

Annual Report 2020

Berliner Register

Recording Far-right and Discriminatory Incidents in Berlin





Imprint

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Content Categories:

- racism with the three subcategories
 - antiziganism / racism towards Rom*nja and Sinti*zze
 - anti-Muslim racism
 - racism towards Black people/ anti-Black racism
- antisemitism (e.g. animosity towards Jews)
- animosity towards LGBTIQ*(directed at lesbians, gays, bi-, trans-, intersexual and queer people)
- social chauvinism (e.g. animosity towards the homeless)
- animosity towards people with disabilities/ ableism
- trivialisation and/or glorification of National Socialism
- right-wing grandstanding (e.g. propaganda promoting far-right groups)
- election campaign
- attacks on political opponents(by the far right)
- anti-feminism

Introduction

This is the third annual report of all Berlin Register Offices, describing the situation in 2020. Every year that we record incidents, the network of people who describe their observations and experiences to us grows. That is partly because awareness of the Register Offices is increasing and partly because the issues that we document are addressed more frequently. The key defining events of the year, which shaped public debates, were certainly the right-wing terrorist attack in Hanau, the coronavirus pandemic and the murder of George Floyd in the USA, which shaped the discourse on racism in Germany.

Whereas racist mobilisations via Facebook targeting refugees and refugee accommodation were still a new phenomenon in 2015, social networks like Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, YouTube or the messenger app Telegram now play a central role in setting the agenda and mobilizing political movements. The impact has been apparent on a daily basis in the Register Offices' work in 2020. One consequence is that social networks open up multiple channels of communication for reports to be sent to us; when we publish these reports, the experiences of people affected spread more rapidly now and reach a broader audience than in previous years. The hashtags #ichbinkeinvirus [I am not a virus], #wasihnichtseht [what you do not see] or #blacklivesmatter are examples of how people affected have shared their experiences in the public realm during this year defined by the pandemic. At the same time, the far right adopts a professional, strategic ap-

proach in their internet use. They fill up comment forums in an attempt to suggest that the majority favours far-right content, launch disinformation campaigns, threaten those who disagree with them politically, and stir up fears through emotional imagery. All these strategies can be observed particularly clearly in mobilisation against measures introduced to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Although the internet and social media play an important role in information exchange and dissemination, they make up only a small proportion of the incidents recorded by the Register Offices, because our work primarily concerns what happens in the social sphere, i.e. on the street, in residential contexts, in workplaces or in supermarkets. Many incidents would occur in exactly the same way even if the internet did not exist. They would simply be less visible.

We would like to thank all those who have the strength and courage to report discrimination and other incidents, thus making evaluation possible. Thank you to the people affected, the contact points, the many cooperation partners, some of whom we present in this Annual Report, the Berlin advice centres and in particular committed people on the spot in neighbourhoods across the city.

The Berlin Register Offices, Summer 2021

Types of Incident:

- propaganda (e.g. stickers and graffiti)
- events
- attacks (e.g. assault, 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 bias (e.g. discrimination by public authorities and refusal to provide services)
- other

Berlin in 2020

Everyday Life in a State of Emergency

2020 was no ordinary year. It was marked by events that affected all of society, because they made profound wounds visible and created new ones. On 19th February 2020, a violent right-wing perpetrator in Hanau shot nine people from migrant backgrounds for racist motives. Witnesses, relatives and friends of those murdered criticised how the state investigative authorities acted on the night of the crime and the inadequate response to mistakes made by public institutions in connection with the crime. They feel pain, anger and grief. The racism that led to their loved ones' murder is deep-rooted and widespread in German society. Racism shapes many people's everyday lives and biographies. This was also evident after the death of George Floyd, a Black American. On 25th May 2020, he was suffocated by a white police officer during a police operation, although bystanders attempt to intervene and although the incident was being filmed. In the public debate, racism was initially conceptualised as a problem affecting the USA; people from migrant backgrounds were rarely invited to speak in German talk shows on the topic. Racism only became an issue of public concern in German society, in the media and among the police in subsequent months, a development amplified by the Black Lives Matter. Since then, there has been greater scope for public awareness of the perspectives of people who experience racism.

Both events only had an indirect impact on documentation of the incidents recorded by the Register Offices, but analysis of those incidents echoes what those affected describe. This analysis reveals that racism is not a phenomenon that affects only the margins of society, but is instead part of everyday experience for many people and has a significant impact on how they live their lives. The coronavirus pandemic is another turning point that affects everyone worldwide. From mid-March, initial contact restrictions and measures to contain the pandemic were implemented in Berlin. Schools, offices, sports facilities, clubs and pubs were closed, public events were initially banned, and only construction sites and supermarkets remained open. The Register Offices assumed that the massive restrictions on public life, coupled with reductions in mobility and social contacts, would lead to a decrease in incidents. That however did not prove to be the case.

2020 in Figures

The Berlin-wide evaluation for 2020 includes data from all 12 Berlin districts. 3,822 incidents (2019: 3,277) were recorded by the end of February 2020 by the Register Offices, the victim advice service ReachOut and other cooperation partners. The figures recorded by the Berlin Register Offices for 2020 do not reflect everything that happened, but only the incidents that came to the Register Offices' attention. Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the ensuing restrictions on public life, an initial decrease in incidents and subsequently a rise in the number of incidents were recorded in the first five months of the year.

The highest number of incidents (609) was documented in Mitte. Reinickendorf and Spandau bring up the rear with 98 incidents each. 58 per cent of all incidents (2,234) involved propaganda (2019: 50 per cent). As in previous years, the main motives were racism (1,306 incidents, 34 per cent) and antisemitism (774 incidents, 20 per cent). The racist incidents also included anti-Muslim, antigypsy and anti-Black incidents.

We See More of What Happens in Everyday Life

In 2015, 5 incidents per day were documented on average; in

2020 this figure had doubled to 10 incidents per day. This does not mean that the situation in Berlin has deteriorated, but rather that more people are now sharing what they observe in reports to the Register Offices. Feedback from advice centres such as Amaro Foro, Inssan, EOTO, Opferhilfe Berlin (Victim Support Berlin), "Antidiskriminierungsberatung Alter und Behinderung" ("Antidiscrimination Advice on Old Age and Disability") and the Contact Point for Discrimination Protection at Schools (ADAS) indicate that an increasing proportion of incidents involve discrimination by authorities and institutions. In previous years, these incidents were still included in the category "Other", but in 2020 the new "Structural Discrimination" category was introduced for these cases. There were 147 incidents in this category, of which 126 (86 per cent) were categorised as racism. It was not necessarily to be expected that the number of racist attacks, cases of insults, threats and abuse or instances of structural discriminations would remain at the same level as in the year before, as the general context had changed as a result of the pandemic. Advice centres could only offer consultation sessions indoors to a limited extent. Art and cultural events were prohibited. The resulting lack of contact between people should have led to a decline in

the number of Register Office reports, because incidents occur in locations where people encounter one another. Two reasons explain the rise in reports in recent years: growing awareness of the Register Offices and cooperation with advice centres involved in anti-discrimination work. In 2020, more widespread use of social media such as Twitter, Instagram or TikTok also had an impact. Many social contacts shifted to the Internet and political debates were conducted on social media. People affected by racism shared their experiences publicly on social media. For example, under the hashtag #ichbinkeinvirus, people publicised attacks on people read as Asian. Under #wasihrnichtseht, Black people described their experiences of racism – in interpersonal relationships, at school, at work or on the street. On the one hand, this has raised awareness of everyday racism and those affected have seen that incidents can be reported to documentation centres. This is a positive development, but it becomes clear in accounts from people affected by racism, antisemitism or animosity towards LGBTIQ* that their experiences are not exceptions, but form part of everyday life for them. It should therefore still be assumed that numerous incidents are not recorded.

Upsurge in Traditional Themes of the Far Right

The rise in cases of problematic content documented was highest in the categories trivialisation of National Socialism (2020: 619; 2019: 353), antisemitism (2020: 774; 2019: 598) and activities against political opponents (2020: 383; 2019: 266). These higher figures stem from a number of different causes. One particularly pronounced factor was public events and demonstrations by coronavirus deniers/sceptics at which antisemitic and racist conspiracy theories were spread, including equating measures to contain the pandemic with the Holocaust and the Nazi dictatorship. Another major contributory factor to the higher number of

incidents that trivialised or glorified National Socialism involved individuals drawing swastikas and writing Nazi slogans as graffiti on a daily basis. A particularly large number of such incidents was documented in Lichtenberg, although this phenomenon was also apparent in Friedrichshain, Neukölln, Tempelhof-Schöneberg and Treptow-Köpenick. It started when the first lockdown began in March 2020, when neither large indoor events nor demonstrations could be held. Graffiti offers obvious advantages to perpetrators seeking to spread their views: flexibility as to timing and location. These individuals avoid organisational constraints, as they act alone; the messages communicated are unambiguous, spread anonymously, and cannot be called into question by other people while being disseminated.

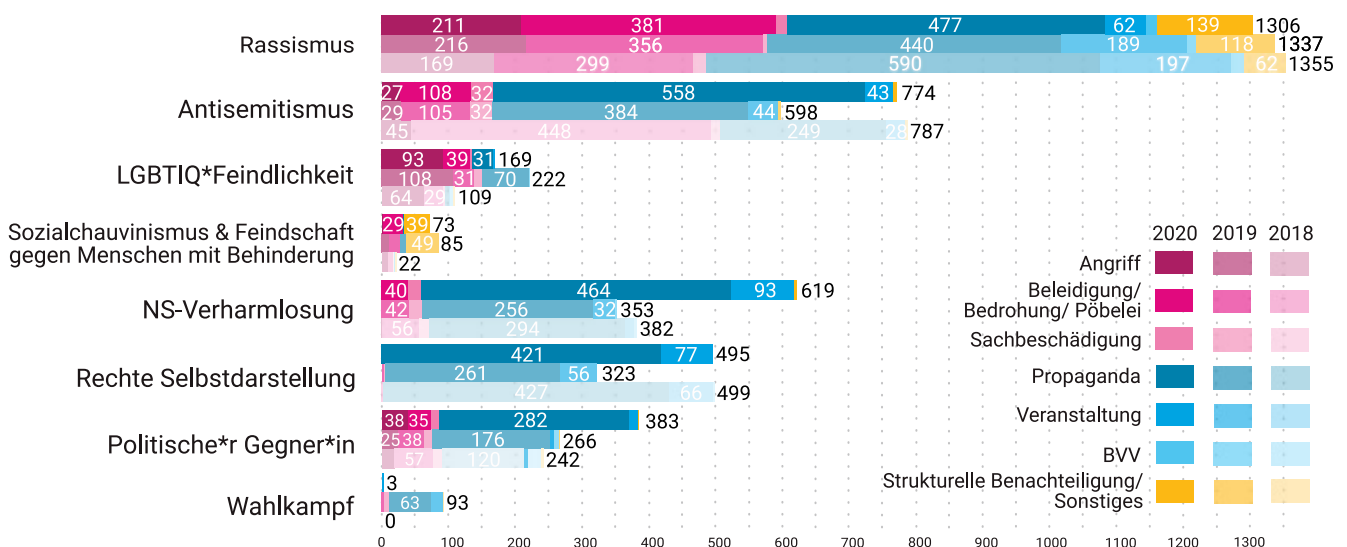
Another worrying development is the rise in antisemitic incidents, which can be attributed to the growing number of propaganda incidents on the internet. An evaluation of these antisemitic incidents by the Department for Research and Information on Antisemitism Berlin (RIAS) can be found on page 18 of this publication.

Political Public Events Concentrated in the Mitte District

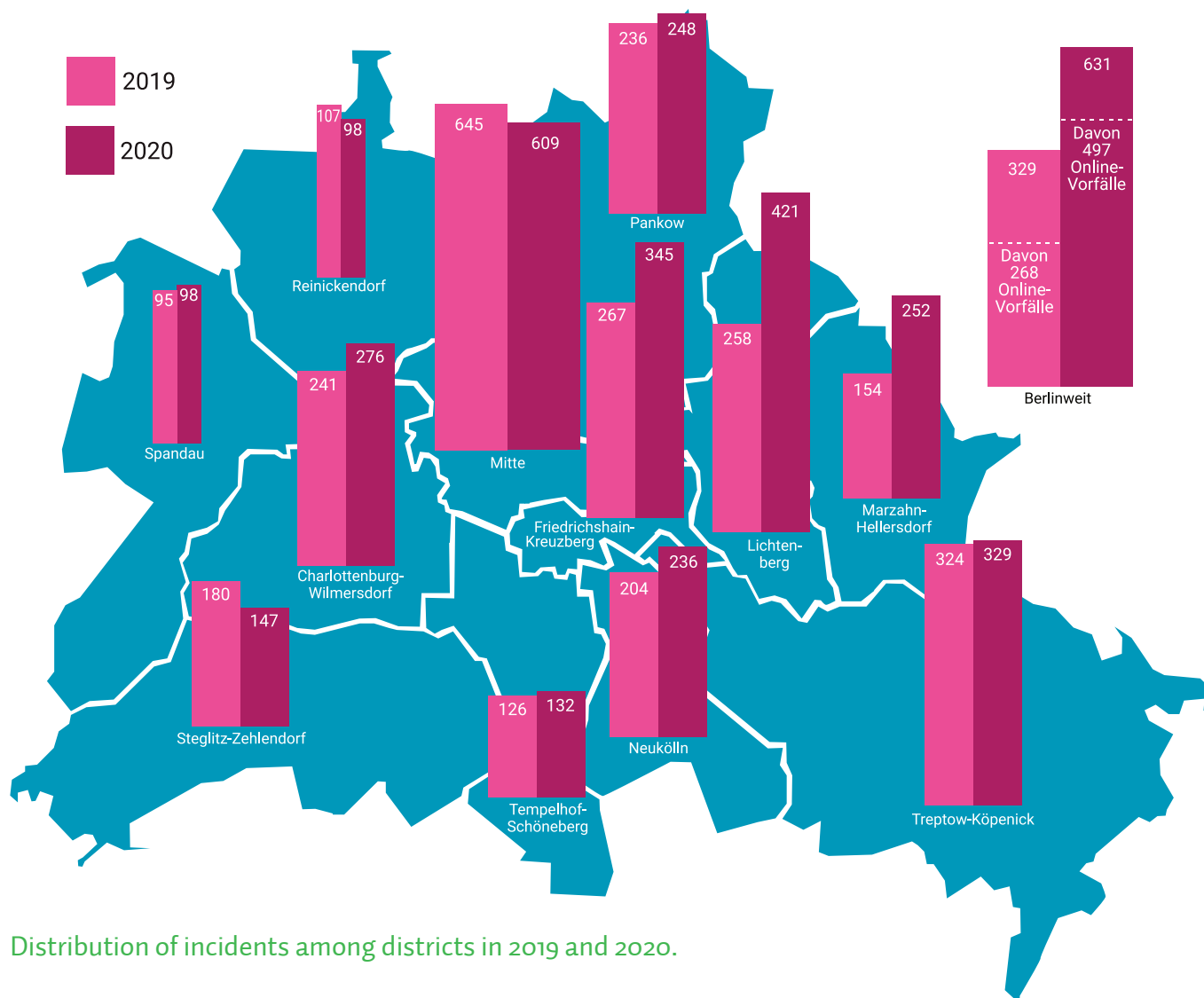
The 291 public events reported in 2020 constituted a roughly 15 per cent drop compared with the year before (291: 346). The trend that emerged in previous years for fewer far-right public political events to be held in the outlying districts, with more organised in the city centre, continued in 2020.

Over the past five years, venues for rallies and demonstrations with far right content have shifted ever closer to the city centre, i.e. to the Mitte district. In 2015–2017, public events were still spread throughout the city, while the proportion of demonstrations in Mitte rose from 20 to 28 per cent of all documented public events in Berlin. In 2018 and 2019 that figure had already risen to

2020: 3822 Vorfälle in Berlin
 2019: 3277 Vorfälle in Berlin
 2018: 3405 Vorfälle in Berlin



In 2018, 9 incidents were allocated to the category "other". This category was dropped in 2019 and is therefore not presented. Anti-Muslim, antiziganistic and racist incidents directed against Black people are recorded in the "racist incidents" category.



Distribution of incidents among districts in 2019 and 2020.

45 per cent and in 2020 even accounted for 63 per cent of all public events. This also means that hardly any far-right public events took place in the other districts, with the exception of Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, which, along with City West, had been a meeting point in Berlin for decades. This development reflects the issues that came to the fore in 2020, such as the coronavirus pandemic and racism, which were not primarily neighbourhood matters but affected the city or country as a whole. Mobilisation around supra-regional issues was nationwide and, accordingly, centrally located, easily accessible venues were chosen for these events. In addition, democratic institutions that are important for Germany as a whole are located in Mitte. As the political messaging targeted those bodies, demonstrations were organised nearby.

Two thirds of the demonstrations and rallies were related to coronavirus. Coronavirus deniers like the “Querdenker” movement [loose grouping of COVID sceptics from various backgrounds], anti-vaxxers, Reichsbürger [groups and individuals in Germany and elsewhere who reject the legitimacy of the modern German state], conspiracy theorists like “Q-Anon”, right-wing football hooligans, protagonists of far-right parties and organisations, as well as people dissatisfied with the restrictions imposed on public life and social contacts took part in these public events. Although far-right protagonists initially tended to simply latch on to this new movement, from the outset they were tolerated and could often act as (co-)organisers, which contributed to radicali-

sation of the contents and forms of action. As a result, antisemitic content was disseminated at all the public events documented, the Holocaust was trivialised and glorified, and measures to contain the pandemic were equated with National Socialism. This hybrid protest scene could mobilise far more people than the far right alone could have managed in previous years. These alliances were highly dangerous because the far right and its ideology came together with people looking for explanations for their fears that went beyond science and facts. Evoking doomsday scenarios can make people emotionally panicky; racist scapegoat theories, conspiratorial explanations of the world, exclusion, media hostility, and violence appear to offer salvation in the face of purported threats to the protesters’ existence.

Physical Attacks Displaced from Nightlife Neighbourhoods to Residential Areas

The number of attacks was 371, only slightly lower than in the year before (2019: 390). The main motives are racism (211) and animosity towards LGBTIQ* (93), which give rise to opportunistic acts in everyday contexts even where there is no right-wing scene. The probability of racist or anti-LGBTIQ* attacks increases the more people encounter one another in a particular place. That means a higher number of attacks occurs in districts with an active nightlife, numerous demonstrations and high population density than in districts with fewer nightlife options, many single-family homes and large green spaces. Significant decreases in incidents of

Number of incidents in the Berlin districts 2014 to 2020

| Bezirk | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf | 105 | 182 | 229 | 246 | 280 | 241 | 276 |
| Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg | 80 | 89 | 134 | 171 | 241 | 267 | 345 |
| Lichtenberg | 105 | 234 | 338 | 268 | 209 | 258 | 421 |
| Marzahn-Hellersdorf | 84 | 295 | 354 | 187 | 182 | 154 | 252 |
| Mitte | 79 | 190 | 283 | 344 | 495 | 645 | 609 |
| Neukölln | 126 | 133 | 265 | 269 | 360 | 204 | 236 |
| Pankow | 167 | 242 | 229 | 230 | 234 | 236 | 248 |
| Reinickendorf | - | 29 | 68 | 107 | 114 | 107 | 98 |
| Spandau | 18 | 39 | 50 | 69 | 78 | 95 | 98 |
| Steglitz-Zehlendorf | - | - | 247 | 236 | 220 | 180 | 147 |
| Tempelhof-Schöneberg | 35 | 82 | 119 | 100 | 93 | 126 | 132 |
| Treptow-Köpenick | 227 | 305 | 360 | 310 | 447 | 324 | 329 |
| Berlinweit | - | - | 160 | 264 | 452 | 440 | 631 |
| Summe | 1026 | 1820 | 2837 | 2800 | 3405 | 3277 | 3822 |

around 30 per cent were observed in districts where in previous years a high number of attacks was always reported for precisely these reasons (Mitte, Neukölln). In contrast, the number of attacks in the districts of Spandau and Reinickendorf doubled. Evaluation revealed that in 2020 attacks occurred on the street in residential areas, in supermarkets, playgrounds or parks/other green spaces. During the periods when offices and schools were closed, more people used public space at the same time than was previously the case, especially in residential areas where people live in cramped conditions. That led to an increase in the number of attacks in residential areas.

The Berlin Register Offices received more reports than ever before, with 3,822 incidents notified. Propaganda incidents accounted for most of the increase. The figures for attacks, cases of insults, threats and abuse, or discriminatory incidents were approximately the same as in 2019, although institutions, clubs and bars were closed for long periods, which suggests that more people shared their experiences of marginalisation and reported

incidents to the Register Offices. If this trend continues, it will gradually become possible to shed light on the high number of racist, antisemitic and anti-LGBTIQ* experiences that currently go unrecorded, thus enabling better analysis of societal problems. In this context, the Berlin Register Offices' documentation of incidents helps to spark vital debates within society.



Only a Fragment of Anti-LGBTIQ* Violence is Visible

The Berlin Register Offices document everyday discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ* in Berlin. The aim is to make hostility towards LGBTIQ* visible and to help curb it. Evaluation of the incidents recorded by the Register Offices indicates that most involved anti-LGBTIQ* violence against men. The Berlin Register Offices therefore want to reach more of the people affected.

Violence against LGBTIQ* is Commonplace

Since 2005, the Register Offices have been recording animosity towards LGBTIQ*. LGBTIQ is an abbreviation that refers to various groups of people affected by discrimination and attacks because of their gender, their sexuality or their way of life. LGBTIQ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer. The "*" encompasses further potential identities.

In 2020, 169 out of a total of 3,822 incidents recorded by the Register Offices were motivated by anti-LGBTIQ* attitudes. In 2019, there were 222 incidents. That is not even one incident per day, in a city with 3.7 million inhabitants. Why is the figure so low, although many more incidents occur? There are various reasons: the Berlin Register Offi-

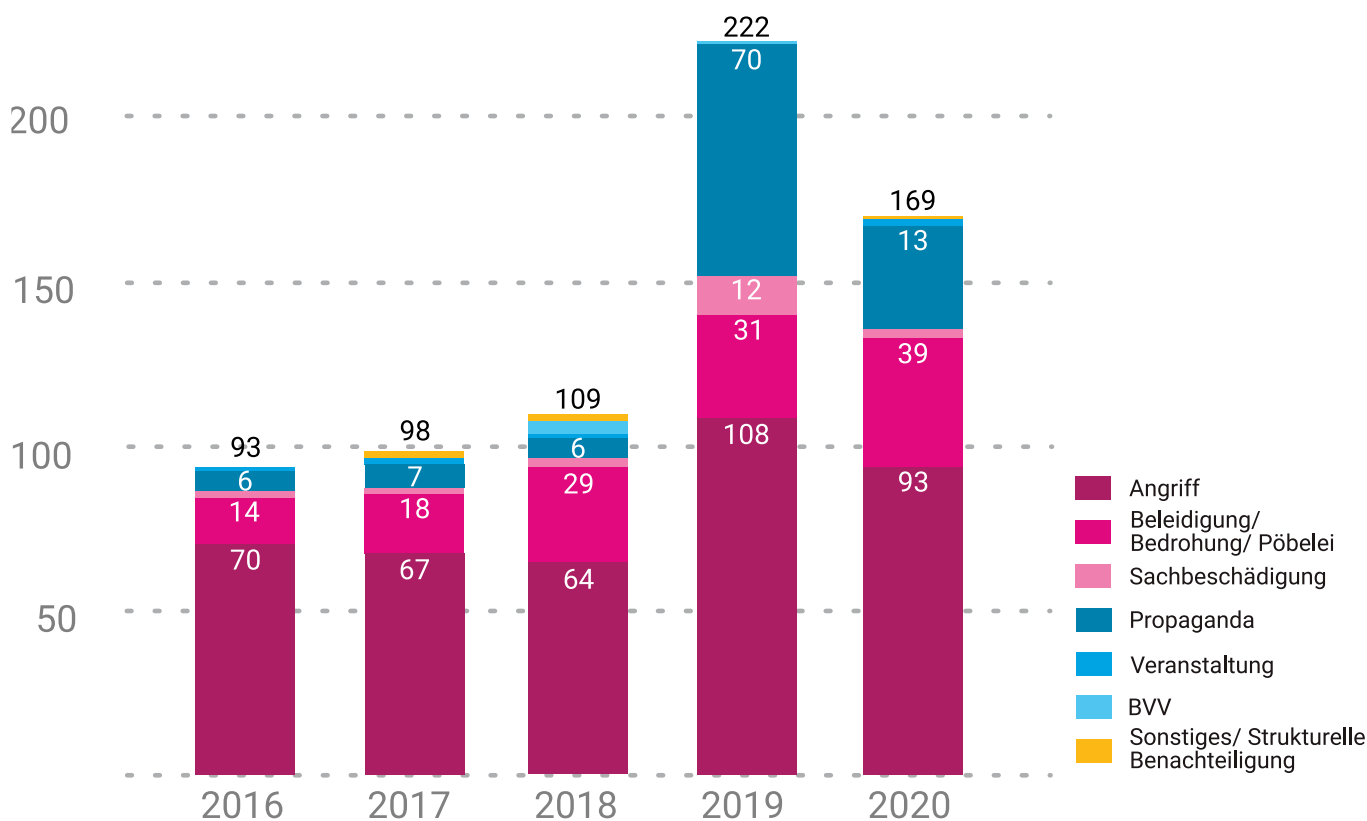
ces can only document incidents reported to them or that are public knowledge. In addition, there is still a lack of awareness of the Register Offices in the LGBTIQ* community. Moreover, people affected may keep quiet about their experiences for various reasons or seek help from friends or an advice centre. That means many incidents are not recorded as anti-LGBTIQ* incidents.

Insights from Incidents Reported to Register Offices

Nevertheless, important lessons emerge from the incidents reported. The number of anti-LGBTIQ* attacks fell from 108 in 2019 to 93. At the same time, cases of threats, insults and abuse increased from 31 in 2019 to 39 reports in 2020. We also noticed a geographical shift concerning anti-LGBTIQ* at-

tacks in 2020: reports of attacks decreased in the central districts of Mitte, Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, Neukölln, Tempelhof-Schöneberg and Charlottenburg. They increased in the outlying districts of Marzahn-Hellersdorf, Reinickendorf and Pankow. During the coronavirus pandemic, important meeting places such as clubs, cafés and associations were closed. Demonstrations like Christopher Street Day were scaled down or could not be held at all. Mobility decreased, people stayed in their local neighbourhoods and that is therefore where attacks occurred.

Compared with other motives such as racism and antisemitism, incidents of animosity towards LGBTIQ* also involve a high proportion of attacks and insults. A comparatively large number of such attacks/insults are brutal and occur in the public realm. How-



Anti-LGBTIQ* incidents in Berlin from 2016 to 2020

ver, bullying and defamatory statements in private contexts, workplaces or educational institutions were also reported. Many of the incidents recorded by the Register Offices are based on statements by the police and in the press. This means that people affected by anti-LGBTIQ* incidents turn to the Register Offices much less frequently than in the other categories for which incidents are documented.

