

**The Amadeu Antonio Foundation  
Encouraging Advising Funding**

**AMADEU ANTONIO STIFTUNG**

INITIATIVES FOR CIVIC EMPOWERMENT AND A DEMOCRATIC CULTURE

A man with glasses, wearing a blue denim shirt and dark blue pants, is sitting on a wooden floor. He has his hands clasped in his lap. In front of him is a black sign with white text. The background is a plain white wall. There are some blurred objects on either side of the man, possibly parts of a chair or table.

**MUT  
GEGEN  
RECHTE  
GEWALT**

## Who we are

The Amadeu Antonio Foundation is an independent NGO that fosters democratic civil society's awareness and active rejection of right-wing extremism, racism and anti-Semitism in Germany.

### The Amadeu Antonio Foundation

- has funded, advised and supported more than 770 grassroots projects since its establishment in 1998.
- has established a nationwide network of centers to counsel victims of hate crimes and to advise communities and citizens on combating right-wing activity.
- provides financial support to hate crime victims and their families, helping them cope with the attacks' physical, emotional and psychological aftermath.
- helps people leave the neo-Nazi scene through the EXIT initiative.
- organizes public events such as concerts with celebrities to raise awareness of the ongoing threat of neo-Nazi violence.
- carries out a nationwide awareness campaign about historic and contemporary anti-Semitism with travelling exhibitions.
- advises schools and municipalities on standing up to local neo-Nazi movements and implementing mission statements founded on openness and human rights.
- assists community organizations around Germany that promote civic engagement and democratic culture.

## The extreme right in Germany: Some facts

- 184 hate crime murders since German reunification
- 745 other murders suspected of being racially motivated
- hundreds of attacks against Jewish properties since German reunification
- represented in two state legislatures and hundreds of municipalities
- have succeeded in keeping eastern federal states largely immigrant- and minority-free
- have created unofficial “no-go” areas for immigrants, visible minorities, Jews, LGBT and other targets of hate crimes
- gave rise to the NSU (National Socialist Underground), a terrorist group that went overlooked by state and federal police for a decade while carrying out robberies and bombings, and murdered nine people of Turkish or Greek descent

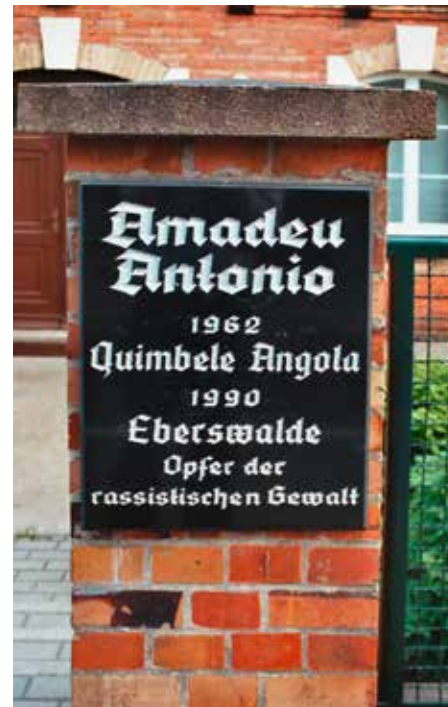




## Amadeu Antonio: The Man and the Mission

The Amadeu Antonio Foundation is named after Amadeu Antonio Kiowa, one of the first known fatalities of hate-based violence in reunified Germany. Kiowa was a black Angolan who had come as a contract worker in 1987 to Eberswalde, a small town in what was then East Germany. On the night of November 24, 1990, a local group of white youths wielding baseball bats went searching for “some blacks to beat up.” They found Kiowa and beat him unconscious. He fell into a coma and died on December 6.

The Amadeu Antonio Foundation is one of Germany’s foremost, independent organizations working to strengthen democratic civic society and eliminate neo-Nazism, right-wing extremism, anti-Semitism, and other forms of bigotry and hate in Germany. Since its founding in 1998, the Foundation has funded more than 770 projects and initiatives in pursuit of this goal, and carries out its own programs. It brings direct support to victims of hate-based violence, and promotes alternative youth cultures and community networks to weaken the social structures that intolerance and racism feed off of.



