

Key demands of the Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism

1. Appoint an ombudsperson for antisemitism and make an independent expert group permanent

The present report by the second *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* shows that fighting antisemitism is and will remain an ongoing task for the political community and society. That is why the Expert Group calls for the appointment of an ombudsperson for antisemitism. The position should be established in the Federal Chancellery and, as part of the executive branch, coordinate the measures for fighting and preventing antisemitism across agencies. The Expert Group recommends four-year appointments from alternating ministries that overlap legislative periods.

The ombudsperson for antisemitism is to be advised by an independent group appointed by the federal government in consultation with the ombudsperson and including Jewish and non-Jewish experts from the scientific community, educational practitioners and civil society. The ombudsperson shall present (progress) reports at regular intervals that encompass a description of the situation as well as the state of implementation of the Expert Group's demands and recommendations. Parliamentary hearings on the reports shall take place regularly.

2. Record, publish and punish antisemitic crimes systematically

The Expert Group calls for improvement of the collaboration between civil society, Jewish organizations and security authorities in recording antisemitic crimes. Creation of the relevant structures is intended to make it easier for those affected to report antisemitic crimes to the police and thus to reduce the numbers of crimes that go unreported. The basis for assessing antisemitic acts is to be a uniform set of criteria that follows the working definition of antisemitism and critically develops it further. Antisemitic crimes should again be explicitly reported as such in the Report on the Protection of the Constitution. The data gathered are to be published at regular intervals in a uniform nationwide database. The expert group calls for the judicial authorities to take statutory offenses motivated by antisemitism into account more forcefully when prosecuting crimes. In addition, the Expert Group calls for the creation of permanent counseling and empowerment structures for people affected by antisemitism.

3. Provide permanent financial support for bodies working to prevent antisemitism

The second *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* repeats the demand from the first report for provision of a long-term basis for the work of civil-society bodies toward preventing antisemitism. In so doing, the Expert Group takes up a demand from the German Bundestag Committee of Inquiry on the NSU (National Socialist Underground) of August 2013, which »emphatically« spoke out in favor of a »reorganization of the support for civil-society work against racism, antisemitism and right-wing extremism.« The Expert Group calls on the political community to guarantee reliability and predictability for civil-society actors. This involves creating mechanisms in order to transfer knowledge and experiences gathered in model projects into the regular structures (esp. schools).

4. Establish a standing Federal-Länder Commission

Many of the measures for preventing and fighting antisemitism described in this report lie within the responsibility of the German states, or Länder. The function of the federal government is usually limited to »making suggestions« in this context (see Child and Youth Welfare Act SGB VIII). The Expert Group calls for the establishment of a standing Federal-Länder Commission to improve coordination of measures specific to the Länder – esp. in the areas of schools, youth welfare services, the judiciary and the police – with representatives of the agencies responsible for these areas. In addition, the Expert Group calls on the Länder to enshrine their own measures for fighting antisemitism in their programs for preventing extremism and to enter into exchange about them.

5. Provide long-term funding for research on antisemitism

The Expert Group calls for more research projects that examine both the historical developments and the current-day forms of antisemitism in a targeted fashion and that take the perspectives of both the non-Jewish and Jewish populations into account. The research projects are to be interdisciplinary, and both quantitative and qualitative. In addition, resources are to be provided for research on antisemitism with a more practical focus, beyond the evaluation of federal programs. This goes hand in hand with the demand for the establishment of an institutionalized dialogue between the scientific community and practitioners.

The *Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism* also recommends having further expert groups prepare reports that describe and analyze anti-Muslim and other forms of prejudice and marginalization, not only because they are similar phenomena but also because overlaps with antisemitic attitudes become visible and are of fundamental importance for the preventive strategies proposed in the report.