

2020 2021 REPORT

**Right-wing Extremism
on the Internet**

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 **Democracy!**

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Consistently Protecting Young People from Right-wing Exposure

Right-wing extremism on the internet is, unfortunately, booming. jugendschutz.net has been calling attention to this for years. Often, misanthropic and anti-democratic postings on the net originate at societal fault lines, with propaganda gravitating toward societal issues, refugee arrivals, and migration. Among the significant triggers are also crisis events, such as terrorist attacks or natural disasters. All these are topics of concern for young people.

Since March 2020, the Corona pandemic and measures undertaken to overcome it have been a focal point for hate speech and conspiracy myths. In addition, catastrophic flooding that occurred in Germany in 2021 has become a topic of right-wing information campaigns. Key players in the right-wing milieu also take advantage of web areas and activities attractive to young people (think: the gaming world) to propagate their ideology. From the point of view of those seeking to protect minors, this is a particularly troubling development.

The present report demonstrates, providing many examples, how right-wing extremists are instrumentalizing the internet for their own purposes. It sheds light on the ruthless methods being employed, especially to lure young users. The report also addresses the need for an active response to these phenomena.

Providers of social media and gaming platforms have a particular responsibility. Their services are used by most children and young people. They enable tools and functions that make it possible to propagate hate in unprecedented ways. It is therefore essential and justified that they be required to take preventive measures for the protection of children and adolescents. Although global players have begun responding to right-wing agitation, they have not done nearly enough to block it. In this respect – as the report shows – all the providers still have a long way to go!



Stefan Glaser
Director jugendschutz.net

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DIMEN SIONS AND TRENDS

For more than a year and a half now, the dominant topic worldwide has been the Corona virus. It presents young people, just as everyone else, with a significant disturbance to everyday life. Online schooling and the lack of direct contact with peers have made the internet, more so than ever before, an integral part of the living environment for children and adolescents. As a result, their risk of being confronted with hate messages and right-wing extremist propaganda is higher than ever, particularly on social media.

Right-wing extremists have adapted quickly to integrate the pandemic into their media strategy. They reframe the crisis, instrumentalizing it to promote their agenda and propagate conspiracy narratives. Their aim: to achieve the widest possible audience range for their misanthropic and anti-democratic ideology, and to recruit new followers. To this end, they make use of all the media paths and vehicles that are relevant to the digital experience and usage habits of young people. These include preferred formats such as livestreams and podcasts, but also trendy apps like TikTok or popular subculture realms like the gaming world.

In addition, online areas have been established in which right-wing extremists can pursue their agenda with hardly any restrictions to their networking and planning for attacks. This applies particularly to default platforms, where the service providers do not initiate countermeasures, or do so only inconsistently. These areas, which are characterized by disinformation, misanthropy, and violence, are advertised through tips and links on popular social media services frequented by young people.

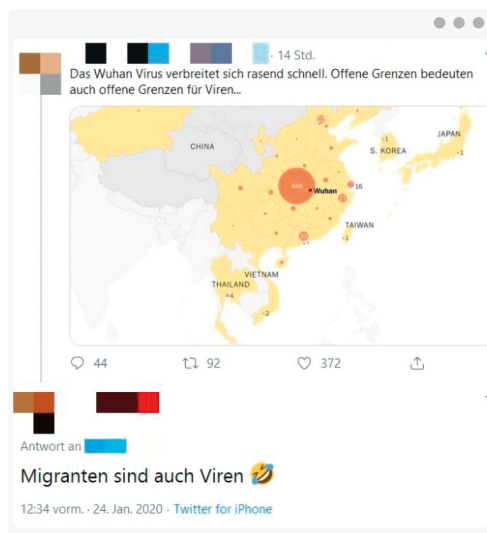
Corona Crisis: Boom Times for Right-wing Extremist Propaganda

The global Corona crisis in 2020/2021 has been and remains a constant source of anxiety and drastic behavioral alterations. Children and adolescents searching online for an assessment of these unprecedented circumstances are likely to encounter highly varied, often contradictory explanations. This can overwhelm, unsettle, or frighten them.

Right-wing extremists take full advantage of this circumstance: fear is a core aspect of their propaganda. They focus intensely on the Corona

topic and ride its inexorable wave to propagate their world view – with its racist reframing of events, its doomsday scenarios, and its conspiracy myths.

Since the Corona virus SARS-CoV-2 was first identified in China, persons of Asian descent were the first to be blamed. They were vilified and accused of insufficient hygiene or a dangerously “exotic” dietary habits. This harks back to age-old racist stereotypes.