The attacks, threats, insults and abuses reported during the past years were mainly directed against men. The perpetrators – when they can be identified – are also predominantly men. This suggests how many incidents not recorded: a study “Berliner Monitoring trans- und homophobe Gewalt” (“Berlin Monitoring of Trans and Homophobic Violence”) indicates that women rarely make their experiences of animosity towards LGBTIQ* public. A further factor in the number of incidents that go unrecorded is that the gender of people affected is often only communicated in the form of an attribution by others, e.g. a newspaper article, unless the people affected provide information themselves. As a result, in newspaper articles and police reports trans women were described as men wearing women’s clothes.

Animosity towards LGBTIQ* Intersects with Other Issues

Animosity towards LGBTIQ* does not occur in isolation. In some cases it is compounded by other motives. That becomes apparent in two examples from 2020: in August, a man subjected a group of two women and four men to racist and antisemitic insults near Ostbahnhof in Friedrichshain at night. He subsequently hurled anti-LGBTIQ* insults

at a couple from the group and threw a glass bottle at them. In November, a man on a platform at Ostkreuz was subjected to racist and anti-LGBTIQ* insults and someone spat in his face.

Animosity towards LGBTIQ* is also part of the ideology of the far right and is therefore also addressed in their propaganda. They believe that there should only be two genders, male and female, and love between them. They reject homosexuality, transsexuality and intersexuality. Anti-LGBTIQ* stickers in Berlin come from the NPD [National Democratic Party of Germany], the III. Weg party [Third Way] and from an online mail order company and have slogans like “Stop homo propaganda”, “For man & woman - There are only two genders” or “Gender madness”.

Make Incidents Visible and Report Them!

The Register Offices want to heighten the visibility of animosity towards LGBTIQ* in order to combat such incidents. Animosity towards LGBTIQ* with all its facets must be recognised as a problem by large sections of society. Reporting incidents helps to ensure the documentation gives a more accurate picture of the situation. The Berlin Register Offices want to show the media, politicians and people in the neighbourhoods involved what the people affected think. The situation will only be tackled when more people realise that there is a problem. We need examples, data and analysis of incidents to make animosity towards LGBTIQ* visible. The Berlin Register Offices aim to support and show solidarity to people affected by animosity towards LGBTIQ*. We encourage you to report incidents to us and spread information about our work.

Examples:

21st January 2020

Three home-made stickers with the words “schwul=krank” [“gay=sick”] were stuck on the outside of a window in a building at the Technical University at Ernst-Reuter-Platz in Charlottenburg.

Source: Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf Register Office

21st July 2020

Around 01:10, a 29-year-old man was subjected to anti-LGBTIQ* insults, grabbed around the neck, choked and headbutted by a 41-year-old man in Burscheider Weg in Haselhorst, a sub-district of Spandau.

Source: ReachOut

20th August 2020

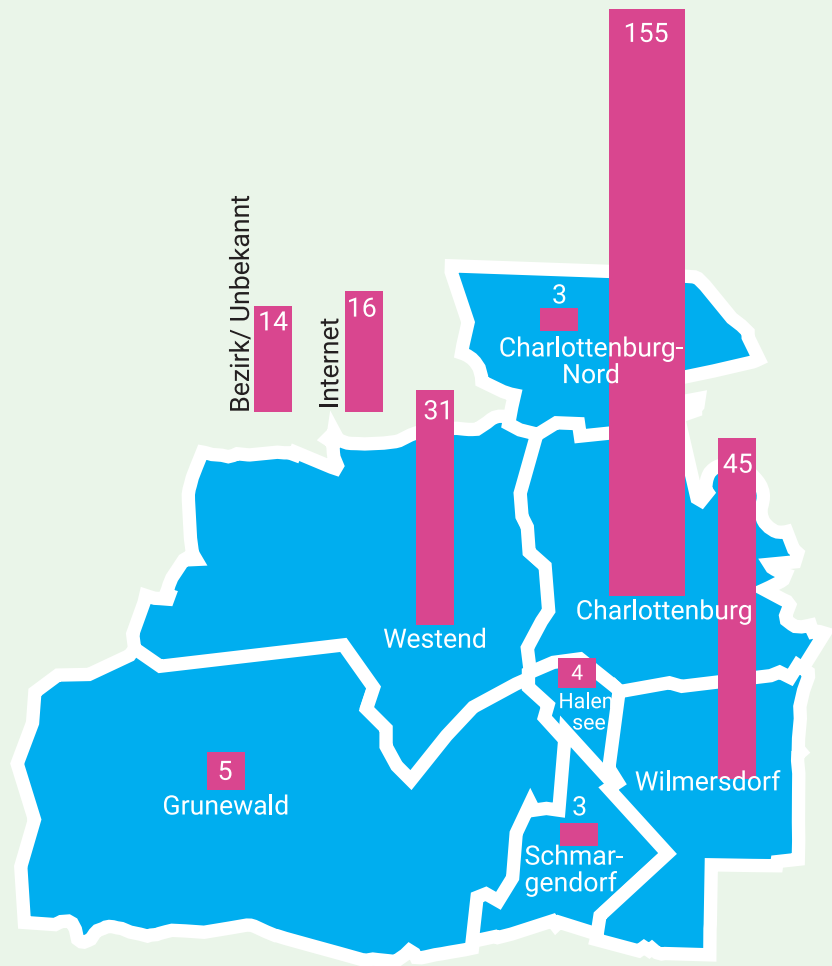
A Berlin therapist made transphobic comments to a Black person during treatment.

Source: Each One Teach One (EOTO) e.V.



Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf

Over 340,000 people live in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf. This district includes what is known as City West, the area around Kurfürstendamm, which serves as an urban centre parallel to the historic centre, with major transport hubs and tourist attractions. That is also one of the reasons why the highest number of incidents documented per annum is in the local centres of the Charlottenburg and Wilmersdorf sub-districts. In the west of Berlin in particular, there are various (New) Right institutions that are important communication and networking points for people from the right-wing spectrum. The area around Kurfürstendamm tends to be crowded – series of far-right stickers were reported there.



eo-Nazi graffiti in Lietzenseepark



stickers promoting conspiracy ideologies in Mannheimer Straße



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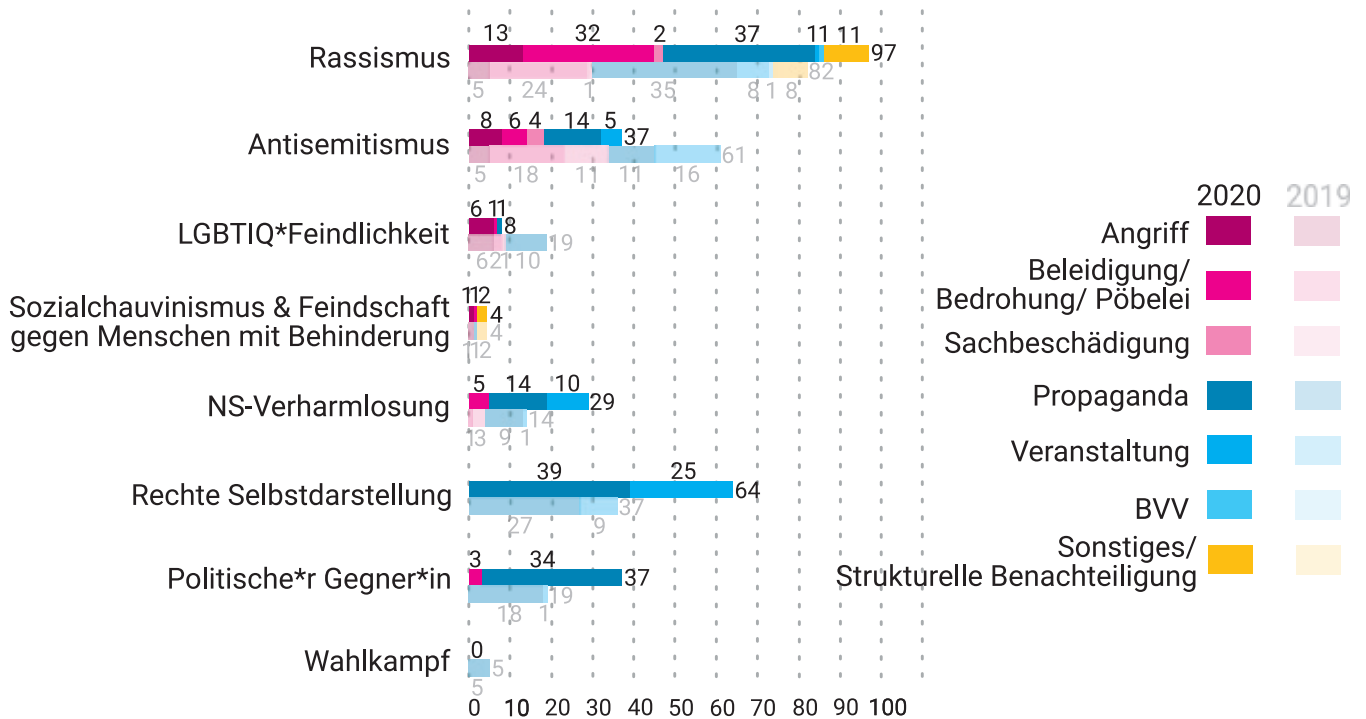
With a total of 276 incidents, 15 per cent more incidents were documented in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf in 2020 than in the year before (2019: 241). In the incidents reported, there is a pronounced increase in far-right motives, mainly glorification and/or trivialisation of National Socialism and activities directed against political opponents of the far right. Racism remained the most frequent motive underlying incidents and reached a new peak in 2020. Despite curfews connected with the COVID-19 pandemic, the reports did not reveal a decline in attacks in the public realm – on the contrary. In 2020, the Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf Register Office documented the highest number of attacks since it was established (2020: 28; 2019: 17; 2018: 25). That indicates a higher risk context, especially for people affected by racism, as well as for Jews and LGBTIQ*. Far-right instrumentalisation of the protests against measures to contain

the COVID-19 pandemic also played an important role in the district. This was evident from March 2020 onwards in the public events reported and propaganda incidents related to this issue. In this context, antisemitic conspiracy narratives were increasingly disseminated.

As a result, Jews were increasingly in the line of fire across Germany and were targeted in attacks. Although antisemitic incidents fell by 50% in the sub-district Wilmersdorf compared with the previous year (2020: 37; 2019: 61), the number of violent antisemitic acts increased. 8 of the 27 antisemitic attacks documented across Berlin were in this district (2019: 5). The high rate of incidents compared with the rest of Berlin is linked to the various Jewish institutions located here. Public events such as the Al-Quds march were cancelled due to the pandemic. Antisemitic incidents had frequently been reported in connecting with that march in previous years.

Marked Rise in Far-right Motives; Racism Still the Most Frequent Category

With 97 incidents, racism was the most frequently documented category when it came to the motives underlying incidents. The total number of incidents with racist motivations has risen continuously compared to previous years. In particular, more attacks motivated by racism were reported (2020: 13; 2019: 5), as well as more cases of threats/insults/abuse (2020: 32; 2019: 24). Racism was most frequently manifested in the propaganda incident category, with 37 incidents. It played a role, inter alia, as a vector for protesting against migration and people fleeing their homelands, while also being used to attack Islam and to spread racist stereotypes. During the coronavirus pandemic, anti-Asian racism became more visible in public all over the world, as various organisations reported. This was also reflected in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf:



Examples of incidents

24th August 2020

Residents in the Eichkampsiedlung in Grunewald received anonymous hate mail. The author complained about children playing. He threatened to poison the children or to kidnap them and addressed racist insults to the mother. Residents reacted with a collection of signatures in favour of family life in the neighbourhood.
Source: Tagesspiegel

27th September 2020

On Yom Kippur, a large swastika in black paint was discovered on the wall around the Jewish Cemetery on Heerstrasse in the Westend neighbourhood.
Source: CW Register Office

4th September 2020

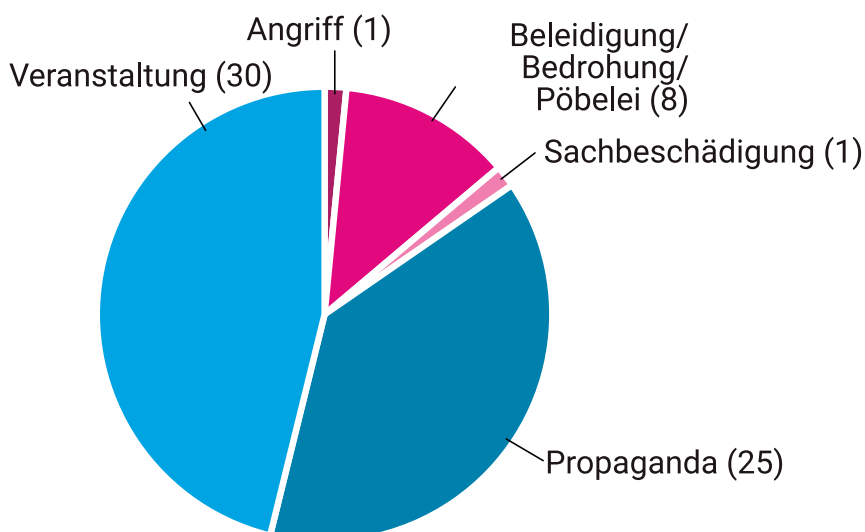
Around 08.00 at Konstanzer Straße station in Wilmersdorf, BVG [Berlin public transport] security guards woke a homeless man sleeping on an underground train. They reported the man for

travelling without a valid ticket, called the police and threw him out of the underground. In response to the homeless man's protest that "I'm a human being too", they replied "No, you're not a human being".
Source: Reinickendorf Register Office

11th November 2020

Numerous racist and pro-Nazi graffiti were reported in an apartment building in Wilmersdorf. These included anti-Black racist slogans, as well as sym-

Incidents related to the COVID-19 pandemic



people who were perceived as Asian were mobbed, taunted, persecuted and physically attacked.

Right-wing grandstanding was the second most frequent motive with 64 incidents. The increase of 52 per cent compared to the previous year can be explained by the rise in public events (25) and propaganda linked to the protests against coronavirus containment measures. 39 propaganda incidents were documented, involving inter alia the far right Identitäre Bewegung [Identitarian Movement], the Junge Nationalisten (JN) [Young Nationalists] the micro-party III. Weg, and the right-wing populist magazine Compact.

37 incidents were directed against the far right’s political opponents. This is the highest number documented so far, with almost twice as many incidents reported as in 2019 (19). 34 propaganda incidents were recorded and were directed against individuals or groups that advocate anti-fascist, emancipatory policies; this sometimes involved singling out specific politicians and entailed painting the people or groups targeted as

the enemy. On three occasions, political opponents were insulted or threatened. In the summer, for example, people were harassed and jostled by Neo-Nazis in the Grunewald forest. Incidents involving trivialising and/or glorifying National Socialism more than doubled (2020: 29; 2019: 14) and thus also reached an all-time high. These included five cases of threats/insults/abuse, such as proclaiming “Heil Hitler”, giving the Hitler salute, and statements such as “I am the new Adolf”. A total of twelve swastika graffiti were reported, as well as “NS” and Reich flags [flag of the German Empire, used to represent the Reichsbürger movement] graffiti.

Record Number of Attacks

In 2020, 28 attacks were reported, the highest number since the Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf Register Office was established. This incident category has increased most significantly (65% rise compared with the previous year) compared to the other categories (2019: 17). The number of incidents reported more than doubled in the local centre

of the Charlottenburg sub-district, (2020: 22; 2019: 10). 22 of the 28 attacks reported occurred in Charlottenburg. These were not related to demonstrations, but were opportunistic acts in everyday contexts. Ten were in train stations and trains, many occurred at night, in some cases in residential areas. There were racist motives for most of the attacks reported in the district (13). Antisemitic attacks increased from five to eight. Six anti-LGBTIQ* attacks occurred: people were, inter alia, subjected to homophobic insults, pushed, kicked, and sprayed with pepper spray. Young people were also affected. Despite a drop in the total number of reports involving anti-LGBTIQ* motives, the overall number of attacks reported remained constant compared to the previous year (2020: 6; 2019: 6). In an attack on 7th January, the trousers of a homeless person sleeping in the vestibule of a bank on Otto-Suhr-Allee was set on fire. They suffered severe burns. The perpetrators and motives often remain unclear in this form of violence. The number of unrecorded incidents involving violence sparked by social chauvinism is assumed to be particularly high.

Instrumentalisation of the Coronavirus Pandemic

Propaganda continued to be the most frequent incident category with 139 reports and accounted for half of all incidents documented in the district. The rise in propaganda incidents compared to 2019 (116) can be partly explained by the broad-based right-wing mobilisation against measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, established protagonists such as the NPD or the far-right magazine Compact instrumentalised narratives presented by various groups, such as fears of purported compulsory vaccination or standpoints that equated contact restrictions with National Socialism. In addition, a lot of propaganda was reported because it reproduced conspiracy ideologies and right-wing content.

Examples of incidents

bols and codes, such as “Heil Hitler” or “1488”, that were scribbled or scratched on the walls inside the building.
Source: Berlin Register Office

22nd January 2020

At Ernst-Reuter-Platz in Charlottenburg, graffiti reading “Don’t buy from Jews” and SS runes were spotted next to the door into a shop.
Source: RIAS Berlin

9th June 2020

Around 17.25, a 24-year-old black woman was subjected to racist insults in a branch of the Rossmann store on Tauentzienstraße in Charlottenburg. The cashier accused the customer of card fraud, because the name on the card that the customer wanted to pay with sounded “German”. When the person affected called the police, the police officer accused her of lying, insulted her, shouted at her and threatened that she would be sent to prison.
Source: CW Register Office via Facebook,

press release EOTO and ReachOut Berlin

25th April 2020

Around 00.20 on the U7 underground line at Fehrbelliner Platz a couple, read as Asian, was subjected to racist insults and attacked. Three men are reported to have shouted out to them “Happy coronavirus”, “coronavirus”, and “coronavirus party”. The woman was assaulted and sexually harassed, the man was spat at and shoved.
Source: CW Register Office

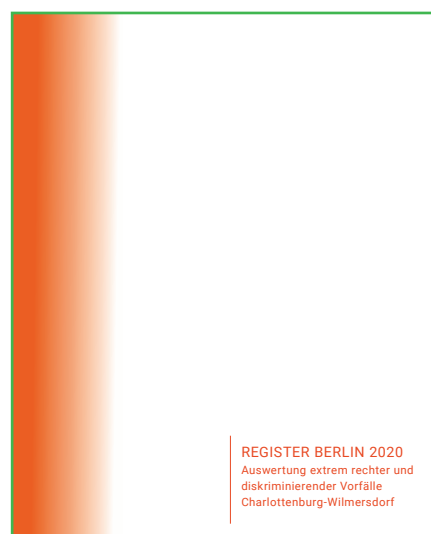


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Although public assemblies/rallies became more difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more right-wing public events were documented in the district in 2020 than the year before (2019: 35; 2020: 41). One reason is City West's central location, which makes it a popular starting point for rallies and demonstrations. On the other hand, Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf continues to be viewed as a centre for important (neo)right-wing institutions. The best-known example is the Bibliothek des Konservatismus [Library of Conservatism], a New Right think tank. Six New Right public events were documented here prior to March 2020.

New event series were established in connection with the protests by conspiracy theorists and the right wing against measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. These involved various protagonists and a diverse range of event formats, including information stands, rallies and motorcades. The content presented included relativisations of National Socialism and the Holocaust, dissemination of antisemitic conspiracy

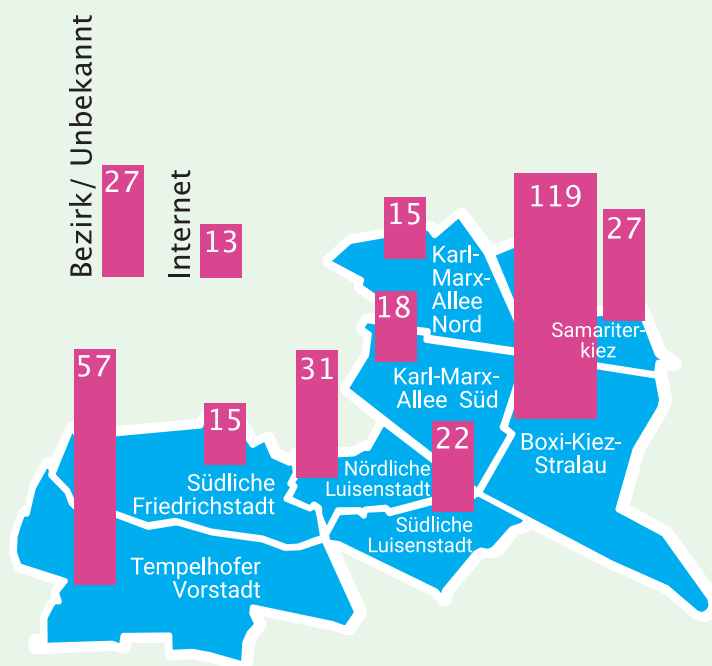
myths, and slander of democratic politicians. In this context, other locations utilised by the far right in the district became visible, such as Attila Hildmann's restaurant, which the far right use for events and networking. Activities in this context included spreading conspiracy myths, waving Reich flags and threatening counter-demonstrators. This did not however pass without comment – a broad-based alliance was forged in the district in opposition to antisemitic and far-right activities.



You can read the detailed analysis in the “2020 Register Office Report – Evaluation of far-right and discriminatory incidents in Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf”. The brochure can be downloaded as a PDF or a printed version may be ordered free of charge (only available in German).

Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg

The smallest central district, with a good 290,000 residents from over 150 nations, is also the most densely populated district. The very different neighbourhoods of Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg used to be characterised by a diverse mix of different backgrounds, but due to gentrification and the ensuing rent increases many small businesses and local residents have been displaced. Although active right-wing supporters live in the district, there is no organised right-wing scene based here. The coronavirus pandemic has sparked a rise in antisemitic activities and conspiracy theories. Members of the far right and New Right scene also increasingly occupied public space through propaganda and new event formats. Residents in these districts corresponded with counter-actions.



Painted-over runes at Kottbusser Tor, photo: Spezial Kay

part of a series throughout the district, photo: The person who reported the incident



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More propaganda, more incidents in Kreuzberg, socio-spatial overview

In 2020, 345 incidents were reported in Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg, 77 more than the previous year. The highest number of incidents was recorded in the right-wing and racist propaganda category, with 196 incidents. Reports of swastika graffiti were double those in 2019, with 23 recorded, and stickers targeting political opponents or involving right-wing grandstanding also increased significantly. The tiny party “Der III. Weg” distributed flyers to residents’ letterboxes in Kreuzberg and a supporter of the “Identitäre Bewegung” sprayed large graffiti on buildings, mainly in Friedrichshain. Stickers from a right-wing online business from Halle repeatedly appeared in the Graefekiez, a neighbourhood that was previously rather inconspicuous.

Despite the lockdown, the number of attacks (56) remained at the same level as in the previous year. In seven cases, people who intervened in incidents were insulted,

spat at, followed, threatened with a knife or injured.

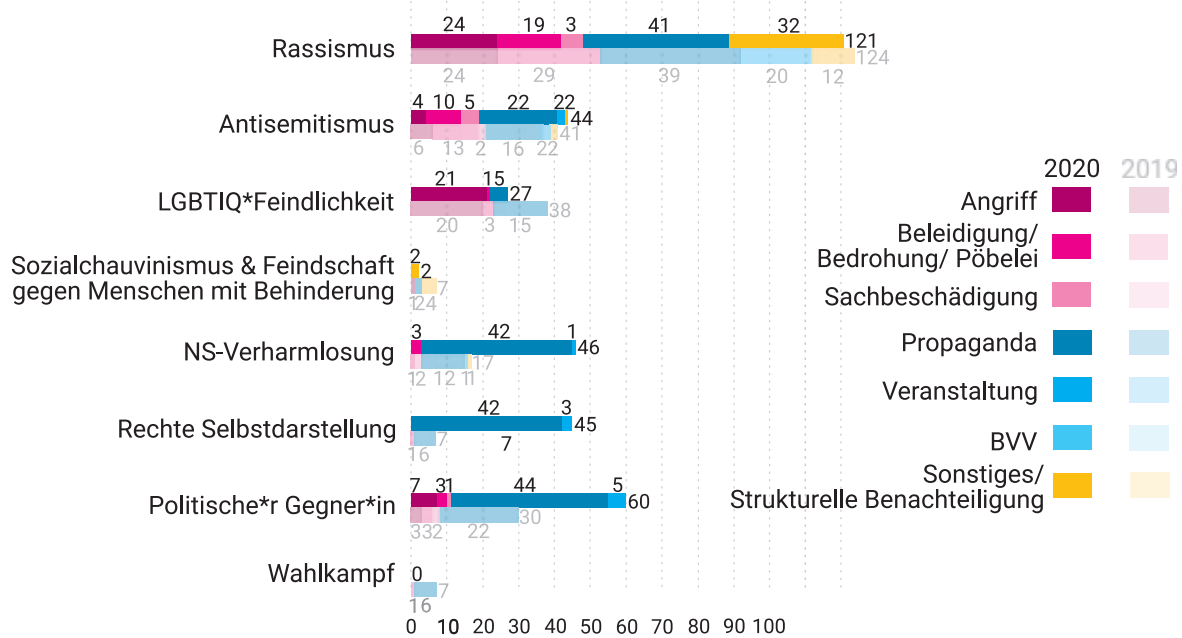
Racism was the most frequent motive with 121 incidents. Roughly the same number of incidents were reported in the sub-district Kreuzberg, which previously always recorded significantly lower incident figures, and in Friedrichshain (Friedrichshain: 179, Kreuzberg: 126). This means that either more incidents occurred in Kreuzberg or they were reported more frequently.

For the first time, the incidents were recorded not only for the two sub-districts of Friedrichshain and Kreuzberg as a whole, but also for specific social spaces within these sub-districts. This will enable greater spatial differentiation in future analyses.

Anti-LGBTIQ* incidents decreased by ten to 27 (2019: 37); 21 of these incidents were attacks. The lower overall figure can be attributed to a decline in homophobic graffiti. Although the number of anti-LGBTIQ* incidents has dropped overall, the number of violent acts remains very high.

There was a sharp rise in incidents direc-

ted against political opponents with 61 reports (2019: 29), cases involving trivialisation and glorification of National Socialism with 43 reports (2019: 17), and right-wing grandstanding with 49 reports (2019: 6). Most of this increase is due to propaganda incidents (2020: 196; 2019: 115), such as stickers and graffiti. Those spreading this propaganda use it as a means to try to influence the mood in the district. A number of public events were also reported. All but one of these were related to the coronavirus pandemic. The so-called Freedom Parade’s “music parades against compulsory masking” should for example be mentioned in this context; beginning in spring 2020, these were increasingly in evidence in Friedrichshain and later also marched through Kreuzberg and other Berlin districts. Individual members of the far right scene were almost always present. In addition, those involved in the Freedom Parade repeatedly covered public space with stickers associated with right-wing grandstanding in particular in the Fried-



Examples of incidents

6th January 2020

Several racist stickers were removed between Marchlewski-, Torell- and Warschauerstraße.

Source: Reported by a member of the public

2nd February 2020

For racist reasons, an unidentified person on Mehringdamm insulted, spat at and hit a 59-year-old man on the head in the evening.

