

# *Resolutely combat right-wing extremism*

---

Instruments of the defensive  
Use democracy



Bundesministerium  
des Innern  
und für Heimat

Right-wing extremism remains the greatest danger to our democracy. Target of right-wing extremists is to abolish liberal democracy and our society according to its ethnic and our society according to its ethnic to reshape racist and anti-pluralistic ideas. For right-wing extremists, belonging to an ethnic group is crucial

or nation about the value of a person. This understanding is in fundamental contradiction saying about the values of our basic law.

In recent years, right-wing extremists have regularly committed over 20,000 criminal and violent crimes per year. For many people in Germany, behind these numbers is the fear of being the target of right-wing extremist attacks to become – especially for people with one migration history. Wherever right-wing extremism grows, they must fear becoming victims of discrimination and arbitrariness. The Federal Republic will consistently protect these people.

Right-wing extremists work – across Europe and beyond – in a closely networked and strategic manner. In particular, the extremist so-called *New Right* specifically tries to set topics and use terms that are relevant to their human rights. despicable plans a harmless appearance should give. Its leading figures want to gain influence on political debates and gain access to the mainstream of society - in parties and the media, in business and society

Cultural business. Your extremist arm is enough right up to the parliaments. From the teachings of Failure of Weimar and the Nazi era follows for our state and our community the answer that it will never come to that point again may. Our democracy is strong.

Millions of people nationwide are concerned that the extreme right is gaining social influence. They are taking to the streets in large numbers to demonstrate for democracy, diversity and for the legal and value system of the Basic Law.

The people stand up for democracy, they stand up against the threat from the right and in front of everyone who is threatened by right-wing extremism - and they demand that the defensive democracy consistently uses its resources to defend itself.

As early as March 2022, the Federal Interior Ministerin Nancy Faeser the "Action Plan against Right-wing extremism" was presented in order to combat the activities of the extremist right holistically and at an early stage - with prevention and the full rigor of the rule of law. The Ak- The plan is being consistently implemented and has already brought important progress in many areas.

It is now necessary to continue pursuing the chosen course at full speed and at the same time react to new developments. Additional measures and options are needed about the danger of right-wing extremism to grab roots. To do this, his networks must be dismantled, his financial sources drained, and the right-wing extremists' weapons taken away. as well as agitators and violent criminals with everyone the means of the constitutional state refer:

# 1. Strengthen the resilience of democracy

---

If authoritarian and right-wing extremist

When forces attack democracy, their first targets are often the judiciary, the free press and the democratic institutions. That has to be the case

put a stop to defensive democracy and the resilience of the rule of law and

strengthen its institutional structure. Of central importance is the Federal Constitutional Court (BVerfG) as the most important guardian of the constitution.

## *Next Steps:*

- It is necessary to ensure the independence of the BVerfG more strongly against the exercise of influence against anti-democratic forces.

To this end, it makes sense to incorporate the central regulations on the organization and procedures of the BVerfG into the **Basic Law** .

- In addition, it is checked which instruments of defensive democracy makes sense can be used or **sharpened** to better protect our constitutional order from existing or future dangers

protect.

## 2. Holistic approach to combating right-wing extremism

---

The so-called New Right is seen as a hinge between non-extremist circles and the extremist (party) spectrum. With a supposedly bourgeois demeanor, she tries to appear particularly compatible with parts of middle society. At the instigation of the BMI, it has already been looked at more intensively in the past

been. Many of their prototypes are now gonists by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV) as a secured right-wing extremist effort.

In order to effectively contain extremist activities To be able to do this, democratic and constitutional forces at all levels come together men work. The entire Office for the Protection of the Constitution The federal government, including the BfV, takes part within the framework of the legal mandate its early warning radio tion true.

Extremists don't just represent the liberal movement democratic basic order in question. Frequently they mock the state and its institutions and consider them weak. This misapprehension me must be opposed decisively. Strictly within the limits of legal authority State authorities must recognize extremism show the limits at all levels. As in the holistic fight against organized ones Crime and clan crime must Extremist actors are required to behave in accordance with the law at all times - even outside of the direct fight against extremist agitation. Any violations of the law must be effectively prosecuted and punished in order to send a clear signal that the defence

Democracy also includes a strong state.

