

Press Release

Berlin, 24 April 2017. The Independent Experts Group on Antisemitism, constituted by the German Bundestag in December 2014, is presenting its report today in Berlin on current developments in antisemitism in Germany. The report, which reflects two years of teamwork, pays special attention to the perspectives of those affected by antisemitism. In fact, the Experts Group notes a significant discrepancy in perception: While the non-Jewish majority does not see current manifestations of antisemitism as a relevant problem, Jews in Germany feel they are facing a growing threat. In addition to the disconcerting rise of right-wing populism, there is concern about antisemitism among Muslims, these days especially in refugee and migrant populations. In order to offer greater protection to Jewish life in Germany and to fight antisemitism, the Experts Group recommends such measures as the appointment of a commissioner to coordinate existing efforts to combat antisemitism.

According to the Experts Group report, the perception among Jews of an increasingly dangerous antisemitism can be attributed to the growing importance of social media. Its outlets are key to the spread of hate speech and antisemitic agitation. Jews in Germany are also increasingly concerned for their safety due to everyday experiences of antisemitism. Such incidents often are not considered to be criminal offenses; they are seldom reported, or law enforcement authorities do not even consider them to be antisemitic. The Experts Group calls for the improved documentation and punishment of antisemitic crimes as well as for the reinforcement of counseling and advisory services for those affected by antisemitism.

In addition to the establishment of a commissioner position, the report considers the continued existence of an independent expert group on antisemitism to be of key importance. The report also calls for ongoing support for preventative work against antisemitism as well as the creation of a Federal-Länder Commission to assist in the coordination of state-specific measures. Likewise essential is long-term support for academic research on antisemitism in various societal sectors. The Experts Group also recommends the study of anti-Muslim discrimination as well as other prejudices and forms of marginalization: This makes it clear that these attitudes overlap with antisemitic attitudes, and is thus fundamental to the prevention measures proposed by the Experts Group.

About the Independent Experts Group on Antisemitism

The Independent Experts Group on Antisemitism is composed of nine experts from the worlds of academia, educational practice and civil society who are intensively involved in the fight against antisemitism. In approximately 300 pages, the report presented today deals with current developments in antisemitism in Germany, in society, media, politics, political movements, sports, and religion as well as in the area of asylum and migration. It links scientific analyses with urgent suggestions and recommendations for actions to be taken by people of influence in politics and society.

A conference on the report by the Independent Experts Group on Antisemitism will take place on 14 June 2017 in Berlin.

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