Refugees were another target: official advisories to reduce social contacts and stay at home were reconfigured to imply that those fleeing their homes should stay “where they came from”, i.e. in their countries of origin. Every bit as cynical was the suggestion that struggling airlines, as a form of government support, should be commissioned with mass exportations. Moreover, refugees were defamed as carriers of disease, or were simply equated with viruses.

Simple equation ‘open borders = danger’: Here, migrants are equated with viruses and dehumanized. (source: Twitter; original not pixelated)

Right-wing extremists use the pandemic and its effects to project long-standing anti-Semitic images of hate onto current events. Jewish people are, for example, depicted as a virus, and thus dehumanized. With this rhetoric, right-wingers tap directly into the systematic degradation undertaken by the National Socialists, who compared Jews to vermin or parasites as a way of vilifying them.

In propagandistic texts, the virus itself is even designated as “Jewish” or “a Jewish invention”. In keeping with older anti-Semitic conspiracy myths defaming Jews as “well poisoners”, they are now accused of having created Corona in order to earn money and gain influence.



Corona as a “Jewish business model”: during the pandemic, age-old anti-Semitic stereotypes were revived as an image of the supposed enemy. (source: Telegram; original not pixelated)

The Corona pandemic is accompanied by any number of conspiracy narratives, many of which are anti-Semitic to the core. The “great reset”, as a post-Corona vision of a socially and environmentally sustainable economic order, has become a standard term for conspiracy ideologists on the net. They assert that the US investor George Soros is a “power broker” who (together with others suspected of secretly being Jewish, among them the Green politician Annalena Baerbock), is preparing a “great transition” of world power to a nameless global financial elite. Again, this is a reprise on an older, widespread anti-Semitic narrative.

Conspiracy Myths and Violence: The Pandemic as a Catalyst

Young people searching social media for information on Corona are in danger of happening upon misinformation and conspiracy narratives that often reach a very wide audience.

Some of them purport that the virus is a bio-weapon developed by pharmaceutical companies or secret government laboratories. Others trivialize the pandemic situation or even deny the existence of SARS-CoV-2. They regard the pandemic as a “plandemic”, a deliberate

deception instigated by politicians and the media. Governments, according to this narrative, want to use it to expand their power and ultimately instate a “new world order”.

In like manner, measures intended to prevent infection – for example, exhortations to wear a protective mask or to reduce social contacts – are blandly classified as further steps towards a dictatorial restructuring of government. Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel, in particular, has been accused of using “gentle methods” to carry on an invisible war against the German population. Supposedly, she and others were and are betraying their “own people”, who consequently are entitled and required to defend themselves.



Conspiracy myths surrounding Corona serve to construct a scenario of existential threat.
(source: Facebook; original not pixelated)

With the introduction of vaccinations to immunize against Corona, conspiracy adherents cranked up their anti-democratic defamations yet another notch: ranting on social networks about the “micro-chip” enabling total control of individuals, or the plan to reduce the world population, i.e. elimination via vaccination.

In right-wing extremist online milieus, one can find rectifications and calls for action against journalists, politicians, and experts. The online agitations begin with dossiers containing supposed proof of “high treason” and extend all the way to explicit murder fantasies.



“To the gallows!”: Murder fantasy targeting the president of the Robert Koch Institute, which reached thousands of users.
(source: Telegram; original not pixelated)

Certain right-wing terrorist groups, on the other hand, welcomed the global crisis, particularly at the outset of the pandemic. They saw it as the overture to societal collapse and anticipated their much-touted “Day X”: the outbreak of uncloaked violence leading to civil war and the overthrow of democracy with all its (in their view) negatives, such as pluralism and civil liberties.

In keeping with this, they distributed tips on preparing for the crisis or on armed survival warfare. They called for attacks on Jews, Muslims, and Blacks, including deliberate efforts to infect them with the virus, as a means of accelerating societal collapse.

Self-staging in Times of Crisis: Of Victims and Heroes

A core aspect of right-wing extremist self-portrayal on the net is their depiction of self in the role of victim. In accord with their reframing of the Corona pandemic as the instrument of a supposed "health dictatorship", the pandemic deniers, conspiracy believers, and right-wing extremists present themselves as the "Persecuted". Time and again, they draw comparisons with the Nazi regime and its crimes. Images of Chancellor Merkel as Hitler have been circulated on the net since the beginning of the pandemic. Ordinances to protect public health

are defamed as new-day "Enabling Acts" (a reference to the 1933 law granting extensive extralegal powers to Hitler).

By appropriating, for their own purposes, the Star of David, which symbolizes the stigmatization of Jews during the Nazi-era, the anti-vaxxers identify themselves with that persecuted minority. Online, they sell the yellow "Jewish star" with an "un-vaxxed" written across it as a sticker or sew-on patch, or they distribute memes with the same image on the net.

