



Melde- und Informationsstelle Antiziganismus

Bundesgeschäftsstelle | Prinzenstraße 84.1 | 10969 Berlin

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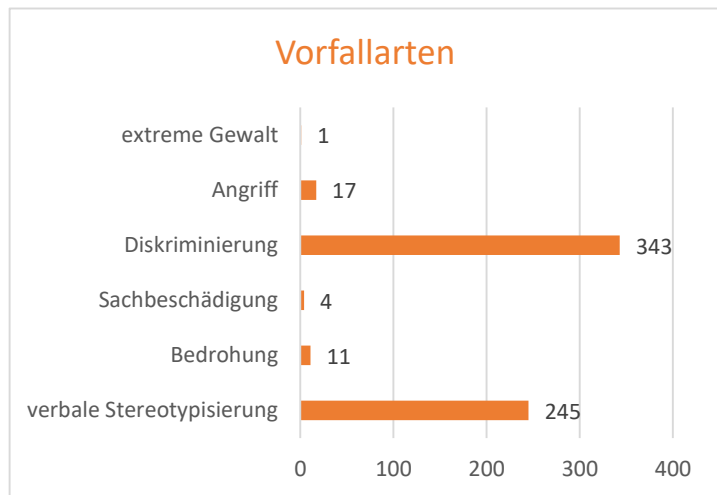
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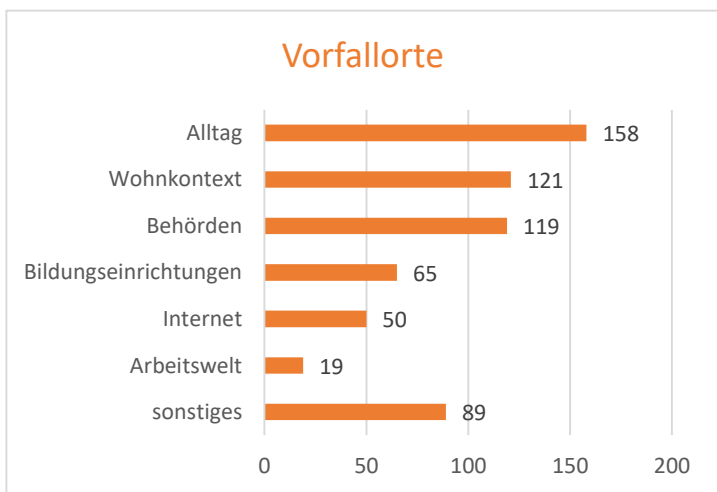
As a result of a Bundestag resolution, the Melde- und Informationsstelle Antiziganismus (MIA) began its work on October 1, 2021. Initially assigned to the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Homeland, the MIA has been funded since September 2022 by the Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. The focus of our work is the systematic recording, documentation and evaluation of cases of antigypsyism in Germany. We record incidents that are both below and above the criminal-liability limit. Cases can be reported confidentially using a registration form on our website, by phone call or by e-mail. Incidents are documented and evaluated anonymously. Currently, we have five regional reporting offices: in Bavaria, Berlin, Hessen, Rhineland-Palatinate and Saxony. Our goal is to establish reporting offices in other federal states, in cooperation with the respective state governments.

For 2022, MIA and its regional reporting offices recorded a total of 621 antigypsyistic incidents nationwide. In order to document and evaluate them systematically, MIA groups the incidents into one of seven main categories, including case types and locations.

The recorded episodes involve six different incident types. In addition to one case involving extreme violence, 17 attacks, four cases of property damage and 11 threats, 343 cases of antigypsyistic discrimination and 245 cases of verbal antigypsyistic stereotyping were recorded. Of the latter, 53 cases involved verbal attacks, 42 antigypsyistic propaganda, 5 mass messaging and 145 other verbal stereotyping.



Using the incident location category, MIA records the specific places where the documented incidents occurred. Here the different spheres of life in which antigypsyism takes place are crucial. The incidents recorded for 2022 show that antigypsyism is commonplace for those affected. Every fourth incident (a total of 158 cases) took place in the course of everyday life. Many incidents also were recorded in the residential context (121 cases) or in encounters with authorities (119 cases).



When evaluating the incidents, two aspects in particular stand out: More than half of the cases involved antigypsyistic discrimination, and approximately half of those took place at the institutional level. Those affected experienced institutional discrimination at state institutions. Especially serious incidents occurred in the context of the police, youth-welfare offices, job centers or local administrative offices responsible for housing refugees.

The fact that so many cases took place on the institutional level and when dealing with public authorities shows the immense gap in the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG), which is currently limited to the area of private law.

The second noticeable development is the discrimination against Roma refugees from Ukraine. The disadvantages faced by Ukrainian Roma extend into various areas of life, from entry and accommodation to the educational and work sector. In the cases of discrimination against Roma refugees from Ukraine, it is also striking how often discrimination occurs at an institutional level. In about one-seventh of the 621 documented cases of antigypsyism in 2022, the targets were Ukrainian Roma.

In the first year of documenting nationwide antigypsyistic cases, there is, of course, a lack of comparative data with which to map developments. In addition, our documented cases only shed light on a small part of the immense dark field of antigypsyistic incidents. Nevertheless, our data gives us an initial overview of the extent and dimensions of antigypsyism in Germany.

From the documented antigypsyistic incidents, MIA derives five main recommendations for action:

1. 1. The General Equal Treatment Act (AGG) should also be implemented in the state sector, so discrimination by state institutions can be prosecuted and the legal status of the affected strengthened.
2. 2. Ukrainian Roma should receive the same protections and treatment as other Ukrainian refugees. No segregation can be tolerated, and any unequal treatment on the part of institutions should be resolutely opposed.
3. 3. The media should avoid using language and images that reproduce and reinforce antigypsyistic stereotypes. The German Press Council should impose sanctions on any violations, and the federal government should promote training courses involving Sinti and Roma organizations.
4. 4. Advisory structures and contact points for both victims of antigypsyism and witnesses to antigypsyistic incidents should be appropriately supported and expanded in close cooperation with Sinti and Roma organizations.
5. 5. The nationwide Melde- und Informationsstelle Antiziganismus (MIA) needs sufficient resources and a permanent establishment of its work, in order for it to continue and expand the recording, documentation and analysis of antigypsyistic incidents.