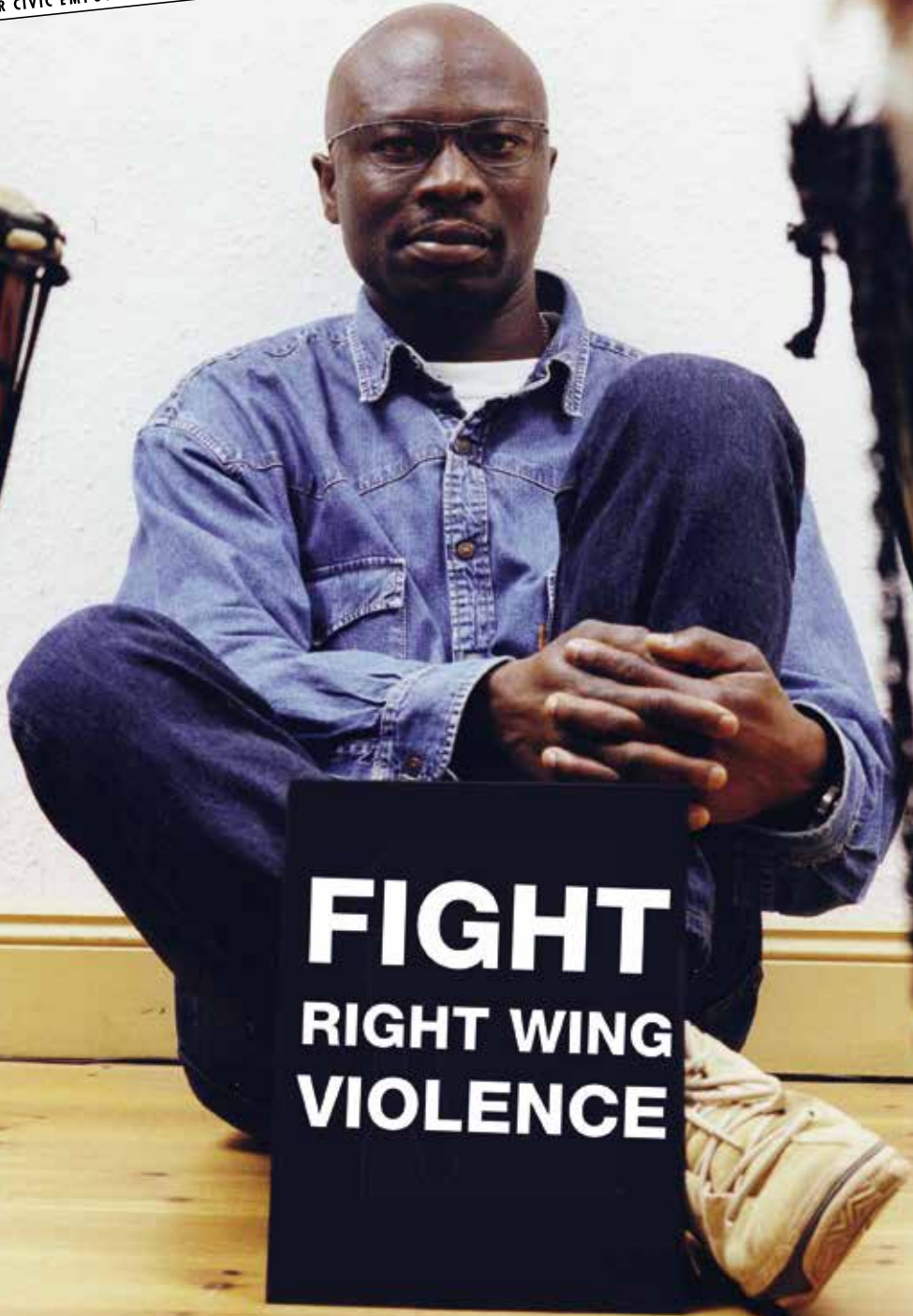


The Amadeu Antonio Foundation  
**ADVOCACY  
TRAINING-FUNDING**  
**AMADEU ANTONIO STIFTUNG**  
INITIATIVES FOR CIVIC EMPOWERMENT AND A DEMOCRATIC CULTURE



**FIGHT  
RIGHT WING  
VIOLENCE**

# Who we are

The Amadeu Antonio Foundation is an independent nonprofit foundation. Its goal is to reinforce a democratic civil society that promotes pluralism and human rights while opposing right-wing extremism, racism and anti-Semitism.