This kind of dramatization not only relativizes the national-socialist policies of persecution and extinction. Following the same logic, the demand for a "Nuremberg 2.0" could also gain traction. Circulating on the net are calls for a tribunal to condemn those responsible for the purportedly oppressive "Corona regime". It is not unusual for these to be combined with a pre-determined sentence: the death penalty for all those involved.



Anti-vaxxers appropriating the Nazi's Yellow Star: styling themselves as victims, they trivialize the Holocaust.
(source: Instagram; original not pixelated)

During the first Corona wave, in early 2020, various initiatives and networks were formed to support senior citizens or members of groups subject to high risk due to the pandemic.

Right-wing extremist parties and groups were quick to follow suit. Parallel to their self-stylization as victims, they presented themselves as selfless, concerned helpers. As in other instances of ostensibly charitable and supportive efforts initiated by right-wingers – such as contributions to animals shelters or garbage-collecting campaigns in the woods – these were actions aimed at gleaning social approval and outreach. In addition, they presented an opportunity to conjure up a supposed sense of ethnic community over against the alleged enmity and incompetence of government agencies.



Neo-Nazi fringe party “The 3rd Path” offers “neighborhood assistance” for Germans only. (source: Telegram; original not pixelated)

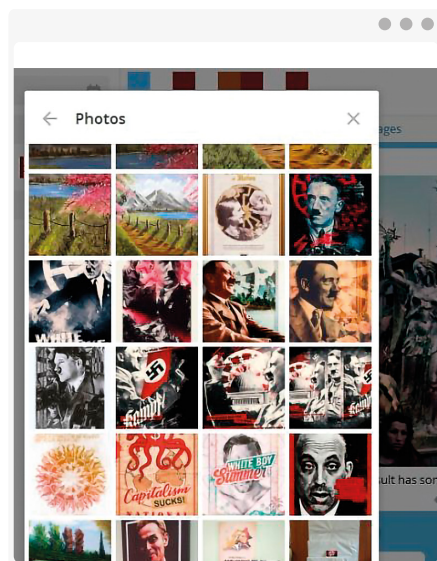
The flood disaster in the summer of 2021 offered another opportunity for right-wing extremists to present themselves as heroic helpers or “alternative” reporters on location. Their theatrical staging was accompanied by their own online calls for contributions. While depicting the destruction caused by severe flooding in North Rhine-Westphalia and Rhineland-Palatinate as an overall failure of government agencies, media, and professional emergency aid organizations, the amateur helpers were, in some cases, actually hindering the efforts of professional emergency crews.

Particularly among young people, such images and narratives of flooding and destruction can trigger concern and anxiety. In search of explanations, they may be especially susceptible to propagandistic messages with ideological interpretations and assignment of blame.

Refuge for Right-wing Extremists: Telegram as a Switchboard

For quite some time, jugendschutz.net has observed how Telegram has become the most important platform for right-wing extremists. Particularly since 2020 and in the context of the Corona pandemic, the service has gained significantly in relevance. In its many interconnected channels and groups, tens of thousands of content postings are circulated daily, reaching more than 100,000 users.

For such a wide potential audience, there are channels serving a broad spectrum of right-wing extremist milieus. Beginning with political formations like the New Right or the so-called "Citizens of the Reich", online shops, music labels, or "alternative media", and extending to right-wing terrorists: all these groups integrate Telegram into their media strategy and often advertise their channels on the larger social media services popular among young people.



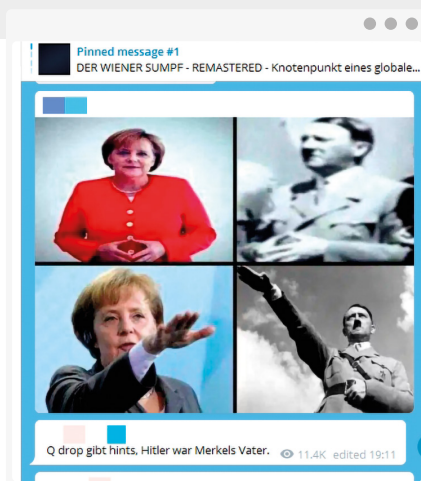
Another reason for its relevance is the fact that Telegram very rarely deletes any content. Despite complaints, drastic violations such as Holocaust denial, vilification of ethnic groups, or depictions of violence usually remain online. Even terrorist right-wing extremist groups are able to distribute their propaganda freely.

Since 2020, jugendschutz.net has reported 292 violations of legal standards for the protection of youth in the media. A mere 28 % of these were deleted due to a user complaint, some only after a long interval of time. In further instances, direct contact established by jugendschutz.net finally resulted in deletion, but this only raised the success rate to about 30 %. In eight additional cases, other measures were taken, e.g. media regulation proceedings.

