

RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM AND CLUB CULTURE

TOOLS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEALING WITH RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM AND RIGHT-WING VIOLENCE IN THE CLUB CONTEXT

Definition Right-wing extremism

Right-wing extremism describes an attitude or behaviour that assumes the **inequality of people**, constructs an **ethnically homogeneous people** and places the **community above the individual**. Added to this is the desire for a **strong leader figure**. Right-wing extremist orientations are contrary to the principle of equality in the general declarations of human rights. **Violence** is accepted and even practised. For right-wing extremists, the **“right of the strongest”** should prevail, “weak” people are less valuable and less worthy of protection according to their ideology. Other components of right-wing extremism are **racism, anti-Semitism, nationalism, social Darwinism, ableism, sexism and heteronormativity, the advocacy of authoritarian forms of rule, conspiracy ideologies and the trivialisation of National Socialism**.

The working definition of right-wing extremism also includes the assumption that right-wing extremism **does not exist on the margins of society, but is produced and increasingly normalised in the centre of society** (see Mitte Study 2022/23). According to this study, significantly more people in Germany agree with an extreme right-wing world view in 2022/23. The far-right style of dress is characterised by an ambiguity that is referred to as the “new confusion” (German: neue Unübersichtlichkeit“). Right-wing extremists include **right-wing esoterics/settlers, sovereignists and parties such as the AfD or Der Dritte Weg**. Right-wing extremism manifests itself in mostly violent demonstrations and attacks in public as well as in hatred and hate speech on the internet.

The challenge of right-wing extremism and club culture

The publication of the Correctiv research in January 2024, the publication of the Sylt video in May 2024 and the results of the European elections in June 2024 have once again made it very clear how real and present right-wing extremism is in the centre of our society and how urgently it is necessary for civil society to continuously and consistently address this reality. We must also observe that right-wing extremism is becoming more present in club culture. Club culture spaces are of particular importance here, as they are important places for collective encounters, social cohesion, free expression and diversity. This makes it all the more threatening and worrying when openly right-wing or right-wing extremist tendencies penetrate club culture spaces. In particular, the potential and actual effects on the well-being and safety of marginalised visitors must be viewed with great concern and attack the cultural integrity and inclusivity of our spaces.

Right-wing extremist ideologies in club culture not only jeopardise human rights and the values of inclusion and diversity, but also create fear and insecurity that cloud the club experience and the club cultural environment for many. **Right-wing extremism in club culture can manifest itself in different and often unclear forms: through right-wing extremist events in cultural spaces, right-wing structures at club doors, bookings of artists from the far-right spectrum, right-wing symbolism at events, threats from right-wing extremists at the door or in the club, or even incitement and violence against marginalised groups or specific clubs/ collectives/ club culture actors and organisations that actively campaign against discrimination and for safer spaces and democracy.**

The current "new complexity" of the right-wing extremist scene is increasing uncertainty and making it more difficult to take concrete and consistent action. There is often a lack of knowledge, awareness and clear processes for dealing appropriately with right-wing extremist developments, incidents and reports.

This guide is a result of the 12th Awareness & Diversity Roundtable of the Awareness Academy on the topic of "Right-wing extremism and club culture" on 10 April 2024 and summarises the most important expert opinions, experiences and research results. The experts and speakers involved in the roundtable were **Geradedenken, Mobile Beratung gegen Rechts (MBR), ISD Bund e.V. and access e.V.**