Source: ReachOut Berlin

3rd March 2020

A man was walking with a friend in Kreuzberg when a policeman grabbed him by the arm and handcuffed him. By the patrol car, his legs were pushed out from underneath him and he fell to the ground, was beaten, with police officers kneeling on his back and his head pressed to the ground by their boots. One police officer grabbed him saying “nice butt, good muscles” and held pepper spray to his bottom while the surrounding police officers laugh. One police officer pulled his lip up,

saying he had nice teeth. A passer-by filmed the situation. The passer-by’s mobile phone was taken from them and the video deleted. The man was thrown into the police car by his hair, injuring himself. He was threatened with the words: “Maybe you will never get out of here again” and driven to the police station, where his details were taken and he was locked in a cell.

Source: Kampagne für Opfer rassistischer Polizeigewalt [Campaign for victims of racist police violence]

richshain Südkiez neighbourhood. For the first time, racism cases were also reported and were directed against people read as Asian. These were related to the coronavirus pandemic. In this context, racist stickers were affixed to Friedrichshain shops and employees in a Kreuzberg bakery were insulted.

Varying impact in different social spaces

The reports received reveal pronounced differences in the number of incidents reported, with varying distributions in the various social spaces in terms of incident type and underlying motives.

First the good news: No cases of structural discrimination were reported in any of the four social spaces in Friedrichshain. This category appeared most frequently in the reports from the Südliche Luisenstadt neighbourhood, with 12 incidents. Most of the cases involved racial profiling, i.e. racist police checks. Five cases were reported from the Tempelhofer Vorstadt neighbourhood and two in both the Südliche and Nördliche Luisenstadt neighbourhood.

By far the highest number of propaganda incidents (100) were reported from the Frankfurter Allee Süd social space. Next in the “league table”, although with a significantly lower level of such incidents, are Tempelhofer Vorstadt (28), Frankfurter Allee Nord (19) and Nördliche Luisenstadt (14), although propaganda appears in all parts of the district. Most attacks (9) out of a total of 30 incidents were reported from Nördliche Luisenstadt. Eight attacks were reported in both Südliche Friedrichstadt (18 incidents) and Tempelhofer Vorstadt (56 incidents). In the Frankfurter Allee Nord social space (17 incidents), seven attacks were reported.

Antisemitic incidents (44) were also reported from all sub-districts. However, they were in the double digits only in the social spaces Frankfurter Allee Süd (13) and Tem-

pelhofer Vorstadt (10), where, for example, damage to property occurred at the “Berliner Zwangsarbeitsamt für Juden” [memorial site at the erstwhile location of the Berlin Forced Labor Office for Jews] in the Graefekiez. That means that more than half of all antisemitic incidents took place in two out of eight social spaces.

Most anti-LGBTIQ* incidents were reported from Südliche Friedrichstadt (seven out of a total of 18). Six of these seven incidents were categorised as attacks. Six of a total of eight attacks had anti-LGBTIQ* motives. The lowest number of incidents overall was reported from Karl-Marx-Allee Nord (15) and Karl-Marx-Allee Süd (18). Frankfurter Allee Süd was most frequently affected with 119 incidents, followed by Tempelhofer Vorstadt in Kreuzberg with 56 incidents.

Overall, however, more incidents were reported from Friedrichshain than from Kreuzberg (179:126).

Civil courage in the face of threats and attacks

In some cases witnesses intervened and were able to prevent even worse outcomes. In January, a woman at the S-Bahn Warschauer Straße prevented a man from pushing another woman down the escalator in a racist act. There was also an antisemitic incident on the underground between Schlesisches Tor and Warschauer Straße. People who intervened were chased after leaving the underground and faced threats that they would be beaten up. In February a trans woman was beaten up at Mehringplatz. The attacker fled when a witness intervened. In May, an anti-Muslim attack on a woman occurred in a discount store on Friedrichstraße. Two people rushed to help and stopped the attack.

Unfortunately, supporters were also attacked. In September a transperson was

insulted by a group of young people at the Moritzplatz underground station. Witnesses intervened and were hit and kicked. These examples show that civil courage can be worthwhile, but can also be risky. More information: <https://www.belltower.news/zehn-punkte-fuer-zivilcourage-51148/>

Outlook

Having very rapidly grown more radical in 2020, activities in public space by coronavirus deniers, antisemites and racists are likely to continue to intensify in the district. Ensuring that this does not become an enduring phenomenon poses a particular challenge for democratic protagonists. Many individuals have organised or participated in counter-protests. We hope that even more local residents and associations will become active in their neighbourhoods in 2021.

By the end of the year, the Register Office had already established initial contacts with initiatives and local community centres in the district and we look forward to a growing network of solidarity and trust-based cooperation with new hotlines. In 2021, the Register Office will also launch a monthly podcast that will focus on thematic content from this network. In order to show incidents in a visual format, the Register Office has set up an online map for 2021, which is also divided into social spaces and the larger neighbourhoods within them. That means everyone can see what has been reported from their immediate surroundings (tinyurl.com/vrtngwdx). We hope that more people will share their experiences and observations with us and that this will help to further increase awareness in the district, which on the one hand will contribute to shedding light on incidents currently not recorded and on the other hand will empower people affected by racism and discrimination.

Examples of incidents

29th July 2020

An employee of a recording studio received a specific death threat by e-mail due to a publication on YouTube (a compilation of 150 clips with excerpts from speeches by AfD politicians). A complaint was filed.

Source: Rederei FM

12th September 2020

At the East Side Gallery, the “Vaterland” [“Fatherland”] painting, which combines the flags of the FRG and the state of Isra-

el, was defaced. Large areas of the image, especially the Star of David in the middle, were sprayed over with black paint. In addition, the words “Palestine hasn’t been free since 1947” were written there with a marker pen.

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

23rd October 2020

A swastika was smeared on the wall of a house in Reichenberger Straße.

Source: Reported by a member of the public

12th December 2020

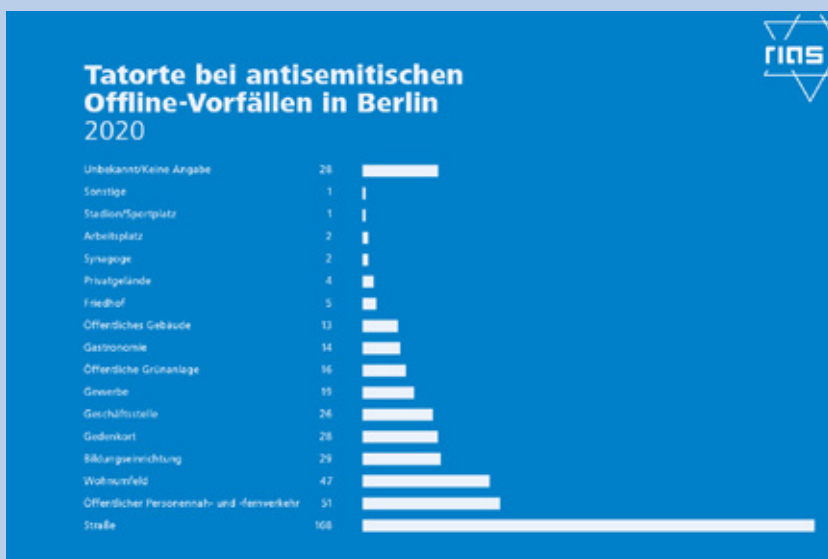
During a right-wing rally outside the Ring-Center, a person was subjected to enormous harassment and was insulted and jostled by a participant in the rally.

Source: Reported by a member of the public

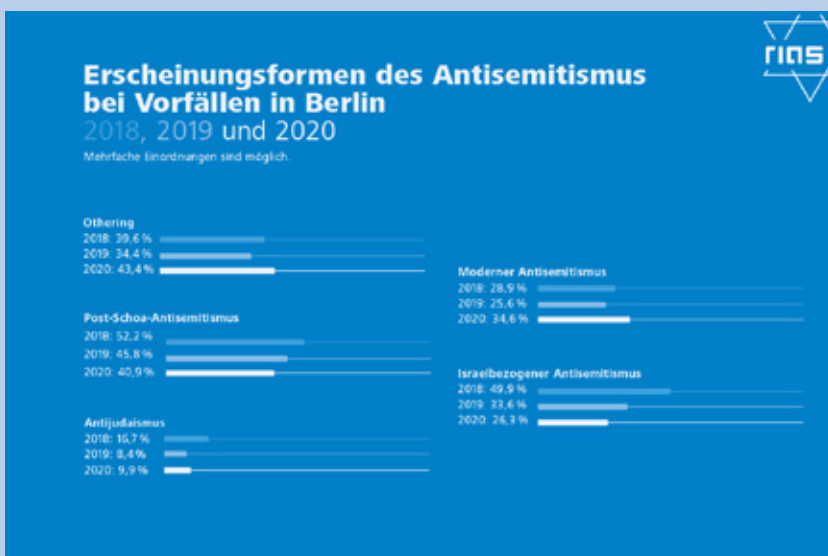
Antisemitic incidents 2020: An overview by RIAS Berlin



In 2020, 1,004 antisemitic incidents were documented by the Department for Research and Information on Antisemitism Berlin (RIAS Berlin). RIAS Berlin recorded 17 attacks, 43 incidents of targeted damage to property, 51 threats, 770 cases of abusive behaviour and 123 antisemitic mass mailings. Despite the profound restrictions on public life and the reduction in interpersonal contacts caused by the pandemic, the number of antisemitic incidents reported rose by 118 in 2020 (13.3% increase). That meant that on average almost three antisemitic incidents occurred every day in the German capital. Almost one in five of all incidents recorded was related to the COVID-19 pandemic (186), including one incident of targeted damage to property, two threats, 144 cases of abusive behaviour and 39 antisemitic mass mailings. In particular, open-air assemblies/rallies often involved opposition to government measures introduced to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.



The debate on the pandemic and government measures to contain it provided opportunities on multiple levels for articulation of antisemitic conspiracy myths. This was reinforced by the assemblies/rallies opposing the pandemic containment measures that began in Berlin as early as March 2020: throughout the year, responses to these measures included antisemitic conspiracy myths, inversion of perpetrator-victim roles, and trivialisation of the Shoah. Assemblies/rallies related to the pandemic containment measures made up the majority of the reported assemblies/rallies involving antisemitic content: 2020 saw the highest number of documented assemblies/rallies with antisemitic content (a total of 58) since our project work began (2019: 55), 42 of which were assemblies/rallies protesting against measures to contain COVID-19.



The total number of violent antisemitic incidents, however, decreased compared to previous years: the number of antisemitic attacks by almost half, the number of threats by at least one sixth. However, RIAS Berlin notes a shift in the focus of violence, which now most often affects people in the immediate environment in which they live (seven attacks, six threats). This proved particularly stressful during the pandemic, when being able to withdraw into one's private space became more important. In total, RIAS Berlin documented 47 incidents in the immediate environment where those affected live – more than in any other year since 2015. The number of individuals directly affected by antisemitic incidents increased in 2020 from 330 to 348. In 198 incidents, 238 Jews and Israelis or people perceived as falling into these categories were affected. Jewish and Israeli individuals and groups were thus affected by antisemitic violence, propaganda or hostility even more frequently

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 ex-

termination 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.

in 2020 than in previous years.

In addition, RIAS Berlin also documented a higher number of incidents directed against institutions (515), more than four-fifths of which were Jewish and Israeli institutions (409). With few exceptions, these incidents occurred on the Internet: numerous antisemitic discussions related to the COVID-19 pandemic were continued and intensified in this context, while debates in this vein were also initiated in chats and comments. The most frequent manifestations of antisemitism in 2020 also included antisemitic Othering (43.4%) and post-Shoah antisemitism (40.9%). Modern antisemitism played a much greater role than in previous years as a result of widespread dissemination of conspiracy myths related to the pandemic. This manifestation of antisemitism was involved in 34.6% of all cases, significantly more frequently than, for example, stereotypes that can be attributed to Israel-related antisemi-

tism (26.3%). Modern antisemitism played a more significant role above all in connection with the above-mentioned assemblies/rallies and demonstrations. Even in contexts other than assemblies/rallies, Jews, Israelis or persons perceived as such were confronted with striking frequency with topoi of modern antisemitism.

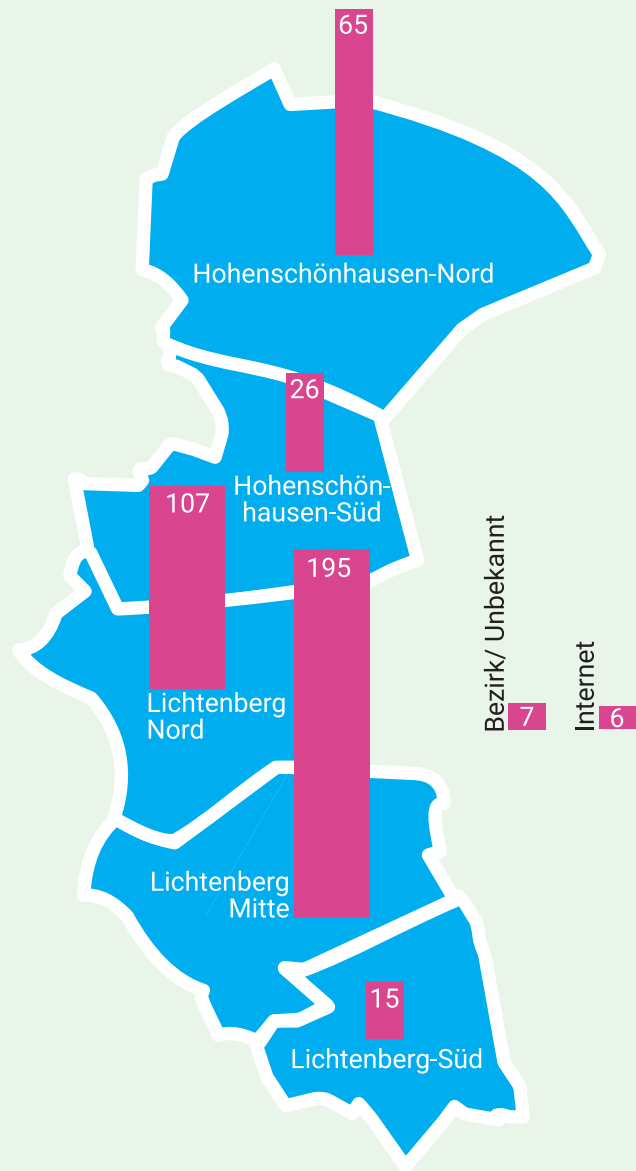
As in previous years, the political-ideological background was not identified in about half of the incidents. Most of the incidents that could be attributed to a specific context were again far-right/right-wing populist: the absolute number of such incidents rose from 259 to 271. RIAS Berlin identified a two-thirds rise compared to 2019 for incidents from conspiracy-ideology contexts. In contrast, a decline in anti-Israeli activism was observed; in this spectrum, many activities shifted to the Internet during the pandemic where fewer contacts arose with people that might potentially be affected.

The pandemic had a particularly worrying impact. In previous years, RIAS Berlin has repeatedly pointed out that antisemitism penetrates all aspects of life for people affected. During this period of restricted public life, Jews, like non-Jews, spent more time at home – and were more frequently the target of antisemitic hostility there. Despite hopes that the pandemic will subside in 2021, there are grounds for concern that the potentially threatening situations that arose in the private sphere during the pandemic will persist for some time to come.



Lichtenberg

Almost 300,000 people live in the Lichtenberg district. The composition of the population varies markedly in its various sub-districts (Hohenschönhausen, Lichtenberg, Karlshorst). For over 30 years, Lichtenberg has had an active and organised far right-wing scene. Its influence has been curbed in recent years thanks to civil society commitment and local political responses to the problem.



Propaganda for a march in Hohenschönhausen

swastikas in Lichtenberg Mitte



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Lichtenberg – an active far right in the context of the coronavirus pandemic

In 2020, the Lichtenberg Register Office recorded an all-time high of 421 reported incidents. That is over 60 per cent more than in 2019 (258 incidents). It is also above the figure for 2016, the year that previously marked the highest number of incidents reported (339 incidents) when mobilisation against refugees soared. This development merits attention, particularly as there were no elections in 2020 and scope for public events was severely limited after March 2020 due to pandemic restrictions. The number of incidents nevertheless remained high throughout the year, with peaks in May, June, October, and December.

Huge increase in propaganda

The Register Office figures show a significant increase in particular in racist and far-right propaganda that is spray-painted or affixed as stickers/posters. That figure has more than doubled, from 150 in 2019 to 340 incidents in 2020. Propaganda reports increased particularly noticeably during lockdown periods. As last year, racism remains the most important motive for propaganda. With 25 attacks (2019: 28) and 43 cases of insults, abuse and threats (2019: 38), someone living in the district is still affected by violent discrimination at least once a week, mostly due to racism. Incidents of damage to property have decreased with five reports (2019: 13), while three incidents of structural discrimination, a category not documented separately in 2019, were reported. Only four public events were reported in the district last year (2019: 16). This decrease can be explained by the circumstances of the pandemic and by the local NPD group's inactivity. In October 2020 the "III. Weg" organised a march in Hohenschönhausen, also involving neo-Nazis from other fede-

ral states, that received national media attention.

Racism is the most pronounced motive - classic neo-Nazi themes very present

Racism remained the predominant motive in all incident categories, with 120 reports. A large proportion of these incidents targeted refugees. However, there were also significant increases in reports of glorification of National Socialism (108), right-wing grandstanding (87) and political groups' defamation of their opponents (90). Classic far-right themes play a particularly pronounced role particularly in the propaganda incidents reported. These range from a series of swastika graffiti concentrated in Rummelsburg to propaganda activities by the "III. Weg".

Far-right motives and activities exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic also had an impact on far-right content. Incidents of racist statements against people read as Asian rose in spring, as did conspiracy narratives with that trivialised National Socialism or displayed antisemitic or racist traits. Such incidents were included if they had a clear link to content-based Register Office categories (e.g. "vaccination makes you free" slogans) or if they could be clearly assigned to the far right, such as stickers for a far right mail order company relating to the coronavirus pandemic. In these incidents, far-right protagonists attempted to exploit uncertainty within society in the pandemic context, albeit with little new political impetus.

The Mitte sub-district of Lichtenberg Mitte is still in the reporting spotlight

Almost half of the incidents in Lichtenberg occurred in the Mitte sub-district. 195 incidents were reported there in 2020 (106 in 2019). This increase is related to signi-

ficantly higher figures for propaganda incidents in the area between the Weitingkiewitz neighbourhood and Rummelsburg. Lichtenberg Nord ranks next, albeit at a considerably lower level, with 107 reports (2019: 79). The increase here was also mainly due to propaganda incidents. The rise in Neu-Hohenschönhausen from 13 reports in 2019 to 65 in 2020 can be explained primarily by neo-Nazi mobilisation for the "III. Weg" march in October. Few incidents were reported in Alt Hohenschönhausen in 2020 (2020: 26 / 2019: 15). A group spraying neo-Nazi graffiti and going by the name of "Antifa Hunter Militia" was noteworthy; they also sprayed the abbreviation „AHM“ in other districts. In Karlsruhorst, 15 incidents were reported (2019: 17). These were mainly propaganda incidents, along with one racist and one anti-LGBTIQ* threat. Seven incidents were recorded as having occurred somewhere in the district with no further indication of location (2019: 15). These included three attacks and three threats; more specific details of the locations were not recorded at the request of the people affected. On the Internet, the Register Office recorded six incidents (2019: 13), including a message from a police chat group glorifying National Socialism and a post by an AfD member of the BVV (district council) councillor who shouted on Facebook "NAZI? NA-Z-I? Not interested in immigration. [The slogan plays with the capital letters of the corresponding sentence in German] NAZI!" Attacks and insults, threats and abuse were distributed uniformly across the entire district and do not indicate any local focal points.

Scant activity by the organised far right - more activity by individuals

In the context of the organised neo-Nazi scene, the significance of older organisations such as the NPD, its youth organi-

28th January 2020

Stickers depicting a praying Muslim were found on the corner of Gehrenseestraße and Wartenberger Weg. "Der Volksschädling" [a discriminatory National Socialist term, used in the 1939 Ordinance on "Pests harmful to the Common Good of the Country"] was written underneath the image.

Source: Lichtenberg Register Office

15th April 2020

It was reported that the supermarket in Lichtenberg train station refused access to homeless people "for hygienic reasons".

Source: Lichtenberg Register Office

23rd June 2020

Around 20:00, a 20-year-old woman was beaten and kicked on Falkenberger Brücke bridge and subjected to anti-LGBTIQ* insults by an acquaintance.

Source: ReachOut, Berlin Police, 29.07.2020

21st July 2020

An older woman subjected a woman to transphobic harassment near Karlsruhorst S-Bahn station. She demanded that the woman show her sexual traits, alleging she could not ascertain the woman's gender due to her face mask.

Source: Berlin Register Office

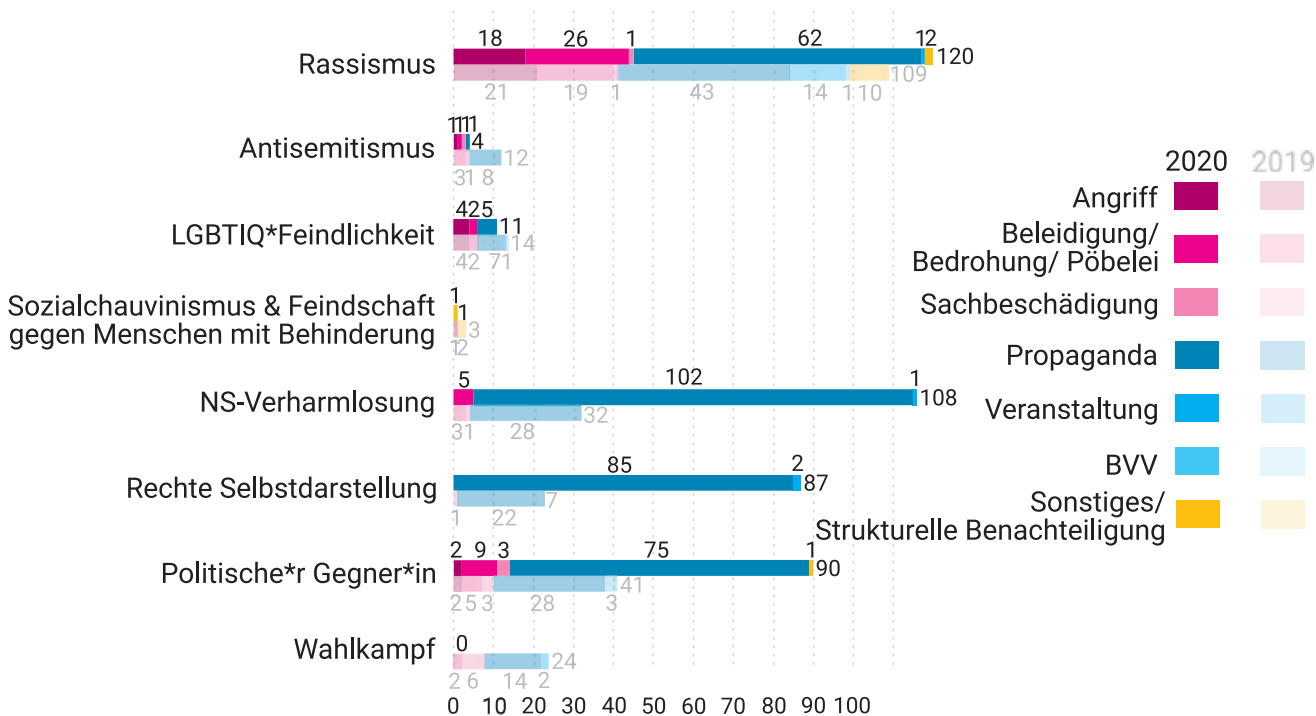
2nd December 2020

On S-Bahn line 3 to Köpenick, a man, aged over 40, got on at Ostkreuz and insulted other passengers. He subjected

sation JN and Kameradschaft [right-wing male-only fraternity] structures continued to decline. The smallest neo-Nazi party “III. Weg” is trying to fill this gap in the district, with public events and regular propaganda circuits. It is still just beginning to launch these attempts. In the near future, this group will represent a central challenge for civil society and local politics.

The second important development is that new individual protagonists have apparently become active as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, appearing in public spaces with home-made stickers or slogans. These materials combine far-right contents with conspiracy myths about the coronavirus pandemic. Other protagonists not clearly affiliated to far right

organisations have also emerged, using swastikas and other neo-Nazi slogans as well as stickers ordered on the Internet. This reveals that disseminating far-right propaganda does not necessarily entail being affiliated to far-right groups. It will be important to continue observing whether these individuals adopt more radical forms of action and/or seek affiliation with neo-Nazi groups.



Examples of incidents

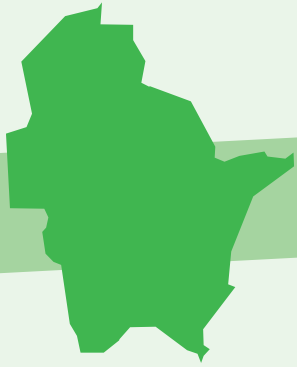
a family to racist insults and threatened them with violence, stating, among other things, that he would shoot them. He subsequently gave a Hitler salute before alighting at Rummelsburg station and while standing on the platform. Source: Köpenick Register Office

9th December 2020

Eleven swastikas were found in Rummelsburger Strasse and at Friedrichsfelde underground station and removed. Source: Lichtenberg Register Office

20th December 2020

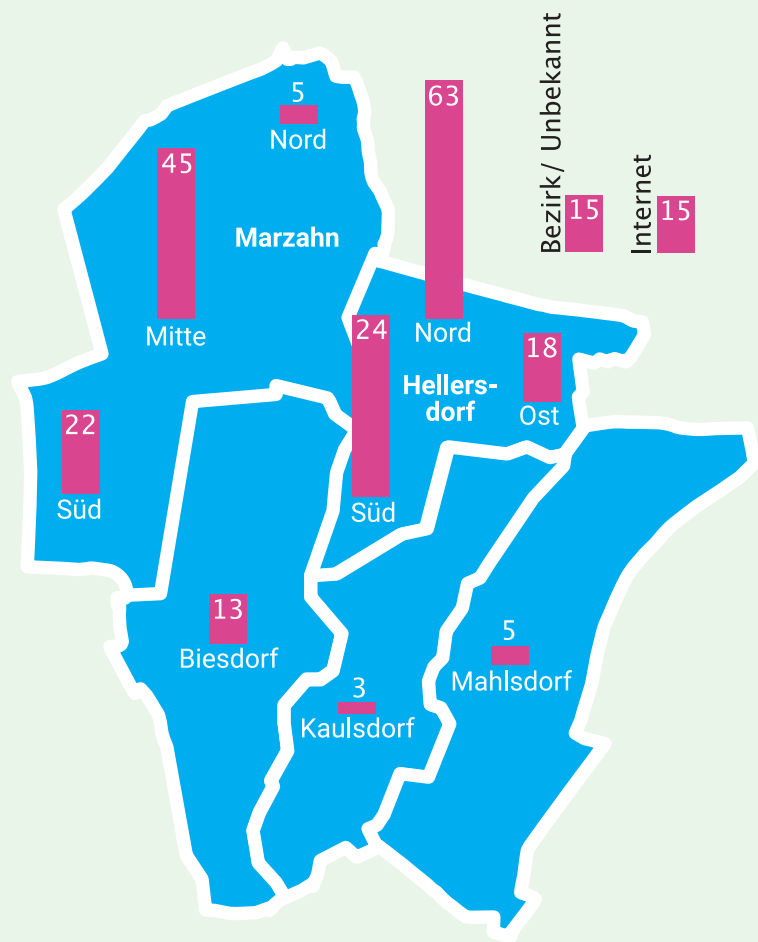
Three people from the far right micro party “III Weg” were observed in Friedrichsfelde distributing flyers against “left-wing terror in Lichtenberg”. The flyers were put into letterboxes near the zoo, in Lincolnstraße and Einbecker Straße. Source: Lichtenberg Register Office



Marzahn-Hellersdorf

Marzahn-Hellersdorf is on the eastern edge of Berlin. The district has over 270,000 inhabitants and a very heterogeneous population structure in its sub-districts (Marzahn-Nord, MarzahnMitte, Marzahn-Süd, Biesdorf, Kaulsdorf, Mahlsdorf, Hellersdorf-Nord, Hellersdorf-Ost and Hellersdorf-Süd). As well as including the largest contiguous prefabricated housing area in Europe, Marzahn-Hellersdorf is one of the greenest districts in Berlin and includes the “Gardens of the World” complex. It also encompasses one of the largest housing estates made up of detached/semi-detached homes.