Numerous violations of Youth Media Protection laws: openly Nazi propaganda on Telegram.
(source: Telegram; original not pixelated)

Telegram has become a key platform for the distribution of disinformation. This was true before the Corona pandemic and has intensified since it began. On this messenger service, enormous numbers of articles and videos are disseminated by self-designated “alternative media”. In addition, there is supposedly “revelatory” information posted by right-wing extremists along with quotes from mainstream media that seem to corroborate their ideological position.

Anything that corresponds with their world view bears the promise of achieving wide resonance and being seen as plausible. Disagreement or other points of view are seldom to be found.



Chancellor Merkel allegedly Hitler's daughter: crude assertions and disinformation on Telegram.
(source: Telegram; original not pixelated)

Right-wing extremists use Telegram to initiate and coordinate hate campaigns and online attacks. Political opponents and other persons considered undesirable are designated as targets. Corresponding propaganda material, for example in the form of vilifying memes, are made available as files. Thus, Telegram serves as a “switchboard” for managing the self-declared “information war”.

At the same time, Telegram is a significant, international networking node for right-wing extremists of various persuasions. Sharing content or direct links to other groups and channels gives rise to an extensive network of postings and contacts.

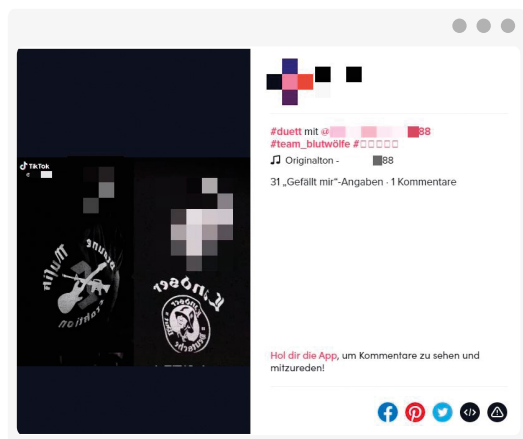
Trend Platform TikTok: Right-wing Extremists on New Channels

The social media service TikTok has been, in recent years, one of the most popular apps among children and adolescents. Among those using the service to address their message to a young audience are right-wing extremists.

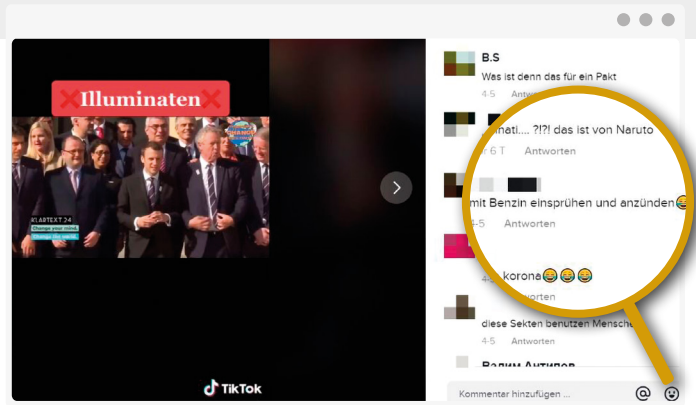
Song excerpts from popular right-wing rock bands, such as "Landser" or "Sleipnir", can be found on TikTok, along with neo-Nazi ballads and right-wing extremist rap. In video clips, clothing and insignia associated with the right-wing scene are on view. Along with profile names with numerical codes ("1488") or typical milieu hashtags ("#heimatliebeistkeinverbrechen" – "loveofhomelandisnotacrime"), there are

very explicit references: profile names and descriptions containing forbidden slogans or demagogic statements.

Right-wing extremists orient their TikTok presence to the customary forms on the platform: in short clips, they make use of music video memes with dance sequences. In addition, they allow glances into their purported everyday lives, for example with vacation images or recommended recipes. The aim is to present themselves and their activist lives as attractive and normal – thus advertising right-wing extremism as a desirable lifestyle for young people.



Duet on "Landser" merchandise: Right-wing rock bands present their typical clothing on TikTok.
(source TikTok; original not pixelated)



Recently, the uptick in content related to conspiracy ideologies has also extended to TikTok, e.g. with the usual narratives on the “new world order” or the “great reset”. They incorporate excerpts from propaganda videos, political speeches, or right-wing extremist streams.

The response in the corresponding comment sections is rapid and heated. A video showing politicians at an international conference and designating them as “Illuminates”, for example, triggered a range of violent fantasies: shoot them, blow them up, light them on fire – these are a few of the reactions. In addition, there are hate-filled comments, some of them anti-Semitic.