Tools for dealing with right-wing extremism

- **Contractual regulations:**
 - Clauses for contracts that set clear rules against the dissemination of right-wing extremist content
 - Contractual clauses for service and usage contracts
 - Utilise domiciliary rights: House rules include the right to determine who is allowed to enter the club: If the house rules are violated, the operator is free to issue a house ban or deny access
- **Good preparation of events**
 - Prohibition of sound & video recordings
 - **Booking and location research**
 - Background research: Online databases, social media and other sources to identify connections to right-wing extremist groups and to check who is DJing and what structures are running in the background at agencies or artists
 - Network check: Research the networks of those involved to identify possible far-right connections.
 - **Conscious door policy and use of awareness teams**
 - Staff training and further education: Train bouncers, security staff, awareness team and bar staff to recognise right-wing extremist symbols and behaviour
 - Memory aids: Posters with far-right symbols and signs at entrances and in staff areas, such as swastikas, certain numerical codes or specific clothing brands that are popular in the scene
 - Selection and controls: Admission checks and denying access to people with appropriate symbols or appearances
 - Awareness teams: Support for staff by a trained awareness team in recognising right-wing extremist symbols or behaviour in the club
- **Catalogue of criteria based on the self-image**
 - **Awareness Concept**
 - includes measures to prevent right-wing extremist activities and promote a safe, inclusive environment

- uncompromising stance on racist, anti-Semitic, xenophobic, anti-feminist or nationalist statements and symbols
 - **Basic research** to identify potential signs of right-wing extremism
 - This includes monitoring social media and online communities in which right-wing extremist content is disseminated
- **Follow-up:**
 - **Evaluation:** Analyse incidents and reflect on measures
 - **Reporting:** document incidents and report them to the relevant authorities
 - <https://www.berliner-register.de> : Reporting discrimination and extreme right-wing activities
 - **Dealing with public criticism** based on research, professional press work
 - **Requesting support** from advice centres for recommendations for action (e.g. MBR)

General recommendations for dealing with right-wing extremism and right-wing violence (MBR)

- **Perceive**
 - Be attentive, take signs seriously
 - Involve all those affected
 - Recognise different perspectives and effects
- **Interpret**
 - Assessing and analysing the situation (actors, structures, motives and strategies)
 - Networking in solidarity
- **Act**
 - Making arrangements and agreements within the organisation
 - common guidelines
 - Define processes and chains of action
 - Play through scenarios in the team
 - Use counselling and support services

Specific recommendations for action for clubs

Research by Geradedenken: Wishes for dealing with right-wing extremist bookings/events & taking a clear stance against discrimination and hatred

- **Taking criticism and advice seriously**
- Reactions to criticism:
 - Take criticism and information about problematic bookings seriously and do not ignore them
 - Check every indication of right-wing extremist connections or behaviour
- Handling system: The club should have a referral system for dealing with such cases (e.g. setting up and maintaining an email address) to ensure that concerns are dealt with quickly and appropriately.
- **Show a clear stance**
 - Consistent action: Take reports seriously, cancel problematic bookings if concerns cannot be resolved
 - It is important that no platform is provided for right-wing extremist content
 - Public statements: If a decision is made in favour of a public statement: clearly state the problem and distance yourself from violence, racism, right-wing ideology and right-wing extremism
 - Internal team discussions, dealing with reports and processing incidents
 - Publication of an internal statement
 - **Honest and sustainable reprocessing process**
 - Error culture: Mistakes can happen due to a lack of research or ignorance. In such cases, insight, transparency, honesty and a thorough review are important.
 - Saying goodbye to Cancel Culture/ Thoughts
 - Review: This can take the form of a credible public statement or an internal review within the team.
 - Professional mediation: Seek dialogue with professional mediation to find solutions and avoid future mistakes.

- Awareness Akademie: Take advantage of the Awareness Academy's offers in relation to structural changes to ensure long-term improvements.
- **Research and social responsibility**
- Thorough research: Booking and location research prior to events to check who is DJing and what structures are in place behind the scenes at agencies or artists.
- Raising awareness of social responsibility, especially at cultural meeting places and commercial events
 - Awareness of the problem of right-wing extremist ideas does not just start when a DJ openly displays right-wing extremist symbols, but also when racist or anti-Semitic statements are made online, conspiracy theories are spread or music with sexist and transphobic content is consumed.
- **Support for alternative culture in rural regions**
 - promote alternative influences in rural or East German provincial regions: Alternative festivals and events should not withdraw or be pushed aside by right-wing extremist tendencies, but rather remain present as positive cultural influences

Symbols & Door (access e.V.)