For example, the responsible regulatory authorities should take measures on site - for example in the form of restaurant or other commercial law measures or through regulatory intervention against right-wing extremist events. Extremist actors and agitators must be kept in their place everywhere within the scope of legal possibilities.

Within the scope of its legal possibilities, the BfV is already transmitting information, for example on right-wing extremist events, to the responsible authorities so that these events can be banned or subject to conditions.

### Next Steps:

- The BfV will improve its **data transmission** make **greater use of powers** and provide other authorities with information to encourage further action.
- In this context it is particularly important but also state and local authorities to further **sensitize** authorities and to deepen cooperation.

### 3. Dry up the financial sources of right-wing extremist networks

---

Right-wing extremist networks are also alive of money. A comprehensive overview of their financing structures are a prerequisite for breaking them up. Clarifying the financing activities of right-wing extremists

The Federal Office for Criminal Investigations has Constitutional protection intensified and the necessary measures for this

The available capacities have been significantly expanded – for example, in terms of cash flows around scene concerts or right-wing extremists

Merchandise items, but also to better understand the financing through donations to be able to.

The BfV communicates closely with the financial sector in order to provide them with information on the problems of financial flows and transactions to raise awareness of right-wing extremism. The Capital-related structures and connections in the right-wing extremist spectrum are systematically analyzed by the BfV.

This includes, among other things, corporate structures or Financing networks in order to be able to identify trends, patterns and approaches

nen. Relevant findings will be provided to the responsible passed on to the authorities.

#### Next Steps:

To carry out successful financial investigations against the entire range of right-wing extremists

To enable networks, the legal basis for the work of the BfV strengthened and the procedures made less bureaucratic be tized. This should be implemented in 2024 with the law draft for the second part of the reform of the Intelligence law must be implemented.

This involves the following measures:

- The hurdle of incitement and hatred is too high  
The reference to violence for constitutional protection activities in Section 8a BVerfSchG should be based on the potential **threat** .  
to be replaced.
- In addition, **procedures must be made less bureaucratic be tized** : It is inappropriate to simply provide information about where a person is current account (“account master data”) is subject to the same complex procedure.  
throw like a telecommunications surveillance.
- As part of the planned “Law on  
The BfV should also have access to improving the fight against financial crime  
on the **real estate property** that is yet to be set up **transaction register** received.

## 4. *Disrupting transnational networks*

---

Right-wing extremist actors are in intensive contact with each other, including cross-border exchange – at concerts and martial arts events, at training events and seminars.

Here they make contacts, make plans and try to overcome their inhumane behavior to give messages more reach.

Right-wing extremist hatred must not be allowed to go down Germany imports nor exports from Germany. Therefore, legal instruments restricting the freedom of movement for right-wing extremists must be used more consistently. The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution already provides information to the Federal Police as well as immigration, freedom of movement and passport authorities when it comes to measures to prevent entry and exit and the imposition of residence bans.

### *Next Steps:*

The BMI is working together with the authorities concerned to **introduce and** Right-wing extremists **leaving the country** so far to prevent as legally possible.

## 5. Fight hate online

---

A brutalization of language and a pronounced verbal radicalism are evident on the Internet. deliver. The Internet also has a high

Significance for radicalization processes, recruitment and mobilization. The aim is therefore to criminally relevant content on the Internet

to fight consistently, in this way one

Contribution to securing democratic discourse and promote peaceful coexistence

to ensure living in a pluralistic society.

### Next Steps:

- The prosecution of criminal content on the Internet will be further strengthened. One of the reasons for this is the already well-established structure the **central reporting office for criminal offenses Content on the BKA's Internet (ZMI)** is used and further expanded.

- In addition, incriminated content should be removed from the Internet must be removed in order to counteract the brutalization of language in virtual space and potential imitation effects. Therefore appropriate

Content provided by the BKA to the providers encouraged to be **deleted** . Where legal regulations allow it, removal orders also create the basis for the compulsory enforcement of any deletions.

