

How safe is Germany?

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A few weeks ago, alarmist coverage of a fight which took place during a festival in the small town of Mügeln (Saxony) was featured in newspapers throughout Germany. The incident consisted of a violent confrontation between Indians and Germans, resulting in speculation that the fight was racially motivated. Since then the question of whether Germans are racist or xenophobic has once more been the subject of vigorous discussion.

However, Germany is actually one of the safest countries in the world: there have been no terrorist attacks, no trouble and low rates of burglary and violent crime.

We as a language school teaching German to different nationalities, there is one thing we have noticed: our language students frequently comment on how open, friendly and helpful the Germans are - particularly in response to foreign visitors unfamiliar with their surroundings. This has been backed up by our own observations in an area in which up to 20% of the population are expatriates.

„Fear of the unknown“ has existed since time immemorial and it is for this reason that we are now faced with the current situation where reservations about foreigners are strongest in those areas in which they are a rarity.

We are firmly opposed to any form of discrimination and do what we can to break down prejudice. It is our belief that communication between people of all nations is particularly important and as a result we endeavour to enable and encourage contact between Germans and other nationalities. Nothing inspires interest and understanding of others more than a conversation between people from different countries. The “language-tandem“ part of our language programme has developed as a direct result of this viewpoint.

Our message is „speak to each other and share good experiences“ and therefore we also support the „Academy of Good Will“, an initiative first begun in Bamberg by artist Ralf Metzenmacher (www.retro-art.org).

Our experiences at Treffpunkt over the last ten years have continually confirmed the safety of Bamberg and the geniality of its people.

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