- **Regular confrontation with right-wing extremist symbols**
 - But: No claim of memorisation: Instead, a list of symbols, codes and brands of the extreme right can be displayed at the club entrance and updated regularly
 - [Zur Schau tragen. Symbole, Codes und Marken der extremen Rechten.](#)
- **Controls at the entrance**
 - Ask trick questions: Ask questions at the door to get a better impression of the person or group.
 - For example, to a male-read group: "Why do you think some clubs have a problem with letting in a group of 5 men?"

- Ask instead of insinuating: By asking specific questions, doormen can get a better assessment without making direct insinuations.
- **Diversity and cooperation**
 - Diverse door staff who complement each other in their knowledge and follow their common inner compass in order to recognise and act on right-wing extremist tendencies at an early stage
 - Networking and knowledge sharing: promoting exchange and cooperation between different crews and clubs
 - Only through co-operation and community cohesion can right-wing extremists be kept out of the clubs.
 - Agree on core values and create an interface with awareness teams to ensure standardised and consistent action.
 - If a person with a problematic T-shirt is seen in the club, it must be clear that security can throw them out, the club's self-image must be clear and unambiguous
 - Discussion with management: clear attitude and consistent measures must be anchored at management level in order to actually be implemented

ISD Bund e.V.

- **Clear stance and commitment**
 - Get actively involved against the right: Support protest organisations and actively campaign against right-wing extremism
 - Attitude in the family and circle of acquaintances: develop a clear attitude and communicate it to those around you
 - It is not enough just to be against the right. You also have to show solidarity and actively stand up for the preservation of democratic values.
 - **Fighting for a diverse society**
 - Belief in diversity: Believing to the end that we are a diverse society in which every person has their place and which is worth fighting for.
 - Unity and cohesion: Community and solidarity are crucial in the fight against right-wing extremism.
- **Develop sensitisation and safety concept**
 - Concept for events should include measures to prevent right-wing extremist activities and promote a safe, inclusive environment

Counselling and contact points

[ReachOut](#)

[OPRA](#)

[OFEK](#)

[Mobile Beratung gegen Rechts \(MBR\)](#)

[Online Beratung gegen Rechtsextremismus](#)

[ISD Bund e.V.](#)

[Laut gegen Nazis](#)

<https://berlin-gegen-nazis.de/>

[Omas gegen Rechts](#)

[Fachinformationsstelle Rechtsextremismus München FIRM](#)

[Berliner Register, Register zur Erfassung rechtsextremer und diskriminierender Vorfälle in Berlin](#)

[veritas - Beratungsstelle für Betroffene von Verschwörungserzählungen](#)

[United! Gemeinsam gegen Rechtsextremismus](#)

[civic .net](#)

[Kompetenznetzwerk im Themenfeld Rechtsextremismus](#)

Resources

[Recherchen und Statements von Geradedenken](#)

[Grundsätze von Mobiler Beratung gegen Rechtsextremismus](#)

[Toolbox gegen rechte Gewalt](#)

[Zur Schau tragen. Symbole, Codes und Marken der extremen Rechten.](#)

[Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz: Verbotene Symbole, Kennzeichen und Organisationen](#)

[Tag der geschlossenen Tür – für Rechtsextreme](#)

[Fashion against Fascism: Datenbank gegen rechtsextreme Slogans](#)

[Rechte, rassistische und antisemitische Gewalt in Deutschland 2023: Eine alarmierende Jahresbilanz der Opferberatungsstellen](#)

[Was tun nach einem rassistischen Angriff?](#)

[Unterstützung nach einem rechten, rassistischen und antisemitischen Angriff. Ein Ratgeber für Angehörige von Betroffenen](#)

[Was tun nach einem rechten, rassistischen und antisemitischen Angriff? Handlungsmöglichkeiten und Hilfe für Betroffene, Angehörige und Zeug*innen. Ein Ratgeber.](#)

[Resiliente Kunst und Kultur. Umgangsstrategien mit anti-demokratischer Agitation](#)