For years, there has been an active far-right scene in the district, which displayed comparatively high mobilisation potential concerning racist topics between 2013 and 2015. Compared with last year, the number of reported incidents increased by about 60% (98 incidents), hitting a total of 252 incidents in 2020. This development is primarily a consequence of the rise in registered propaganda incidents.



National Socialist slogan in Marzahn-Hellersdorf



Contact:

Register Marzahn-Hellersdorf

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Incident categories: More propaganda – slight increase in violence

The far-right scene used the lockdown in spring 2020 to spread propaganda, also directed against measures to contain the pandemic. In addition to far right stickers and posters, more cases of conspiracy ideology propaganda were reported. In late summer 2020, the neo-Nazi party “Der III. Weg” attempted to mobilize people for a demonstration in Berlin-Hohenschönhausen on October 3rd. The rise in propaganda incidents is also due to more people reporting incidents to the Register Office. In particular, propaganda incidents were increasingly notified to the District Register Office by individuals who had become involved only recently and reported incidents across the entire district. In addition, the number of incidents involving threats, insults and abuse also increased from 23 in 2019 to 34 in 2020, a 48% rise. This could be an effect of the overall societal tensions due to the pandemic being reflected in interpersonal contacts. The number of attacks remained stable and is interpreted along similar lines (2019: 15 attacks; 2020: 16 attacks). Although it is fair

to assume that the lockdown in spring and late autumn 2020 resulted in fewer encounters between people in public spaces, the number of attacks remained at the same level as last year.

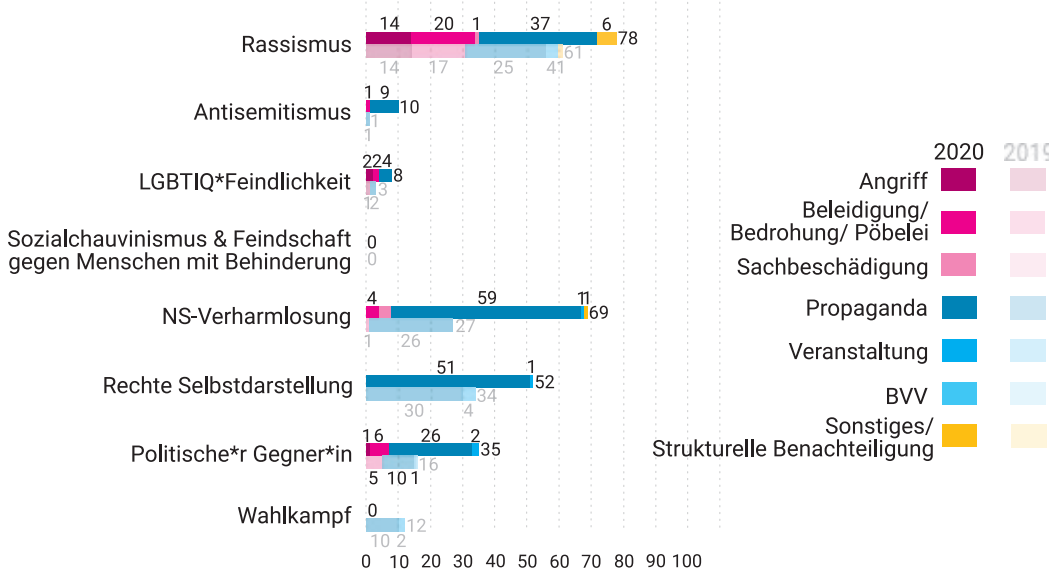
Categorisation of content: mainly racism and glorification of National Socialism

The growing number of propaganda incidents is also reflected in the incident categories that predominated. In particular, incidents in the categories “trivialisation/glorification of National Socialism” and “right-wing grandstanding”, generally linked to the far right, rose in a year-to-year comparison (trivialisation/glorification of National Socialism by 156% to 69 incidents and right-wing grandstanding by 53% to 52 incidents). In 2020, the former category included a large number of cases of graffiti throughout the district depicting runes and numerical codes related to National Socialism, as well as calls for known NS deniers to be released from prison. The “right-wing grandstanding” category, on the other hand, predominantly involved stickers and graffiti with

law-and-order slogans from neo-Nazi parties (e.g. NPD and Der III. Weg) or proclaiming the dominance of far-right groups (such as the Identitäre Bewegung and Autonome Nationalisten [Autonomous Nationalists]) in particular neighbourhoods. The higher number of incidents is particularly evident in the categories of racism, activities directed against political opponents, and antisemitism. The first two categories also account for the highest number of threats and attacks, along with the propaganda category. In this context it is assumed that existing attitudes have become more apparent due to the coronavirus crisis. The marked upsurge of antisemitic incidents in Marzahn-Hellersdorf is also striking. In previous years, antisemitism was comparatively rarely the motive for incidents. During the coronavirus pandemic, more antisemitic propaganda was distributed in the form of antisemitic conspiracy narratives.

Distribution by sub-districts: focus remains on large housing estates

Large housing estates continued to be in the main focus of the Register Office reports in the Marzahn-Hellersdorf district as a whole. However, this is probably also because more people live on such estates and public infrastructure (shopping facilities, public transport, etc.) is denser there. In Hellersdorf, most incidents (63) are still recorded in Hellersdorf North, although incidents have also risen sharply in Hellersdorf East and South. In Marzahn, Marzahn-Mitte (45) continues to have the highest number of cases. It is also noticeable that in Marzahn North (5), in contrast to the general increase, a decrease



Examples of incidents

7th October 2020

In an anti-Muslim incident, a 29-year-old woman was insulted and grabbed by the back of her head by a 63-year-old woman outside a supermarket on Allee der Kosmonauten at around 11:25. The 63-year-old took hold of the 29-year-old’s face, scratched her and tried to rip off her headscarf.
Source: ReachOut

28th November 2020

Two elderly women made comments as a man was cleaning two Stolpersteine [(literally: stumbling stones) commemorating people persecuted and killed by the National Socialists] for Elsa Veronika Fischl and her daughter Ilse Friederike Fischl at Mädevalder Weg 37 to commemorate 9th November. They denied that Elsa Veronika Fischl and Ilse Friederike Fischl had ever lived in the house and made fun of the man’s

cleaning action. As they left the scene, they shouted statements relativising the Holocaust at the man.
Source: RIAS

19th December 2020

Several far-right graffiti (“skins”) were discovered around a bus stop at Schleusinger Straße and in Ludwig-Renn-Straße. The letter S was written in the graffiti as a sig rune [Sieg rune, associated with the National Socialists]. The

REDAR - Research and Documentation Project for Anti-Muslim Racism

REDAR is a non-religious, racism-critical project that is led and coordinated by a diverse team with backgrounds in various disciplines, with some team members who have personal experiences of discrimination. It is important to us that anti-Muslim racism is addressed as a problem for society as a whole. Since anti-Muslim racism is also expressed differently in connection with other forms of discrimination, an intersectional perspective is particularly important to us.

By sharing your experience and reporting incidents, we can collect meaningful data that makes the phenomenon of anti-Muslim racism more tangible. This makes us a contact point for all Berliners affected by anti-Muslim racism, regardless of whether they actually have an affiliation to Islam and regardless of how religious they themselves are. That is because anti-Muslim racism does not only affect Muslims, but also people who are considered to belong to a Muslim community because of their name or their appearance.

A project by:

Transaidency e. V.
 Hussitenstrasse 17
 13355 Berlin

Incidents can be reported via

Whats App: +49 176 63626718

or using our online form: www.redar.berlin



can be observed. The areas in the district with more traditional housing (Kaulsdorf, Mahlsdorf, Biesdorf) have lower incident numbers (21 in total) than the large housing estates. However here too higher numbers of incidents can be observed in 2020 (except in Kaulsdorf).

Summary & outlook

The rise in incidents reported in 2020 can primarily be attributed to the increased number of propaganda incidents and improved documentation by the reporting structure. The upsurge in propaganda activities is related to the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, as more flyers

were distributed than usual to reach people. Activities of neo-Nazi and far-right groups also have a considerable mobilisation potential, which should be kept in mind in the future. The effects of the coronavirus pandemic will continue to play a significant role in society as a whole and will have long-term social and economic consequences. Against the background of the elections in Berlin in September 2021, growing societal polarisation looks likely. A particular challenge for local civil society is the AfD's increasingly aggressive behaviour towards democratic and civil society protagonists in the district. This includes disparaging individuals, initiati-

ves and institutions committed to democratic principles. The AfD thus conveys the impression that it is deliberately intimidating people and delegitimizing democratic engagement. As elections are to be held next year, a further increase in such polemics and hostility is to be expected in 2021.

double sig rune was the emblem of the Schutzstaffel (SS) during National Socialism. It is now illegal to use it. In addition, stickers of the far right party "III. Weg" and swastikas were found immediately adjacent to the graffiti.

Source: Eyewitness/ Marzahn Hellersdorf Register Office

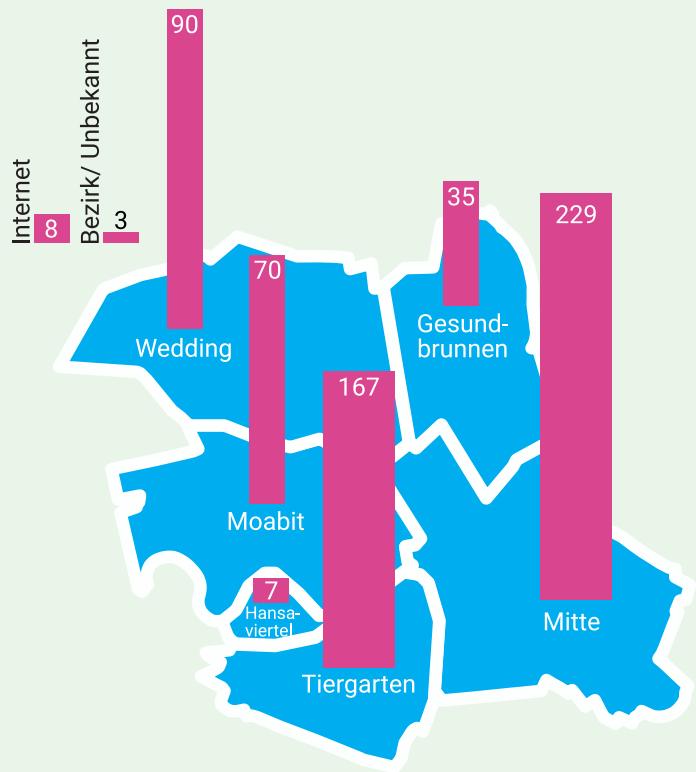
15th April 2020

Enormous numbers of neo-Nazi and racist stickers again appeared along the U5 underground line, between the Louis-Lewin-Str. and Biesdorf-Süd stations. Numerous stickers had racist and neo-Nazi slogans and motifs. Other stickers insulted cosmopolitan and tolerant people and refugees.

Source: Eyewitness/ Marzahn Hellersdorf Register Office

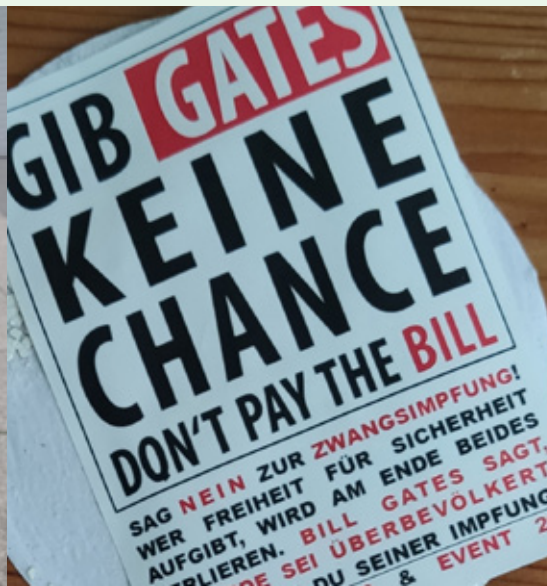
Mitte

The Berlin-Mitte district comprises the sub-districts Mitte, Moabit, Tiergarten, Wedding, Gesundbrunnen and Hansaviertel. On 31st December 2020, it had a population of over 380,000. The district includes the government area, where many rallies and demonstrations are held, as well as many transport hubs, busy public squares and shopping areas.



Advertisement for a demonstration against measures to contain the coronavirus pandemic in Mitte

stickers against "compulsory vaccination"



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Despite the lockdown, a total of 609 incidents were recorded in the Mitte district in 2020, slightly lower than the year before (2019: 645). As in the previous three years, the Mitte district recorded the highest number of incidents of all Berlin Register Offices. Due to the pandemic, there were fewer passers-by in the public sphere as there were hardly any tourists in Berlin and office staff were often working from home. In addition, fewer people were out and about at the many central transport hubs in the district, on public transport and in shopping and nightlife districts, i.e. the places where many incidents normally take place. Nevertheless, the threat level for people affected by racism, antisemitism, animosity towards LGBTIQ* and far-right violence remained high during the lockdown months. In addition to the usual types of incident reported in the district, threats came from people taking part in numerous rallies and demonstrations against measures to contain the pandemic. These were held in the Mitte district and brought together far-right protagonists and participants from various contexts who found conspiracy ideologies appealing.

Type of incidents

Although the number of attacks, which had increased from 62 (2018) to 91 in 2019, fell again to 63, the number of incidents involving threats, insults and abuse continued to rise from 136 (2018) and 142 (2019) to 166. As in previous years, attacks and insults mainly occurred in everyday life in public places. The rate of incidents on public transport and at transport hubs dropped from 132 (2019) to 94, but more people suffered racist attacks by neighbours or in their immediate neighbourhood. Propaganda incidents, such as stickers and graffiti, often used to mark out a claim to a territory, declined from 184 (2019) to 155, which was still higher than in 2018 with 133 incidents. Incidents of damage to property fell significantly from 28 to 12. Incidents of structural discrimination, such as rejections of benefit applications and discrimination by official bodies, remained, with 26 incidents, at roughly the same level as during the previous year when these incidents were recorded in the category "other". The number of public events reported, mostly rallies and demonstrations in the government area, continued to increase from 164 (2019) to 183. Racist motivations played a smaller role in this context (number of racist public events in

2020: 56; 2019: 113). The incidents reported were instead mostly directed against measures to contain the coronavirus pandemic, involving conspiracy theories and pronounced participation by the far right. Racist threat remains high despite lockdown.

As last year, a particularly large number of incidents had racist motivations, although the total number of racist incidents fell from 342 (2019) to 282. This decrease is mainly because only 56 rallies and demonstrations were categorised as racist, compared with 113 in the year before. As in 2019, these were exclusively small events of mostly well under 20 people, although almost all of these demonstrations were streamed on the Internet and disseminated via far-right social media channels. In this respect, they contributed to consolidation of racist world views and helped maintain their clientele's networks through lockdown. The number of racist attacks fell from 49 (2019) to 35. However, this was still higher than in 2018 (25). Racist threats, insults and abuse, in contrast, continued to increase from 94 (2019) to 110. 58 racist propaganda incidents were reported, up from 55.

(cc) Flickr.com - Oh-Berlin.com (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/oh-berlin/5453494508/>)



Significant increase in incidents of anti-Black racism

In recent years, many African associations, shops and restaurants have become established in Mitte, especially in the sub-district Wedding. Incidents of anti-Black racism in the Mitte district increased from 41 in 2019 to 68 in 2020, including 14 attacks, 37 cases of threats and insults, seven structural discrimination incidents, five propaganda incidents, and five public events directed against decolonisation and against the Black Lives Matter movement.

Incidents of anti-Muslim racism also rose from 63 in the previous year to 71; only six anti-Muslim racist public events were reported, compared to 19 in 2019. On the other hand, cases of threats and insults went up from 23 to 28 and four attacks took place (2019: 6). Almost all incidents involving insults, threats and attacks were directed against women wearing headscarves in public and occurred in everyday contexts. Anti-Muslim propaganda nearly doubled, rising from 13 to 24 incidents, and

eight incidents were recorded in the newly introduced category of “structural discrimination”.

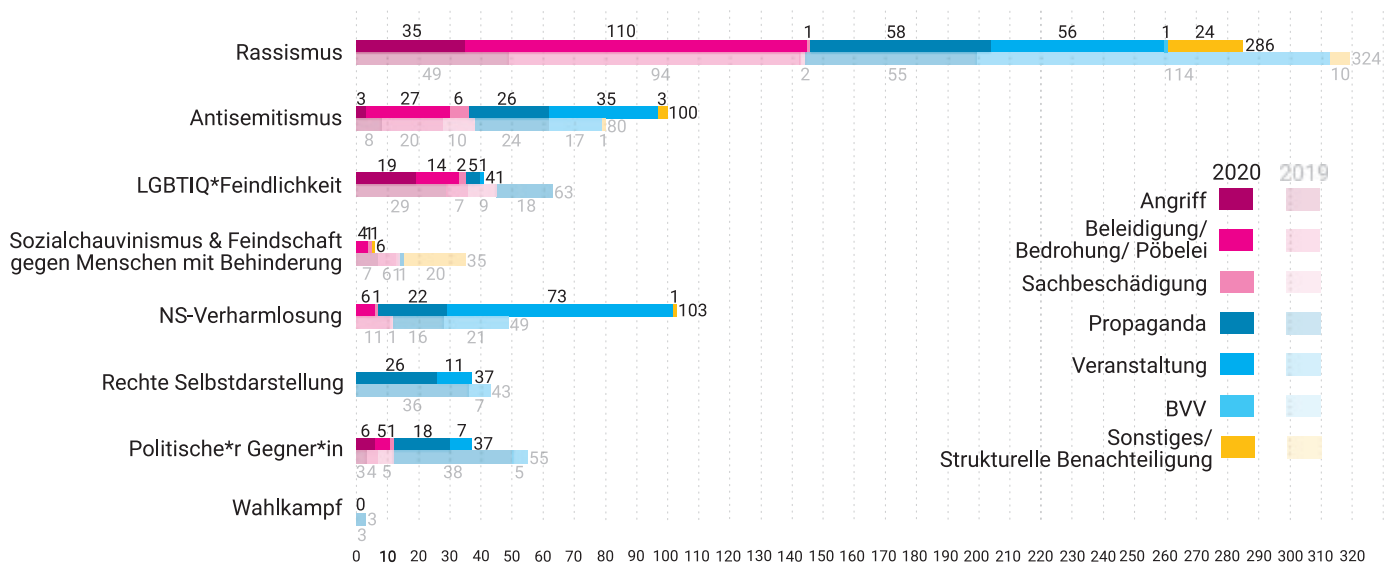
Racial profiling

The eight incidents of racial profiling by police, BVG (public transport) inspectors and security personnel involved in particular these two groups of people affected. The dismal depths to which this sunk became apparent in the numerous questionable and disproportionately violent arrests and assaults by the Berlin police during the Black Lives Matter protest demonstration on 6th June at Alexanderplatz. The demonstration brought together several thousand participants in response to George Floyd’s murder by white police officers in the USA. The incidents were statistically recorded as one overall incident in the Register Office data, even though 41 individual cases were involved. Numerous videos and witness statements indicate the excessive nature of the police measures directed against a disproportionate number of very young

Black demonstrators and People of Colour. In police statements and many media reports, demonstrators affected by the violence were referred to as perpetrators, inverting the roles of perpetrator and victim. However, in three documented cases, police officers were subjected to racist insults and threats.

Anti-Asian racism in the coronavirus pandemic

A new phenomenon in 2020 became apparent in the 21 incidents of anti-Asian racism documented in Mitte alone: 15 insults, four attacks and two incidents involving structural discrimination. In almost all of these incidents, people perceived as Asian were blamed for the pandemic. As soon as the outbreak of the pandemic in China was addressed in initial media reports, which were tinged with racist stereotypes from the era of China’s brutal colonisation in the early 20th century, people perceived as Asian began to be attacked, insulted and threatened. On 31st January, a Chinese student in Moabit was attacked so



Examples of incidents

1st February 2020

In a drugstore chain on Müllerstraße in Wedding: a cashier checked out purchases from six customers, but when an Asian woman handed her a voucher, the cashier opened her drawer and demonstratively disinfected her hands. When the woman’s husband then said, “Don’t panic, my wife has never been to China”, the cashier fell silent, embarrassed.

Source: Mitte Register Office, Amadeu Antonio Foundation

26th March 2020

A Black woman on a bus in Mitte was pushed hard against the window by a man wearing a face mask and gloves, who shouted at her: “Because of you fucking foreigners, the plague has come into the country...” The attacker got off when the bus stopped at the next stop. The bus driver was slow to realise what was happening. The other passengers just watched and commented afterwards that this was “not nice”.

Source: Mitte Register Office

22nd April 2020

On the U6 underground line heading to Alt-Mariendorf, at around 13:00., a man aged between 50-60 years old approached a couple who had just got onto the train at a station in the Mitte sub-district. He repeatedly gave the Hitler salute and shouted: “Heil!” He then subjected the couple to racist insults and told them to go back to Poland.

Source: Mitte Register Office



(cc) Flickr.com - Tony Webster (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/diversey/19689169878/>)

brutally that she had to go to hospital. These incidents occurred throughout the year in the Mitte district and people perceived as Asian continued to face particularly threats during the entire year.

Antisemitism in the Mitte district

The number of antisemitic incidents rose from 80 (2019) to 100 due to the many demonstrations promoting conspiracy ideologies in the district: the number of antisemitic public events reported increased from 17 to 35. Of these, 33 were public events opposing coronavirus measures, at which clearly antisemitic conspiracy

ideologies were spread. Attila Hildmann's many public events were a particularly clear example of the rapid radicalisation of content that could be observed on many social media channels, moving from structural antisemitic conspiracy myths to direct antisemitism and even glorification of National Socialism.

Incidents involving trivialisation and glorification of National Socialism doubled

Cases of glorification or trivialisation of National Socialism increased significantly from 49 to 103 incidents. This rise can be

explained by the 73 public events against the coronavirus measures that were reported: comparisons that trivialised and relativised National Socialism were tolerated and so widely disseminated there that these public events were recorded under this category. There were six cases of abuse linked to the Hitler salute, which partly arose from demonstrations by conspiracy theorists, and 22 propaganda incidents; in addition to swastika graffiti, trivialisations of National Socialism appeared on propaganda material for the demonstrations promoting conspiracy ideologies. Incidents directed against political op-

27th April 2020

Three racist stickers with the words "Hanau? Those were just Kanacken!!!" [a German slur for people from German-speaking countries with roots from Southeast Europe, the Near and Middle East, and North Africa] and a depiction of a Turkish flag were spotted and removed in the area around Leopoldplatz.

Source: Mitte Register Office

29th August 2020

Around 10:00, on the S-Bahn train between Friedrichstraße and Hauptbahnhof, in a crowded carriage where most people were not wearing masks, a young Black couple with a small child was surrounded, subjected to racist insults by several people, and spat at by one person. It was only when a witness loudly threatened to call the police that the attackers left the young BPoC family alone and got off at Friedrichstraße station. No one except this witness came

to the assistance of the people who were attacked.

Source: Mitte Register Office

29th August 2020

On the fringes of the conspiracy-ideology rally on Straße des 17. Juni in Tiergarten, a person wearing a kippa was subjected to antisemitic harassment and threats. Participants at the event shouted, inter alia: "You think you are the master race", "You cause genocide in the Middle East", „... and "Don't go putting on a cap and

ponents fell from 55 to 37 in total, and in 2020 often originated from the new hybrid scene that brought together the far right and advocates of conspiracy ideologies from various milieus.

The number of incidents of right-wing grandstanding remained roughly constant compared to the previous year (37 instead of 36). While there was a fall in the number of incidents involving propaganda by far right groups in this category, the number of demonstrations and rallies increased. They served as a platform for “Reichsbürger” and far right groups. These events mobilised additional participants drawn from the new broad-based and mixed-background protest movement against measures to contain the pandemic.

Anti-LGBTIQ incidents fell during lockdown

Because many bars were closed and meeting places in the Mitte district were less frequented, anti-LGBTIQ* incidents decreased from 63 (2019) to 41. That included 19 physical attacks (2019: 29). As in previous years, these attacks were often particularly brutal. The number of instances of insults recorded even doubled from seven to 14. Two incidents of damage to property occurred at the memorial for homosexuals persecuted under National Socialism in the Tiergarten park. Anti-LGBTIQ* graffiti and stickers were slightly less widespread than in the year before (2020: 5; 2019: 18). One demonstration was anti-LGBTIQ* motivated. A queer counter-demonstrator was attacked in this context.

“Coronavirus rebels” and the far right

In total, 121 documented demonstrations and rallies in Mitte were directed against measures to contain the coronavirus epidemic. All such public events were not included in our data; we recorded only those demonstrations and rallies at which

participants spread and tolerated comparisons that trivialised National Socialism and/or antisemitic conspiracy myths, and which involved far right groups. This applied to all the large-scale public events of this type, which at their peak in August mobilised up to 22,500 participants. Proponents of conspiracy ideologies, esotericists and anti-vaxxers from various milieus gathered at these events and mixed with right-wing populists, “Reichsbürger” and the various far right groups, including some sections of the AfD, which were the principal force behind racist anti-immigration public events in recent years.

The kind of right-wing groupings that had long dreamed of a “cross-cutting front” were already involved in the first so-called “Hygiene Demos” at Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz; these began in late March and were organised by the small group „Kommunikationsstelle Demokratischer Widerstand“ [Communication Center Democratic Resistance], which originally emerged from a left-wing artistic context. In that respect, unlike other parts of the far-right spectrum, these groups did not “jump on the bandwagon” of a new protest movement gradually. Instead, they were present from the outset, mainly supplying the infrastructure in the form of stages, sound systems, right-wing bus companies, “alternative media” and social media channels. This contributed to the growth of this heterogeneous protest movement and meant that its content rapidly moved towards the far right. Existing overlaps intersection between esotericists, anti-vaxxers and the far right also helped the movement to flourish. This new heterogeneous hybrid scene, shifting increasingly to the right, was made possible by shared ideological dispositives, such as the way in which complex social problems were reduced to conspiracy myths involving personalised attacks, which at least structurally

almost always lead to antisemitism, along with social Darwinist mentalities and ideologies.

