

The state elections in Saxony are underway. 79 years after the end of the second World War, a post-fascist and fascist party is on the verge of becoming the strongest force in the state parliament. Their voters have long been uninterested in content or values. As politicians from progressive parties are insulted, threatened, chased with a machete, or even beaten up when putting up election posters. As 700 young neo-Nazis in Bautzen proclaim a “Nazi district” and try to attack the CSD. Or as this New Right’s plans to deport “undesirables” come to light. None of this has hurt the AfD's poll numbers in Saxony.

In Saxony, especially in rural regions, there is already a climate of fear for those seen as non-German, who don’t conform to a heteronormative appearance, or who simply have an anti-fascist, open-minded way of thinking and acting. And it is precisely this climate that permits the heads of the Saxon state government to refuse action and consistently reject responsibility. The most recent example: Bautzen two weeks ago. Despite clear calls for a manhunt in advance, despite dozens of obviously inciting chants, despite the burning of a Pride flag, despite the participants’ open displays of Nazi symbols and tattoos, the Saxon minister of the interior, Armin Schuster, trivialized these attempted attacks on queer life and other marginalized groups and hid behind “freedom of assembly.” To this day, the Saxon Minister President has not even managed to acknowledge the incidents with a single remark.

But this is hardly surprising given the fact that, according to a Forsa survey, 45% of CDU members can well imagine working with the AfD at a government level. The course for the political collapse of the self-imposed firewall has therefore already been set here in Saxony. We are not far from the first time since 1945 that fascists come to power at the state level. And even if it doesn’t happen and AfD participation in government is still prevented, the predicted seat distribution in this state means that progressive politics will probably *cough* still *cough* not appear for a while

So we tolerant, open-minded, and diverse people are in for a tough time. All the more reason to stick together now! Where the political firewall is crumbling, it must stand all the stronger in the minds of civil society! Anti-fascism is not just a slogan—we are all called upon to stand up for marginalized groups and a pluralistic, progressive society free of fascism, racism, anti-Semitism, queer hostility, and all other forms of discrimination every day, on the street and in our lives. Because—believe it or not—we are all Antifa!

Alerta!