitism in its various manifestations be included under the theme of extremism in the annual constitutional protection report published by the state ministries of the interior or state legislatures.
- ... that the *Federal Department for Media Harmful to Young Persons* be aware that the well-known »right-rock« music genre is not the only one in which antisemitic texts are found; they also appear in right-wing extremist rap music and other genres.

Here, media organizations are also asked to carefully check the work of artists whose music they are playing and hosting.

- ... that the educational offerings of political foundations deal not only with antisemitism in the context of the Holocaust or right-wing extremism but also with regard to its current manifestations (for example, hostility towards Israel).

Here it is important to keep an eye on manifestations that transmit right-wing extremist content using modernized concepts.

- ... financial support be provided for research that also confronts antisemitic tendencies within old and new political movements.

Recommendations for action – antisemitism and religion

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- ... a retrospective analysis at the end of 2017 – the conclusion of the »Year of Luther« – of the expected discussions on the relationship between the Protestant Church and Jews and Judaism, and an evaluation of these discussions in a separate report.
- ... promoting the completion of qualitative and quantitative studies, to fill a gap in empirical evidence about the dissemination and formation of antisemitism on the communal level of the Protestant and Catholic churches as well as the independent churches.
- ... establishing the regulations on confronting antisemitism in the sphere of religion that are to be laid down by the Federal-State Commission (taking into account the major denominations represented here).
- ... taking the findings of the German-Israeli schoolbook commission seriously.
- ... a targeted promotion of mosque communities, Muslim organizations, institutions and projects that carry out concrete measures in the area of intercultural and interreligious encounters and dialogues with Jewish partners as well as those that support political education against antisemitism.
The integrated consideration of antisemitism and anti-Muslim racism creates new opportunities for combating antisemitism.
- ... appreciating the dialogue work of many imams in the fight against antisemitism and including their experiences in ongoing work against antisemitism in other Muslim communities.
- ... emphasizing commonalities between Islam and Judaism when focusing on themes related to sensitization towards antisemitism in Muslim communities.

Antisemitism among refugees

Research

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- ... the initiation, implementation and promotion of research on antisemitism among refugees, which should be carried out first and foremost by the *Federal Office for Migration and Refugees*.
As yet there is no empirical evidence on the distribution and formation of antisemitism among refugees. Both qualitative and quantitative studies are needed; ideally, elements of both should be incorporated. If necessary a questionnaire can be integrated into a long-term study already under way. In both research design and evaluation it is necessary to consider the great heterogeneity of this target group. Furthermore, a systematic

investigation is needed of factors that influence antisemitic attitudes. This includes religious, national and ethnic identities as well as socialization experience and especially the unique experiences and circumstances of refugees, not to mention the marginalization and discrimination they endure in Germany. In addition, there should be an analysis of the antisemitically loaded knowledge and information that refugees bring with them from their countries of origin, and/or through the media they use here.

- **... examining the knowledge and attitudes among volunteers and supporters of refugees in the context of research on volunteerism.**

Volunteers and supporters are often the most important contacts for refugees, thus it is of central interest to learn more about what they transmit regarding antisemitism. The findings should also be used in the training of volunteers.

Political education

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- **... the networking and exchange of professional experience between academia, practice and above all providers of historical and political education on the subject of refugees and antisemitism; this requires the involvement particularly of federal and state funding and education programs.**

It is necessary to introduce information about antisemitism to refugees and – if necessary – to volunteers working within new or existing networks and to initiate an interdisciplinary exchange of experts on the design of educational programs.

- **... the recognition of refugees as thinking and acting politically, at least in the educational programs of the Federal Government and the Länder.**

Refugees should be taken seriously as political thinkers and agents with their own experiences and perspectives; their educational interests should be considered and linked to knowledge and antisemitic narratives specific to their country of origin and political discussions should be promoted. This should always take into account their life situation (insecure residency status, traumatic experiences of flight, the contexts of their country of origin and their various motivations). Possible starting points include advocacy of democratic and human values; increased empathy resulting from their own experiences; and among youth, a great interest in personal identity and the high motivation to learn, to understand and to integrate into the country of refuge.