It remains to be seen how the components of this newly created hybrid scene will be reconfigured in future right-wing movements after the rapid waning of the protest movement currently observed in summer 2021. Will the AfD, for example, benefit, given that attempts to found new parties that emerged from this movement have level? What kind of growth can be sustained by the far right groups more closely involved in this protest movement, yet still very small? Will radicalised parts of this broad spectrum be responsive to other goals? In any case, the media-oriented infrastructure is in place and the protagonists are better networked than previously.

acting like an angry Jew here if you are attacked, what kind of disgusting way to behave is that”.

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

8th October 2020

In Wedding a female school pupil, who was read as Asian, phoned a fellow pupil to arrange to meet and study together. The white German classmate told her that she was no longer allowed to meet

her. She explained that her parents had forbidden this because of coronavirus, because with Asians “you never know what else they bring in along with their families”.

Source: Mitte Register Office

3rd November 2020

A woman with Indonesian roots and wearing a headscarf was subjected to anti-Muslim racist insults by a white woman aged between 50 and 60 on an

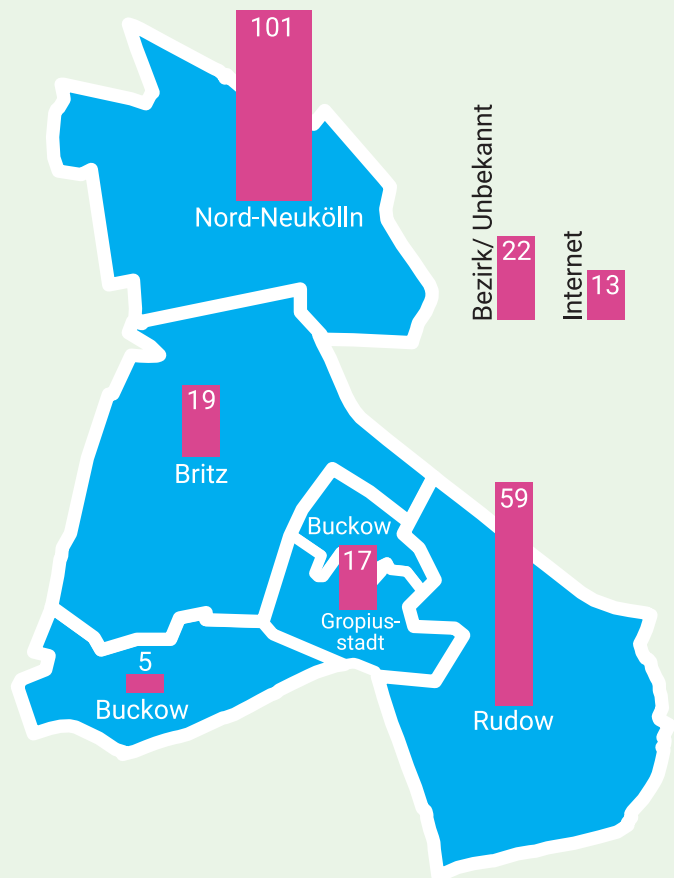
S-Bahn train near the Gesundbrunnen station at about 16.30 and subjected to accusations that Asians like her were to blame for the whole “coronavirus mess”.

Source: Mitte Register Office

Neukölln

Neukölln has almost 330,000 inhabitants, making it one of the larger and more densely populated districts of Berlin. However, there are great differences between the individual sub-districts, as is reflected in the type and number of reported incidents. far-right propaganda is mainly reported in the much less busy southern part of Neukölln. In northern Neukölln, there are usually more reports of attacks and insults.

For several years, Neukölln has also been the main focus in a series of far-right attacks – and numerous anti-racist and anti-fascist protests against those attacks. With the pandemic and the lockdowns, life changed in all parts of Neukölln, as did reporting behaviour concerning incidents.



Slashed car tyre in the south of Neukölln

swastika and SS runes on a late-night shop



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Was everything different in lockdown?

A year earlier, a total of 54 attacks were reported in Neukölln; only a few districts documented higher numbers. In 2020, significantly fewer incidents occurred: only 35. Nevertheless, this remains high for Berlin, only Mitte and Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg have higher incident figures. One explanation for the lower figure in 2020 is that there were far fewer everyday encounters under lockdown conditions – for example, on large, bustling streets or on public transport, as far fewer people were on the move. Pubs, clubs and bars were also only open to a limited extent. The encounters that did occur in public space, however, also took place in new and more tense circumstances. Conflicts about lack of social distancing or face-masks contained new potential to escalate quickly into racist insults or attacks. In addition, in Neukölln more people became targets of anti-Asian racism than in previous years. It is therefore difficult to draw direct comparisons with the year before based only on the figures. As in 2019, the main motives for the attacks remained racism and animosity towards LGBTIQ*. Only four attacks arose in a different context.

A total of 236 incidents were documented in Neukölln, 32 more than in the year before. In addition to the drop in the number of documented attacks, the rise in propaganda incidents is also striking. 148 incidents were registered in this category, 56 more than in the year before, thus making up the lion's share of all incident reports. The majority of these incidents can be traced back to a few far-right protagonists, among them mainly activists of the neo-Nazi micro-party "Der III. Weg", who were responsible for many stickers and flyers that were reported. In addition to stickers and flyers, however, numerous graffiti were reported here, including swastikas, Celtic crosses and tags such as "NSArea", "fasho" or "AHM" ("Antifa Hunter Militia"). In contrast to 2019, far-right protagonists were again more active with their propaganda in the north of Neukölln. Fewer graffiti were reported here overall than in the south of the district. However, in the north of Neukölln shops and restaurants run by migrants and also residential buildings or their entrances were affected several times by graffiti.

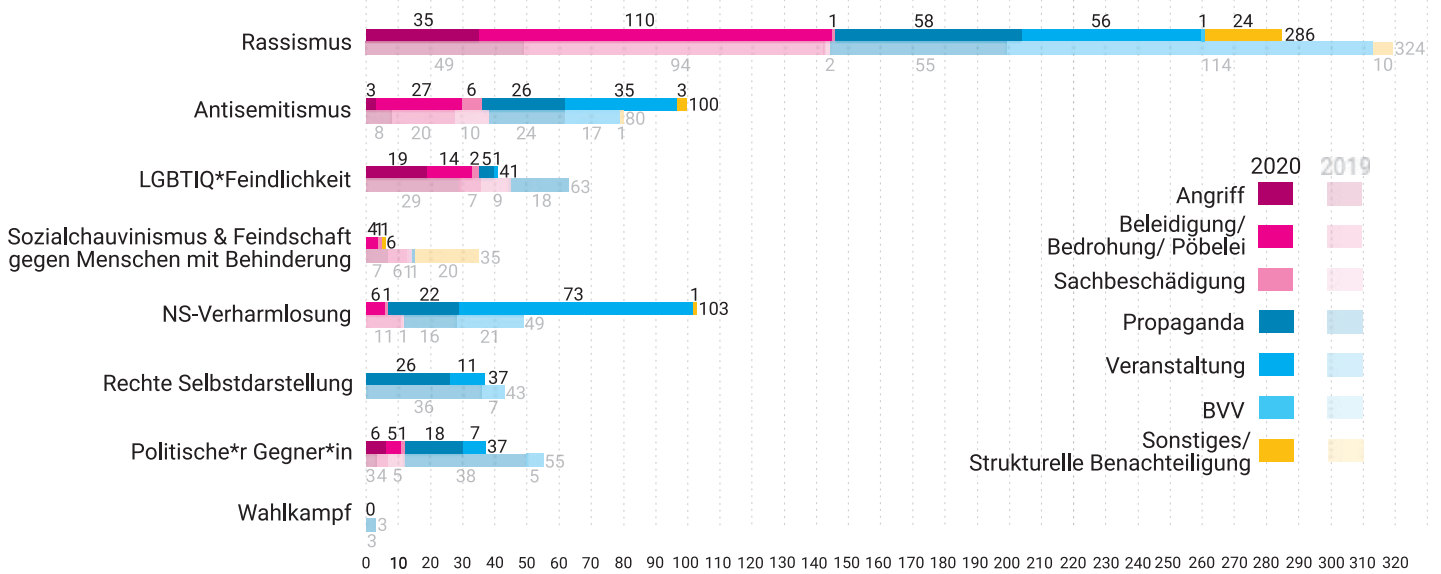
At first glance, it may seem contradictory that fewer antisemitic incidents were reported in

2020, although pandemic and lockdown measures provided fertile ground for conspiracy ideologies that were often antisemitic. While there were 25 antisemitic incidents in total in 2019, only 14 occurred in Neukölln in 2020. Reports concerning public events and incidents of threats/insults/abuse in particular declined. Although there were more reported incidents of public events with antisemitic content or that trivialised National Socialism for Berlin as a whole during the pandemic, these mostly occurred in the Mitte district.

In Neukölln, there was also a significant overall drop in the number of public events reported in the pandemic year. Only two public events were reported as incidents. In the previous year, the figure was 14. It can be assumed that fewer public events were organised due to the pandemic. In addition, not all meetings of the far right are identified as such and reported to the Register Office.

Racism and other continuities

If the Neukölln Register Office had to describe 2020 in a nutshell, it would go something like this: "fewer attacks, but more propaganda". That seems apt for a year in which so many



Examples of incidents

14th November 2020

The mailbox of a trade union activist in Gropiusstadt was damaged. The person affected found a flyer of a far-right micro-party in it. Since all the other mailboxes remained intact, the person affected suspects political motives directed against them.

Source: Neukölln Register Office

19th October 2020

Two men aged 74 and 86 were insulted,

punched and injured by a 52-year-old man in Zadekstraße at around 11.45 in an attack motivated by anti-ziganism. When the 86-year-old fell, the attacker attempted to hit him with his walking frame.

Source: ReachOut Berlin

17th September 2020

Grffiti was discovered on the doorbell of a house in Altenbraker Str. with racist and social chauvinist insults aimed at the residents of an apartment in connection

with coronavirus. People living in the house had put up a notice announcing that they were in quarantine and asking for support.

Source: Reported by a member of the public

9th May 2020

There were attempts to set fire to four cars in Laubestr. At a distance of roughly 10 metres from the cars, SS runes were discovered spray-painted on the walls. In recent weeks, there had already been ar-

forms of physical contact were reduced or restricted. One point that would conflict with this simple conclusion, however, is the near stagnation, for example, in the number of reports of threat / insults / abuse. Of the 30 incidents reported in this category, over half (17 incidents) had racist motivations. Here, too, anti-Asian racism was reported, mostly with direct reference to the pandemic. Racism as a motive represents a further element of continuity in Neukölln, seemingly unaffected by a global pandemic. Yet racism as a phenomenon showed its incredible flexibility, for example in antiziganism or anti-Asian racism, which became much more noticeable and threatening for those affected in interaction with the pandemic and lockdown measures. At the beginning of the pandemic, when many COVID-19 infections were detected in a block of flats in Harzer Straße, the alleged cultural differences of the residents were blamed rather than their social circumstances. In July, a woman read as Asian was sworn at with the word “coronavirus”, in a supermarket in Gropiusstadt pulled by the hair and kicked in the head.

As in previous years, racism was the most frequently reported motive for incidents. About every third incident reported had a racist motive. This includes attacks and insults as well as a variety of racist propaganda. The number of reported LGTBIQ*-hostile incidents remained at a similarly high level. 23 incidents were reported in this category, only two fewer than in 2019. The ratio within the incident category also remained similar. In the previous year, 21 of the 25 incidents in this area were attacks. This year, there were 15 attacks out of a total of 23 incidents. Even in pandemic times, public spaces continued to be risky for those who do not appear to conform to the gender norm. This is further illustrated, as in the year before, by the brutality of the attacks in this area.

Burning cars, lack of investigation results, and protests

Neukölln has gained dubious notoriety within

Berlin in connection with right-wing violence. From 2011 to 2020, there were over 70 attacks directed against people committed to upholding democratic, anti-racist and anti-fascist principles, and against their buildings and cars. There are many indications that the perpetrators belong to the Neukölln neo-Nazi scene. While two long-time suspects in the series of attacks were arrested at the end of the year with great fanfare, this success did not last long. Both suspects were released from custody at the end of 2020 and were spotted distributing far-right propaganda flyers immediately afterwards. It was only revealed that the two main suspects had apparently also been intensively observing refugee accommodation thanks to an oral question raised by MPs Anne Helm and Niklas Schrader (from the party Die Linke). The investigators feared that an arson attack was being planned.

Burnt-out cars or reports of fires continued to weigh on people in Neukölln during the pandemic. Since no racist or far-right motive was directly apparent in the majority of these cases, they were only rarely recorded as Register Office incidents. The arson attack on the Damascus Bakery in June was recorded as an incident because the crime scene had been marked with SS runes. An arson attack on an apartment building in Britz in July, on the other hand, was not recorded because the motive for the attack remained unknown. Civil society protagonists sounded the alarm in this context, especially against the background of the series of far-right attacks in the district, which also include arson attacks. As a result, Neukölln saw many protests against racism and fascism in 2020. Demonstrations repeatedly pointed out misconduct on the part of the police and the public prosecutor's office and their implication in the series of attacks in Neukölln. Seeming to enjoy impunity, well-known neo-Nazis such as “Der III. Weg”, are stirring up a sense of unease in the district with flyer campaigns, especially among people affected by racism. However, well-networked and well-

organised civil society in Neukölln will continue to form a strong counterweight in coming years.

son attacks on cars in the area. And at the end of 2019, swastikas and SS runes were scribbled on a snack bar selling burgers in nearby Wildenbruchstr.

Source: Neukölln Register Office via Twitter

9th February 2020

In Britz, a 51-year-old person was targeted in a transphobic attack. First two young men insulted and threatened the person and then attacked them with pepper spray. Before the two perpetrators got off at the Grenzallee station, they

also spat at the person. Witnesses subsequently took care of the injured person. Source: Neukölln Register Office, *Der Tagespiegel* 10.2., police report no. 0360

30th December 2020

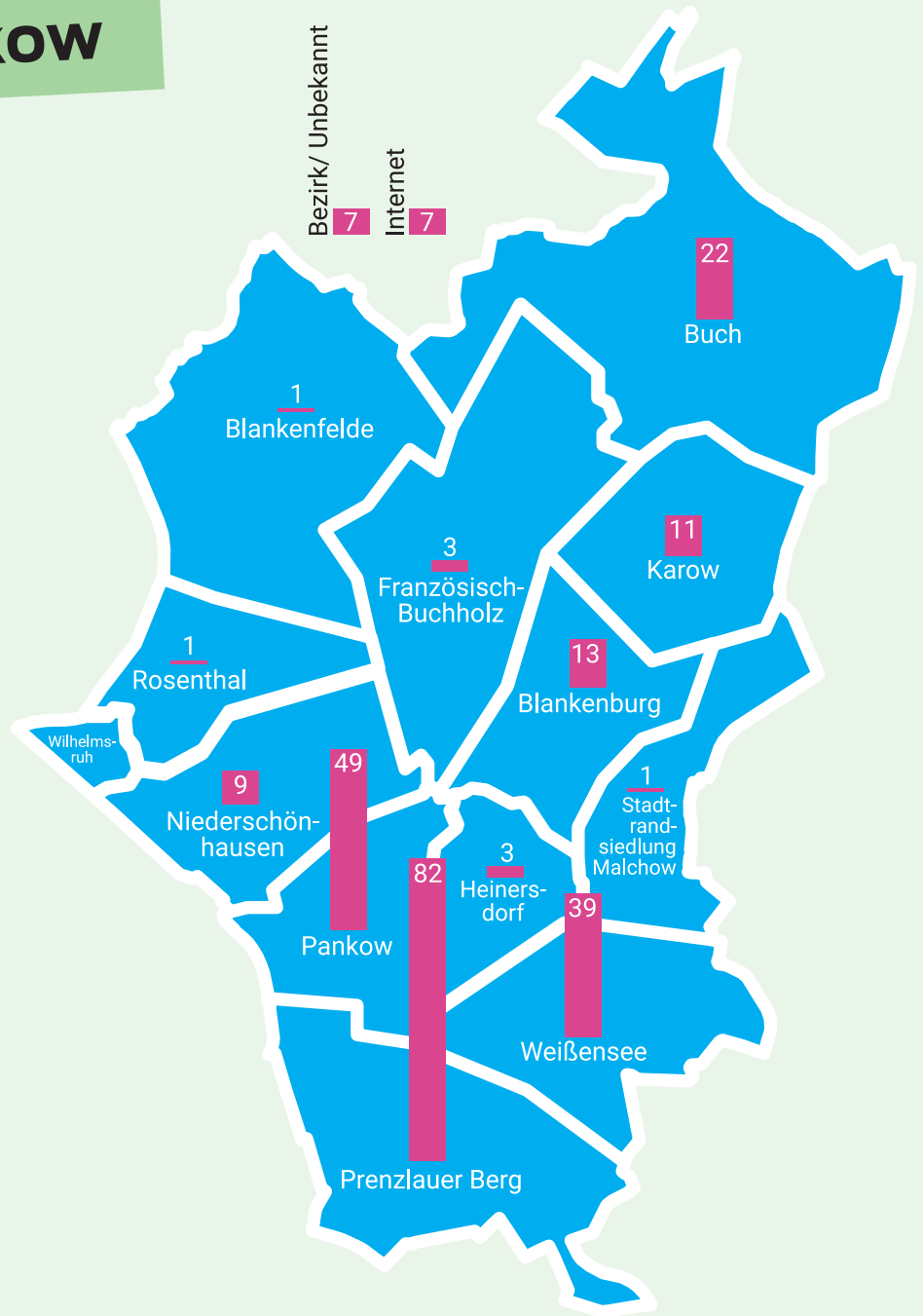
In Roseggerstr. as well as in Hertzbergstr., several home-made A4 notes were found, with confused messages directed against the current coronavirus measures. This also involved references to and trivialisation of National Socialism.

Source: Reported by a member of the public



Pankow

Pankow is currently the most populous district in Berlin with almost 410,000 inhabitants. Prenzlauer Berg is the sub-district with the highest population density in the district. It has a population of 165,000; 65,375 people live in the sub-district of Pankow and 54,750 in Weißensee. Towards the north, the district comprises another ten sub-districts and covers a relatively large area, so that on average there are 3,921 inhabitants per square kilometre in the district. The S-Bahn suburban train stations along the Ringbahn circle line (Schönhauser Allee, Greifswalder Straße, etc.), as well as the Pankow S-Bahn station, Antonplatz in Weißensee, and the underground stations along the U2 are key transfer hubs where many people cross paths.



Hakenkreuze und Parolen am sowjetischen Ehrenmal in Buch

Rassistischer Aufkleber in Blankenburg



Contact:

Pankower Register

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In 2020, a total of 248 incidents were reported for the district of Pankow. Compared to previous years, the number of reports increased slightly (2019: 236; 2018: 234). The number of attacks (35) is the highest ever recorded. Propaganda incidents rose sharply. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, people were out and about much more close to their homes, making their political opinions known in the form of stickers and spray-painting graffiti in public spaces. A large number of stickers related to the coronavirus pandemic were not included in the Register Office because their content did not fall into any of the existing categories. The stickers instead expressed hostility to science and democracy.

As well as people who sprayed graffiti or spread stickers with (far) right or discriminatory propaganda, there were also committed people who reported such incidents. A large number of reports were received from almost all sub-districts, thanks to people newly engaged in reporting incidents. It is noteworthy in this context that the number of reports in Berlin-Buch fell from the second half of the year to the lowest level for Buch in eight years. In previous years, an active right-wing scene from Buch was responsible for a high number of incidents. In 2020, such reports appeared only sporadically in the second half of the year.

Record number of attacks – racism forms the main motive

This year saw the highest number of attacks recorded since the Pankow Register Office was set up (2020: 35; 2019: 28; 2018: 24). 24 attacks were motivated by racism (2019: 19), six by animosity towards LGBTIQ* (2019: 2), three by antisemitism (2019: 5), and two were directed against political opponents (2019: 2). Most attacks occurred in May (5) and August (9). Racist and anti-LGBTIQ* attacks tend to be op-

portunistic. This means that potential perpetrators and victims must encounter one another somewhere. In 2020, this most frequently occurred in residential areas as more people were spending time there than usual. Improved reporting to the police may also explain the increase in anti-LGBTIQ* attacks documented.

The number of cases of threats, insults or abuse remained fairly constant compared to the previous year (2020: 37; 2019: 39; 2018: 50). The majority (22 incidents) had racist motivations. Antisemitism was the motive in eight incidents, glorification/trivialisation of National Socialism figured in four cases, two involved animosity towards LGBTIQ* and one instance of animosity directed at political opponents was reported. The level of incidents reported is low compared to the population density. It is assumed that a number of incidents go unrecorded here.

Structural discrimination was only introduced to all Berlin Register Offices as an incident category during the course of the year. There were five reports in this context. In September, for example, one person reported that a judge at the district court in Weißensee refused to hear submissions from a child with Down's syndrome (trisomy 21), even though the child was capable of sign-assisted communication.

Prenzlauer Berg is the focus of violent incidents – rise in neo-Nazi propaganda in central Pankow

The highest number of attacks and threats, as well as the highest number of incidents, occurred in the Prenzlauer Berg sub-district (2020: 82). A total of 17 out of 35 attacks and 20 out of 37 incidents involving threats, insults or abuse took place here. Half of all incidents were categorised as propaganda incidents. The total number has risen steadily in recent years (2020: 82; 2019: 77; 2018: 69). In the Pankow-sub-district, where the

second highest number of incidents was registered (2020: 49), the situation differs from that in Prenzlauer Berg: 39 of 49 incidents were propaganda. The number of stickers, posters and graffiti reported increased, especially in the fourth quarter. In the eastern Pankow sub-district, sticker series appeared repeatedly. This included stickers from right-wing online mail-order companies, as well as a growing number of stickers and posters of the neo-Nazi party "III Weg". Seven attacks and four threats, insults or abuse occurred in the Pankow sub-district. The total number rose compared to recent years (2020: 49; 2019: 32; 2018: 42).

Heightened (far) right propaganda in Weißensee – a steady decline in Berlin Buch

The proportion of propaganda incidents in Weißensee was similar to that in the Pankow-sub-district: a total of 28 out of 39 reports were classed as propaganda. Five attacks and three incidents involving threats, insults or abuse occurred. The total number went up slightly compared to the previous year (2020: 39; 2019: 37; 2018: 19). In Berlin-Buch, the number of incidents fell by more than half (2020: 22; 2019: 49; 2018: 42). Buch's importance as a focus of action for the organised neo-Nazi scene has dwindled. That means that for the first time in years, Berlin-Buch is no longer the sub-district with the second highest number of reports. 14 of 22 incidents took place in the first half of the year. Most incidents were propaganda. There were two attacks (2019: 3) and three incidents involving insults, threats or abuse (2019: 7). It is currently unclear whether fewer incidents actually occurred in the Berlin-Buch sub-district or whether fewer were reported. People frequently report encountering racism in everyday life there, which suggests that the incident level may be higher than recorded.

8th March 2020

An incident of antisemitic abuse occurred in the Prenzlauer Berg sub-district at around 01:15 at the intersection of Schönhauser Allee and Kastanienallee. A group of men shouted "Fucking Jews, fucking Jews". People yelled after them "Shut up, you antisemitic assholes!"

Source: Berlin Register Office

24th May 2020

In the Prenzlauer Berg sub-district, a man (35) was insulted at around 02:50 by two unknown men with anti-LGBTIQ* motivation; they poured beer on him and hit him on the head with a beer bottle.

Source: ReachOut Berlin

16th August 2020

In Prenzlauer Berg, two men were subjected to racist insults by a small group in Mauerpark at night and two dogs were subsequently set on them. One of the men affected suffered bite wounds.

Source: Lower Class Magazin, 24.08.2020

Racist stickers in Blankenburg – threats in Niederschönhausen

More incidents were reported from the sub-districts of Blankenburg and Niederschönhausen in 2020 than in recent years. In Blankenburg, for example, 13 reports were recorded, with four more incidents than in 2019. Even if the total incident number is quite low, it was striking in 2020 that some homemade stickers were spotted and increasingly appeared around the sub-district. These stickers targeted Black people with racist insults and humiliating comments. Graffiti directed at political opponents has likewise appeared. All incidents in this sub-district can be classed as propaganda.

In Niederschönhausen, growing numbers of stickers and graffiti were reported in the second half of the year, especially in the fourth quarter. In total, nine incidents were documented (2019: 2; 2018: 6). One incident was an assault and another was recorded in the ‘threats, insults or abuse’ category. The remainder involved reports of propaganda. These included various right-wing stickers, as well as swastika graffiti. There have been accounts of further racist threats and insults that have not currently been recorded by the Register Office.

Weak neo-Nazi scene throughout the district

The neo-Nazi scene in the district of Pan-

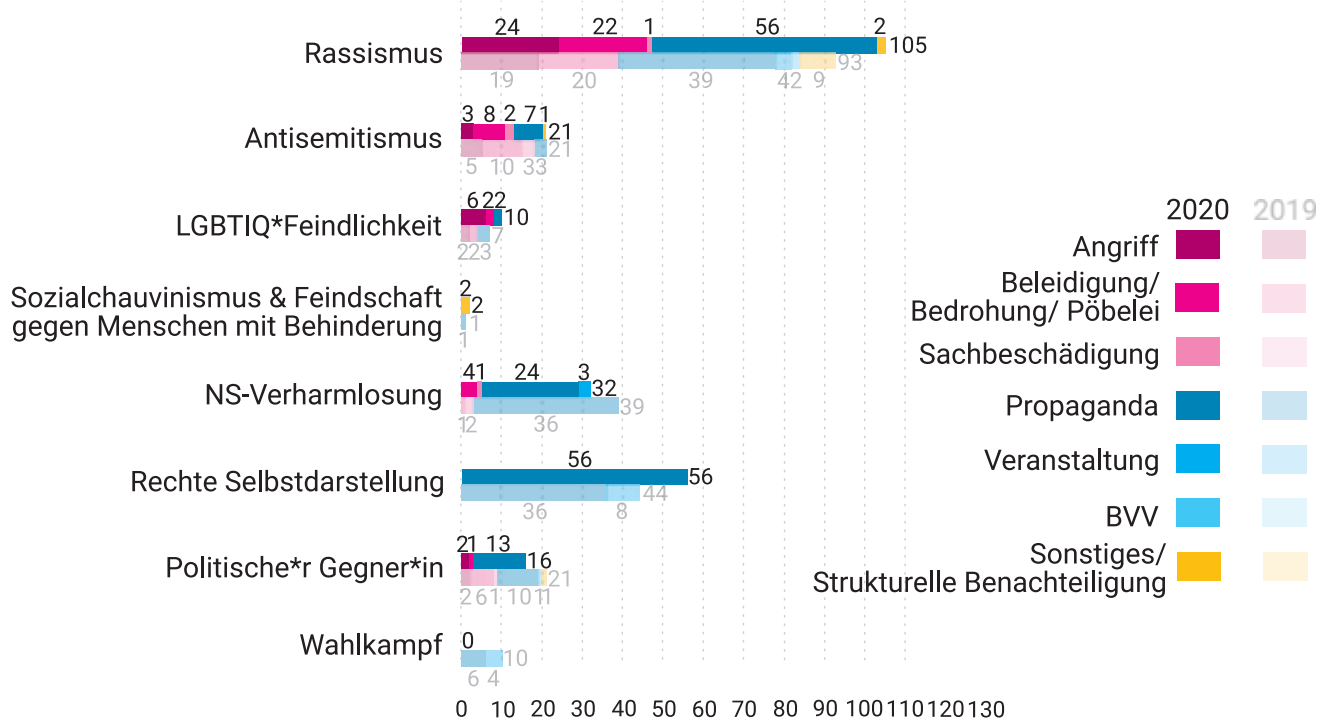
kow continue to be weak in organisational terms. The Twitter account of the neo-Nazi party NPD Pankow was blocked again in June, leading to a further drop in its political visibility. Until the summer, the NPD made its presence felt with stickers, flyers, etc., but these activities shrunk noticeably in the second half of the year. As in other districts, the NPD became increasingly inactive. Nevertheless, the party was mentioned in 50 reports (2019: 57). There were two neo-Nazi commemorative events attributable to the JN/NPD. The first took place on 8th May at the XII cemetery in Berlin-Buch. The second was on 15th November at the Schlosskirche cemetery in Buch. In addition, there was an internal meeting of the Pankow NPD and JN, as recounted by the party itself. The meeting addressed the bombing of Dresden. In right-wing and neo-Nazi circles, the anniversary of the 1945 bombing of Dresden is used to deny Germany’s central responsibility for World War II. A soccer tournament of the JN youth organisation was held on 18th July. Reports of stickers, posters, etc. of the neo-Nazi party “III. Weg” increased in the course of the year in the eastern Pankow sub-district. This party was mentioned in 21 incidents (2019: 5). The rise in “III. Weg” activities indicates that the action-oriented spectrum of the far right has joined this group.

