



Action Reconciliation
Service for Peace

BAG
K+R
BUNDESARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT
KIRCHE & RECHTSEXTREMISMUS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Democracies Under Pressure – Standing Strong Against the Right-Wing Shift

On May 8 and 9, 2026
in Berlin



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

May 8, 2026

5.00–7.00 PM

Conference Opening
Trans-European Exchange on Right-Wing Extremism

May 9, 2026

9:15 AM

Arrival

10:00 AM

Welcome
Ilse Junkermann, ARSP Chairwoman and Dr Jakob Stürmann,
ARSP Vice Chairman

10:15 AM

Lightning Talks Against Right-Wing Extremism

10:45 AM

Break

11:00 AM–12.45 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION
Shift to the Right and Fake News Everywhere? Courageous and Committed to Democracy, Solidarity, and Diversity
with Anastasia Tikhomirova, Max Schneller (maximal.demokratisch),
Dr. Claudia Jetter, and Susanne Brandes.
Moderation: Jasmin Brock

12:45 PM

Lunch Break with opportunity to exchange with ARSP Alumni Groups,
ARSP Country Directors and the the speaker's council of BAG K+R

2:15 PM–4:00 PM

WORKING GROUPS PHASE 1
→ Utopias and Political Engagement in Youth Movements (Katharina Stolla)
→ Political Persecution in Belarus (Siarhei Paulavitski); Turkish Right-Wing
Extremism in Germany (Kim David Amon)
→ Shared Values, Shared Actions – Exploring Solidarity Through Interactive
Games (Marcin Skrzypek)
→ Antisemitism in the Debate on Abortion – Historical and Contemporary
Perspectives (Paula Kreutzmann)

During both working group phases (2:15 PM–5:30 PM):
CITY WALK: “Hello Red Wedding”

4:00 PM

Coffee Break

4:30 PM–6:15 PM

WORKING GROUPS PHASE 2
→ Right-Wing Extremist Youth Groups (Katja Teich)
→ Antisemitism after October 7 (Marit-Inga Zimmermann)
→ Educational Methods from the Anne Frank House Amsterdam
(Lily Prollius)
→ Radicalization of Women in Anti-Feminist Movements
(Annika Pohl, Wiebke Eltze)

6:15 PM

Dinner

7:15 PM

Sebastian Krumbiegel at the piano.

Followed by

Get-together

9:00 PM

End of the Event

Event Location: Paul Gerhardt Stift zu Berlin, Müllerstraße 56–58, 13349 Berlin-Wedding

DETAILED CONFERENCE PROGRAM

May 8, 2026

5.00–7.00 PM **CONFERENCE OPENING**

Trans-European Exchange on Right-Wing Extremism

In this introductory session, multipliers report on the right-wing shift, the current situation of minorities, and debates on memory culture in Europe, with a particular focus on Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, and the United Kingdom. The discussion addresses the rise of right-wing extremism and threats to democracy in Europe, especially through anti-semitism, antigypsyism and racism in European societies. In addition, current debates on engaging with the history of National Socialism, its consequences and continuities in the respective countries are explored.

May 9, 2026

9:15 AM **Arrival**

10:00 AM **Welcome**

Ilse Junkermann, ARSP Chairwoman and **Dr Jakob Stürmann**, ARSP Vice Chairman

10:15 AM **Lightning Talks Against Right-Wing Extremism**

Many people in the ARSP context are actively engaged against right-wing extremism. For many former volunteers, the encounters and experiences during their time abroad have shaped their later, including professional, engagement. **Katharina Stolla**, **Estefania Casajus**, **Robert Kusche** and **Paula Kreutzmann** provide biographical insights into their experiences and their engagement.

10:45 AM **Break**



11:00 AM

PANEL: Shift to the Right and Fake News Everywhere? Courageous and Committed to Democracy, Solidarity and Diversity.

Democracy is under pressure internationally due to an interconnected shift to the right. In Germany, the extreme right is becoming increasingly influential, the Russian government is attempting to strengthen anti-democratic forces through systematic fake news campaigns, and the U.S. religious right is influencing fundamentalist actors in Europe. At the same time, we are seeing courageous and creative people everywhere who analyze right-wing extremist movements and take a determined stand against them. On the panel, guests from different fields will discuss these developments. The aim is to work out how democratic action can be strengthened even in a challenging political situation.

Anastasia Tikhomirova is a journalist and editor in the politics section of the weekly newspaper DIE ZEIT. She received a Marion Countess Dönhoff Fellowship from the International Journalists' Programmes in 2021 and used it to work at "Nowaya Gazeta" in Moscow.

Max Schneller (maximal.demokratisch) set an example last year with a spontaneous counter-speech at a "Querdenken" demonstration in Saxony-Anhalt that went viral online. Despite threatening calls and hate messages, the 17-year-old continues to stand up for democracy both in public spaces and online.

