

Welcome

*Workshop B - United against hate speech
and threatening behavior*

*What do you expect to gain
from the workshop?*

*What previous encounters
have you had with the issue
of hate crime?*



Hate crime

What is hate or prejudice crime?

Attacking people on account of the group they belong to.

Characteristics of hate or prejudice crime*:



1. Perpetrator motivated by prejudices (such as nationality, gender, religion, sexuality, etc.).
2. Crimes not only target direct victims, but have an intimidating message for the whole group (collective victimisation).
3. Hate crime is also focused on symbols, property and objects of the respective group (e.g. Jewish cemeteries).

*Cf. Marc Coester: Das Konzept der Vorurteils kriminalität 2018
[‘The Concept of Hate Crime’]

Hatred against the whole group

- A special characteristic of prejudice-led crime is that the perpetrator or perpetrators choose their victims **at random**.
- Both sides often have **no** personal relationship to each other.
- The victim as a **representative** of the group experiences prejudice and hatred, vicariously for the whole group.
- The **signal** sent out after the crime is accordingly powerful.
- Mood of **fear and intimidation** spreads throughout the group.

Hatred is threatening our democracy

Attacks occur:

- Citizens targeted for verbal and physical attacks because of their origin, their sexual orientation, their gender, their social status, their religion or their political views
- Against journalists, rescue workers from the fire-fighting, ambulance and police services
- Politicians and public officials experience enormous hostility – from hate mail to physical attacks and murder
- Growing hatred on the internet – women affected in particular

 **Increasing social disinhibition!**

Words as a weapon

“With words one man can make another blessed, or drive him to despair.” Sigmund Freud

- Abusive language, insults, anger – many acts of violence begin with hurtful words, for example, in intimate partner violence or regarding hate and incitement.
- Different linguistic means are used to humiliate and demean others, such as insults, name-calling, threats, ridicule and irony.
- Language is used as a weapon of power with the potential to inspire actions.

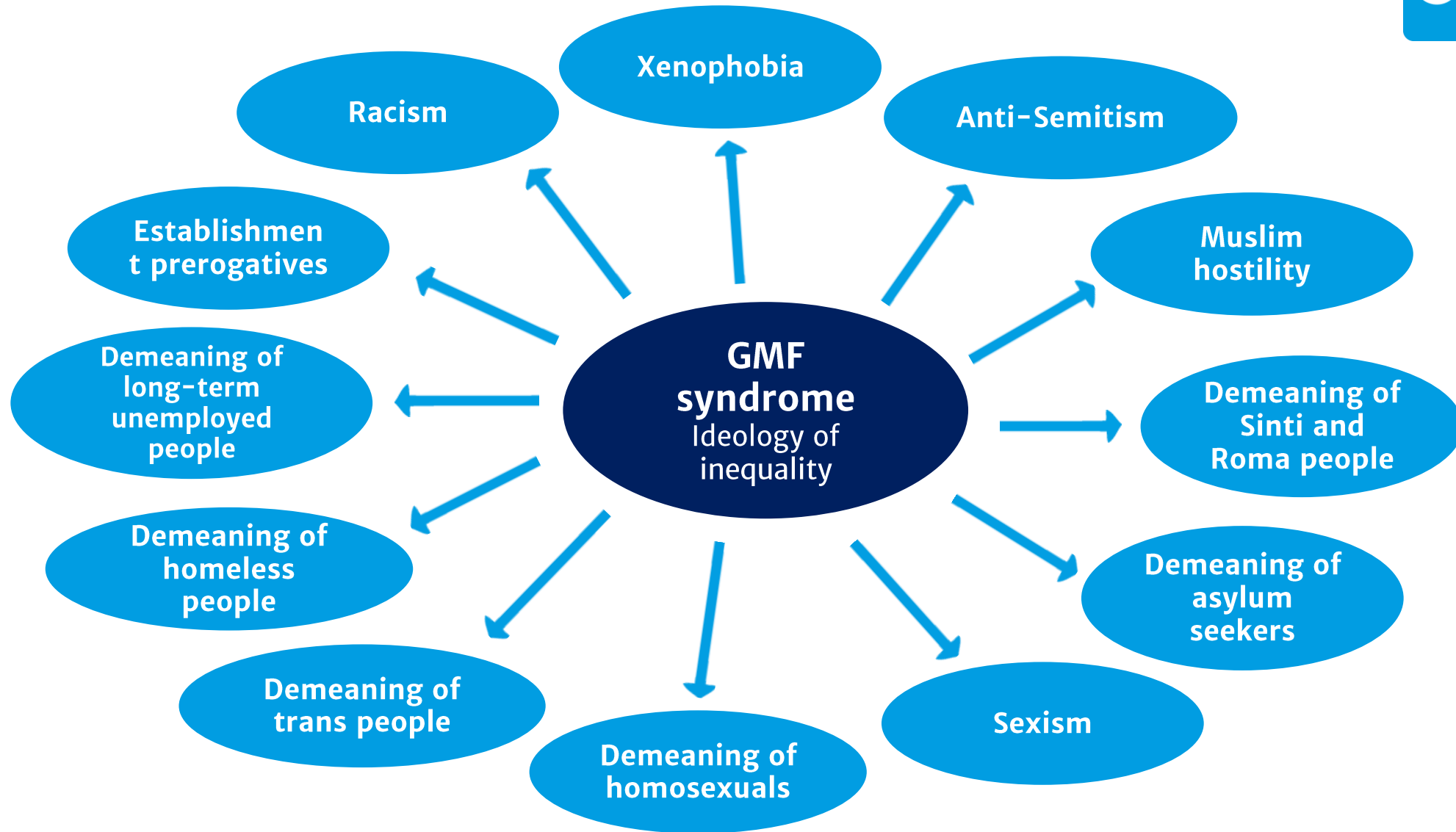
“Piss off!”