Our activities include:

- Counseling, networking and funding of local democratic initiatives.
- Our own projects in areas where gaps are apparent in state and civil society activities.
- Education on anti-democratic developments, work to support victims of far-right violence, and awareness campaigns focusing on successful counter-strategies.

## The Amadeu Antonio Foundation

- Has funded more than 1,200 local initiatives since its creation in 1998.
- Has built a nationwide network of centers to counsel victims of right-wing violence.
- Advises initiatives, municipalities and individuals on how they can combat right-wing violence.
- Financially supports victims of right-wing violence and their families, helping them cope with the attacks' physical, emotional and psychological aftermath.
- Organizes public events such as discussions and concerts to raise awareness of the ongoing threat of right-wing violence.
- Supports initiatives throughout Germany that promote a democratic culture and the protection of minorities.
- Advises schools, youth facilities and municipalities how they can take preventive action against hate and position themselves in support of inclusion and human rights.
- Calls attention to historical and present-day forms of anti-Semitism with a nationwide campaign and other projects.
- Takes a gender-conscious approach to the prevention of right-wing extremism.
- Promotes the expansion of and provides networking opportunities for a digital civil society that works to counter online hate speech.

# Amadeu Antonio: His history is our mission

Amadeu Antonio lived as an Angolan contract worker in the town of Eberswalde in Brandenburg. On the night of November 24, 1990, a group of about 50 far-right youths with baseball bats went marauding through the city for blacks to attack. They came across Amadeu Antonio and two Mozambicans in a restaurant, and beat them. While the two others were able to escape despite their severe injuries, the 28-year-old Amadeu Antonio fell into a coma from which he never woke up. Two weeks later, on December 6, he succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. His son thus never met his father. He was born only a few weeks after Amadeu Antonio's death, and grew up with his mother and three sisters in Brandenburg.

Since 1990, at least 179 people have lost their lives due to right-wing violence; today, a far-right-motivated crime is committed in Germany every 23 minutes. The Amadeu Antonio Foundation fights for the recognition of the victims by state authorities, who have to date officially classified only 75 of these acts as hate crimes. By providing its own case documentations and records, the Foundation seeks to name those people who have been killed by right-wing criminals, thus facilitating remembrance with dignity.



# About right-wing extremism in Germany

With German reunification in 1990, liberal democracy was supposed to provide the freedoms of expression, choice and movement to all people in both parts of the country for the first time. Yet, at the same time, nationalistic tendencies gained in strength in large parts of the population. Neo-Nazis from both German states joined forces, with racist controversies helping to swell their ranks.

Right-wing extremist violence reached a new level with the beginning of the 1990s. Attacks against Vietnamese shopkeepers and contract workers that lasted for days in Hoyerswerda in 1991, along with multi-day riots in Rostock-Lichtenhagen in 1992, were the shocking low points of a series of violent racist incidents that took place with the tacit approval of the local population.

Politicians, the media and the police downplayed the problem for far too long, and failed to react with the necessary resolve. The self-exposure of the far-right National Socialist Underground (NSU) terrorist group in 2011 further revealed the state authorities' failure to investigate and prevent the right-wing extremist threat: Over the course of more than 10 years, passing largely undetected, the NSU murdered at least nine people with migrant backgrounds, as well as a police officer.





# Hate in transition

Emerging from the shadows of the stereotype of skinheaded neo-Nazi thugs, new and modern varieties of right-wing extremism are increasingly visible in public arenas.

