



Landespräventionsrat  
Niedersachsen

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**The Working Sections of the  
Lower Saxony Crime Prevention  
Council 2017**

## Working Section "Municipal Prevention"

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The main task of the CPC is to strengthen the municipalities in Lower Saxony in the field of crime prevention. In particular the CPC is supporting the work of crime prevention councils and networks at the municipal level. Among the services provided are:

- on-site consulting on issues relating to the establishment and maintenance of a local crime prevention council, including moderating events and workshops;
  - implementation of the Communities That Care (CTC) –strategy, including training for local coordinators, a bi-annual state-wide school survey and a registry of promising and effective prevention programmes (Green List Prevention);
  - funding programmes for local crime prevention bodies;
  - organizing congresses, knowledge exchange and providing network opportunities;
  - managing the state-wide partnership about security in urban planning
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<http://www.ctc-info.de/>

<http://www.gruene-liste-praevention.de/nano.cms/datenbank/information>

<http://www.ctc-network.eu/>

## Working Section “Focal Point of Coordination of Combating Domestic Violence”

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The main task of the “Focal Point of Coordination of Combating Domestic Violence” in Lower Saxony in the field of crime prevention is to implement the “Action plan of combating intimate partnership violence in Lower Saxony”. Therefore the “Focal Point of Coordination of Combating Domestic Violence”

- supports networking of practitioners working with victims of domestic violence
- organizes and supports further education for practitioners and professionals in criminal cases of domestic violence
- disseminates all available information about combating domestic violence to practitioners, professionals and networks
- develops measures for intervention and prevention in cases of domestic violence including high-risk-cases

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## **Working Section "Coordination Centre of the Programme against Right-Wing Extremism - for Democracy and Human Rights" of Lower Saxony**

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The various schemes taken throughout the federal state against right-wing extremism and the support of democracy and human rights are consolidated with the "Programme against Right-Wing Extremism - for Democracy and Human Rights" of Lower Saxony.

Included are measures to strengthen skilled personnel, help towards drop/out, actions to avoid entrance into the right-wing scene, the transmission of democratic values, family support, the commitment to open mindedness within the institutions and the development and extension of victim support.

In addition the networking is to be expanded and the civil societies are to be involved stronger. An accompanying scientific evaluation supports the continuous, qualitative optimisation of the projects and activities fighting against right-wing extremism and supporting democracy and human rights in Lower Saxony.

An essential component towards the implementation of this programme is the Coordination Centre at the Crime Preventions Council which has the following responsibilities:

- professional network control
- encouragement for continuous progress of the current and development of new activities
- public relations
- inclusion of civil society participants

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## Working Section "Fachstelle Opferschutz (Specialist Unit for Victim Protection)"

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In a constitutional democracy victims of crime have the right of access to justice, information, protection and support. "Specialist Unit for Victim Protection" is intended to ensure those rights for all victims of crimes as well as the statutory provision in the directive 2012/29/EU. The main task of "Specialist Unit for Victim Protection" is the implementation of those rights on the level of Lower Saxony in the following fields of work:

- Information, Counselling and Support: Instigation of the Website <http://en.opferschutz-niedersachsen.de/nano.cms/wir-ueber-uns>
- Protection and Attendance: advancement of the comprehensive psychosocial court assistance and first aid in cases of psychic trauma in Lower Saxony
- Participation: advancement of autonomously forensic conservation of evidence
- Ensure Compensation: advancement of measures of compensation
- Access to justice, Research and Prevention: monitoring of the situation in Lower Saxony compared to international and national directives and conventions; sensitization and further education of all professions working in the criminal proceedings for special needs of victims and advancement of measures of prevention

The working section "Fachstelle Opferschutz (Specialist Unit for Victim Protection)" is chaired by **Dagmar Freudenberg**



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## Working Section "Democracy Centre of Lower Saxony"

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What is a Federal State Democracy Centre?

In 2007, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, in close cooperation with the Federal State governments, started to support the development of regional advice networks which would link the advice and support services on the ground. For instance, victims' counselling services support people affected by right-wing violence in coping with the fallout from the experience. Additional services include mobile counselling teams and exit counselling services. The advice networks incorporate experts from government sectors and areas of civil society such as youth social work, the police, the judiciary, psychology, science, churches, government departments and ministries.

In each of the 16 federal states, a regional coordination centre was established, either in a state ministry or in an expert body. Since then, these have been collating the information about the areas of competence of the experts in the government and non-governmental facilities within the federal states in their work against right-wing extremism, racism and anti-Semitism.

Within the scope of the federal programme "Live Democracy!", the existing regional coordination centres are to be further developed into Federal State Democracy Centres. The development and expansion of democracy centres is intended primarily to help strengthen the democratic culture in the federal state in question and thus in society at large. To this end, their essential profile in terms of their advice and prevention work and their promotion of democracy is to be further developed. The aim is to establish Federal State Democracy Centres as points of contact especially for those involved in the "Live Democracy!" programme and to create a sustainable advice, information and networking structure at federal state level.