“You’re no use to anyone!”

“They should all be shot or burned!”

“You disgusting piece of shit – you cunt.”

- ! **Words can turn into deeds.**
- ! **Death threats can turn into real murder attempts with serious lethal consequences!**



*Hate activities are an expression
of social conditions.*

*Hate can flourish when
prejudice and hatred against
certain groups become socially
acceptable.*

Facts and figures

Politically motivated crime (PMK for short)* 2022:

- 58,916 offences in total, of which 11,520 are cases of hate crime
 - 10,038 xenophobic cases (increase of 8.7% compared to the previous year)
 - 2,641 anti-Semitic cases (of which 82.7% were assigned to the right-wing spectrum)

Violence against public officials and elected representatives:

- Culminating in the homicide of Kassel District President Dr. Walter Lübcke in 2019
- In 2020, violence manifested itself in 3,752 attacks* against public officials and elected representatives.

Civil society institutions arrive at significantly higher case figures when documenting incidents and rightly demand better statistical recording!

*Politically motivated crime in 2020, nationwide case figures, Federal Criminal Police Office

Repeatedly targeted: consequences for the individual and the group!

INDIVIDUAL

Physical and emotional impacts

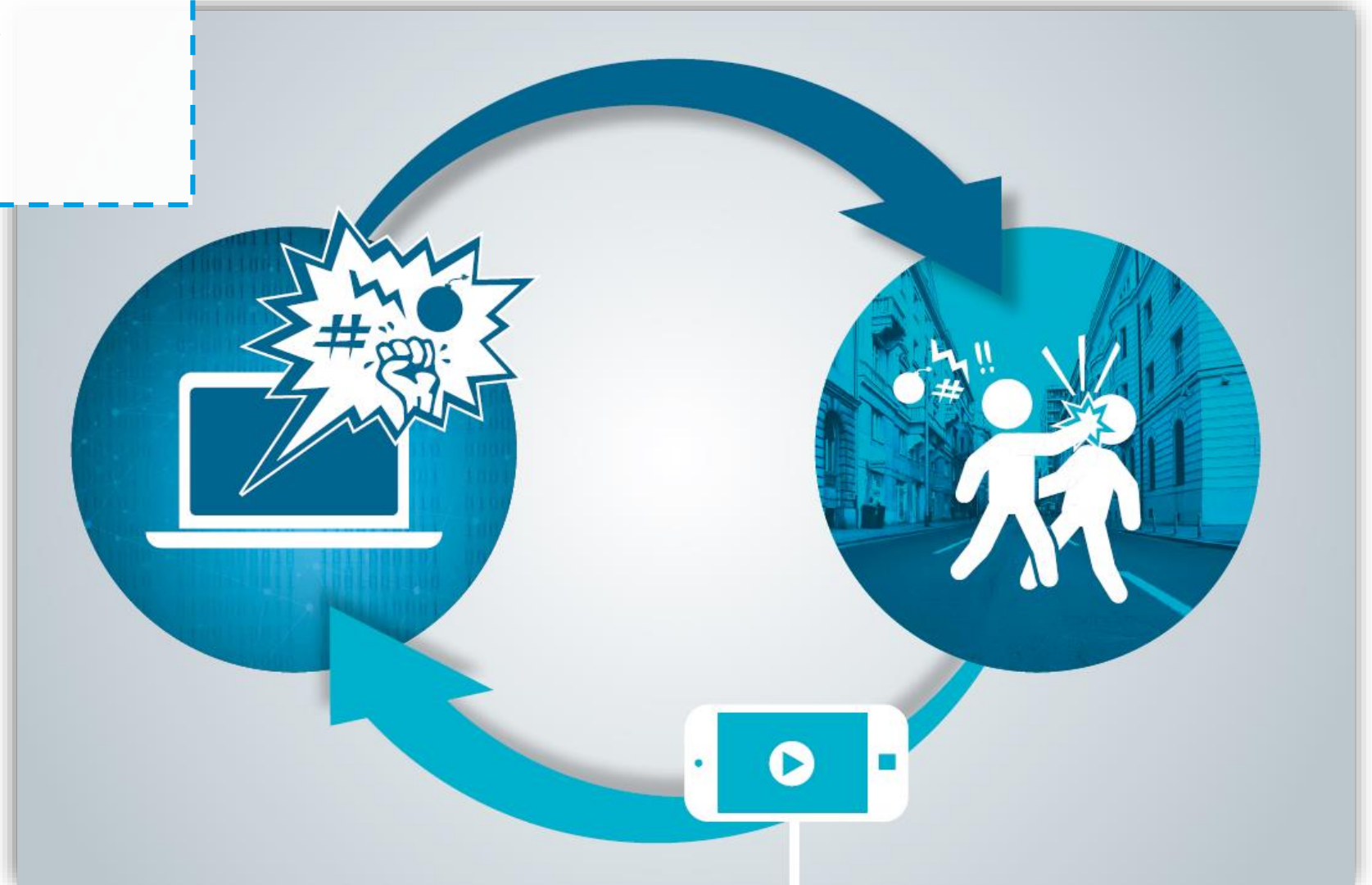
Intimidation, fear

Victimisation without any previous history and through no fault of their own

COLLECTIVE

Symbolic humiliation and intimidation of a whole demographic group due to the prejudices of the perpetrators (collective victimisation)