## About Germany’s extreme right

Who are neo-Nazis today? There are several ultra-right nationalist political parties with significant political and societal influence in many German municipalities and up to the state level in some areas of the former east. They blame average people’s everyday problems on immigrants and minorities, sewing hatred against them.

There are also informal neo-Nazi “combat” units, separate from the parties. These groups carry out most of the violent attacks and attract young people with a potent mix of community, camaraderie and racist provocation.

Germany’s extreme right today, whether in its political or social form, is not quite Hitler’s National Socialism of the 1930s and 40s. It is at the same time nationalist and revolutionary: against capitalism and globalization and for an ethnically pure, socialist state.

Thus they fit all-too well into common populist sentiment; young neo-Nazis wear Che Guevara T-shirts and Palestinian scarves, typically symbols of the Left. The combination of misguided youth and older generations’ nostalgia for the “good old days” of both National Socialism and socialism is the ominous backdrop that feeds discrimination and violence.



## Projects and programs

To confront neo-Nazi ideology and all other forms of bigotry and prejudice, the Foundation works at every level of society with a focus on prevention. We pursue our goal with three main strategies:

- funding and advising initiatives and projects,
- running our own projects for select issues,
- drawing the general public's attention to antidemocratic activities and reporting on effective ways to counter them.

Some examples of our programs and activities:

### Grant-making

The Amadeu Antonio Foundation provides funding, advising and networking opportunities for a variety of local grassroots projects, including training for educators, cultural events such as concerts and theater performances, intercultural youth programs, and legal aid for victims of hate crimes.

### EXIT for Neo-Nazis

The Amadeu Antonio Foundation not only helps victims of neo-Nazi terror but also members who want to leave the neo-Nazi scene. The EXIT program has helped more than 500 neo-Nazis get out of the scene by offering self-help and opportunities to distance themselves from racist ideology and groups. This program also organizes lectures and school visits by former neo-Nazis to raise awareness of the dangers of the neo-Nazi lifestyle.



## Support for Victims of Hate Crimes

Helping victims of far-right and neo-Nazi violence is a priority for the Amadeu Antonio Foundation. The Foundation supports counseling centers, which provide victims and their families crucial legal and psychological aid. Through the Foundation's own CURA fund, the Foundation delivers quick, uncomplicated financial help.



### Human Rights Education

The Foundation's projects, "Human Rights Education for a Democratic Culture" and "Children's Rights in the Community", are an integral part of our work because the principles of human rights must be taught as early as possible. These projects allow children from early on to engage with their own rights and responsibilities in creative ways, helping them develop into active citizens at the municipal level.

### Gender and Neo-Nazis

Gender was a long-overlooked topic in the area of right-wing violence. What motivates young women and men to join the neo-Nazi movement and how is that connected to traditional gender roles? What role do women play here? With generous support from the Dreilinden and Open Society Foundations, the Amadeu Antonio Foundation is actively engaged in these questions.

Although neo-Nazi women often go unnoticed, they are an integral part of keeping the neo-Nazi subculture together. Many are wives and mothers, raising children and involved in their local communities – schools, fire departments and youth program-





ming, for example. They do not hide their political and social views, and often don't need to. Their neighbors know and tolerate them; many agree with them. Women play a significant role in terrorist groups, helping them go undetected because security services often overlook the women in the far-right scene.

The Amadeu Antonio Foundation is keenly aware of the dangerous consequences of this oversight, which is why it's made gender a major part of its work. In northeast Germany, in the region around Ludwigslust, for example, the Foundation briefs members of state parliament on their approach to neo-Nazi women in their parliaments. The program also trains educators who work with children of neo-Nazi families and are confronted with far-right mothers bringing their ideology into parents' associations and kindergartens. The Foundation prepares social workers to work with far-right families, making social workers aware of the problems and helping them develop strategies to deal with them. Online, the Foundation provides information about gender issues in this region as they relate to the neo-Nazi movement.

## Online Hate Speech

Neo-Nazis are extremely successful with social media. While right-wing activists encounter more and more resistance in the real public space, they increasingly use the internet as a forum, where it doesn't take much to spread their racist worldview. Hiding behind innocuous-seeming identities and campaigns, they can appear less harmful than they really are. As such, online hate speech has become one of the Foundation's specialties.