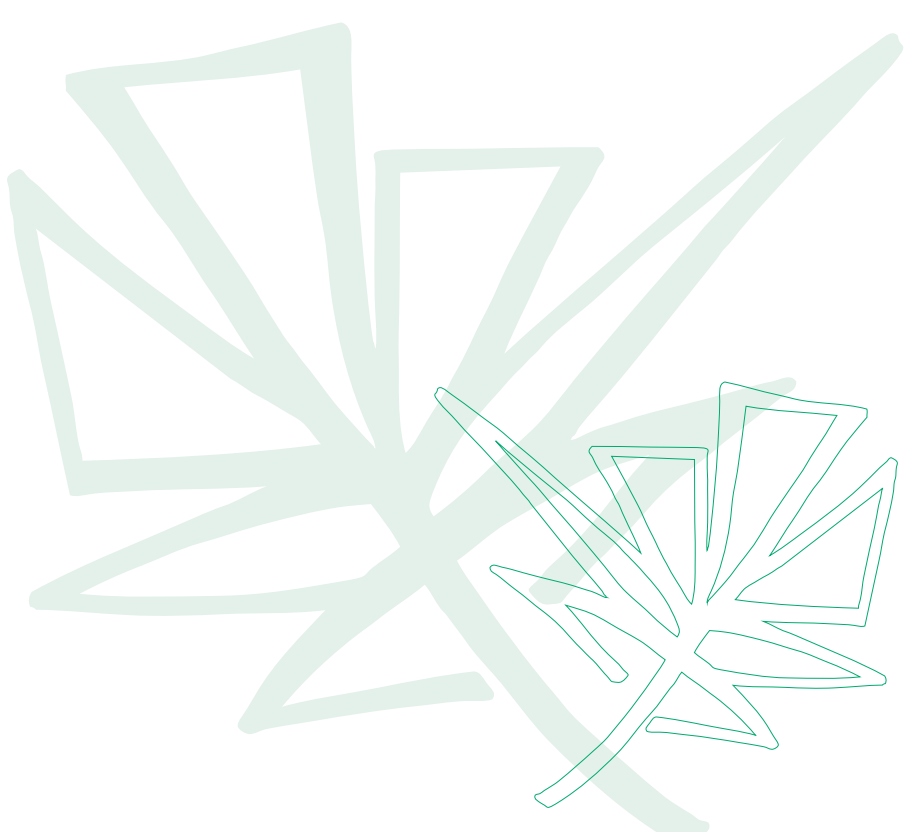
Dr. Claudia Jetter is a research associate at the Chair of Practical Theology at Humboldt University of Berlin, with a focus on U.S. religious history and digital discourse strategies.

Susanne Brandes heads the project "Church for Democracy. Taking Responsibility – Strengthening Participation" and is deputy managing director at the Catholic Adult Education Association in the state of Saxony-Anhalt. She is a member of the spokesperson council of the Federal Working Group Church and Right-Wing Extremism.

Jasmin Brock is a journalist at Bayerischer Rundfunk and works, among other things, on topics such as social policy and social inequality. She co-hosts the BR24 podcast "Die Entscheidung".

12:45 PM

Lunch break with the opportunity for exchange with ARSP regional groups, ARSP state representatives and the speaker's council of the Federal Working Group on Church and Right-wing Extremism (BAG K+R).



Utopias and Political Engagement in Youth Movements

“Anyone who is not a socialist at the age of 20 has no heart; anyone who still is at the age of 40 has no brain.” How much truth is there in this? What does it mean for youth movements? What can we take from this for our own engagement? In this workshop, we will explore why utopias are necessary for effective engagement, why conflicts between generations repeatedly arise in this context, what youth movements today can learn from the past, and how the spirit of youth movements can be sustainably useful.

Katharina Stolla was an ARSP volunteer in Belgium, is the former federal spokesperson of the *Grüne Jugend*, and is now active in the newly founded youth organization *Junge Linke*, with which she organizes support programs for young people in marginalized urban districts.

Political Persecution in Belarus

The regime of dictator Alexander Lukashenko, in power since 1994, is responsible for the systematic and brutal persecution of the opposition, for severe human rights violations, for arbitrary mass arrests and torture. In conversation with Siarhei Paulavitski, a former political prisoner, the impact of the repressions, through which the regime draws on established practices of Soviet rule in order to maintain control, will be examined.

Siarhei Paulavitski, born in Minsk, was sentenced to three years in prison in connection with the political protests against the falsified Belarusian presidential election of 2020. His early release was accompanied by immediate deportation, since then he has lived in Germany. Before his arrest, he worked as a translator and interpreter in the field of historical research and memory work in Belarus.

Turkish Right-Wing Extremism in Germany

The workshop provides an introduction to a frequently overlooked aspect of right-wing extremism: the Turkish (extreme) right in Germany. The focus is on central ideologies, actors and their connections to right-wing extremist currents in the majority German context.