Clips relating to conspiracy ideologies are often combined with drastic calls for violence. (source: TikTok; original not pixelated)

For young people, TikTok presents an option to take their first steps on the net and post their own content. However, there is always the danger that they may become the target of hate attacks. In the comment sections, new users are vilified because of their appearance, their sexuality, or their ethnic origin. A young Jewish girl, for example, streaming live video on TikTok, was attacked and defamed on the basis of her religion.

Gaming and Right-wing Extremism: Playing into Youthful Styles and Habits

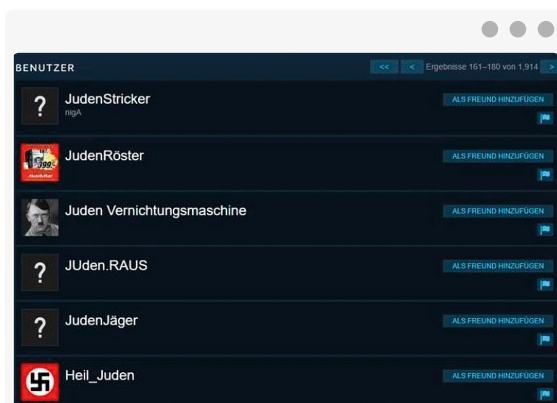
"Gaming" implies more than just playing on the computer: it is a pop-culture cosmos all its own, with platforms and communities. On the relevant channel, right-wing extremists cast out their propaganda, seeking to find new recruits, provoke users, and appropriate gaming areas for their own purposes.

As a lure, they employ the gaming codes and aesthetics that young people already feel at home with. In terms of design, quite a few of the right-wing extremist, often misanthropic memes and videos accessible online are modelled after well-known computer games.

At the same time, gaming communities also provide an opening for the right-wing extremist mindset. Some gaming subcultures are characterized by irony or sarcasm, morbid humor, and deliberate provocations: overstepping bounds as "fun". They work with racist and sexist "gags", integrate prominent Nazi figures and symbols, or play down the Holocaust.

Although some of these gamers may not subscribe consciously to a coherent right-wing extremist worldview, stock phrases stemming from that ideology will seem normal to them

due to constant exposure. In this way, a fertile substrate for targeted right-wing propaganda is created. Those wishing to disseminate that propaganda merely need to tap into the networking and outreach infrastructures that are typical in the gaming scene, e.g. platforms like Discord, Twitch or Steam.

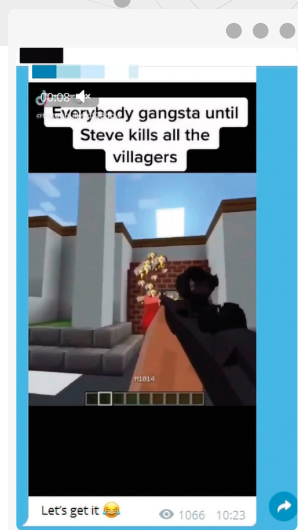


Anti-Semitism and glorification of National Socialism: easy to find in the gaming scene, e.g. in the profile search on the gaming platform Steam. (source: Steam)

Right-wing extremists began developing and publishing their own games as early as the 1980s. Some of today's versions allow gamers to assume the role of a right-wing assassin. Others are designed to appear harmless at first, but they ultimately transport racist and antidemocratic narratives.

While serving as a provocation and a staging area for right-wing extremists' self-portrayal as "rebels", their computer games are also an attempt to draw young people who are not yet involved in the extremist milieu into that ideological realm.

Increasingly, right-wing extremist machinations on the net are presented as open, multi-player games. The interactive adventure of "infowar" sounds like a promising experience of being an influential member of a larger community. In so-called "Twitter raids", for example, a concerted effort is made to push hashtags that disseminate one's own narratives. In the multiplayer gaming context, a "raid" can mean a coordinated, simultaneous attack of several participants on one target.



Contempt for mankind cloaked in the optics of "Minecraft": jubilation over the right-wing terrorist attack in Christchurch.
(source: Telegram; original not pixelated)

Gaming elements and associations were also discussed in the context of the right-wing terrorist attacks of 2019/2020: the assassins filmed their deeds from an "ego shooter" perspective, or they garnished the header with gaming references. In like-minded forums, they were celebrated for their actions, and a high number of victims was misanthropically commended as a "high score".

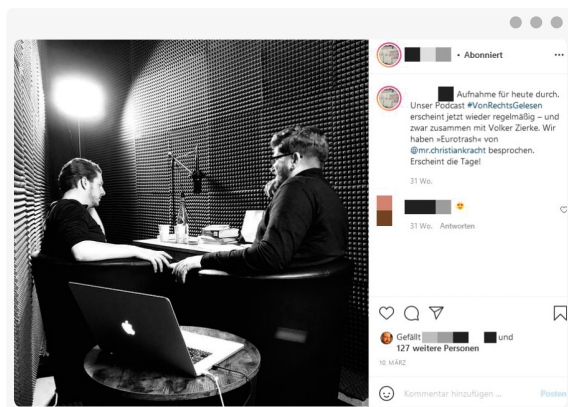
Right-wing Adaption of a Format: Podcasts as an Example

To appeal to the media affinities of young people, right-wing extremists not only take up trending topics from the everyday world of youth, they also make use of specific formats. One example: podcasts. Surveys show that adolescents and young adults are among the most active recipients.