- The BKA has the combat strategies and instruments in the area of "politically motivated crime – right-wing" in recent times It has developed further over the years and has positioned itself accordingly in terms of personnel and organization in order to increase the pressure to prosecute crimes on the Internet through evaluation projects and investigations in the digital space. This path becomes consistent taken further.

## 6. Counter foreign influence and disinformation

---

Right-wing extremists want trust in the stability and ability of our state to act are undermined. They share this goal with some foreign actors who also have an interest in weakening our democracy. This is how autocratic states create

on the Internet with fake accounts reach, invent stories with AI-based images and feign credibility with copied newspaper websites. With such coordinated influence campaigns, they try to manipulate the free formation of opinions of the people in our country and our political debate. In doing so, they pursue goals

which are diametrically opposed to our democratic values oppose.

State, semi-state and private foreign actors are also trying to exploit German elected officials and their employees. At the same time, they primarily use digital communication channels to reach their right-wing extremist-oriented target audience and there deliberately

false or misleading information spread, incite the population and damage the democratic state, its organs and their representatives.

The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution is closely monitoring these developments and taking countermeasures. The federal government is raising awareness and providing information. The BMI, in cooperation with the Bertelsmann Foundation, launched the citizen participation project "Forum against Fakes". It is intended to stimulate, educate and provide concrete recommendations for a nationwide debate on how to deal with disinformation on the Internet.

### *Next Steps:*

Only if we recognize foreign disinformation campaigns early and independently we can explain their methods and react to it politically. That's why the BMI is currently building an **early detection unit** the federal government. It should be able to identify foreign manipulation and influence campaigns in advance.  
visionary

## 7. Remove enemies of the constitution from the public service

---

We have to protect our democracy – too from within. The reform of federal disciplinary law is an important building block in making our constitutional state more resilient and in clearly showing that the public service will not tolerate extremists in its own ranks

In order to significantly speed up the procedures, all disciplinary measures, including status-related removals and other status-relevant disciplinary measures, will in future be imposed by disciplinary order. The lengthy disciplinary action procedure, in which the employer had to apply to the court for status-relevant disciplinary measures, is no longer necessary.

A standard example of a serious official offense is also introduced in the case of membership in a party declared unconstitutional by the Federal Constitutional Court or in an incontestably banned association or a substitute organization for such a party or association.

Furthermore, the circle of duties for political Civil servants are expanded to the extent that they can also reflect on their entire behavior during their temporary retirement to the free democratic basic order within the meaning of the Basic Law must.

In mid-May 2022, the second situation report "Right-wing extremists, 'Reich citizens' and 'self-administrators' in security authorities" was presented. This report paints a comprehensive picture

Reference to suspected cases in the federal and state security authorities regarding activities from the right-wing extremist or "Reich citizen" and "self-administrator" milieu.

The management report is updated regularly and gradually expanded.

### *Next Steps:*

- The reform of federal disciplinary law will come into force on April 1, 2024 and must then be **consistently applied**.
- The next **situation report** will include the phenomenon of delegitimization of the state relevant to constitutional protection. Its release is scheduled for the second quarter of 2024.

## 8. *Dismantle right-wing extremist networks*

---

Bans on associations are among the strictest  
Weapons in the instrument box of the armed forces  
Democracy. Wherever right-wing extremists are  
Those who seek to use organized club structures to  
commit crimes or damage our constitutional order  
must be consistently stopped

become.

With the bans of the “Hammerskins Germany” and the  
“Artgemeinschaft” the  
Federal Minister of the Interior and Homeland  
Two right-wing extremist organizations dissolved in 2023.

### *Next Steps:*

Further banning measures with the most sensitive  
impact on the right-wing extremist scene are being  
**continuously examined.**

## 9. Consistently disarm right-wing extremists

---

When extremists have weapons, it is a danger. Since 2020, weapons have to be stored in a secure place. Federal authorities should consult with the responsible Office for the Protection of the Constitution when it comes to the necessary “reliability check” for the handling of weapons.