Defamation of political education & youth education

While similar incidents did not occur in the BVV (district council), in 2020 AfD deputies in the Berlin federal state parliament (Senat) raised questions denigrating the work of bodies involved in political and youth education in Pankow. These questions were intended to deny these bodies the competence and confidence to act to promote democracy. That strategy has to date proved unsuccessful. On the contrary, the legitimacy of political and youth education was consolidated in the BVV as well as by statements from funding bodies.

Conclusion

The most populous sub-district, Prenzlauer Berg, continues to record the highest number of incidents. The elevated population density, major underground and suburban train stations, as well as active street and night life, mean that many people encounter one another in public space. In this respect, the sub-district is similar to other inner-city areas. At the same time, the sub-district of Pankow is becoming increasingly significant for neo-Nazi and right-wing propaganda, which suggests an active right-wing clientele. Incidents decreased sharply in Buch, formerly a focal point for right-wing activities.



korientation. Network for Asian German Perspectives



korientation is a (post)migrant self-organised and racism-critical network of Asian Germans' and Asians living in Germany that was founded in Berlin in 2008. The non-profit association aims to focus greater attention on and ensure greater expression of Asian Germans' diverse experiences, thus making them more aware and visible. Networking, empowerment, resource-sharing and community work are important principles in korientation's work.

Strengthening Asian Germans' cultural and political self-representation is crucial to help influence the development of a diverse German society. That is especially true as the dominant historiography does not take account of Asian people in Germany, their history/stories, and experiences of struggles and resistance. (Media) representation of Asian Germans either hardly exists or when it does exist in the media, educational material, and cultural practices is often homogenizing and shaped by colonial-racist influences; the impact of this Othering still has a negative effect today on Asian Germans' life experiences.

This misrepresentation and "invisibility" is also expressed in the way that Asian people in Germany deal with racism. That concerns both scant awareness of the historical continuities, structures, effects, and mechanisms of racism against Asian people, as well as a lack of intersectional consideration of "anti-Asian racism". Currently, "anti-Asian racism" is primarily understood as racism against South-east and East Asian people, which has expanded perceptibly since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in spring 2020. However, it is also important to understand how such racism is interconnected with e.g. anti-Muslim or anti-Black racism, as well as with other forms of

racism and discrimination experienced by Asian people in Germany. Against this backdrop, recording, documenting, and evaluating racist attacks on Asian people is an important prerequisite for nuanced understanding and to build up reliable data-based information. Initiatives like ichbinkeinvirus.org and studies such as the research project "Social Cohesion in Times of Crisis – The Coronavirus Pandemic and Anti-Asian Racism in Germany" by the Deutsches Zentrum für Integrations- und Migrationsforschung [German Centre for Integration and Migration Research] and the "Anti-Asian Racism in the Coronavirus Era" fact-sheet developed by Mediendienst Integration [Migration Media Service] make an important contribution to this. Above all, however, there is a need for long-term documentation and measures to empower Asian people to perceive their experiences of racism as constituting racism, being able to put a name to them and for social recognition of such experiences.

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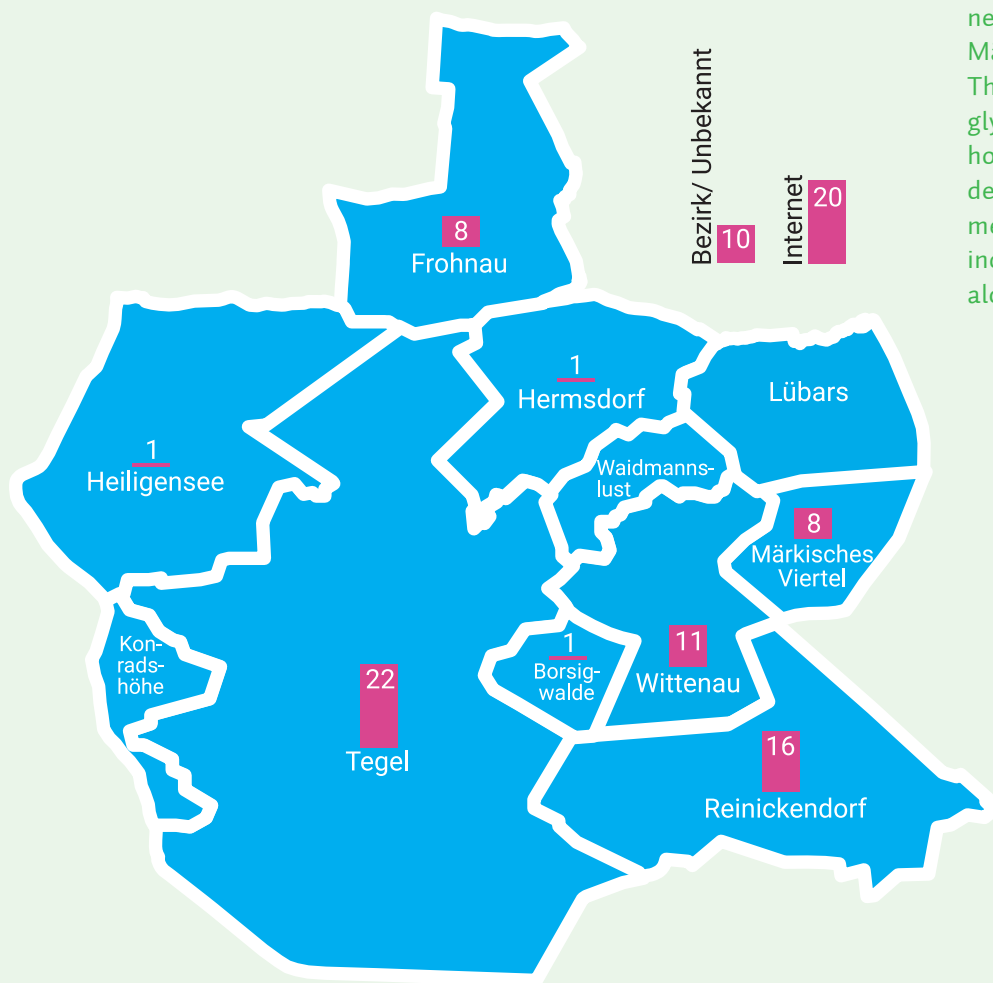
¹ We use the term Asian-German or Asian Germans to refer on the one hand to cultural constructions of identity and on the other hand to our socio-political stance in using this label.





Reinickendorf

The Reinickendorf district, with its 11 sub-districts – Reinickendorf, Borsigwalde, Wittenau, Märkisches Viertel, Lübars, Waidmannslust, Hermsdorf, Frohnau, Heiligensee, Konradshöhe and Tegel – extends from Wedding to Berlin’s northern outskirts. With a population of almost 270,000, Reinickendorf has comparatively few inhabitants, mostly concentrated in areas near the city centre and in the large Märkisches Viertel housing estate. The other sub-districts are strongly characterised by single-family housing estates. For over two decades, the district mayor was a CDU member. The district council currently includes an SPD and an AfD politician, along with various CDU councillors.



Neo-Nazi stickers removed in the district

stickers from an initiative to welcome newcomers in Reinickendorf



Contact:

Register Reinickendorf

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Lebenslagen, Vielfalt & Stadtentwicklung

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reinickendorf

Reinickendorf in lockdown

In 2020, the number of incidents recorded in Reinickendorf was similar to the figure for the previous year and had even fallen slightly (2020: 98; 2019: 107). This can be attributed to the ban excluding the NPD from Internet platforms and the limited scope to organise public events due to the pandemic. This also explains the fall in the number of incidents trivialising or glorifying National Socialism (2020: 7; 2019: 13). As in the other districts, propaganda accounts for the majority of incidents. However, the proportion of propaganda incidents has dropped compared to the previous year (2020: 36%, 2019: 44%). In contrast to other parts of the city, there is no visibly active neo-Nazi scene in Reinickendorf. Nevertheless, the Register Office received reports of far right stickers for groups such as the “Identitäre Bewegung” or the NPD’s youth organisation. A total of four swastikas and seven slogans were reported, including the abbreviation “88”, which in neo-Nazi circles stands for “Heil Hitler”, as well as slogans from the banned militant neo-Nazi organisation ‘Combat 18’. The far-right party “Der III. Weg” reacted to the coronavirus pandemic and distributed flyers in Tegel and Frohnau that made references to the coronavirus pandemic. The number of anti-LGBTIQ* incidents has increased, as in previous years (2020:10; 2019: 6; 2018: 3). The trend towards a slight rise in antisemitic incidents can again be detected (2020: 8; 2019: 6; 2018:3). However, the number of incidents in these categories remains at a comparatively low level. Over half of the reported incidents had racist motivations (2020: 58%; 2019: 55%) and there has been a marked rise in anti-Muslim racism within this category (2020: 28%; 2019: 12%). Anti-Black racism has also gone up (2020: 9%; 2019: 5%).

Twice as many attacks

It is particularly striking that the number of attacks has doubled: from 10 to 20 incidents.

15 of these attacks had racist motivations, 5 were again anti-Muslim. Evaluation of the individual incidents has revealed that they occurred on public transport, in streets, supermarkets, playgrounds or green spaces. Incidents happened at all times of the day and affected individuals, children, and mixed-gender groups. The perpetrators were predominantly, but not exclusively, male. The increased number of attacks reveals that discriminatory attitudes are firmly entrenched in the district. These attitudes affect the people targeted and lead to opportunistic acts. For some years now, right-wing populist mobilisation and rabble-rousing has been directed against refugee accommodation in Reinickendorf. Racist resentments have been fuelled under the guise of heritage protection and nature conservation concerns. Such activities help entrench group-related misanthropy in the minds of local residents, with the result that such views are held to be normal and acceptable. Due to the lockdown people did not move far from home and public life in the more central districts and neighbourhoods with a lively nightlife was not possible: incidents occurred in the areas where people spent time and encountered others, i.e. in residential areas on the city’s outskirts, which includes Reinickendorf.

Overview of the sub-districts

Most of the incidents were concentrated, as in previous years, in the sub-districts Tegel (2020:22; 2019: 22) and Reinickendorf (2020: 16;2019: 23). Wittenau recorded a decrease (2020: 11; 2019: 23). This development is due to the pandemic-related decline in public events: far right events, such as those organised by the NPD, could on the whole not be held in the usual venues. The number of incidents in Frohnau and the Märkische Viertel was virtually unchanged in 2020. In Frohnau a series of attacks involving glorification of National Socialism (incidents

of damage to property) occurred in spring when people became visibly critical of the AfD and opposed to right-wing populism. As a result, a higher number of incidents was reported here (2020: 8; 2019: 1). In the other sub-districts, as before, no incidents were recorded, or at most one, partly because the reporting structure is still weak. One incident occurred in the BVV (district council): on 12th August 2020, an AfD representative presented the Muslim headscarf as a symbol of a purported threat scenario when a proposal to ban headscarves for schoolgirls until sixth grade was discussed. Internet incidents involving extremely contemptuous attitudes tally with assumptions on entrenchment of discriminatory, far-right attitudes and a swing to a right-wing populist mood in the district. During the lockdowns, people spend an increasing amount of time on the Internet. Far-right sentiment and agitation became apparent in district-specific Facebook groups. This also occurred in the context of plans to construct modular accommodation units for refugees at Paracelsusbad. A Reinickendorf AfD member of Berlin’s House of Representatives spread racist tweets several times a month.

Relativisation of National Socialism with reference to the COVID-19 pandemic

In the digital realm, a number of incidents relativising National Socialism occurred in the context of criticism directed at measures to contain coronavirus. In a Telegram group in which people from the district exchanged views and organised protests against coronavirus measures, content from far-right Telegram channels was circulated in December and antisemitic conspiracy narratives were disseminated as text and voice messages and videos. Multiple messages in this context equated coronavirus-related restrictions with the National Socialists’ crimes. Such comparisons relativise such National Socialist crimes, while also trivi-

5th August 2020

A group of five teenagers aged 16, 17 and 21 were subjected to racist insults at around 20.45 at Frohnau S-Bahn station by two unknown perpetrators. Two teenagers were attacked with a wrench.
Source: ReachOut

18th August 2020

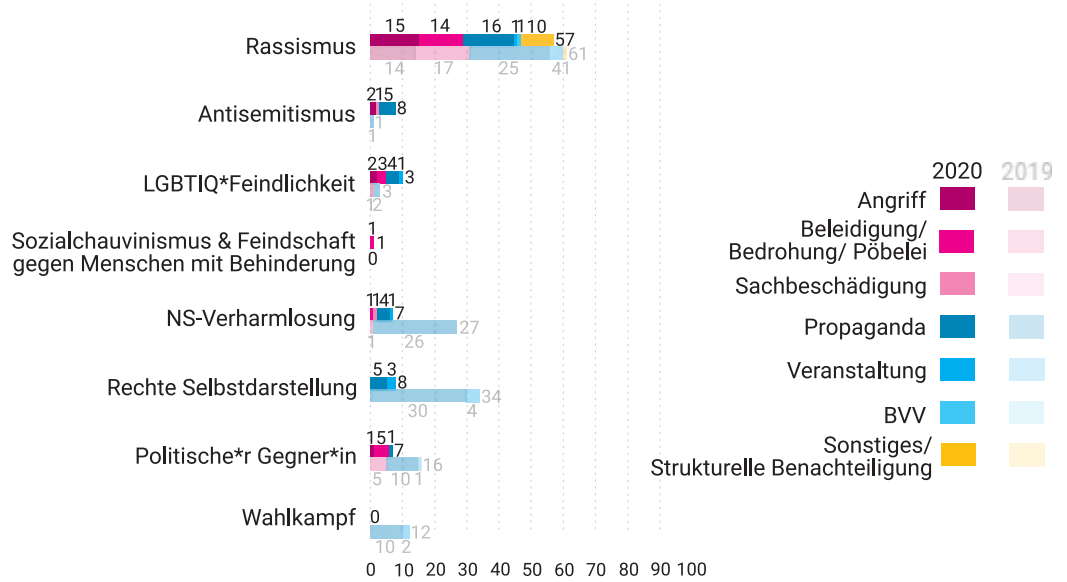
At approximately 14:10, a 24-year-old man was subjected to anti-LGBTIQ* insults, kicked in the legs and punched from behind by a group of 6 unidentified strangers on Senftenberger Ring.
Source: ReachOut

13th January 2020

A second-grade student was subjected to anti-Muslim insults by the class teacher. This included statements by the teacher alleging that “Turkish and Arabic people” are “all mafiosi” and that “their children are all badly brought up”.
Source: ADAS – Anlaufstelle für Diskriminierungsschutz an Schulen
[Contact point for protection against discrimination at school]

Reinickendorf

alising and normalising National Socialist ideology. As in other parts of the city, these “opinion bubbles” mix right-wing populist criticism of government decisions and set pieces of far-right ideologies, while also incorporating antisemitic conspiracy narratives. A relatively low number of incidents is reported in the district of Reinickendorf in comparison with other districts. That should not however obscure the fact that the extreme (New) Right is also established here and can reach broad sections of the population with its ideologies.



Cooperation partners

Centre for Intersectional Diversity Yekmal e. V.



Yekmal e. V. was founded in 1993 by Kurdish parents, teachers and educators as a non-profit association with the aim of promoting participation and education, primarily for families with a history of migration and flight, as well as for families with Kurdish roots.

Need for intersectional anti-discrimination work at Yekmal e. V.

Almost every day, clients, visitors and people seeking advice from Yekmal recount their experiences related to discrimination and racism. Much of this is related to public-sector agencies and authorities, schools, day-care centres and other educational institutions, health care facilities but these experiences also involve social and private-sector organisations such as family centres, etc.

The 2018 study “Kurds in Berlin” on Yekmal’s website provides direct insights into the contexts in which Kurds often encounter discrimination.

Yekmal e. V. is in the process of installing a monitoring procedure to record intersectional discrimination, based on the experiences of Yekmal’s target groups in the context of the organisation’s social work, along with our ongoing commitment to participation and equal opportunities for People of Colour, migrants and marginalised groups.

The Centre for Intersectional Diversity’s goals

The Centre for Intersectional Diversity’s remit to make simultaneous, overlapping forms and incidents of discrimination and racism more visible, to support those affected and to call for social and political equality. There are still too few instruments to shed light on this grey area of discrimination and racism and to protect people from discrimi-

ination. This is where the project “Monitoring and Evaluation of Intersectional Discrimination” comes in: We wish to encourage those affected to bring their experiences out of this grey area and into social discourse, so that empowering strategies and ways to ensure protection against discrimination can be developed together. Our slogan in this context is: record intersectional discrimination, make it more visible, promote participation.

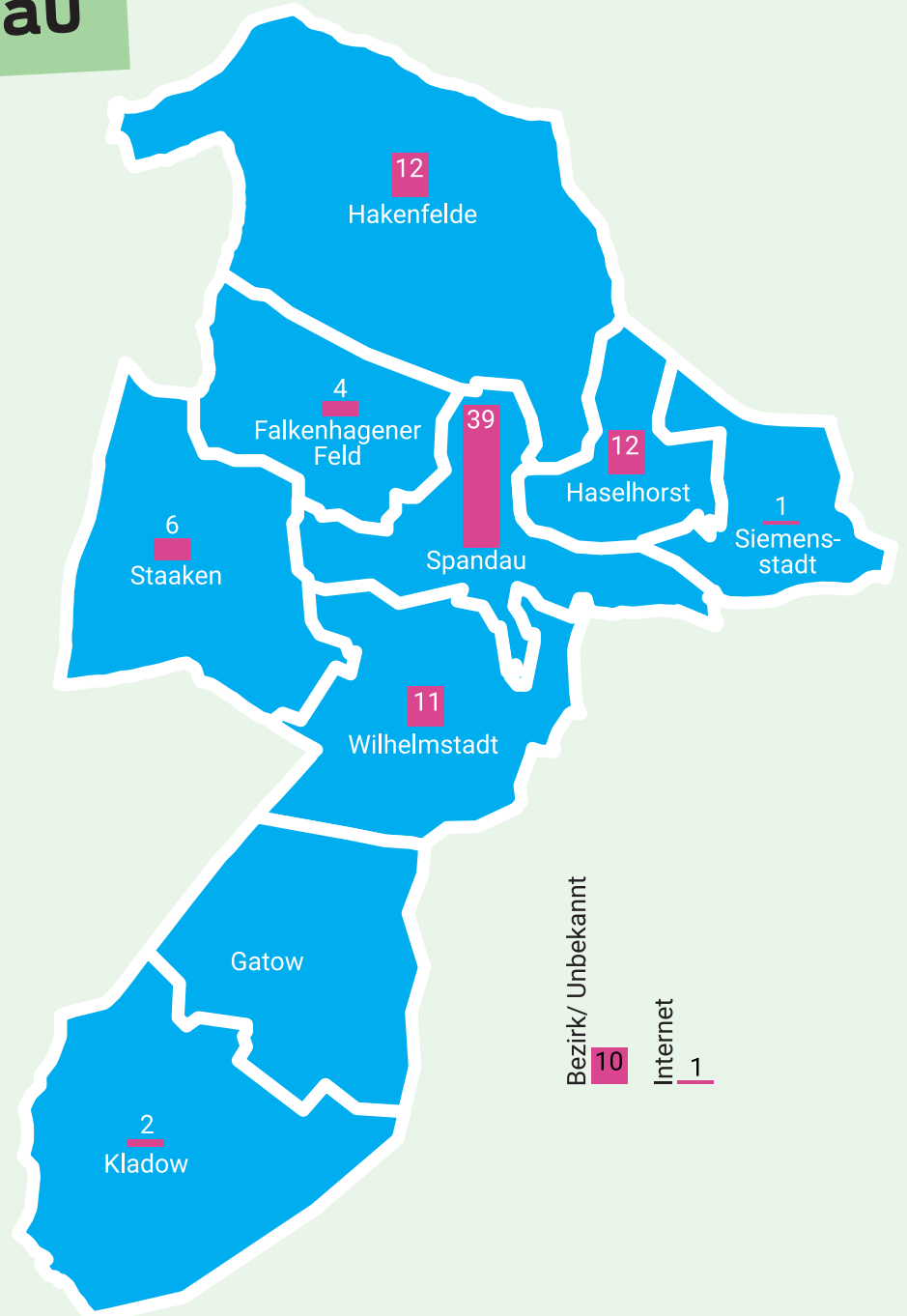
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Spandau

The district of Spandau is located in the western outskirts of Berlin and has just under 250,000 inhabitants. The sub-district with the same name forms the “centre” of the district and is connected via the underground line 7, suburban train (S-Bahn) and regional train to Berlin’s inner-city districts. The public administration is based in this sub-district, which is also where district council meetings are held – numerous public-sector bodies such as Job Centres and social welfare offices are located in this sub-district. Berlin’s largest pedestrian zone, encompassing two streets, the market square and town hall square, offers many shopping opportunities, as well as event venues and meeting places. In addition to the tranquil old town, the district also includes sub-districts like Staaken or Falkenhagener Feld, primarily defined by high-rise housing estates, and areas such as Kladow, where single-family homes and green spaces predominate.



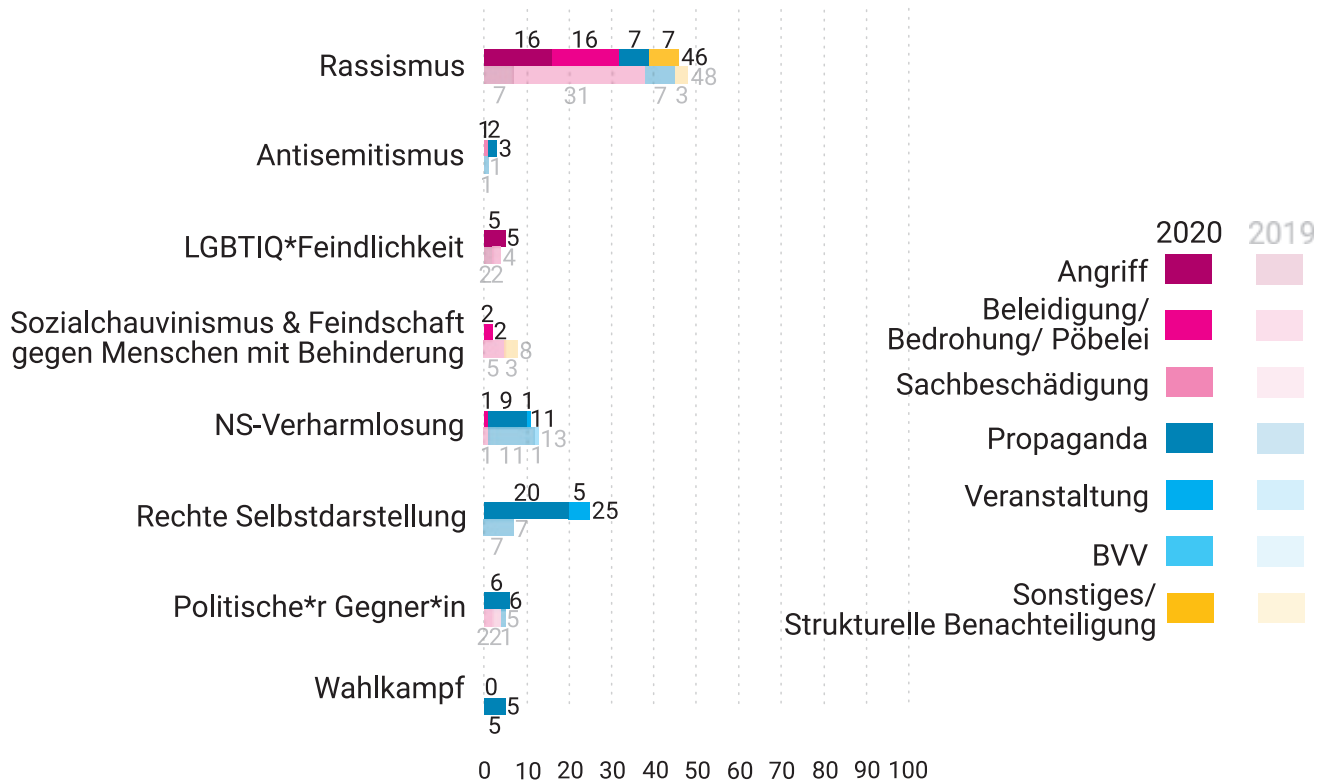
Swastika in Wröhmännerpark

“III. Weg” sticker at the Klimawerkstatt (climate workshop)



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Summary of data

In 2020, 98 incidents were documented for Spandau (2019: 95), representing 3 per cent of all incidents recorded throughout Berlin (2020: 3,822). Propaganda (44 reports) is the most frequent incident category in Spandau (45 %). Compared to 2019, the number of propaganda incidents increased by 10 per cent, while right-wing grandstanding, which is frequent in this district, also rose from 20 to 45 per cent. The 21 attacks reported in 2020, constituted the highest number since documentation began (2014). In 2020, attacks, which made up 20 per cent of all incidents, were the second most common incident category (2019: 9). The previous record in this category was from 2016 when

13 attacks (26 %) were reported, related to racist mobilisations in response to the many refugees moving to Berlin. In 2020, attacks happened close to home and where people spend time as part of their everyday routines. Reports of incidents involving threats/insults/abuse – still the most common incident category in 2019 – fell sharply (2020: 19; 2019: 45). This seems to be because such incidents are mostly reported in advisory situations. Measures introduced in response to coronavirus have led to fewer and shorter consultations. As in previous years, most of the incidents are motivated by racism (2020:46, equivalent to 47%), with 17% involving anti-Muslim racism (2019: 6%). While racism is the main motive in the case

of attacks and incidents involving threats/insults/abuse, the propaganda incidents reported primarily related to right-wing grandstanding (25 %) and trivialisation or glorification of National Socialism (9 %). The highest number of incidents (39) were again recorded for the sub-district Spandau (which has the same name as the overall district), while the remaining incidents occurred in the sub-districts Haselhorst (12), Hakenfelde (12), Wilhelmstadt (11), Staaken (6), Falkenhagener Feld (4), Kladow (2) and Siemensstadt (1). For the first time eight of the nine sub-districts in Spandau reported incidents. In ten incidents, the sub-district was not known or the incidents took place on the Internet.