The German version of the “alt-right” focuses on:

- Ethnopluralism, according to which every people should live in its own ethnically homogeneous country, in order that there be no “racial mixing.”
- Anti-Semitic and anti-American conspiracy theories.
- Populist scaremongering about immigration, pluralism and modernization.

In promoting their ideology, modern right-wing extremists draw on notions of the inequality of peoples – racism, sexism and other forms of group-focused enmity (see page 5) – that are already widespread among the population. These far-right forces are at once becoming more visible and more inconspicuous: With their populist media debates, “ethnic settlements” that combine ecological agricultural practices with a nationalist-motivated seizure of space, and publicity-motivated pop-cultural stunts such as the interception of refugees in the Mediterranean by the “Identitarian Movement” vessels, they are no longer easily identifiable as ideologues in the tradition of the Nazi era.



The underlying danger often attracts broader attention only once right wing groups employ open force against the power of the state. Indeed, self-proclaimed “Reichsbürger” (citizens of the Reich) have for years been able to propagate their conviction that Germany is not a sovereign country, but rather remains occupied by the Allies, almost unobserved. Only when a police officer was shot by a Reichsbürger in the course of a weapons search did the problem finally bubble to the surface – now with the number of followers and illegal weapon caches swollen to disconcerting levels.



As asylum-seekers increasingly began entering Germany in 2013, right-wing extremists and right-wing populists have used the situation to fan the flames of anti-refugee hate, particularly online. The “Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the West,” or Pegida, along with its offshoots, have brought thousands of people to the street in all parts of Germany. Hundreds of initiatives, casting themselves as non-political “concerned citizens,” have fomented racist sentiment against the local accommodation of asylum-seekers. The number of physical attacks on refugees and arson attacks on their housing facilities has dramatically increased.

Right-wing populists have joined together in Islamophobia and anti-refugee hate campaigns, accompanying this with elite- and media-bashing. The strategy of provocation and calculated taboo-breaking is proving successful: With their toxic narratives, right-wing populists are succeeding in securing seats in the Bundestag, with significant damage to the political culture.

The alliances between the right-wing populists are evident across Europe and even in the United States, where the alt-right is fighting for influence in the White House. The enemies of democracy are joining forces, requiring more than ever before from civil society.

# Faces of hate

Racism and anti-Semitism are generally featured in the media only if a terrorist group is exposed, a Jewish facility is attacked or serious crimes are committed. Beyond these predictable media cycles, the Foundation provides ongoing analysis, information and advice on the acute and insidious dangers to democratic society. With its portal “Bell-tower.News – Netz für digitale Zivilgesellschaft,” it offers daily reporting on right-wing extremist incidents, and illuminates the various forms of group-focused enmity along with their strategies and patterns of argumentation.

The right-wing extremist and right-wing populist media landscape, paired with conspiracy theories, has gained new impact – particularly online. A key focus of our work is therefore on online hate and strategies for a digital culture of debate.

In addition, the Foundation runs the “Institute for Democracy and Civil Society – Thuringian Center for Documentation and Research against Group-Focused Enmity.” This non-university institution contributes with its research projects to the promotion of democracy, and serves as an interface between academia, politics and civil society.



The concept of “**group-focused enmity**” includes hostile attitudes toward people of different social, religious or ethnic backgrounds or ways of life, as well as the links between such attitudes. Among the forms of group-focused enmity are:

- Racism
- Anti-Semitism
- Anti-Muslim racism
- Anti-Roma racism
- Sexism
- Homo- and trans\*phobia
- Nationalism
- Denigration of persons with disabilities
- Hostility toward the homeless

# Funding projects

The Amadeu Antonio Foundation provides financial support and advice to initiatives across Germany that are active in youth work and schools, victim protection and victim aid, or community networking, as well as to projects providing a counterweight to the growth of right-wing extremism. The Foundation also provides more than simply financial assistance. The most important task of the Amadeu Antonio Stiftung is to encourage actors to strengthen their own initiatives and deepen their local connections.