There is also an annual meeting in July 2022. The federal-state forum “Disarming right-wing extremists” began its work. It involves all affected actors – i.e. the interior ministries, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and the weapons authorities – discuss cross-level strategies and best practices for a more effective disarmament of right-wing extremists.

### Next Steps:

The BMI has its draft for the reform of gun law already presented in January 2023. The tightening of gun laws is a crucial building block for disarmament of extremists.

Specifically, the draft provides, among other things, the following:

- The wording between BVerfSchG and the Weapons Act is being **adjusted** to make it clear that the same (suspicion) standards apply here.
- This makes the face of inconsistent case law stipulates that membership in an organization that is described by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution as “mere” If a suspected case is carried out, it can already be detrimental to reliability and thus to **Withdrawal** of firearms license can lead.
- War weapon-like **semi-automatic weapons** are banned in order to reduce the risk of particularly fatal attacks. For those in Crossbows that are very popular in the right-wing scene From now on, a permit requirement applies. The use of shooting ranges will be restricted so that everyone can only shoot without a permit with certain weapons should be.

At the same time, the federal government will also fight against illegal possession of weapons intensify – and engage intensively with it coordinate with international partners.

## 10. Strengthen the promotion of democracy

---

The Federal Republic is a defensive democracy. In order to successfully wage the fight against the extreme right, the state needs democratic civil society at its side - in all its breadth and diversity.

The federal government has therefore initiated the development of the strategy "Together for democracy and against extremism".  
New ones are currently being created at the state secretary level  
Approaches developed to protect democracy,  
strengthen our open society and combat extremism.

In addition, BMI has numerous steps undertaken to promote social access to strengthen solidarity and combat right-wing extremism to pull the rug out from under the political ideology. As part of the action plan against right-wing extremism the activities of the Federal Center for Political education (BpB) such as the programs "Democracy on the Internet" and "Talking to each other" were expanded and a new funding line "Strengthening political education to deal with right-wing extremism and conspiracy ideologies" was created. The BMI is also working on  
Establishment of an NSU documentation center.

### Next Steps:

- We also need signals to the committed citizens who make our democracy strong and lively by supporting countless civil society organizations.

Bringing business initiatives to life. She need long-term and reliable support for their commitment.

- The **Democracy Promotion Act**, which was passed by the Federal Cabinet at the end of 2022, is intended to make an important contribution to this. In view of the current developments, it is urgently necessary for the German Bundestag to decide on this as soon as possible.
- The **BpB's programs and measures** to promote commitment to democratic participation and against extremism are being further developed and expanded.

To this end, the BpB is currently preparing the new funding period of the "Cohesion through Participation" program. This means that projects for democracy and against extremism are carried out rural and structurally weak areas strengthened.

## 11. Sport with attitude – against right-wing extremism

---

Sport has an unrivaled power for social cohesion. Sport brings people together across social boundaries; it conveys important values such as fairness and equality in communal, rule-based competition.

At the same time, sport is also part and reflection of society. Here too, undesirable social developments such as right-wing extremism, anti-Semitism and other forms of group-related misanthropy become visible. Hostility occurs both on the field and from the stands or in the surroundings of sporting events. The federal government and in particular the BMI as the sports ministry are committed to strengthening the unifying values and social power of sport and to taking action against all forms of exclusion and inhumanity. In this context, numerous projects and initiatives as well as research projects are supported in cooperation with organized sport and civil society

operated.

In 2023, the “Federal Prevention Program against Right-Wing Extremism and Misanthropy in Sport” was recreated. The program supports sports clubs and associations with the aim of strengthening the democratic, integrative power in non-profit, organized sports. In addition, relevant scientific research in this area is supported. A total of 2.5 million euros is available for 2023 and 2024.

### Next Steps:

- The practical **implementation of the federal program** takes place via two central offices: The German Sports Youth (dsj) takes over the central office for sports/civil society. The Federal Institute for Sports Science (BISp) takes over the central research office. Concrete recommendations for action for targeted prevention and intervention measures in sports clubs are to be derived from one of the planned research projects.
- At the event “Sport with strong Voice” in February will be new for the first time **The “Sport with Attitude” club award** was awarded .