Examples of incidents

28th November 2020

In the centre of Kladow, the local Spandau group of the “Eltern-stehen-auf” citizens’ initiative organised an event opposing the coronavirus containment measures including the requirement to wear a face-mask. About 10 people participated. A poster facing the pavement presented images and text comparing the pandemic restrictions with concentration camps and mass graves during the Nazi dictatorship. More than 100 counter-demonstrators on the spot protested loudly. Source: Spandau Register Office

28th August 2020

A Muslim woman was subjected to anti-Islam insults in the presence of her 4-year-old son by a man on the X36 bus. In addition, the man mocked her headscarf. She commented later that she thought she did not know enough German to defend herself. None of the passengers on the bus showed moral courage. Source: INSSAN e.V.

27th August 2020

Flyers and a postcard promoting the neo-Nazi micro-party “Der III. Weg” were

found in the (publicly accessible) mailbox of the Integrationslotsen [integration guides] at GIZ gGmbH in Mönchstraße. The postcard presented a call to join a demonstration organised by the party on 3.10., the flyers, with the slogans “Tougher penalties for child molesters” and “Childlessness leads to the death of the nation” disseminated racist, völkisch [ethnic-nationalist – a term with a Nazi taint in German] and anti-feminist views. Source: Gesellschaft für Interkulturelles Zusammenleben (GIZ gGmbH) (Society for Intercultural Coexistence)

Most frequent incident category: propaganda

The party “Der III Weg” was more active in 2020; 44 incidents were classed in the propaganda category, i.e. flyers, stickers or spray-painted messages of the far right (45%). The bulk of this was propaganda (flyers and stickers) from the neo-Nazi micro-party “Der III. Weg” (12 out of 20 incidents). Relatively few public events were reported (2020: 4) in Spandau and they always involved the same protagonists, while stickers and flyers in the Spandau sub-district were distributed mainly by a party activist. In this context, projects whose mission statement contradicts the political goals of the „III. Weg“ were targeted in the party’s messaging: the Klimawerkstatt [climate workshop], Integrationslotsen [integration teams] office, Green Party office. In the first lockdown, there was almost no-one out on the streets in the morning and evening. During this time, NPD stickers appeared all over the Wröhmännerpark and in the adjacent streets, while swastikas and Nazi runes were sprayed on the adjacent children’s playground. Overall, however, the figure for propaganda with content that trivialises or glorifies National Socialism (9 %) was slightly lower than the Berlin-wide trend (2019: 11 %).

Biggest decrease: threats/ insults/ abuse

Incidents involving threats/insults/abuse – in previous years always the most frequent or second most frequent incident category – fell in 2020 from 46 to 19 incidents. Due to limited opening hours and the switch to telephone consultation, only small windows of opportunity were available at contact points and other network partners. That limited scope to build trust in conversations with clients. As a result, there were fewer opportunities to talk about experiences of discrimination. A larger number of unreported

incidents must be assumed in this incident category.

Largest increase: attacks

The initially most alarming change compared with previous years was that 2020 saw the highest number of attacks ever recorded (2020: 21; 2019: 9) in the district. A decrease was expected, analogously to the threat/insult/abuse incident category, due to reduced mobility in public space. Attacks in 2020, 2019, and 2016, the year that previously had the highest number of attacks reported, were compared for the analysis.

A typical attack in 2020 was the attack at a supermarket in Wilhelmstadt in July, in which a 70-year-old man was subjected to racist insults and beaten. Most attacks (16) were motivated by racism, with four attacks involving anti-Muslim racism and one attack involving anti-Black racism. While anti-Muslim attacks mainly affected women, anti-LGBTIQ* attacks (5) were directed exclusively against men or people read as men. All anti-LGBTIQ* incidents reported in 2020 were attacks. Other incidents were not reported. This is certainly due to the lack of advisory services and networking on offer for LGBTIQ* people in the district. Those affected are more likely to mention attacks and report other incidents in personal conversations or a advisory context.

The most noticeable change was in the times and locations where attacks happened. In 2020 there were more attacks in the afternoon and at night. Incidents predominantly occurred in people’s immediate residential environment or supermarkets and car parks and not – as is usually the case – in stations at public transport hubs or at bus stops there.

Comparing the figures on attacks with other districts reveals that the number of attacks fell in central districts of Berlin in

2020, while those in the outlying districts of Spandau and Reinickendorf increased by at least 50%. Factoring in this development, as well as changes in where and when such attacks occurred in Spandau, the increased number of attacks seems to be due to people who live in Spandau being forced to stay close to home all day due to the pandemic. As a result, more people crowded into public space, e.g. in parks, playgrounds, shopping and walking. That made it more likely that potential perpetrators and those that they target were more likely to cross each other’s paths.

Public events in Spandau: new structures

Interestingly, an “Eltern-stehenauf” [Parents Stand Up] group was founded in Kladow. They shared “Querdenker” content, displayed their affinity to right-wing populist positions at their rally, and tolerated material that trivialised or relativised National Socialism. Their first rally on 28th November was accompanied by a much larger counter-protest, which was mainly organised by people from Kladow and politically active people from the entire district. The members of the “Eltern-stehenauf” group come predominantly from middle-class Kladow, where they are very active and well connected. In response to the rally and the Sunday “vigils” in the centre of Kladow, a new initiative against right-wing politics was established in this previously relatively inactive sub-district and contact points for the Spandau Register Office were established.

3rd August 2020

On the playground in Münsinger Park, a Black woman’s child was drawing in the sandbox. Another child came along and started to destroy the picture. When the Black mother asked the child to stop, the mother of the second child immediately subjected her to racist insults and hit her. The police were called and charges were filed. There were numerous witnesses to the incident.

Source: Mitte Register Office

11th July 2020

Two men aged 29 and 30 were physically assaulted by a 41-year-old man on Burscheider Weg in Haselhorst at around 01:30 in a repeat attack with anti-LGBTIQ* motivation. The attack was reported to the police.

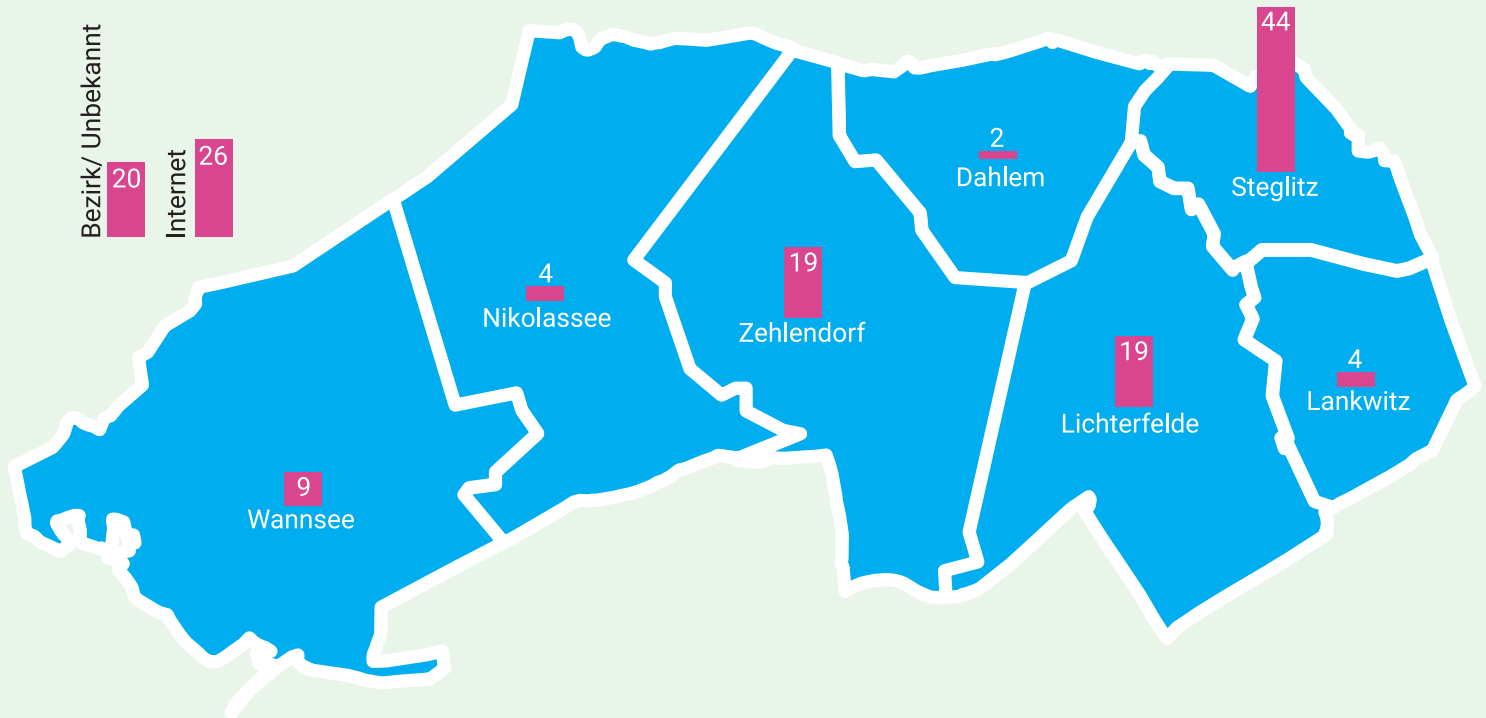
Source: ReachOut



Steglitz-Zehlendorf

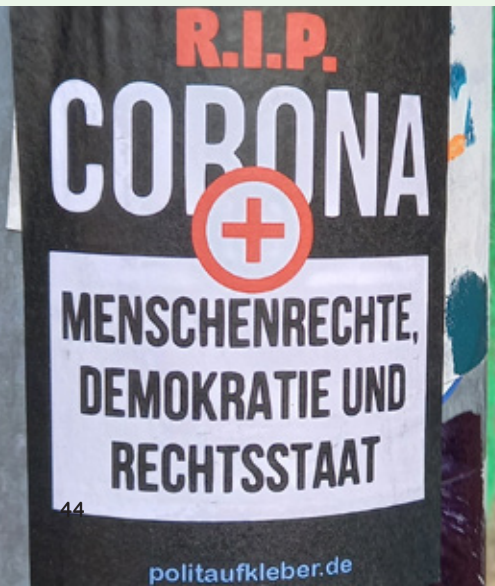
Located in the southwest of Berlin, the district of Steglitz-Zehlendorf has a good 310,000 inhabitants. In addition to detached houses and villas in Wannsee, Schlachtensee or Nikolassee and the academic centre in Dahlem, there are also very heterogeneous districts in Zehlendorf and Lichterfelde, as well as Steglitz and Lankwitz, which are closer to the city

centre. The district extends over a large area. For about four decades, the mayor in Steglitz and Zehlendorf has been from the CDU, which currently forms a coalition with the Greens there. In addition to the CDU (17) and the Greens (11), the SPD (13), die Linke (3), the FDP (5) and the AfD (6) are also represented in the district council.



Far right sticker against measures to contain the coronavirus pandemic

symbol of the "Identitäre Bewegung" [Identitarian Movement].



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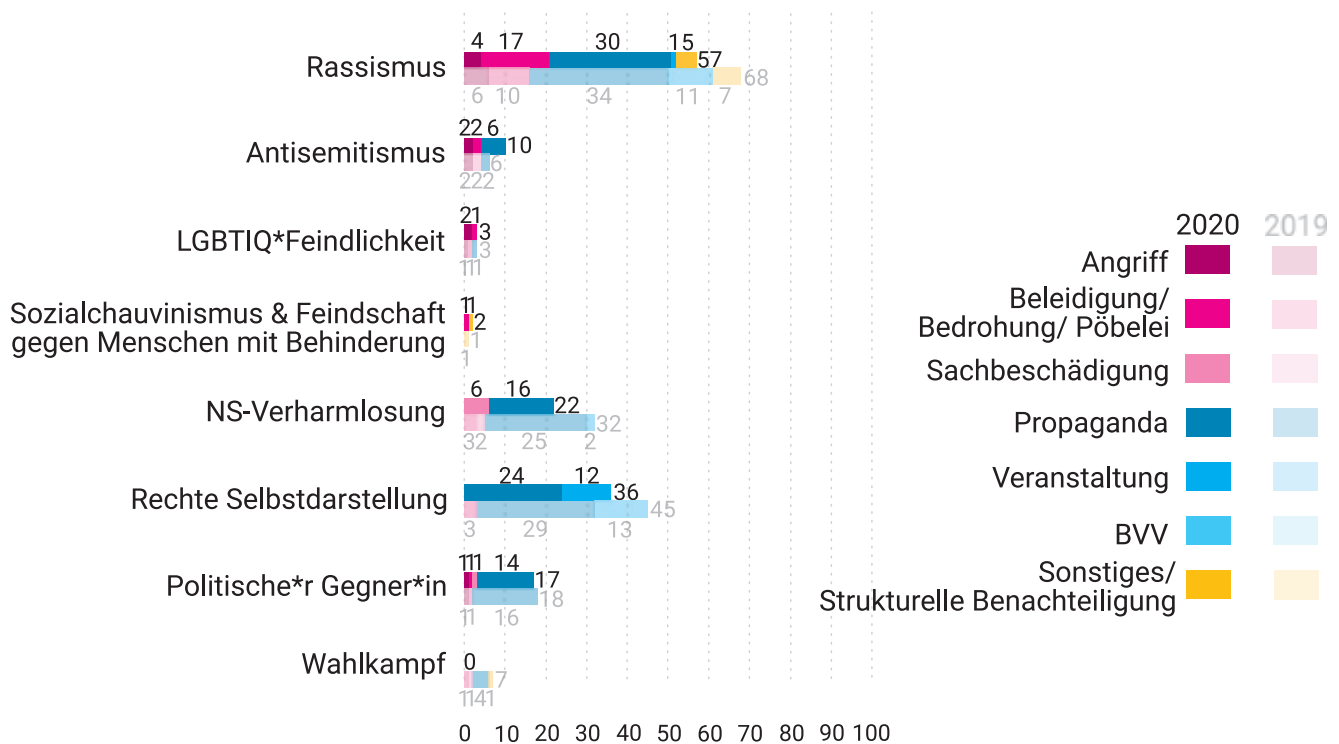
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Twitter: [@RegisterBSZ](https://twitter.com/RegisterBSZ)

In 2020, the Register Office documented 147 incidents in Steglitz-Zehlendorf that had been researched and reported. Of these, 90 fell into the propaganda category, 22 were cases of threats/insults/abuse, 13 concerned events, nine related to attacks, seven involved damage to property and six related to structural discrimination. This means that incidents in the category “threats/ insults/ abuse” have displaced the “events” category (2019: 26) from 2nd place in the numerical ranking. A higher number of cases of threats/insults/abuse was only recorded in 2018 (2018: 25). While the lower number of public events can be attributed to the lockdown conditions, it is at the same time more difficult to explain why the number of incidents involving verbal and physical violence has stagnated. In Steglitz-Zehlendorf, these are usually opportunistic offences. If such

opportunities do not arise, for example, because the victims and potential perpetrators spend more time at home, it would seem reasonable to assume that the number of incidents in this category would also decrease. The figures recorded are still high, mainly due to notification by network partners such as the Inssan advisory centre of cases that have emerged during advice sessions. It is also noticeable that the majority of these cases occurred in the summer months, when there were fewer contact restrictions due to the pandemic. There are likewise a higher number of incidents reported in the immediate vicinity of the homes of those affected, largely because more people than usual were spending time in residential areas. In addition, dog excrement was spread on the doormat of a Syrian family in a block of flats.

Major developments

In terms of motives, it is noticeable that most of the violent incidents reported were motivated by racism or antisemitism. Thus, 40 % of the antisemitic incidents in 2020 involved violence (two attacks, two threats, six cases of propaganda, ten in total). Overall, 57 incidents motivated by racism were reported. 15 of these were directed against Muslims or people read as Muslims. In addition, there were two incidents directed against Black people and 40 incidents that were racist but not aimed at a specific group. Incidents that trivialised National Socialism (22) mainly concerned graffiti and damage to property. One case of animosity towards disabled people was reported. In addition, there were 17 incidents directed against political opponents and 36 incidents of right-wing grandstan-



Examples of incidents

19th December 2020

At around 20:35, a 17-year-old youth with anti-LGBTIQ* motivation insulted a 34-year-old man in Breisgauer Straße, attacked him from behind and punched him in the face.

Source: ReachOut Berlin

5th August 2020

In a doctor’s office in Steglitz, a Muslim woman was discriminated against because of her “headscarf” and dero-

gatory remarks were made about her. Furthermore, racist stereotypes were expressed and she was given the finger. Source: Inssan

2nd July 2020

A sticker with the slogan “No asylum” was found outside refugee accommodation in Nikolassee and removed.

Source: Reported by a member of the public

2nd April 2020

The NPD distributed flyers with extreme right-wing and racist content in letterboxes in Lichterfelde Ost.

Source: Reported by a member of the public, Steglitz-Zehlendorf Register Office

ding. Propaganda that emerged in the context of the coronavirus pandemic was reported. This was only recorded if it fed into antisemitic conspiracy narratives or was spread by the extreme right. The general circumstances of the pandemic caused a shift from face-to-face events to digital formats. That led to an increase in the proportion of online incidents (2020: 26; 2019: 17). The pronounced decrease in incidents in neighbourhoods with shopping streets and transport intersections that were previously hotspots is a further consequence of the pandemic. For example, there were 44 incidents in Steglitz (2019: 59) and 19 in Zehlendorf (2019:39). In March and October in particular, the number of incidents briefly dropped dramatically as restrictions on contacts and on leaving one's home had come into force.

Glorification of National Socialism: New developments in the West?

Steglitz-Zehlendorf is not usually associated with extreme right-wing groups or their ideas. Even trivialisation of National Socialism or swastika graffiti seem rather unusu-

al here. If such incidents do occur, they do not attract much attention as they are only perceived as isolated incidents. Historically, however, there is a strong connection to National Socialist crimes. The mass extermination of European Jews was planned in the House of the Wannsee Conference. Even today, the building is a site of remembrance and education, making it a target of right-wing incidents. On 1st August 2020, for example, there was an incident in which antisemitic posters were distributed on the grounds of the memorial and educational site.

Memorial sites and especially plaques have gradually been introduced in the district. Incidents involving trivialisation of National Socialism have increased each year (with the exception of 2020) since the Register Office began recording in 2016 and incidents involving such motivation number among the top 3 most frequently reported incident categories for the third year in a row. In 2020, there were 22 incidents. Damage to property in particular largely involves incidents of glorification of National Socialism. Last year, for example, there

was an upsurge in the number of swastikas and SS runes found on memorial plaques, but public and private property was not spared either. Antisemitism as a motive is closely linked to trivialisation of National Socialism. In particular, acts of violence or propaganda in connection with conspiracy narratives have antisemitic motivations or connotations. Some of the conspiracy narratives associated with the coronavirus pandemic, for example, can be linked to older antisemitic ideas, such as the allegation that Jews are responsible for human suffering and secretly rule the world. Jewish personalities such as the multi-billionaire George Soros are repeatedly mentioned in antisemitic propaganda. There were also references to him in the district in 2020. Likewise, there were references to Bill Gates, insinuating that he had invented the coronavirus pandemic to serve his economic interests.

Recognising racism as a problem

The most pressing problem in the district is racism in everyday life: racism remained the main motive in 2020 too. Physical

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and verbal acts of violence are mostly motivated by racism in Steglitz-Zehlendorf, while it also formed the background to 30 of the 90 propaganda incidents. Overall, one third of all incidents are motivated by racism (57). In the case of verbal violence, Muslim women were affected particularly frequently in public spaces last year. In addition, some incidents were also reported by educational institutions. It must be assumed that the cases reported are only the tip of the iceberg, as they were assessed by those affected as being so serious that they should be documented. Conversations with those affected show that many do not recount their experiences and that many incidents go unreported.

There is no protection against racism in everyday life. It affects people everywhere, on the train, while shopping, at school, in the hall of their block of flats, at university or at work. Discrimination at school or at work in particular is often difficult to prove and frequently occurs as such an everyday experience that it is not reported, yet it is very stressful for those affected and their relatives. However, there is little assistance on offer in the district such as advice centres to support those affected or continuous, sustainable, discrimination-sensitive educational projects or the like. That means it is only possible to make assumptions about the extent to which those affected feel taken seriously and about the extent of awareness among the general public concerning racism in everyday life.

More unreported incidents further from the city centre?

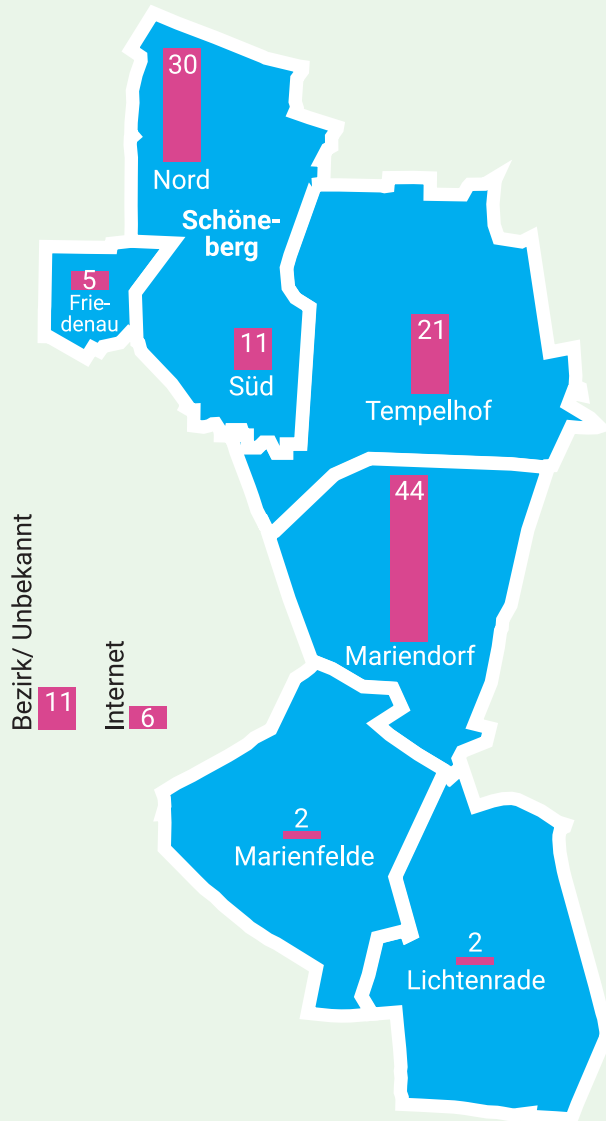
Steglitz-Zehlendorf is not a nightlife or tourist hotspot, even without the pandemic. The number of incidents reported is therefore not only lower because of supposedly weaker extreme right-wing structures, but also because fewer chance encounters occur. That should not be confused with a sense of security that might create the impression that nothing happens. In this district characterised by housing estates

and the university, discrimination occurs in the immediate surroundings of people's homes, at school or at work. These are particularly sensitive areas as those reporting fear direct consequences, for example, if they draw public attention to structural discrimination in the form of racist bullying in the workplace.

The number of incidents reported declines the further from the centre a district is located. On the one hand, fewer incidents occur in sparsely populated areas, while on the other hand, there also need to be people around to report incidents. Last year only nine incidents were reported in Wannsee, four in Nikolassee and two in Dahlem. The low number of reports may also be due to a less diverse population, while right-wing structures may operate covertly. For example, for many years organisations such as the "Vereinigung Deutscher Völker und Stämme" ("Association of German Peoples and Tribes") used Lichterfelde undetected as a safe haven. The same applies to right-wing student fraternities. In 2020, there were activities in the district directly attributable to the "Identitarian Movement" (11) or the NPD and its supporters. The latter organised a banned "anti-coronavirus party" [protesting against measures introduced to curb the pandemic] (incident of 18.12.20) in Alt-Lankwitz. Likewise, public events organised by Andreas Wild (non-aligned, elected to the House of Representatives via the AfD list) attracted diverse groups, both from outside the district and from various political backgrounds, inter alia through participation in demonstrations protesting against measures to contain the coronavirus pandemic. As well as the spectrum of those organised in political groupings, it seems fair to assume that a larger group of unaffiliated perpetrators exists. Some are opportunistic offenders who, for example, obtain stickers from an extreme right-wing mail order business. While some only distribute stickers, others seek confrontation and insult other people. The situation in the district is also reflected

in incidents that go unreported due to a lack of focus on particular issues. There are no larger non-Christian religious communities based in the district nor are there any centres or advice services, for example for LGBTIQ*. If these kinds of organisation were available, that would likely also mean that they would be used and that public life in the district would become more diverse. If such structures are not available, the communities affected are also less visible. The racist incidents documented (57) reflect the strong support scene working with refugees through the Willkommensbündnis (Welcome Alliance). The low number of documented incidents of LGBTIQ* hostility (3) reflects the dearth of services for queer people in the district. Many incidents are reported to the Register Offices through Berlin-wide advice centres and community-specific documentation centres such as RIAS, EOTO, ReachOut, Inssan or Amaro-Foro. Over and above documenting incidents, they also provide advisory services. The cases reported are thus mostly incidents that are seen as particularly drastic for those affected, such as attacks or insults. To date, the many cases of low-level hostilities are therefore not documented. Steglitz-Zehlendorf was the last district to open a Register Office but that does not mean that fewer people are affected by incidents there. It is rather the case that incidents are not taken as seriously in Steglitz-Zehlendorf as in other districts. Nevertheless, every attack and every insult is one too many. More long-term investment is needed to develop structures dedicated to anti-discrimination and political education. Looking at other districts demonstrates how this can be achieved.

Tempelhof-Schöneberg



Tempelhof-Schöneberg is Berlin's third largest district in population terms, with just under 350,000 residents. The seven neighbourhoods in the district (Schöneberg-Nord, Schöneberg-Süd, Friedenau, Tempelhof, Mariendorf, Marienfelde, Lichtenrade) have very different structures ranging from Wittenbergplatz in Schöneberg with its metropolitan flair to the Regenbogenkiez neighbourhood around Nollendorfplatz and the urban villas in Friedenau, not to mention village-style structures such as the old village centre in Marienfelde, as well as high-rise housing estates on the outskirts in Lichtenrade. That means that the network structures and contexts for recording incidents are very different, as is reflected in the number of reports from the various parts of the district.