In particular with its platform no-nazi.net, the Foundation monitors and evaluates neo-Nazi campaigns and activities on social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. The invaluable data collected is used to raise awareness and provide to schools, communities and other organizations to act against these movements. Teachers, parents and their children have the chance to share ideas and experiences within a safe, Nazi-free social network.

Google, Facebook and German social media firms support this initiative, as well as major Foundations such as the Freudenberg Foundation and the Robert Bosch Foundation, and the German Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth.

## Confronting anti-Semitism

The Amadeu Antonio Foundation remains ever vigilant in the struggle against anti-Semitism. While the kind of "old-fashioned" anti-Semitism exploited in Nazi Germany is today blatantly obvious and therefore socially unacceptable, anti-Semitic sentiment posing as political criticism of Israel is more widely accepted. The Foundation uses a







number of tools to address this subtler form. A traveling exhibition presents contemporary expressions of anti-Semitism, encouraging people to be alert for and work against them. An online archive documents anti-Semitic incidents in Germany. Another exhibit in English has gone to the United States. Called “Germany after 1945: A Society Confronts anti-Semitism, Racism and Neo-Nazism”; it was presented in 2013 at Baruch College, and in 2014 at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and the JFN Conference in Miami.

The Foundation is particularly focused on how society confronts and remembers the Holocaust. Many regions in Germany, especially in the former east, have yet to come to grips with the Nazi past. Too often there is little awareness of the process by which Jewish neighbors were turned into enemies to be expelled from their communities and eventually annihilated. Through a variety of the Foundation’s own and supported projects, young people research the lives of former neighbors who were forced into exile or murdered in the Holocaust. These projects usually serve as a way to publicly mark and acknowledge this history.

Confronting the history of anti-Semitism after 1945 in both German states is also crucial. In one project, participants from both sides of then-divided Germany compare the ways their communities dealt with the Holocaust and Germany’s Nazi past. An exhibit about anti-Semitism in the former GDR has toured Germany since 2007, attracting many visitors and sparking lively discussion.

## Raising Awareness

Bringing the public’s attention to local initiatives that are actively engaged in confronting the neo-Nazi movement and its ideology is crucial when those initiatives lack support in their regions. An article in a national newspaper can make the difference between indifference and support from local politicians and other key players. The Amadeu Antonio Foundation has been able to turn a situation around for an initiative seeking the mayor’s support, for example, in calling racism by its name. The Foundation’s “Kein Ort für Neonazis” project (No place for neo-Nazis, pictured below) distributes placards, posters and stickers for people to flyer their hometowns and regions with, thereby visually showing the strength of that area’s resistance to right-wing movements. The Foundation is helped by major media partners such as the weekly newspaper “Die Zeit”, which supports [netz-gegen-nazis.de](http://netz-gegen-nazis.de) (net against Nazis), and the news magazine “*stern*”, which has been a long-time supporter of, “Mut gegen rechte Gewalt”(Courage against neo-Nazi violence).







## Financial Support

The Foundation got its start with the help of Graf Karl Konrad von der Groeben, pictured below, who put up the 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 Stiftung with one million euros in funding.

The Foundation's work enjoys the support of the German federal government, large foundations and a breadth of German and international companies. The German Olympic Sports Confederation and German National Football League are also among Amadeu Antonio's partners, as well as major national news publications.



# Every Donation Helps!

Individual and private donations are crucial for our work. The Amadeu Antonio Foundation strives to be independent and free to remain critical of policy- and decision-makers, when necessary. This is only possible with help from people like you.

For U.S. tax-deductible contributions, please make checks payable to FJC, with “Amadeu Antonio Stiftung” in the memo line or an accompanying document. FJC will provide a tax-substantiation letter for amounts above \$250.

For credit card, wire transfer, other forms of payment or any other questions, please contact Nikki Carpenter, [carpenter@fjc.org](mailto:carpenter@fjc.org).

All other donations can be made via PayPal or wired directly to the Foundation:

**Amadeu Antonio Stiftung**  
**GLS Bank Bochum**  
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**BIC: GENODEM1GLS**

Many thanks for your support combating hate!



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