In recent years and particularly during the Corona pandemic, a number of right-wing extremist podcasts have gained an audience. Although they differ with respect to content, frequency, and means of distribution, they also exhibit some mutual characteristics and intersections.

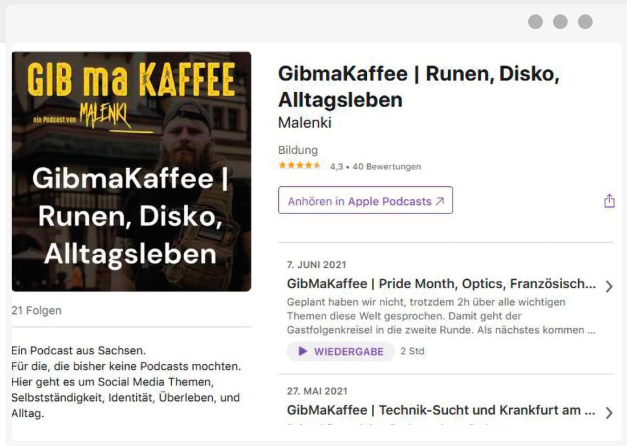
In most cases, right-wing extremist podcasts are dialogue formats. Their topics tend to center on assessments of current political events and on the activism or activities of invited guests. The conversational style ranges from (pseudo-) intellectual discussion to would-be humorous provocation.

Spotify and YouTube are services often used for distribution. In addition to typical podcast portals, other platforms including Twitch, BitChute, or DLive are also tested out. The podcasts are advertised on larger platforms and in profiles, also on the services most popular among young people, such as Instagram.



Right-wing extremists make use of the podcast format and advertise their productions on platforms frequented by young people.
(source: Instagram; original not pixelated)

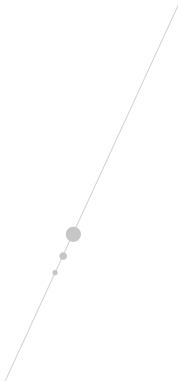
Right-wing extremists regard their podcasts as a facet of “culture war”. But in terms of the media strategy of individual persons and groups, this is an attractive format: since it doesn’t require much technical know-how or outlay, it is easy and inexpensive to produce. And as a serial format, it has the potential to establish an audience of loyal listeners and a certain status as a brand.



Innocuous, or targeted toward a milieu? Right-wing extremists use podcasts to supplement their own media portfolio with yet another format. (source: Apple Podcasts)

Podcasts can simulate a personal or even intimate atmosphere. Particularly on the basis of repeated, regular contact, listeners can form what is called a para-social relationship with the podcaster.

Right-wing extremists instrumentalize the option this format presents: to create a feeling of personal connection. This makes what the assert or advocate seem more credible and attractive. Consequently, right-wing extremist podcasts can exert considerable influence on the formation of listeners’ opinions and attitudes.



Fleeting Content: Hate Propaganda in Real Time

Self-deleting posts or videos and text chats running in real time: formats for fleeting content have their own particular lure for children and young people. Live broadcasts of video games or talks held by influencers take on the character of an event: not to be missed. Right-wing extremists take advantage of ephemeral formats as a part of their media strategy to disseminate propaganda and sow hate.

For example, right-wing extremists don't hesitate to make use of the story function on Instagram to create an impression of familiarity and (supposedly) private insight. They stage themselves as spontaneous, approachable

identification figures – on occasion allowing some explicit hate content, such as ethnic vilification, to enter into the portrayal.

Live content plays a prominent role in the right-wing extremist context. This is apparent in cases where right-wing terrorists have broadcast their attacks in real time. Not quite as drastic, but nonetheless a step toward normalization, are the talks and streamed podcasts on current events or the "Let's play" invitations, also live broadcasts from demonstrations or other event, with accompanying commentary.

Such livestreams are posted, e.g., on YouTube. However, other platforms have increased in their significance – particularly those that rarely delete content or profiles. One of these services important for right-wing extremists is DLive. The provider seldom takes any measures to block content. Due to the limited options for user complaints, it is very difficult to report violations.



