

The Aachen University of Applied Sciences Student Body’s Position on Right-Wing Actors at University Level

The student body at FH Aachen works together with the university to promote an open, diverse, and democratic academic environment.^{1, 2} Diversity enriches our learning and working environment, opens up opportunities in teaching and research, and commits us to respectful and inclusive collaboration.³

In light of the growing influence of far-right actors on college campuses and in society, the Student Council at FH Aachen takes a clear stand against hate and incitement. The normalization of exclusionary narratives threatens academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and a safe learning environment.⁴

Right-wing campaigns and actors specifically target marginalized groups—including people affected by racism, queer individuals, people with a migrant background, international students, and all those involved in equality, anti-discrimination, and diversity work.⁵ These attacks aim to undermine social participation and delegitimize spaces of diversity.⁶

The Queerreferat at Aachen’s Universities Association has repeatedly been the target of break-ins, the “Room of Silence” at Aachen University of Applied Sciences has been publicly discredited by far-right networks, and during the 2024 federal election campaign, the AfD attacked diversity on our campuses.^{7, 8} These incidents highlight how urgently consistent action is needed and how much a clear signal from the student body is required.⁹

To effectively counter these forces, all members of the university community must ensure that institutional policies are consistently enforced and that extremist actors are not given a platform. If it is foreseeable that discriminatory or even inhumane remarks may be made at events, those affected must be protected.¹⁰ Tools such as the anti-discrimination policy and similar regulations must be consistently applied in such cases.¹¹

At the university, the Student Ombudsman’s Office and the Disciplinary Committee have already established mechanisms to actively address discriminatory incidents on campus. This initiative is a major step in the right direction,¹² However, since there is still no specific



point of contact for students who have experienced right-wing extremism, the university should expand its counseling services for students.

Academic freedom and university autonomy play a central role in a functioning democracy. They enable independent research, critical analysis, and open discourse. When this freedom comes under pressure, fact-based debates lose ground and undemocratic influences gain traction.¹³ It is therefore essential to consistently protect academic freedom in order to preserve universities as bastions of enlightenment.¹⁴

At the same time, universities are called upon to actively contribute to the protection of democratic values. This includes promoting research that examines the causes and effects of far-right ideologies, as well as strengthening political education. In this way, universities can make an important contribution to prevention and reinforce their role as places of democratic participation.¹⁵

Protecting democratic values requires active participation in committees and commissions. Otherwise, the pluralistic values that the university has committed itself to are quickly put at risk. For many students, finding the time for such involvement alongside their studies, careers, and raising children is often difficult.¹⁶ To counter this, both the university and we are working to lower the barriers to volunteer work.

Together, we stand for a university that not only enshrines diversity, democracy, and respect in its mission statement, but also actively upholds and protects them. FH Aachen must remain a place where everyone can learn, work, and thrive free from fear, exclusion, and discrimination. That is why we demand a clear commitment to these principles and consistent action against any form of inhuman ideology. Only by defending democratic values and acting in solidarity can our university community remain open, pluralistic, and sustainable.

Adopted by the Student Parliament on February 18, 2026, and by the AStA of FH Aachen on March 3, 2026.



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- ² AStA der FH Aachen, Stellungnahme zur Anti-Diskriminierung; [Stellungnahme Anti-Diskriminierung.pdf](#), Accessed on 29.01.2026
- ³ Rektorat der FH Aachen, Richtlinie zum Schutz vor Diskriminierung an der FH Aachen (Amtliche Bekanntmachung Nr. 70/2023), [2023_70_RL_Antidiskriminierung.pdf](#), Accessed on 29.01.2026
- ⁴ Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK), „Wissenschaftsfreiheit schützen“, [Pressemitteilung - Hochschulrektorenkonferenz](#), Accessed on 29.01.2026
- ⁵ Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Rechtsextremismus – Extremismus, [Rechtsextremismus - Extremismus - Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung](#), Accessed on 29.01.2026
- ⁶ CeMAS & democ, Rechtsextreme On- und Offline-Mobilisierung gegen CSDs und queere Menschen, <https://democ.de/artikel/rechtsextreme-on-und-offline-mobilisierung-gegen-csds-und-queere-menschen/>, Accessed on 29.01.2026
- ⁷ BRf Nachrichten, Queererferat Aachen: Zwei Einbrüche in fünf Tagen, <https://brf.be/regional/1912735/>, Accessed on 29.01.2026
- ⁸ AfD Fraktion NRW, Scharia an FH Aachen, [Scharia an FH Aachen! - AfD-Fraktion NRW](#), Accessed on 29.01.2026
- ⁹ Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Rechtsextremismus – Extremismus, [Rechtsextremismus - Extremismus - Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung](#), Accessed on 29.01.2026
- ¹⁰ Rektorat der FH, Richtlinie zur Durchführung von Sonderveranstaltungen in den Gebäuden und Liegenschaften der FH Aachen (Veranstaltungsrichtlinie), [2025-065_RL_Veranstaltungen_IFzu2025-064.pdf](#) (lesbar mit FH-Login), Accessed on 29.01.2026
- ¹¹ Rektorat der FH Aachen; Richtlinie zum Schutz vor Diskriminierung an der FH Aachen (Amtliche Bekanntmachung Nr. 70/2023); [2023_70_RL_Antidiskriminierung.pdf](#); Accessed on 29.01.2026
- ¹² FH Aachen, Vertrauensstelle, <https://www.fh-aachen.de/fh-aachen/hochschulstruktur/interessenvertretungen-und-beauftragte/vertrauensstelle>, Accessed on 29.01.2026
- ¹³ Freie Universität Berlin, Schwerpunkt: Wissenschaftsfreiheit, <https://www.fu-berlin.de/campusleben/forschen/2025/wissenschaftsfreiheit/index.html>, Accessed on 29.01.2026
- ¹⁴ FH Aachen (Gleichstellungsbüro / KoDiC), Diversity Toolbox – Perspektiven: Demokratie fördern, <https://www.fh-aachen.de/hochschule/profil/diversity-und-chancengerechtigkeit/toolbox>, Accessed on 29.01.2026
- ¹⁵ FH Aachen (Gleichstellungsbüro / KoDiC); Diversity Toolbox – Perspektiven: Demokratie fördern, <https://www.fh-aachen.de/hochschule/profil/diversity-und-chancengerechtigkeit/toolbox>, Accessed on 29.01.2026
- ¹⁶ Fabian Bennewitz, Rechte Tendenzen an Hochschulen, <https://www.gew-berlin.de/aktuelles/detailseite/rechte-tendenzen-an-hochschulen>, Accessed on 29.01.2026