## 12. Counter anti-Semitism

---

Since the inhumane attack by...

Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023

The number of anti-Semitic crimes is enormous

increased, which is primarily due to Islamist-motivated tense anti-Semitism. Already

However, there has been a continuous trend for years

Increase in anti-Semitic crimes

largely due to right-wing extremism

of motivated perpetrators.

It is our task as an entire society to resolutely counter anti-Semitism and protect Jews in Germany. Any attack on them is an attack on

our open society.

That is why the federal government has decided on a strategy with the "National Strategy against Anti-Semitism and for Jewish Life"

which is aimed at all levels of government and also

society as a whole: every club, every school, every company can work with it to do something against it in their own environment

to do anti-Semitism.

The federal government has shown its commitment to

Strengthening and making Jewish life visible intensified in many areas and still

more broadly positioned. Among other things The annual

benefit that the Central Council of Jews in Germany,

the largest Jewish umbrella organization, receives on the

basis of a contract concluded on January 27, 2003, was

increased from 13 million euros annually to 22 million

euros annually in 2023. The federal government also

supports a large number of other Jewish actors and

projects, the Christian-Jewish dialogue and building

projects of the Jewish community.

### Next Steps:

- As a consequence of the attack on the synagogue in Halle, the federal government provided the Central Council of Jews in Germany (ZdJ) **with special funds** amounting to 22 million euros in 2020 to secure Jewish institutions. The funds are used to strengthen structural and technical security measures at domestic Jewish institutions and supplement the extensive security measures

the countries. The federal funds will be...

Spent as part of a multi-year measure coordinated by the ZdJ.

- Civic education is in the fight against Anti-Semitism is essential. The BMI will As part of the federal program "Social Cohesion" (BGZ), we will also focus on the **topic of anti-Semitism** for the funding year 2024 and promote corresponding projects.

- **Research** into anti-Semitism,

We will intensify our research, particularly on its long-term development, distribution patterns and causes, in order to be able to combat anti-Semitism more effectively.

This is implemented as an implementation of one of the key areas of action of the National Strategy against Anti-Semitism and for Jewish Life.

## 13. Supporting Democrats who are under attack

---

It is particularly important for people with a migration background to be able to participate in social life without fear or discrimination.

Right-wing extremist threats and attacks also particularly affect them - especially where they are publicly visible. They need it all the more urgently

Protection of the state.

For some time now, officials and elected officials have increasingly been the target of hostility and attacks - even physical violence.

The extent of these threats is beyond the limits of endurance for many who are active in this field. As a result, the many of those affected gradually leave the community politics back.

As part of the action plan against right-wing extremism the alliance for protection

local elected official which includes not only the states but also municipal ones

Leading associations as well as authorities and civil society organizations were involved.

### Next Steps:

- In January 2024, the establishment of a **contact point to protect local officials and elected officials** was initiated. The German Forum for Crime Prevention will be the contact point in the build in the coming months. she will Caring for those affected, serving as a guide and acting as an intermediary: between those affected and the judiciary, the security authorities and the administration.
- The direct exchange between municipal len actors and the federal government, which was started with the alliance to protect local elected officials, will be continued as part of a permanent **dialogue format** .

*imprint*

**editor**

Federal Ministry of the Interior and Homeland, 11014 Berlin  
Internet: [www.bmi.bund.de](http://www.bmi.bund.de)

**Stand**

February 2024

**Design**

familie redlich AG – agency for brands and communication  
KOMPAKTMEDIEN – Agency for Communication GmbH

Item number: BMI24003



**[www.bmi.bund.de](http://www.bmi.bund.de)**

-  [social.bund.de/@bmi](https://social.bund.de/@bmi)
-  [twitter.com/BMI\\_Bund](https://twitter.com/BMI_Bund)
-  [youtube.com/@BMIBund](https://youtube.com/@BMIBund)
-  [instagram.com/bmi\\_bund](https://instagram.com/bmi_bund)