Advice for people affected

The Federal State Democracy Centres ensure that a wide spectrum of advisory services are provided for those working against right-wing extremism and group-based hostility. This covers in particular mobile counselling, victims' counselling and exit counselling. Taking into account existing structures and possibilities and regionally specific requirements and needs, this may also include advisory services dealing with other forms of phenomena that are antidemocratic, violent or hostile to the rule of law.

The **mobile counselling teams** provide support in crisis situations in which both the people affected and the contact partners on the spot require expert support, providing expert advice and help. There are all sorts of occasions on which they are required to advise. The counsellors, for example, support people who have suffered racist attacks because of their origin. Teachers and head teachers who are concerned about the spread of extreme right-wing attitudes in the playground or

parents who are afraid that their son or daughter could be a member of a right-wing extremist organisation can also turn to the mobile counselling teams for support.

The **victims' counselling** services help those who have been the object of right-wing extremist, racist or anti-Semitic incidents to cope with the tangible and intangible consequences of such acts. They pursue a low-threshold, open-minded and partisan approach and provide support that will help people to help themselves.

The **distancing and exit counselling services** are aimed at people who wish to move away from the sphere of influence of anti-democratic, violent groups. Relatives can also make use of these services.

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## Working Section "Prevention of Salafist Radicalisation and Anti-Islamic Racism"

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The main task of the Working Section is to support local Councils of Crime Prevention and other municipal as well as local non-governmental stake-holders in coping with religiously motivated Extremism and radicalization, and with anti-Islamic Racism. Among the services provided are:

- offering general information on the phenomena of Islamism, Salafism and Anti-Islamic Racism through workshops, presentations and a newsletter;
- support the founding of working groups /round tables on municipal level in order to develop local preventions strategies,
- funding local preventions projects;
- organizing congresses, knowledge exchange and providing network opportunities (with NGOs throughout Germany and beyond);

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## Working Section "Beccaria quality offensive"

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The main task of the "Beccaria quality offensive" is to improve the quality in Lower Saxony in the field of crime prevention and to enhance specialist competence.

Among the services provided are:

**Beccaria-Standards.** The standards are available online in different languages: Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, English, French, German, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish and Turkish. „Interactive Beccaria-Steps" as a special practice support lead online through all important questions in the process of project management. They are available in English and in German.

**Beccaria Training Program.** Since 2008 the Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony offers annually the "Beccaria Training Program Crime Prevention" The modular qualification "Crime Prevention Specialist" is aimed at all those working in crime prevention that wants to expand their knowledge of criminology, crime prevention and project management.

**Beccaria-Portal.** The Portal aims at the transfer of knowledge in criminology and crime prevention. The exchange, the dialogue and the networking in the field of crime prevention and promoted through a professional knowledge and information management system.

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<http://www.beccaria-portal.org>

## Working Section “Cooperation and Networks”

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With the founding of the Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony (CPC) in 1995, a forum for common efforts to prevent crime and increase the citizens' feeling of security was established. The underlying philosophy was that for investigating and countering the causes of crime effectively, shared responsibilities and strategies of society as a whole were required.

More than 250 member organisations from all relevant social sectors, among them some 200 local prevention bodies and networks, contribute with their expertise to concepts concerning public security and support their realisation. Supporting them and linking up their efforts is the primary task of the Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony and its secretariat, which is part of the Department of Justice. Several of its projects are funded in the context of a framework-partnership with the European Commission, additional support is provided by the Federal Government and foundations such as the Klosterkammer Hannover.

### Background

In Germany, crime prevention is the responsibility of all three levels of government (Federal, State and Municipal). Due to the constitutional principle of subsidiarity, the role of non-governmental organisations and local communities has precedence over activities at the state- or federal level. To coordinate these efforts, crime prevention councils have been established in many municipalities and most states. State crime prevention councils support and advise local crime prevention bodies and networks, disseminate scientific findings and practical experience concerning crime prevention, analyse crime trends and advise the government on issues of crime policy and interdepartmental cooperation in this field.

### Objectives

#### The Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony

- strengthens crime prevention at the municipal level
- develops concepts and describes the necessary framework for their implementation
- promotes the ensuring and improvement of quality in crime prevention
- offers a platform for the transfer of knowledge and information
- coordinates and supports networking in crime prevention
- cooperates with institutions relevant to crime prevention including those outside Lower Saxony

- imparts competence in prevention
- publicises the goals, methods, and concepts of societal crime prevention
- encourages the citizens' involvement in crime prevention

#### International Relations of the Crime Prevention Council of Lower Saxony

International contacts are necessary today to profit from experiences abroad, learn about new developments and find partners for cooperative efforts. The web-based Beccaria-Portal allows for an international transfer of knowledge, an establishment of a European networking system and an exchange of the latest crime prevention and criminological expert information.

The CPC is moreover member of the executive board of the European Forum for Urban Security - EFUS. Several other relations to organisations on the international level are coordinated by a constant working group, consisting of seven members of the CPC.

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