"...turns down 1800 asylum applications per minute":
misanthropic "joke" illustrating a story.
(source: Instagram; original not pixelated)

INFRINGEMENTS AND ACTION TAKEN

For children and adolescents, right-wing extremist online content can result in the endangerment or impairment of their development. To protect them, measures that work rapidly and effectively are necessary. jugendschutz.net contacts service providers in Germany and abroad and calls for the removal of content that violates statutes for the protection of minors in the media. In cases where a responsible party living in Germany can be ascertained, or when a request is being made to place the offensive material on an index, jugendschutz.net sends a referral to the Commission for the Protection of Minors in the Media (KJM). Should the content point to a specific situation of endangerment, criminal prosecution authorities are informed.

Social media services are essential communication channels for the dissemination of right-wing extremist propaganda. More than 90 % of the infringements relating to right-wing extremism that jugendschutz.net documented in 2020 and the first half of 2021 were found there. Services popular among young people, such as YouTube, Instagram, or TikTok, play a special role: they provide access to a young target group. Although right-wing extremist groups usually refrain from posting illegal content on these platforms, there are many infringements of the statutes protecting minors in the media to be found in the comments and profiles of individual users.


In addition to the large platforms, a number of so-called default platforms have gained a footing. Here, no holds are barred: drastic right-wing extremist content is posted extensively, and the providers take hardly any measure against it. When complaints are submitted, the reaction is insufficient. Default platforms, known among right-wing extremists as “safe havens”, present an ongoing, serious challenge to the protection of minors in the media.

Improved Guidelines on Popular Platforms

Most of the infringements discovered and acted upon by jugendschutz.net were found on large platforms. This is unsurprising, since services like YouTube, Instagram, or Facebook play a major role in online traffic overall. It follows that resolute measures on the part of such providers against right-wing extremist propaganda are indispensable toward protecting children and adolescents.

During this report period, most of the global players have acknowledged the problem with disinformation in the context of the Corona pandemic and with hate speech. They have adjusted their Terms of Service accordingly. In 2020 YouTube, for example, tightened its restrictions on hate and harassment. They were expanded to extend to content that made individual persons or groups into targets of conspiracy theories and called for violent action against them.

With regard to the Covid19 pandemic, the service now bans content on Corona that is associated with serious health damage or risks, or that contradicts the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO).




*Effective
protection is
necessary on
services that
appeal to youth.*

Instagram also forbade disinformation concerning Covid19. The guidelines relating to hate speech were expanded; they now ban, e.g., blackface performances and prejudicial statements about Jews. Also, denial or distorted depiction of the Holocaust was prohibited.

The latter has also applied on Facebook since 2020. The social network also has banned disinformation on Corona, when it presents a danger; other content remains undeleted and is tagged with a warning on the basis of fact checks. Hate groups and terrorist organizations are also prohibited.

In 2020 and 2021, Twitter and YouTube blocked a great number of accounts belonging to members of the right-wing extremist "Identitarian movement". Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram took steps against the accounts of QAnon conspiracy adherents.



*Providers now
take measures
to combat
disinformation.*

Providers' Reaction to User Reports Falls Short

jugendschutz.net regularly assesses the measures that YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, Pinterest, Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr initiate to protect young users from interactive risks.

All the services offer reporting options for users. On YouTube, however, only those who have an account can submit complaints – despite the fact that most of the content is freely accessible to anyone. On Facebook and Pinterest, there is no option to report a profile. On Twitter, it is only possible to report hate crimes and other specific infringements expressly covered by the Network Enforcement Act (NetzDG). This means that users cannot report violations of youth protection statutes.

jugendschutz.net documents the response to complaints on two levels. In the first step, infringements of the Treaty for the Protection of Minors in the Media (JMStV) are reported in the normal user mode. If the content has not been deleted or blocked with seven days, jugendschutz.net steps up in its institutional status, using a special reporting mode, and demands that the provider remove the material. After another seven days, the infringement is checked on for the last time, and the outcome is documented.

Out of 495 infringements reported in 2020 and the first half of 2021, on average 45 % were removed/blocked on the basis of a user report. An additional 41 % were removed/blocked later, after jugendschutz.net had contacted the provider.



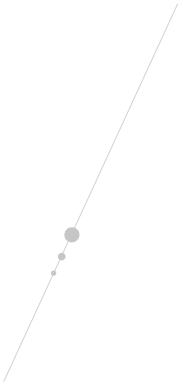
*Less than half
removed on
the basis of
user reports*

There were, however, differences among the various services with regard to the number of cases and type of violation. The forbidden use of insignia of extra-constitutional organizations was the most frequently reported offense. But the services nonetheless differ in the types of infringements that are reported.

The overall removal rate on the basis of user complaints was only 21 % on YouTube. On Twitter – where only “violations of NetzDG” can be reported, to begin with – the rate was 72 %.