*From hatred online
to acts of violence
in public spaces*





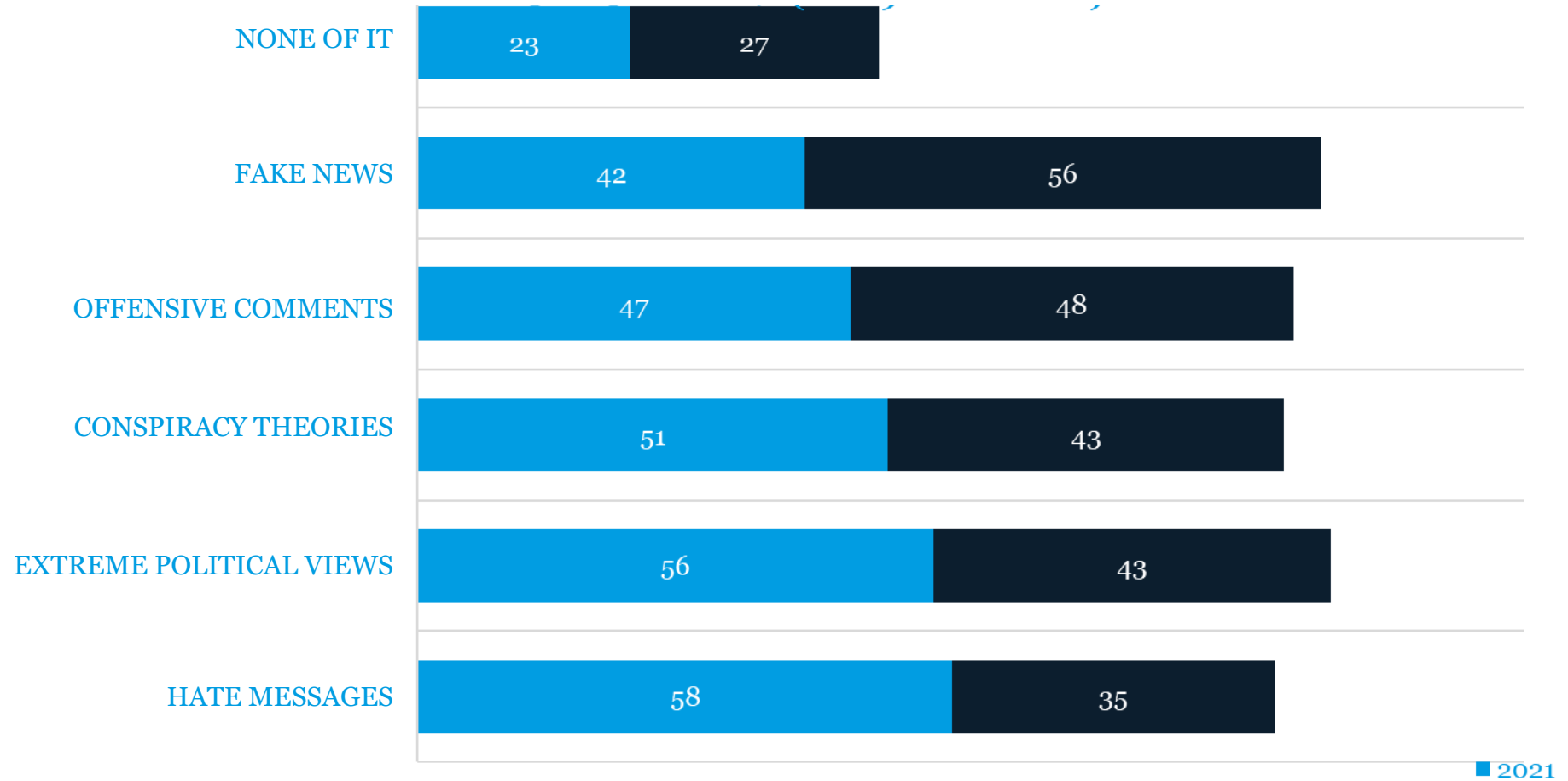
Online hatred

Hatred and incitement online

The perfect place for hatred to thrive

- Derogatory, inhuman and inciting content
- Directed against individuals associated with a group
- Language, images and videos used to attack and demean people or even to incite violence against them
- Also affects people who oppose hate on the net.

JIM study 2022 Last month I met on the Internet: (12-19 years old)



■ 2021

■ 2022

How often does hate occur online?

Study #HassimNetz by the Institute for Democracy and Civil Society (IDZ)

40%

of all participants stated that they had already seen hate online.

Among those aged 18 to 24,
the rate was

73%

48%

of all people with a migration background stated that they had already seen hate online.

Who is affected by hatred online?

- Every **twelfth** participant has been affected by hatred online:
 - 10% of men
 - 6% of women
 - 14% of people with migration backgrounds
 - 6% of people without migration backgrounds

72% |

of all respondents stated a fear of even more violence in everyday life because of the increasing levels of aggression online.

Silencing – what happens when users keep quiet?

54%

of all respondents said they were less likely to express their political opinion on the internet because of online hatred.

