

Jews and gay people should hide identity in 'Arab neighbourhoods', says Berlin police chief

From [The Telegraph](#) Photograph from the [Times of India](#)

Jews and gay people should hide their identity in parts [of Berlin](#) with large Arab populations, the German capital's police chief has warned.



Police officers clash with protesters during a pro-Palestinian rally in Berlin, Monday, Oct. 7, 2024....

“There are areas of the city, we need to be perfectly honest here, where I would advise people who wear a kippah or are openly gay to be more careful,” said Barbara Slowik. “There are certain neighbourhoods where the majority of people of Arab origin live, who also have sympathies for terrorist groups,” she said, adding that they were often “openly hostile towards Jews”.

She told the Berliner Zeitung newspaper that “violent crimes against [Jewish people](#) are few and far between, but every act is one too many”.

A fortnight ago, a youth football team from Makkabi Berlin, a Jewish sports club, reported being “hunted down” by youths carrying sticks and knives after a match in an Arab neighbourhood of the city. The victims, aged 13 to 15, said they were spat at and insulted throughout the match.

Since Oct 7 last year, Berlin's police have opened more than 6,000 investigations connected to anti-Semitism, according to

Ms Slowik. Most of these concern online hate speech [or graffiti](#).

Other incidents in Berlin include a football fan being attacked for wearing a scarf with a Star of David on it, a petrol bomb attack on a synagogue shortly after the Oct 7 massacres in southern Israel, and a couple being attacked in a fast-food outlet for speaking Hebrew.

On the day [of the Hamas massacres](#), men handed out sweets in celebration in the Berlin neighbourhood of Neukölln, an incident that shocked Germany and led to deep anxiety over whether the recent waves of migration had made Jewish life less safe.

The hard-Right Alternative for Germany has cited the protection of the country's Jewish minority as a reason to push through a much tougher policy of mass deportations of refugees back to countries such as Syria.