*Improvement
needed in the
services' support
systems*



The improvement in removal rates after contact between jugendschutz.net and provider suggests that some additional training would be indicated for personnel in the providers' support sector. Although the overall deletion rate of almost 87 % after contact with jugendschutz.net is a success in terms of removal/blocking, the rate of only 45 % on the basis of user reports is far below par. The services clearly need to improve their response to user complaints.

INFRINGEMENTS DOCUMENTED

1.136

Social media services are the essential means of dissemination for right-wing extremist propaganda: more than 90 % of the documented cases were found there.

	cases	removed after User report	contact by jugendschutz.net	unchanged	removals overall
Tumblr	25	36 %	64 %	0 %	100 %
Twitter	74	72 %	26 %	3 %	97 %
Pinterest	91	69 %	24 %	7 %	93 %
TikTok	67	28 %	64 %	7 %	93 %
Instagram	90	40 %	46 %	14 %	86 %
Facebook	75	40 %	33 %	27 %	73 %
YouTube	73	21 %	52 %	27 %	73 %
overall*	495	45 %	41 %	13 %	87 %

(*Deviations from 100 % are due to rounding.)

Alongside the large platforms, in the context of right-wing extremism default platforms are becoming more and more relevant.

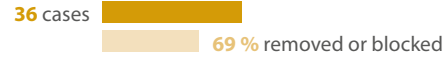
Telegram



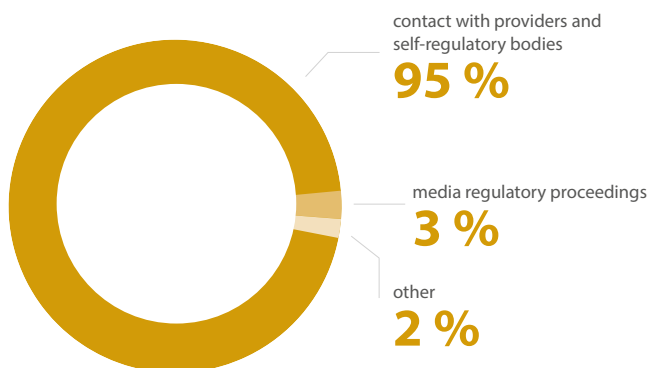
Steam



BitChute

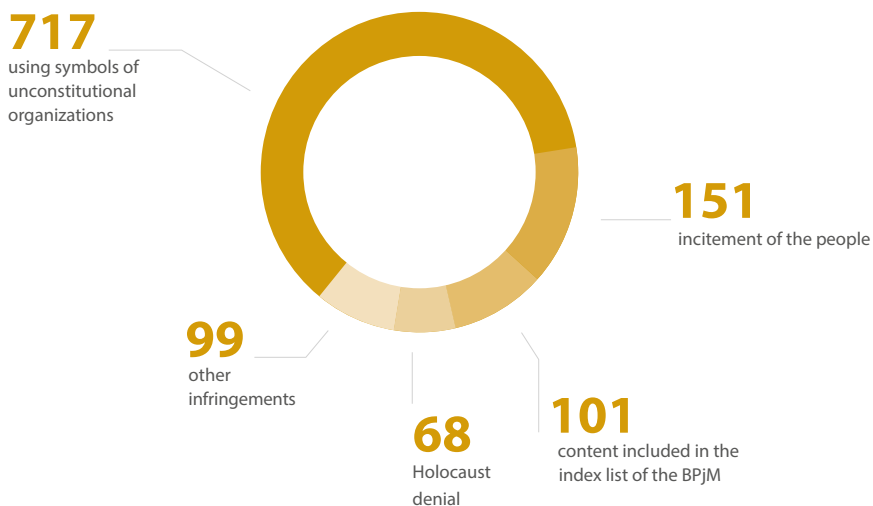


Activities toward deletion and prosecution in **1.136** cases of infringements:



Overall, in 75 % of cases, contacting the providers or self-regulatory bodies led to deletion or blocking.

Drastic infringements are by far the most frequent type:



Allowing Children and Young People to Grow Up Well in a Digital World

jugendschutz.net is the joint center of the German Federal Government and the federal states tasked with the protection of children and young people on the internet.

jugendschutz.net looks closely at dangers and risks in internet services specifically popular among young people and urges providers and operators to design their content in a way that allows children and young people to use the internet free of troubles.

The German youth ministries founded jugendschutz.net in 1997. Since 2003, jugendschutz.net has been organizationally linked to the Commission for the Protection of Minors in the Media (KJM). The work of jugendschutz.net is funded by the Supreme Youth Protection Authorities of the federal states, the State Supervisory Bodies and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

jugendschutz.net's hotline accepts reports about violations of youth media protection laws.

These can be reported at
www.jugendschutz.net/hotline