Media

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- **... an even greater provision, dissemination and accessibility of information and offers for refugees, including material in their own native language; this requires the involvement at the very least of public service media and the federal and state centers for political education.**

The goal should be to reach the largest possible number of people with refugee background. That also applies to information and political education programs connected with antisemitism. In particular television, which reaches many refugees, should offer programs in the native languages of refugees – that applies above all to political formats. Refugees should be actively involved in the media production. Many of them possess media skills that could be applied to building new formats and platforms.

Recommendations for action – Prevention and intervention

Recommendations for the creation of a better framework for prevention

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- **... continuing the work of the inter-ministerial working group aimed at creating an overall, inter-departmental strategy that goes beyond the legislative period, for the fight against extremism and the promotion of democracy. It should include all ministries for which the topic of current antisemitism is relevant, in particular the BMJV, the BMBF and the Foreign Office**

Current antisemitism must be mentioned specifically in the National Action Plan. The federal program »Live Democracy!« in and of itself does not suffice to counter antisemitism at all levels.

- **... the expansion and promotion of cooperation between government agencies and non-governmental organizations to sustainably support the coordinated cooperation of various actors at the federal, state and municipal levels and in civil society.**

The structures initiated by the federal program »Live Democracy!« (State Democracy Centers, Partnerships for Democracy, etc.) should pay greater attention to antisemitism, taking into account its varied manifestations.

- **... the sustained promotion of long-term cooperations between statutory institutions – schools, child and youth welfare organizations, religious institutions, umbrella associations for the voluntary welfare service, youth and social offices – and specialized educational institutions.**

The structures developed within the framework of the federal programs can create conditions important to the success of prevention work. Cooperation between the federal government and the Länder is essential here.

- **... expanding the diverse range of pedagogical options, including practical and methodological proposals and making them available free of charge.**

This could be based on the diversity media library »Bildungsmedien gegen Rechtsextremismus, Menschenfeindlichkeit und Gewalt« (educational media against right-wing extremism, inhumanity and violence) of the IDA e.V. and DGB Bildungswerk. However, the issue of antisemitism would have to be expanded considerably.

- **... actively (and repeatedly) promoting the institutional support of organizations / centers that evaluate existing approaches; assessing their effectiveness; and making them accessible.**

As »networking nodes« these organizations / centers could appraise current research and evaluations and feed the results into practice. They could also carry out their own evaluations over longer periods, keep an up-to-date overview of sponsors and institutions working in this area and initiate new cross-institutional trainings. The federal program »Live Democracy!« (BMFSFJ) could provide appropriate resources for this.

Recommendations for education

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- **... broadening the area of prevention through education, including intervention in that understanding. Prevention should involve a combination of education and counseling. To that end, specific skills, interdisciplinary alliances and cooperations (for example with counseling centers) are necessary, as are closer cooperations between school, youth social work, youth welfare, police and justice.**

There should be a stronger focus on intervention. In addition to the prevention of antisemitic attitudes, everyday experiences with antisemitism should be taken into account, protection of victims ensured and antisemitic incidents dealt with rigorously.

- **... developing and better promoting the prevention of antisemitism as an independent (educational) area of action.**

This applies both to research and the practice of in-school as well extra-curricular education and social work and applies first and foremost to the further development of theoretical and methodological foundations.

- **... a stronger interlinking of post-colonial, racism-critical and antisemitism-critical approaches with the aim of developing interdisciplinary education that is sensitive to differences, going beyond the constructed »groups« of the GMF (intersectionality).**

A combined approach to antisemitism and anti-Muslim racism can reduce the potential for stigmatization and defensive reactions and therefore increase the readiness of Muslim-socialized target groups to deal critically with antisemitism. The consideration of interactions between the different phenomena must not lead to the relativization of the specific character of antisemitism. Rather, the interlinking should enrich the field of action, provide fresh momentum for further professional and methodological development and strengthen and intensify cooperation with other actors in political education, including with Muslim-run educational projects.