Swastikas and racist anti-Muslim slogans at bus stops



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A total of 133 incidents were recorded in Tempelhof-Schöneberg in 2020. Compared to previous years, the total number rose slightly (2019: 126 incidents; 2018: 93 incidents; 2017: 100 incidents). Compared with Berlin as a whole, there are relatively few documented incidents in Tempelhof-Schöneberg. Spandau and Reinickendorf report the lowest figures, each with 98 incidents documented, while the Mitte district reports the highest figure, with 609 incidents. Civil society in Tempelhof-Schöneberg is politically aware, with many engaged projects based in the district and eleven contact points in various neighbourhoods, yet the low number

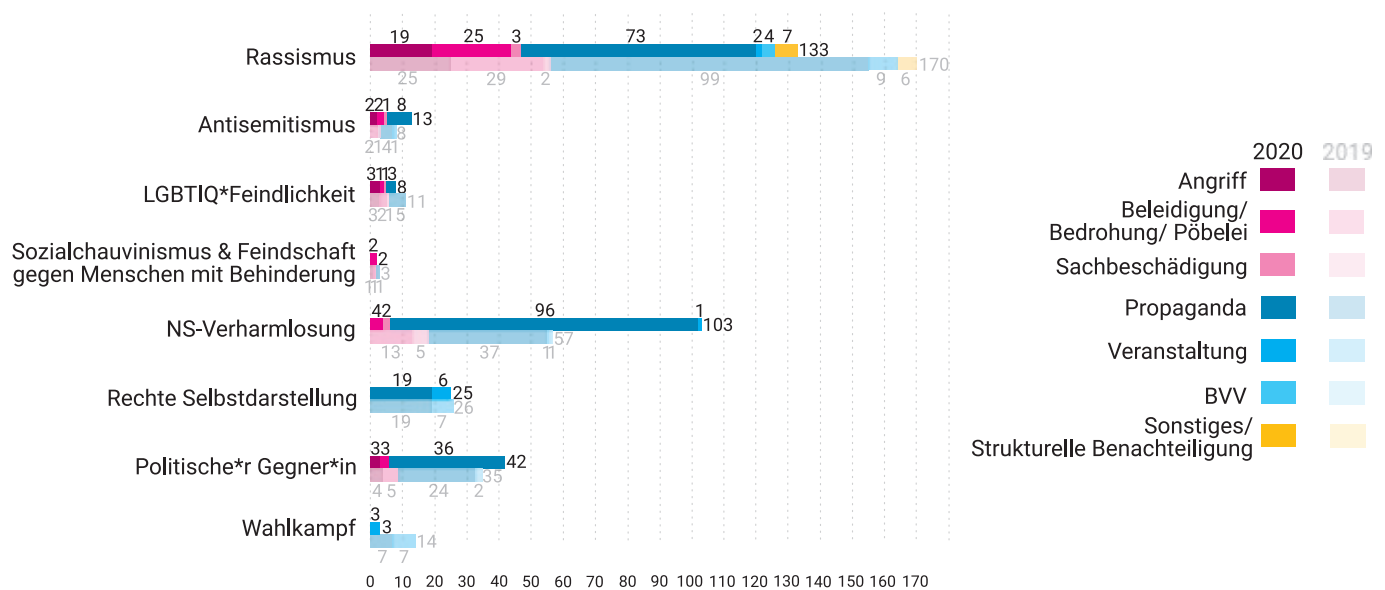
of incidents reported suggests that a number of incidents are not reported. Looking at those incidents that are reported, however, offers a snapshot for 2020 that differs from the previous year.

The most noticeable changes compared to 2019 are:

- 1.) a decline in anti-LGBTIQ* attacks in Schöneberg Nord (2020: 6; 2019: 14),
- 2.) a rise in incidents involving racist insults and threats (2020: 20; 2019: 7) while the number of racist attacks remained the same (11 in both 2020 and 2019 both 11), and
- 3.) an increase in incidents involving damage to property

motivated by antisemitism (2020: 9; 2019: 1).

The year 2020 was coloured by the coronavirus pandemic. That had an impact in the Tempelhof-Schöneberg district, as in other districts. As pubs, clubs, bars and cultural venues were closed, fewer people were out and about in the city's nightlife districts, meaning too that fewer people were insulted or beaten up there. In 2020, incidents occurred in other locations instead, such as supermarkets and supermarket car parks, public green spaces and in run-of-the-mill residential areas. The number of attacks in the district thus decreased si-



Examples of incidents

8th December 2020

At around 19:15, a 25-year-old security guard at a supermarket on Nollendorfplatz was racially insulted and spat at by a 55-year-old female customer who was not wearing a mask to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Source: Berlin Police, 19.12.2020

5th November 2020

On 5th November 2020, a Twitter user made an antisemitic and threatening statement: "A Jew wearing a kippah would hardly get 50 metres at the station in Cologne without...". Accompanying this tweet, the user uploaded a photo of supposedly Jewish dolls being hung up. The tweet was directed against a concert by the Tempelhof-Schöneberg Protestant Church District.

Source: Evangelical Church District Tempelhof-Schöneberg

6th October 2020

At around 0:30 a.m., a tow hook from a car with four people in it was thrown at a 41-year-old transperson on the corner of Bülowstraße and Frobenstraße. A paving

stone was also thrown at the transperson and hit them in the back.

Source: ReachOut Berlin, Berlin Police, 16.10.2020 queer.de

18th September 2020

Racist graffiti – "Ausländer Raus" (Foreigners out) and "AfD" was found at the Rixdorfer Straße/ Britzer Straße bus stop (where the bus route heads to Kielinger Straße).

Source: Berlin Register Office



gnificantly (2020: 21; 2019: 32). In the Schöneberg Nord neighbourhood alone, 10 fewer anti-LGBTIQ* attacks were recorded than in the previous year (2020: 6; 2019: 16). While transsexual sex workers were still frequently attacked in this district in 2019, they were unable to pursue their professional activities during the pandemic and therefore experienced fewer attacks in the street. That does not signify an all-clear for Schöneberg-Nord, as the total number of documented incidents remained at the same level there as in other districts.

Growing number of racist insults and threats

Racist incidents account for a large proportion of incidents (34 per cent) when compared with Berlin as a whole (2020: 1307; 2019: 1337) as well as at district level (2020: 45; 2019; 42). In 2020, as in 2019, eleven attacks motivated by racism were recorded. While in 2019 the attacks were distributed equally between Schöneberg Nord and Süd as well as Tempelhof, in 2020 no acts of violence were recorded in Schöneberg Süd; instead, Mariendorf, Marienfelde and an unspecified neighbourhood each reported one incident. The rise in the number of incidents in-

volving threats, insults and abuse motivated by racism (2020: 20; 2019: 7) is more striking than the distribution of attacks across the district. The increase is partly because the Register Offices received reports of incidents from other anti-discrimination advice centres that did not submit reports in 2019.

Some of these bodies only started documenting incidents by district in 2020. For example, three reports were made by the Antidiskriminierungsberatung an Schulen (Anti-Discrimination Advisory Service in Schools / ADAS), five incidents involving anti-Muslim racist insults, threats and abuse were reported by Inssan e.V., one anti-Black racist incident was reported by Each One Monitoring, and a further incident was reported via the Anti-Discrimination App (AnDiApp) for the district. At the end of November, there was a "Zoom-bombing" incident during a service of the Protestant Church in the district. The phenomenon emerged when in-person events moved online. In what is known as Zoom bombing, online events held on the Zoom video conferencing platform are hacked by external parties and, for example, Nazi symbols or pornographic images are shown in order to shock event

participants.

Most of the racist incidents, 21 (2019: 8) out of a total of 45, were directed against people perceived to be Muslim. Five of the racist incidents targeted Black people (2019: 1).

Increase in damage to property motivated by antisemitism

At 17, the total number of anti-semitic incidents is at the same level as the previous year (2019: 16). What has changed here is the number of incidents involving damage to property. While only one such incident was recorded in 2019, nine incidents of damage to property were recorded in 2020. They included a swastika that was carved into the window pane of an Israeli restaurant. In three cases, Nazi symbols were scribbled on memorials commemorating the Holocaust. Some of the propaganda incidents were related to antisemitic conspiracy myths in connection with the coronavirus pandemic. One incident from December 2020 was particularly serious. Shortly before Christmas, stones were thrown at the window of a flat belonging to the Jewish community and smashed the window pane. Compared to other districts, the number of antisemitic incidents is low because Tempelhof-

Schöneberg does not have an organised extreme right-wing scene and is not a venue for demonstrations. Both factors are drivers of antisemitic incidents. In 2020, antisemitic conspiracy myths were expressed at events organised by coronavirus deniers and critics of measures to contain the pandemic measures but such events were not held in Tempelhof-Schöneberg.

Even if only a few incidents are reflected in the press, recording such incidents is important for socio-spatial and educational work, for civil society initiatives and for the District Office in order to identify problem areas and focal points of discrimination. The individual reports recorded and the overall picture can help to develop strategies to take action against right-wing extremism, racism, antisemitism and LGBTIQ* hostility. In addition, for those affected by discrimination and violence, reports to the Register Office are often the only acknowledgement that what they have experienced is recognised as injustice. Injuries and humiliations can never be completely prevented, but ensuring many people engage with the problems of racism, antisemitism, LGBTIQ* hostility and right-wing extremism can help reduce exclusion and ensure that those affected are not left alone with these issues.



Campaign: Not only... HEROES REPORT!

From June to November 2021, the Tempelhof-Schöneberg Register Office will run a reporting campaign aimed at drawing attention to the number of undocumented incidents. The sources, number and scope of reports to the Register Office is intended to lead to a long-term and sustainable realistic assessment of the situation.

The campaign "Not only... HEROES REPORT!" campaign focuses on people who are superheroes thanks to their reports. The campaign aims to empower those affected and to encourage those submitting reports.

Reporting a discriminatory incident is a POWERful act!!! A SUPER POWER at that!!!

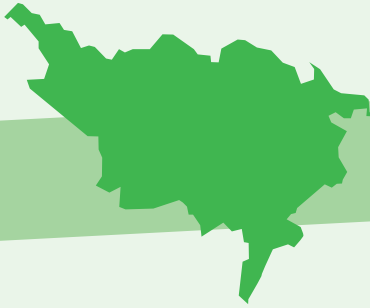
The campaign also aims to achieve more broad-based solidarity and awareness of these issues and realities. The campaign aims to ensure that discrimination is recognised and reported, while also contributing to developing a clear society-wide stance against discrimination. Other goals include strengthening civil courage and solidarity with those affected.

The campaign's activities will be visible on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and the website of the Berlin Register Office (www.berlinerregister.de/heldinnen). Close cooperation with partners is planned. The activities will be accompanied by press work and analogue outdoor advertising.

The campaign aims to strengthen the networks of protagonists who live and work together in solidarity and to foster a clear stance against racism and discrimination in the local context.

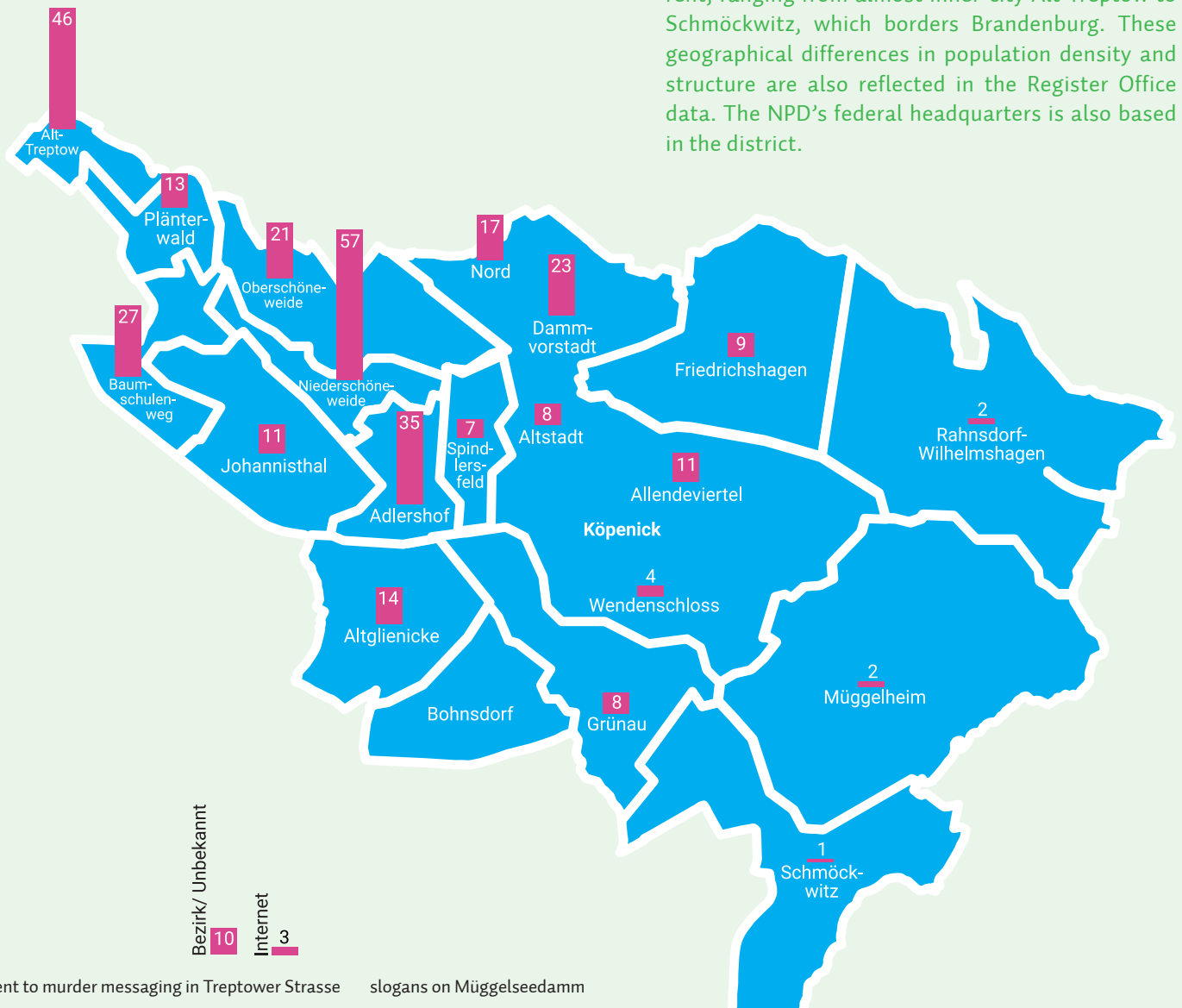


Nicht nur HELD*INNEN MELDEN!
www.berliner-register.de/heldinnen



Treptow-Köpenick

Treptow-Köpenick is the largest district in Berlin and one of the greenest. Almost 280,000 people live in its 15 sub-districts. Yet these areas are very different, ranging from almost inner-city Alt-Treptow to Schmöckwitz, which borders Brandenburg. These geographical differences in population density and structure are also reflected in the Register Office data. The NPD's federal headquarters is also based in the district.



Incitement to murder messaging in Treptower Strasse

slogans on Müggelseedamm



Contact:
Register Treptow-Köpenick
 Zentrum für Demokratie
 Offensiv'91 e. V.
 Michael-Brückner-Str. 1
 12439 Berlin

Tel.: 030 - 65 48 72 93
 Mail: tk@berliner-register.de
 Facebook: Register Treptow-Köpenick
 Twitter: @TkRegister

In 2020, 329 incidents were documented (2019: 324). That is almost the same level as in the previous year. However, there has been a slight shift in the types of incidents. Attacks and persistent campaigns of intimidating threats, as well as the number of incidents involving threats/insults/abuse decreased, while the number of propaganda incidents rose. There was also a shift in the content of the incidents, especially in the area of propaganda, where a sharp increase in glorification/trivialisation of National Socialism was recorded.

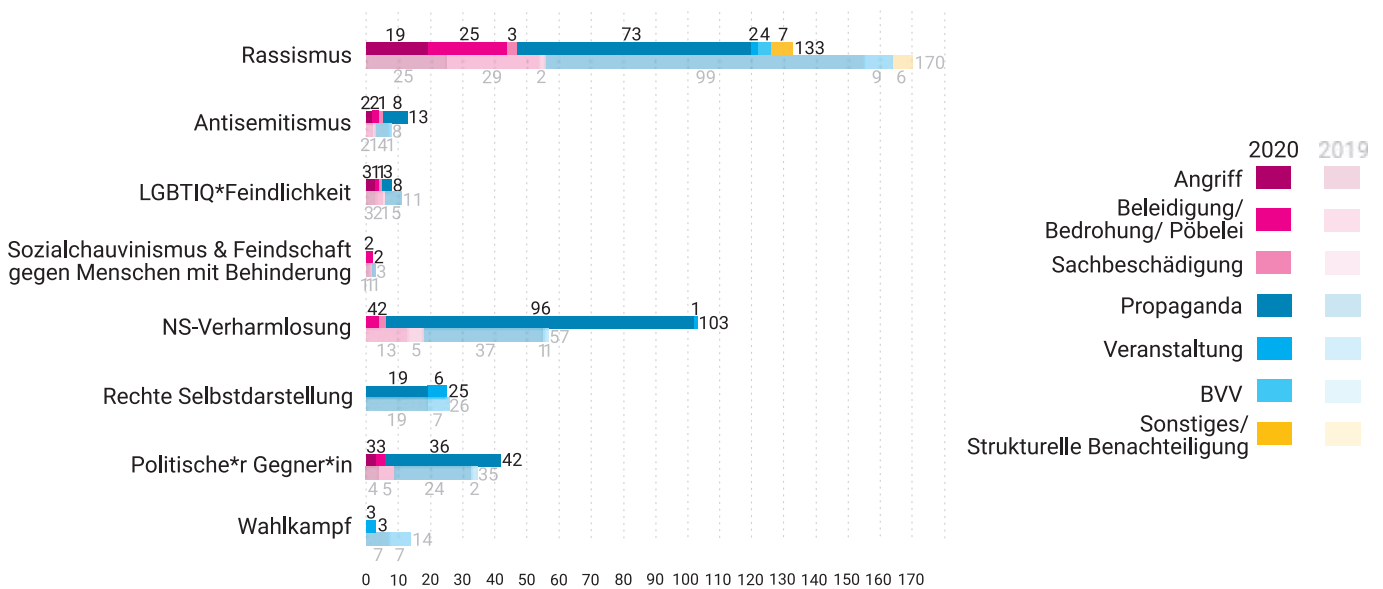
Less violence – Proportion of racist incidents still rising

The number of attacks fell by six incidents to 27 in 2020, moving closer to the level recorded in

2018 (30) and 2017 (22). Incidents involving threats/insults/abuse are also down (- 15). Looking more closely at the incidents, this development is due to a drop in the number of incidents reported in the evening and at night, which can be explained by the measures taken to contain the coronavirus pandemic. In particular as pubs were closed and public events and football matches with spectators were banned, there were fewer contacts in public spaces during this time. In the entire incident area, there was a renewed increase in racism as a motive. 69% of all assaults were motivated by racism (2019: 64%; 2018: 51%). Most assaults were documented in Niederschöneweide (9), followed by Köpenick-Mitte (6) and Alt-Treptow (6).

Incident types: More propaganda – fewer public events

An increase in the number of incidents is apparent in the category of propaganda incidents (2020: 235; 2019: 196). This is in line with the average from previous years. However, there was a strong shift in content. A decrease in racist propaganda (- 26) and at the same time a pronounced increase in Nazi glorification/trivialisation (+ 59) was documented. The number of public events has decreased due to the measures in the district to help curb the spread of coronavirus (- 13). The trend identified in previous years for demonstrations to be centralised and held in the city centre remains. Far-right protagonists, who were otherwise responsible for racist events in the district, joined demonstra-



Examples of incidents

1st March 2020
In the evening, a man shoved a youth at a bus stop on Sterndamm. Immediately afterwards, the man told the youth to look at the ground and threatened to beat him if he looked up. The man then stated that he was a National Socialist and subjected the youth to antisemitic insults.

20th April 2020
In the evening, a trans woman was first subjected to homophobic insults in Treptower Park and subsequently attacked.

She was accompanied by her partner and a friend. She was hit several times on the thigh and the offender tried to throw her into the water. After the offender had moved away, he again approached the person he had attacked. At this point she filmed the attacker with her mobile phone. The perpetrator and another man snatched the mobile phone from her and threw it into the water. They then pushed the woman to the ground, held her down and kicked her head and arm.

15th May 2020
In Seelenbinderstraße, a group of youths loudly yelled “NSDAP”.

1st July 2020
In the evening, in the S-Bahn in Schöne-weide, a woman read as Asian was racially abused, physically attacked and spat at by another woman. Passers-by helped the woman who had been attacked. The perpetrator fled.

tions against measures to combat the coronavirus pandemic. These demonstrations were mainly held in the Mitte district. Levels of all other types of incidents are similar to those recorded in the previous year.

Categorisation of content: Pronounced rise in Nazi propaganda

The increase in propaganda glorifying/ trivialising National Socialism had a strong effect on the proportion of various incident categories documented. Here there was especially a rise in the number of incidents involving neo-Nazi numerical codes („18“ / „88“) (+ 43), as well as swastikas (+ 19). One particular case in this context involves expressions of solidarity with the militant and national socialist grouping “Combat 18”, which was banned in January 2020. The organisation is deeply racist and seeks to wage an armed underground struggle for the supremacy of the “white race”. Its acronym “C18” is a symbol of armed right-wing terrorism and was spotted above all in February and March in the Baum-schulenweg and Oberschöne-weide sub-districts. Overall, reports of this motive reached the highest level in 2020 since first being recorded by the Treptow-Köpenick Register Office (2020: 103; 2019: 57; 2018: 67). That means this motive cluster now accounts for 31 % of all incidents. At the same time, the proportion of racist incidents in the overall figures has fallen to 40%, although this does not apply to attacks. Racism is still the most frequent motive in this context with 69%. The increase in the number of attacks with anti-Asian racism as a motive was noticeable here. One incident involving an attack and four involving threats/

insults/abuses were documented. These are very clearly related to the coronavirus pandemic, as such incidents were very rarely reported in previous years (2019: 1; 2018: 0). A slight rise can be identified in the areas of antisemitism (+ 5) and incidents directed against political opponents (+ 7), but the order of magnitude is within the range of fluctuations in recent years.

Distribution by sub-districts: Highest figures in Niederschöne-weide and Alt-Treptow

In most sub-districts, a decrease in the number of incidents can be observed. This trend is countered by an increase in Alt-Treptow (+ 27) and Niederschöne-weide (+ 8). Niederschöne-weide continues to be the sub-district with the most incidents. This is reflected both in the number of propaganda incidents (48), but also in the number of assaults (9 attacks and incidents involving threats/insults/abuses). In both cases, this sub-district records the highest figures, as far right-wing protagonists still live in this area and find refuge there. In Alt-Treptow, the pronounced rise can be attributed to propaganda incidents. A new graffiti group is active in the district, mainly spreading calls for violence against anti-fascists. In addition, the highest number of attacks (4) was reported in Alt-Treptow in 2020. However, this is not a new development, as a comparatively high number of attacks (2019: 8; 2020: 6) was also documented here in the past. This can be attributed to the proximity to the city centre with more pubs and the highly frequented station as well as the park. Assaults also tend to occur in places where many people come together.

Outlook for the 2021 election year

The fall in the number of attacks and incidents involving threats/insults/abuse can mostly be attributed to the measures adopted to stem the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. However, it can be assumed that the situation will return to normal next year, because pubs will be re-open and football matches will be held with spectators. This will lead to an increase in the number of incidents again. In addition, elections to the Bundestag, the Berlin House of Representatives and the district councils will be held in 2021. In the past, it was seen that election campaigns contributed to intensification of racist rhetoric, which subsequently also led to violence. In addition, direct political confrontation with the far right will also increase, as supporters of the far right are likely to intensify their activities in the streets. Especially in election years, it is important that civil society remains vigilant and shows its solidarity with those affected by far-right and discriminatory hostility. Anti-racist and anti-fascist engagement remains a central challenge for individuals and society in view of the coming election year, but also in view of the increasing thematicization of racism in society and (far) right-wing resistance. Whether in the case of anti-LGBTIQ* attacks in the park, racist attacks on buses and trains, abuse after a football match or right-wing slogans in the pub, stand by those affected, make discrimination visible and counteract it!

Advisory & Documentation Centres in Berlin

ADAS

Contact Point for Protection against Discrimination in Schools
adas-berlin.de
<https://adas-berlin.de/english/>

Anti-discrimination Network Berlin (ADNB)

The ADNB is an independent advice centre for people who experience racist discrimination.
www.adnb.de
<https://www.adnb.de/en/>

Anti-discrimination Advice Centre – Age, Disability, Chronic Illness

This advice centre is a contact point for people who encounter discrimination because of their age, disability or chronic illness.
www.diskriminierung-berlin.de

Anti-Fascist Press Archive and Education Centre Berlin e.V. (Apabiz)

The apabiz archive offers public events and workshops on topics concerning the far right.
More information at www.apabiz.de

Antiziganism Documentation Centre (DOSTA)

AmaroForo documents incidents motivated by antiziganism in Berlin. More information about the documentation project is available at: www.amaroforo.de/projekte/dosta.
<https://amaroforo.de/en/home/>

Anti-Black Racism Documentation and Advisory Services

EOTO and the Initiative of Black People in Germany document incidents of anti-Black racism.
EOTO offers anti-discrimination advice.
www.eoto-archiv.de/antidiskriminierungsberatung

Anti-Violence Outpatient Clinic at the Charité hospital

(not an advice centre, but examines outpatients and draws up certificates)
gewaltschutzambulanz.charite.de
<https://gewaltschutzambulanz.charite.de/en/>

GLADT

Counselling by and for Black and PoC lesbians, gays, bisexuals, trans*, inter* and queer people in Berlin
<https://gladt.de/>
<https://gladt.de/en/>

Campaign for Victims of Racist Police Violence (KOP)

The Campaign for Victims of Racist Police Violence documents racist police assaults and racial profiling in Berlin.
www.kop-berlin.de

Contact Point and Advice Centre for Refugees and Migrants e.V. (KUB)

The contact point and advice centre supports refugees and mig-

rants from all over the world and provides advice on asylum law, residence law, and psychological and social issues.
www.kub-berlin.org

L-Support

L-Support offers advisory services and documents homophobic violence against women and people read as women.
www.l-support.net/melde-deinen-fall

LesMigraS

LesMigraS offers advisory services and networking for queer women, trans and non-binary people, intersex people. It also offers targeted advisory services for People of Colour, Black and Indigenous people and queer refugees.
www.lesmigras.de

Mobile Support Services to Combat Right-Wing Extremism in Berlin (MBR)

The MBR offers advice and support to everyone committed to a human rights-oriented and democratic culture in daily life in Berlin.
www.mbr-berlin.de

Berlin Mobile Advisory Team for Democracy Development www.mbt-berlin.de/mbt

Reachout - Advice and Education Centre for People Affected by Right-wing Extremism, Racism and Antisemitism

ReachOut provides advisory services for those affected by racist, right-wing and antisemitic violence, as well as to their relatives and to witnesses.
www.reachoutberlin.de

Department for Research and Information on Antisemitism Berlin (RIAS)

RIAS documents antisemitic incidents in Berlin, which can be reported via the site www.report-antisemitism.de.

REDAR - Research and Documentation Project on Anti-Muslim Racism

REDAR documents discrimination against Muslims or people read as such. It makes anti-Muslim racism visible. The project is part of the independent association Transaidency. www.redar.berlin

StandUp

Anti-discrimination advice centre of the Berlin Counselling Service for Homosexuals
<https://schwulenberatungberlin.de/about-us/>
schwulenberatungberlin.de/we-help/antidiscrimination

Association of Counselling Centers for Victims of Right-wing, Racist and Antisemitic Violence in Germany e.V. (VBRG)

The website includes PDF guides for those affected and their relatives in various languages.
www.verband-brg.de/material/#publikationen

www.berliner-register.de