Silencing means:

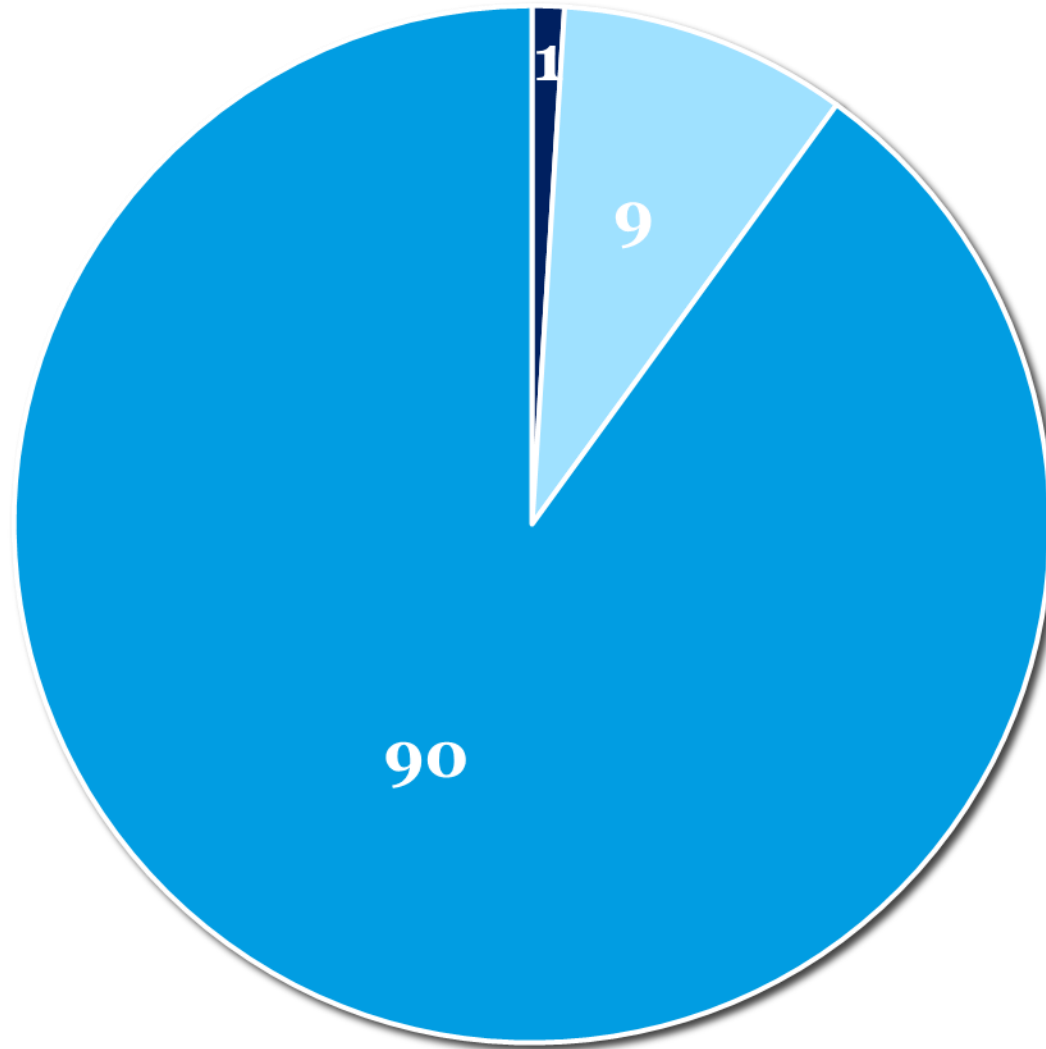
- Keeping a low profile in discussions and refraining from expressing opinions
- Completely withdrawing from certain platforms
- Deactivating or deleting profiles

Silencing – what happens when users keep quiet?

- Silencing raises the voices of hate speakers. Their comments dominate giving the impression that they also represent the social majority. This leads to a distorted perception of **reality**.
- **Spiral of silence**: the greater the number of people who remain silent, the more people also tend to remain silent and accept the statements of hate speakers.



One-percent rule



- Authors
- Commentators
- Readers

What can be done to counteract hate speech on the internet?