Kim David Amon holds a Master of Education and is a teacher. He is a specialist advisor at the competence center for Turkish right-wing extremism, run by the *Federation of Alevi Youth in Germany (BDAJ)*.

Shared Values, Shared Actions – Exploring Solidarity Through Interactive Games (in English)

When millions of refugees crossed from Ukraine into Poland in 2022, what enabled such rapid solidarity and civic mobilization? Beyond logistics and policy, how did trust, informal networks, and shared values shape this response? The workshop examines social capital in action via two interactive Games: Landscape Chess and Poker of Values.

Marcin Skrzypek, anglicist and publicist. He is coordinator of the internship, traineeship, and volunteer program at the “Grodzka Gate – NN Theatre” Centre – a cultural institution focused on preserving Lublin’s multicultural heritage, particularly its Polish-Jewish past, through theatre, exhibitions, and educational programs.

Antisemitism in the Debate on Abortion – Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

The arrest of two Jewish female doctors under §218 led in 1931 to a sexist and anti-semitic smear campaign. In this workshop, we examine how misogyny and anti-semitism are intertwined – both in history and in the present, for example in the “March for Life” or on social media.

Paula Kreutzmann was an ARSP volunteer in the Netherlands and studied cultural studies and gender studies. She is currently pursuing a doctorate at Leipzig University on queer movements and democratization processes in the transformation period.

During both working group phases (2:15 PM–5:30 PM)

City Walk: Hello Red Wedding.

The city walk leads through the former working-class district, which repeatedly made headlines in the 1920s and 1930s. What social conflicts shaped the so-called “red heart” of Wedding? Which traces are still visible today – and which have disappeared? Stops include a former homeless shelter, the cleared site of a reform school from the Weimar Republic, and Kösliner Straße, whose eventful history is now hardly recognizable. The tour invites participants to rediscover social conflicts, poverty and political struggles of the time and to discuss their significance for the present.

The tour is conducted by **StattReisen**.

4:00 PM Coffee break

4:30 PM WORKING GROUPS PHASE 2

Right-Wing Extremist Youth Groups

Anyone who considers action-oriented right-wing extremist youth groups such as *Deutsche Jugend Voran* or *Jägertruppe* to be merely an online phenomenon is both right and wrong. Getting to know each other, cohesion, staging and also defining the political opponent – all of this takes place online. At the same time, it translates into public space: for two years now, the youth groups have also gathered in the streets for marches, carry out targeted attacks on people and plan joint excursions. What developments can be traced and what further developments are conceivable?

Katja Teich is a political scientist and head of the project BERLIN GEGEN NAZIS, which, among other things, monitors right-wing extremist assemblies and supports Berlin civil society in opposing attempts by the far right to claim space.

Antisemitism after October 7

The terrorist attack of October 7, 2023 marks a profound turning point not only for Israeli society. The genocidal antisemitic massacre also has repercussions in Germany – particularly with regard to the security and everyday lives of Jewish people. This workshop examines how antisemitic incidents have developed since then and what concrete consequences this has for the security and everyday lives of Jewish people in Germany.

Marit-Inga Zimmermann was an ARSP volunteer in Israel and studied religious and cultural studies. She is a project officer at the Research and Information Center on Antisemitism NRW (RIAS NRW).

Educational Methods from the Anne Frank House Amsterdam

The period of National Socialism and the Holocaust teaches us that democracy and the rule of law are indispensable for a peaceful society. It is important that we learn from history. But how exactly? What does democracy mean in our everyday lives? In this workshop, participants engage with these questions and explore the tension between the values of constitutional democracies and their vulnerability. Newly developed educational materials on the topic of democracy are presented.

Lily Prollius is a public historian. She works in the education department of the *Anne Frank House Amsterdam* and is involved with *Zweitzeugen e.V.*

Women in Anti-Feminist Movements

The participation of women in anti-feminist movements initially appears contradictory – yet this phenomenon has become increasingly visible in recent years. In this workshop, we examine what anti-feminism means, present current examples and look at its connections with right-wing extremist ideologies. We also explore why women join such movements and what roles and functions they assume within them.

Wiebke Eltze, political scientist, works as a trainer in argumentation and attitude training as well as in the prevention of racism and right-wing extremism.

Annika Pohl, social scientist (M.A.), works as a consultant for the prevention of right-wing extremism at BAG K+R.

6:15 PM Dinner

7:15 PM **Sebastian Krumbiegel at the piano.**

Sebastian Krumbiegel became known as the frontman of the band *Die Prinzen*. In addition, he is an author and is socially and politically engaged, among other things against right-wing extremism and for democracy.

Then get-together

9:00 PM End of the event

Event Location

Paul Gerhardt Stift Berlin, Müllerstraße 56–58, 13349 Berlin-Wedding
The venue is accessible via elevator.

Registration until April 29 via <https://eveeno.com/373697141>

Contact person

Florian Sonnenschein, sonnenschein@asf-ev.de, T 030/28 395 204



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