

# Right-wing attacks at the university



— Englisch

**AStA + Zebra e.V.**

## Right-wing attacks at the university

— An information brochure

*zebra- the center for the center for those affected by right-wing motivated attacks, consults affected persons, relatives and witnesses of racist, anti-semitic and other right-wing attacks. We provide legal, financial and psychosocial support. These services are free, voluntary, and can be used anonymously. You are also not required to notify the police.*

*In this brochure you will find some important information about the handling of right-wing motivated attacks. However, the brochure is only a supplement and not a substitute for a personal consultation. To make a personal appointment with us, you can reach us at 0431 - 30140379 or at [info@zebraev.de](mailto:info@zebraev.de).*

*As a student, you can also come to our open consultation hours. We offer support for all types of right-wing motivated attacks, such as threats (including digital), constraints, damage to property, and physical attacks.*

*We also offer emotional support after an attack or in crisis situations. We provide information about legal possibilities, such as criminal complaints, subclaims or victim protection. On request, we can accompany you to the police, public authorities and lawyers. We are at your side in legal proceedings. Furthermore, we can help you with the psychosocial reprocessing of the crime.*

*You decide what is appropriate for you. We are geared to your needs, and we are partisan with everyone affected by right-wing motivated attacks.*



## In an attack

The various types of right-wing attacks can happen in completely different ways. In some attacks, such as targeted damage, it's only in the aftermath that you are confronted with the crime. In the case of physical attacks, however, you are present during the attack, and are therefore able to react. For example, you can alert other people or call the police - or you can defend yourself.

Therefore, we want to give you some information about how to act during an attack. We want to make sure that, as the affected person, you are not complicit in the attack.

If there is an attack, first search for escape opportunities. This option is not wrong and also not dishonest. After all, it is not an easy decision to enter a physical conflict, the outcome of which can not be foreseen. If you're in a group, you should stay together so that no one is left behind.

With that said, you can always defend yourself in an attack situation. This is self-defense! Anyone in an emergency situation may defend themselves with all possible means available to prevent further assault on themselves or others.

## Do not be alone

Do not be alone immediately following an attack! The affected person should have relatives and friends around for support. If you have become the target of an attack, please ask the people in your circle for support.

After a physical attack, make sure you seek medical treatment and get a certificate listing all your injuries. You should also document any other evidence of the attack, such as dirt on clothing or damage to other objects, by taking photos.

A detailed report from memory of the attack is useful for further legal situations, such as police interrogation or in the courtroom. Write down as many details in it as possible: what hand were you beaten with, or what foot were you kicked with? What was said during the attack? What kind of clothes and striking features did the attackers have?

## Possible impacts

The impacts of an attack vary from person to person. Some people cannot sleep well after experiencing violence, others have to repeatedly replay the act in their head. Also, many victims lose their sense of safety, making it difficult to continue life as usual. In contrast to physical injuries, psychological wounds are less visible. However, both need to be treated, and it is advisable to seek professional help. The employees of zebra - center for victims of right wing motivated attacks, can help you by informing you of therapeutic services available.

## Filing charges

### — Dealing with the police

Police behavior in dealing with those affected by right-wing attacks does not always correspond to the image of the “friend and helper”. Instead, affected people repeatedly report racist treatment by police officers or guilty statements against those who were attacked as political opponents of the right wing. That is why it is generally better if you speak with the police in the company of zebra employees.

Another possible hurdle is, for example, the language, which is why you are entitled to a free interpreter with the police, with interrogators and before the court. You can demand a translator from the police.

When pressing charges, you must provide a summonable address including the name, date and place of birth, your residence address and employment information. The summonable address does not have to be your own address. Alternatively, you can also use your lawyer’s address by prior agreement.

The police are required to take your complaint. If the officials still refuse, you can make a supervision disciplinary complaint.

Finally, you should ask the police to issue a confirmation that you have pressed charges. There is a log book number on the confirmation, which you can use to make requests for the charges and investigation easier.

### — The procedure for criminal proceedings

After you report a crime, the police must conduct investigations. This may take several months. After that, case files are handed over to the prosecutor’s office, where decisions on how to proceed are taken. In principle, there are three possibilities: it is deemed further investigations are necessary, the proceeding is discontinued, or the accusation is brought to court.

There are different reasons for terminating a proceeding. Possible reasons are: the offender could not be identified, or that there is not enough evidence. Another reason may be the prosecutor’s office see the crime as too minor to charge. Should you disagree with the prosecutor’s decision, you can file a written complaint. A staff member of zebra or a lawyer can help you write such a complaint.

If, on the other hand, the prosecution decides to press charges, the court will decide when to open the trial. You may have to wait a long time for a court hearing. In a court hearing you can appear as the injured party as well as a joint plaintiff. For this, it is best to find a lawyer.

### — In the courtroom

The judges, the defenders, the prosecutors representatives and the defendants are present at the main hearing. Depending on the case, there may also be lawyers and experts. For your testimony, you'll sit behind a table in the middle of the courtroom. The best thing is to focus on the judges, who will ask you detailed questions about what happened. Even small details often play an important role, which is why these questions also contain information that you have already told the police. If you act as a joint plaintiff in the process, your attorney may intervene during the hearing.

### — Contraindication

As already stated, you have the right to defend yourself in an attack. Frequently the perpetrators still press charges against you to distract from their own guilt. The police will then inform you in writing that a complaint has been made against you. You do not have to appear to hear the police. It's best, however, to clarify this first with your lawyer to see if it may be useful to go nonetheless. This is different when the prosecutor makes charges against you. If this is the case, you should look for a lawyer. A lawyer can help you clarify your status in the legal process; your status depends on whether you are required to give a truthful statement, and what statements you may refuse to give.

### Financial aspects

Financial aspects often play an important role after a right-wing attack. There are several different questions: Who pays the doctor's fees? Who will pay the costs for a lawyer? What about pain relief? Where can I get financial support? In all these questions, you should definitely contact a counseling center. Here are just the main points:

If an attack results in permanent consequences, your health insurance company will at some time cease payments. You can then apply to the Land Office for Social Services for an application under the Victims Compensation Act (OEG).

Whether you have to personally pay for the cost of lawyers and the process is dependent on various factors, including the outcome of the proceedings. For example, defendants in a criminal case must bear all costs themselves if they are convicted. If, on the other hand, the defendants are released, you have to finance the costs as a joint plaintiff. These costs can arise, for example, if you are legally advised in preliminary stages of a court hearing.

*As you have seen, the consequences of a right-wing attack can be very different, so many important aspects have been briefly mentioned in this short booklet. In addition to medical and psychological impacts, disputes with the police or the court may extend over a longer period of time.*

*In all of these cases, you should consult the employees of a counseling center, such as zebra, in order to get through the situation in one piece. These centers are specialized in the support of victims of right-wing motivated attacks. The easiest way to get in touch with the employees of zebra is during the open office hours, which take place every Monday from 2 pm to 4 pm in the AStA consultation room in Mensa 1. You can reach us at [www.zebraev.de](http://www.zebraev.de) or call 0431 - 30140379.*

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Diese Broschüre enthält Links zu Websites Dritter. Diese Websites unterliegen der Haftung der jeweiligen Betreiber.