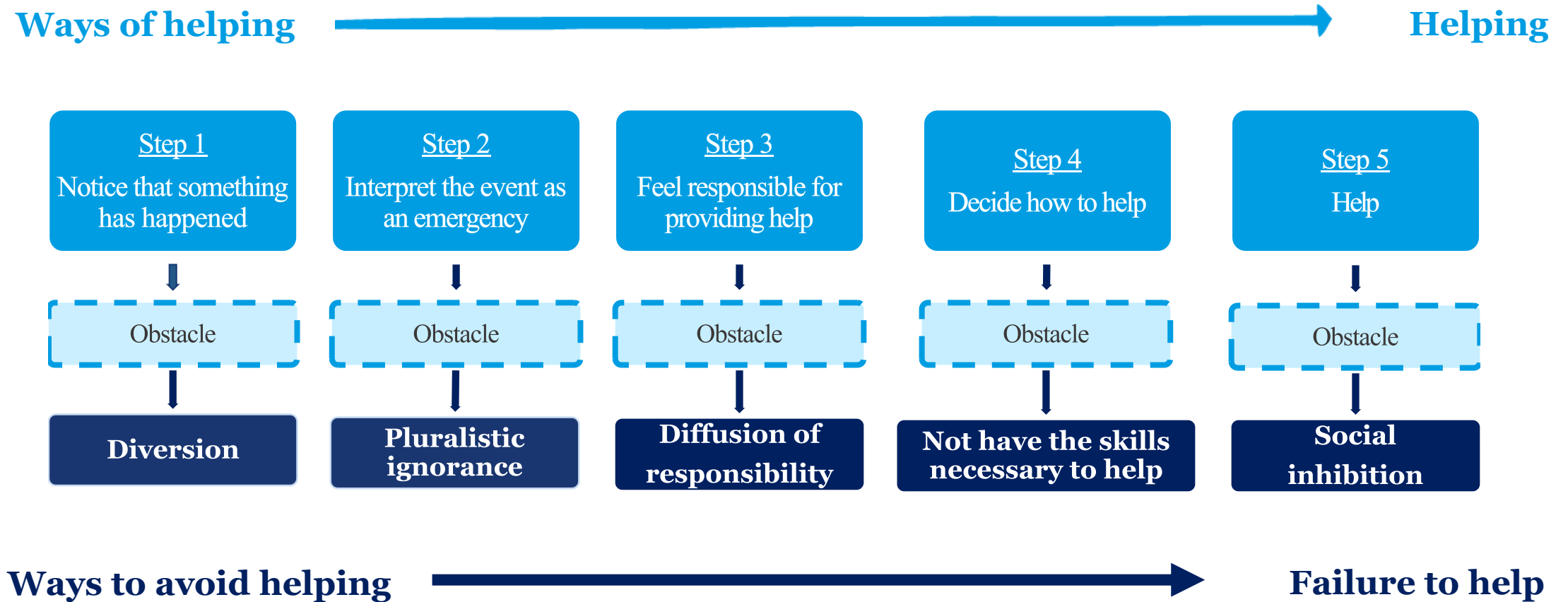
Moral courage

online

Moral courage means intervening, speaking out, and opposing injustice and discrimination. Not for the assertion of our own concerns, but for the rights and legitimate interests of everyone.

Moral courage: model of helping

Latené and Darley 1970



*Which option for taking action
against hate speech on the internet
are you aware of?*

*What reporting channels or bodies
do exist?*

Reporting bodies in Germany

Organisations:

- Hate Aid
- Respect – Gegen Hetze im Netz
- jugendschutz.net (harmful content for minors)
- Internet complaints centre

