

Safety-threatening, antisemitic and/or racist incidents at the University of Bonn: What to do?

At the university, events may be disrupted, protests may take place, or racist or antisemitic acts that threaten the safety of university members may occur. The following guidelines provide guidance on how to behave in such cases, especially if you are part of the organizing team.

In addition, a list of questions for event coordination as well as information on awareness concepts that can support you in preparing and conducting events has been published on the [awareness page of the Office for Equal Opportunities and Diversity](#).

1. What to do in case of protests or disruptions during the event?

1.1 Assess the situation:

- **Remain calm:** First, try to stay calm and assess the situation as objectively as possible.
- **Assess the disturbance:** Is it an expression of opinion that isn't linked to violence, or are there threatening or violent actions and statements?

1.2 Respond promptly:

- **Seek support early on:** If the protest or disturbance continues or you feel threatened, the university security service should be called (Campus Security: 0228/737444). In the event of threats or violence, the police should also be called (Station 0228/154511 or emergency number 110). It is best to designate a person in your team before the event who is responsible for calling security or the police and who has the relevant numbers available.
- **Seek dialogue:** If possible, try to engage in dialogue with the protestors or disrupters. Calmly and objectively explain that the event has a specific framework (further information on conducting discussions can be found [here](#)) and that all participants have the right to be treated with respect. Offer solutions if there is need for discussion, for example, by scheduling a separate meeting.
- **Continue or cancel the event:** If the event is significantly disrupted and the disruptive individuals are not willing to leave, consult with your team to decide whether it makes sense to continue or cancel the event. If there are safety concerns, it is preferable to cancel the event as a precaution.

1.3 Documentation and reporting:

- **Document the disruption:** Record the incident in writing (date, time, persons involved).
- **Reporting to the university:** Please report significant disruptions to events to the university administration (see contact details below).

2. What to do in the case of actions that pose a threat to safety, or are antisemitic or racist?

2.1 Immediate Response:

- **Seek support:** If you feel unsafe or threatened, ask for support from the event organizers and/or the University of Bonn security staff (Campus Security: 0228/737444).
- **Protect those affected:** In the event of unsafe, antisemitic, or racist comments/actions, the organizing team should proactively approach those affected and offer support. Ideally, awareness persons should be selected in advance for this purpose (see the University of Bonn's [awareness page](#)).
- **Clear rejection:** Personal insults, threats, antisemitism, and racism are not tolerated. Make it clear that such actions are unacceptable and may also be punishable by law.
- **Opposition:** If you feel able to do so and the situation allows, oppose to discriminatory statements. Involve those around you if necessary.

2.2 Reporting the incident:

- **University:** Please report any incidents that pose a threat to safety, or are racist or antisemitic in nature, to the university management or the administrative office for protection against discrimination:
University Administration: kanzler@uni-bonn.de
Anti-Discrimination Office: diskriminierungsschutz@verwaltung.uni-bonn.de
- **External reporting office:** Additionally, please report antisemitic statements to RIAS NRW: <https://report-antisemitism.de/en/report/>

2.3 Counseling services:

- If necessary, offer those affected the opportunity to discuss the incident afterwards.
- Support in cases of antisemitic incidents can be found at the University of Bonn's Trusted Lecturers Against Antisemitism: https://www.chancengerechtigkeit.uni-bonn.de/en/inclusion-and-protection-against-discrimination/counseling/lecturers-of-trust-against-antisemitism?set_language=en
- Psychological counseling for antisemitic or racist incidents can be found here:
 - SABRA Service Center <https://www.sabra-jgd.de/english/>
 - Victim Support Service Rhineland <https://www.opferberatung-rheinland.de/>
 - Anti-racism student counseling rassismuskritischeberatung@uni-bonn.de