The Foundation's funding priority is particularly on small local initiatives that otherwise have little prospect of financial support. These projects are led by engaged young people and brave adults, who pursue their goals in very different ways: with workshops, exhibitions, concerts and theater projects, street fairs, counter-protests and education campaigns, research and documentation – but all inspired by civil courage, strong reasoning and a culture of dignified remembrance.

They are all united by the will to stand up for the values of democracy and against right-wing extremism, racism and anti-Semitism. They want to change the social climate in their local surroundings. They intervene. And their projects have an impact in bringing about positive change.

## Support for the victims of right-wing violence

With the CURA fund for victims, the Amadeu Antonio Foundation supports the victims of right-wing extremist, racist and anti-Semitic violence – swiftly and without a lot of red tape. CURA helps victims:

- Pay for attorney fees and legal counseling after an attack.
- Find their way back into daily life, by providing compensation for property damage.
- Recover a sense of security, by paying moving costs or alarm-system installation fees.
- Cope with trauma, by paying the costs of psychological care and doctor visits that aren't covered by health insurance.

**CURA**  
OPFERFONDS RECHTE GEWALT



# Raising Awareness

It's crucial to draw public attention to local initiatives that are actively engaged in confronting right-wing movements and their ideology, especially when those initiatives lack support in their regions. An article in a national newspaper can make the difference between neglect and support from local politicians and other key players. The Amadeu Antonio Foundation has been able to dramatically improve conditions for initiatives seeking local mayoral support, for example, simply by calling racism by its name.

Foundation campaigns such as “Engagement statt Hetze” (Engagement, not hate) or “Kein Ort für Neonazis” (No place for neo-Nazis) distribute placards, posters and stickers with which people can flyer their hometowns and regions, providing a visual demonstration of the strength of that area’s resistance to right-wing movements.



# Gender and right-wing extremism

Most people associate the word “neo-Nazi” with a man, generally with a tendency toward violence and a hate-driven ideology. Projects, too, are often oriented toward male youth, working with gender images inspired by traditional notions of a “real man.”

But women, too, take on important functions in violent groups like the NSU (see page 2). As engaged mothers, preschool teachers or nice next-door neighbors, they inconspicuously spread right-wing extremist ideas. Nevertheless, girls and women remain largely overlooked, because they are dismissed as harmless followers. At the same time, sexism is an important element of the new-right ideology.

In the research literature too, there is a gap in the area of gender-conscious youth work against right-wing extremism and for democratic values. With its Gender and Right-Wing Extremism division, the Foundation prepares background analyses and recommendations for preschool and school teachers, parental and family counseling services, youth work, and caregivers. In addition to the thematic publications, the gender-conscious approach informs the Amadeu Antonio Foundation’s work as a cross-cutting issue more generally.



# Anti-Semitism

Jews have long been suspected of being responsible for the world's ills. Even today, we continue to find anti-Semitism at all societal and educational levels, across the political spectrum. Everyone can draw from the deep arsenal of anti-Semitic clichés, from conspiracy theories about Jewish world domination or anti-Semitism under the cover of an alleged criticism of Israel to capitalism-bashing, criticism of the “the system” or demands for an end to the German “cult of guilt.”

The Foundation regularly produces overviews indicating how and where anti-Semitism is appearing today. An online timeline documents anti-Semitic attacks in Germany. With its annual “Weeks of Action against Anti-Semitism,” the Foundation created the nation’s largest campaign focusing on the issue. Local events, touring exhibitions and projects are mounted around the country that illuminate the problem, provide networking opportunities and inspire resistance. For example, young people research the histories of residents in their cities who were forced into exile or murdered in the Holocaust. This is vital because in many regions, particularly in the former East Germany, there is little consciousness of how Jewish neighbors were transformed into enemies, excluded and ultimately murdered. The “Weeks of Action” thus draw connections between historical and present-day anti-Semitism.