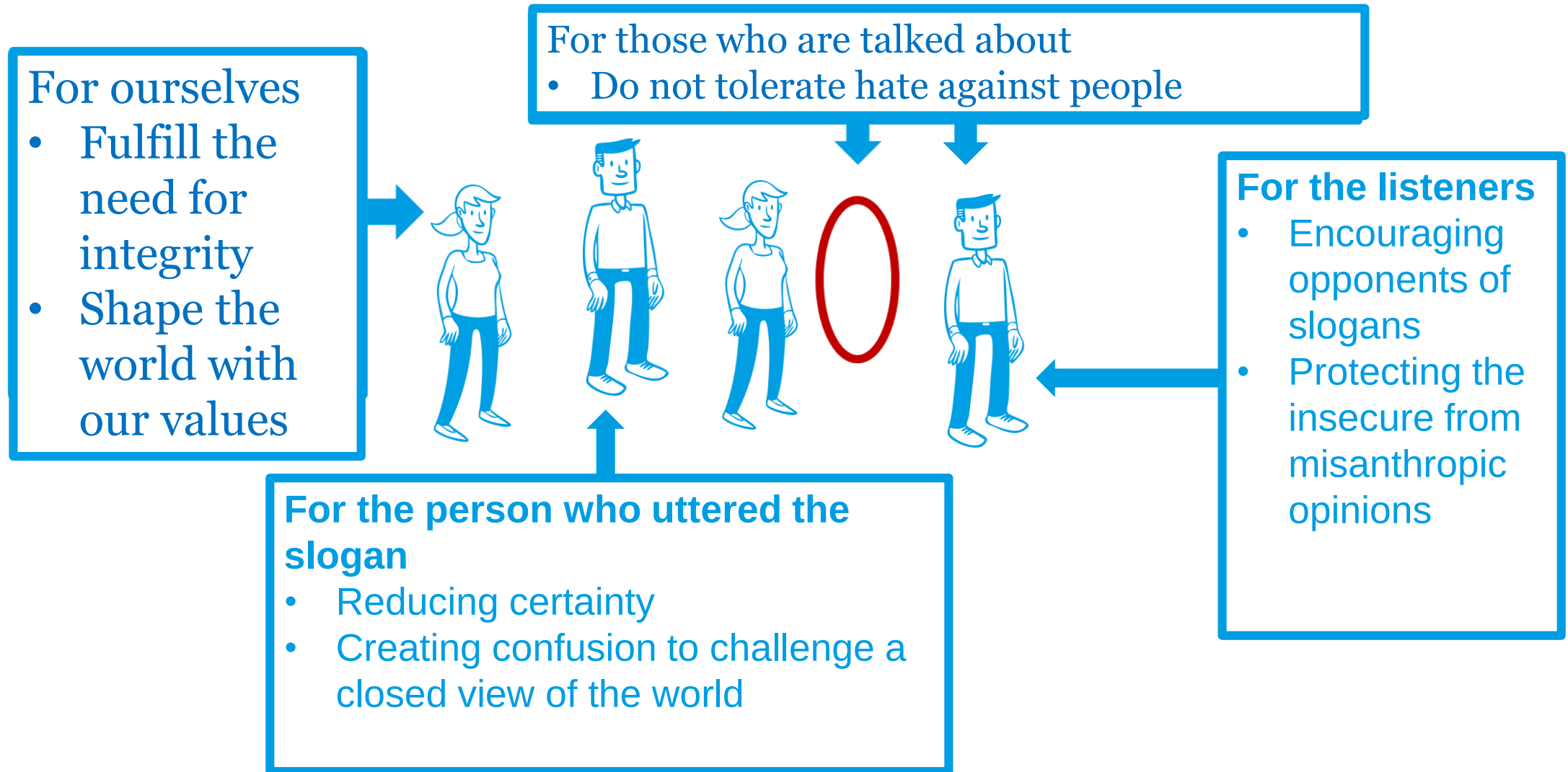
From the Hessian state government:

- HessenGegenHetze



Source: Pixabay/Tumisu

Who are we arguing for?



Moral courage online

Those affected

- Ask what the person needs.
- Show solidarity with the person under attack.
- Provide information on appropriate help centres.

(Silent) readers

- Address and ask for support and opinions.
- Point out the rules of discussion.

Hate speech

- Ask questions and counter-argue constructively.
- Point out the rules of etiquette.
- Create empathy for those affected.

Evidence

- Collect evidence.
- Report/block comments and profiles.
- File a complaint with the police!



*What will you take
away from this
workshop for your own
work?*

*Thank you for your
interest*