- **... taking historical developments and backgrounds into account when grappling with current antisemitism**

The inclusion of historical perspectives should go beyond a discussion of National Socialism and the Holocaust and should also include the consequences. Thus the Expert Group recommends supporting projects that are specifically dedicated to this issue and that try out approaches to this topic. Model projects of this kind should not only be a focal point of the federal program »Live Democracy!"; they also should be promoted in the context of other programs, such as the federal government's memorial sites concept (Federal Commissioner for Culture and Media).

- **... developing dialogue and encounters in a Jewish-Muslim context and promoting cooperation between Jewish and non-Jewish educational institutions in general.**

Encounters and dialog projects between Jewish and Muslim partners should not be reduced to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Instead, they should be broadened to address other topics, including identity

issues or discrimination experiences. Mutual trust and professional pedagogical guidance are needed in the treatment of this topic (→ Recommendations for religion). It is important that the partners in dialog meet at eye level, and each become acquainted with the history, culture and religion of the other.

- **... developing continuing education and training programs and supporting those that are dedicated to the development of (self) reflection in pedagogical professionals.**

This is of great importance for the success of antisemitism prevention work through school-based and extra-curricular education. Organized self-reflection, and reflection on difficult pedagogical situations, should be part of quality assurance and be promoted more strongly, for example through inner-organizational or intercultural coachings or supervision offerings for educators.

Recommendations for pedagogical offerings and areas of activity

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* recommends...

- **... combining low-threshold approaches and long-term educational formats.**
Short-term, limited interventions can be promoted in order to raise awareness among educators and influential individuals about various facets of antisemitism (especially Israel-related); to reduce the fear of contact with others; and to illustrate the relevance of antisemitism. Such interventions can be combined with longer-term pedagogical offerings that promote a deeper involvement with the topic of antisemitism.
- **... adding supplementary formats to the usual continuing education opportunities – expert advice, cooperative case analyses or coaching – so as to reach the widest possible target group.**
- **... expanding and promoting programs in continuing education and training for teachers and specialists, including police, youth (social) work, administration, academia and the media.**
Thematic training must not be exclusively project-related but rather implemented as part of the training in regulatory structures. Here, too, the various manifestations of antisemitism must be considered.
- **... promoting educational-preventive approaches with a special focus on home environment and social spheres, as particularly effective.**
Unifying factors can include sports (especially soccer), music or other forms of entertainment. Federal programs such as the BMI's »*Zusammenhalt durch Teilhabe*« (cohesion through participation) already are entering these spheres by promoting cooperation with major civil society organizations such as Sportjugend (sporting youth), fire departments or aid organizations such as the German Red Cross. In terms of content, however, the programs should be broadened even further when it comes to the topic of antisemitism.
- **... encouraging mosque communities and Muslim institutions to join in the fight against antisemitism and specifically promote projects that carry out concrete measures in the areas of intercultural, interreligious encounters and dialogue with Jewish partners and with political education organizations.**
The involvement of Muslim-socialized educational experts can be an advantage here, as their personal background enables them to identify with the target group and their cultural proximity enables them to bring special skills to questions about Islam.
- **... further developing preventive measures against religious extremism, particularly against Salafist radicalization in schools, mosque communities and youth welfare programs.**
Promising concepts should be implemented broadly. The main goal is to support vulnerable youth in the fight against discrimination, racism and antisemitism and to help them become active participants in society.
- **... developing in-school and external educational opportunities that enable a critical examination of nationalist and Islamist propaganda, especially coming from Turkey but also from other countries of origin.**
- **... that the Conference of Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs initiate an urgently needed, multi-disciplinary textbook revision.**
Despite repeated recommendations from the German-Israeli Schoolbook Commission among others, antisemitism continues to be first and foremost approached in the context of the Middle Ages and of National Socialism. In order to raise awareness about current antisemitic images and attitudes, guidelines should be drawn up within the framework of the federal-state commission that will create binding responses to antisemitism in the school context.
- **... the increased inclusion of current manifestations of antisemitism in relevant outline plans and curricula in institutes of higher education and universities.**

Proposals should address, in particular, teachers, educators, social workers and adult educators. Positive examples include seminar series that also address other topics relevant to society and explicitly include antisemitism. The reference to a respective profession or field of study can be established through self-reflection and practice analysis. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research should initiate appropriate formats with a funding program.