# Empowerment, youth work and human-rights education

Hostile epithets like “you Jew,” “faggot” or blanket statements like “all Muslims want...” can often be heard in schools and youth work. In the course of their daily lives, teachers routinely meet young people who denigrate others as well as those who experience such discrimination. In this regard, not all youth-work professionals are sufficiently sensitized to racism and anti-Semitism.

The Foundation fills this gap, supporting educators in becoming active against racism, anti-Semitism and other forms of group-focused enmity among young people. In addition to producing recommendations and concepts for youth work, it offers workshops, lectures, training courses and supervisory services. The goals are to establish the principle of equality as a starting point within youth work, to create protected spaces for self-determined action for youth of color and Jewish youth, and create networks that link actors in the field.

Human rights and particularly children's' rights are an integral part of the Foundation's work, informing all of its projects as a cross-cutting issue.





# On the path to a democratic digital civil society

The internet is today the most widely used source of information, but is also a key venue for radicalization. In the course of the new migration movements, the Net has displayed its ugly side: Many people spread an unrestrained hate against refugees and their supporters, even using their real names without shame. Right-wing extremists and right-wing populists use the Net strategically and in tech-savvy ways. They spread their hate against minorities and those who think differently with fake news, memes, toxic narratives and social bots. They poison the debate with their invented stories. Hate speech has become the normal tone of conversation on the Net.

The Amadeu Antonio Foundation encourages digital civil courage and a clear stance in favor of democratic values on the Net. It analyzes the most recent digital strategies of the enemies of democracy, offers anti-hate-speech training sessions, and develops educational concepts for digital street work.

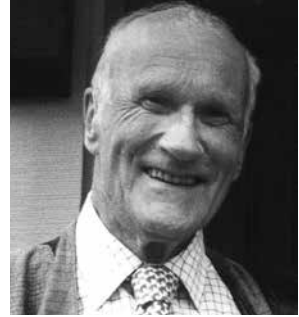
The Net cannot be abandoned to the haters. Rather, it must become the place where the democracy of tomorrow is shaped.





# Financial Support

The Foundation got its start with the help of Karl Konrad von der Groeben (pictured here), who provided the organization's initial capital. In his youth, Konrad actively worked against Hitler and other Nazis and was a member of the Stauffenberg resistance group. After the war and with aid from the Marshall Plan, he became a Coca Cola distributor in the German state of Baden-Württemberg. As his retirement neared, he decided to do something to combat current forms of neo-Nazism and bigotry in Germany, which inspired him to provide the Amadeu Antonio Foundation with €1 million in seed funding.



The Foundation's work additionally enjoys the support of the German federal government, large foundations and German and international companies.

We greatly appreciate additional donations to our endowment. With this form of support, you have the certainty that your contribution will be maintained over the long term. The Foundation's capital is strongly invested and thus preserved over time. Only the income is used to fund the Foundation's objectives.

In addition, with a bequest to the Amadeu Antonio Foundation, you can direct money or assets from your estate to a useful charitable purpose over the long term.

Please contact us if you have any questions. We'd be happy to provide you with advice.



# Support human-rights and democracy projects!

Individual and private donations are crucial for our work. The Amadeu Antonio Foundation strives to remain independent and free to criticize policy- and decision-makers, when necessary. This is only possible through the support of people like you.

Donations to the Amadeu Antonio Foundation are fully tax deductible to the extent of the law in Germany. In the United States, the Amadeu Antonio Stiftung is fiscally sponsored by FJC, a 501c3 public charity based in New York. As such, all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

To make your U.S. tax-deductible contribution to the Amadeu Antonio Foundation, please make checks payable to FJC, with “Amadeu Antonio Stiftung” in the memo line. Tax-deductible donations can also be made via PayPal through the following link:



For other payment methods or any questions,  
please contact our partner:

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**Many thanks for your support  
in combating hate!**

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