

**MASS STABBING INCIDENTS IN
GERMANY AND THE UK**

Migration Research Institute

Analysis

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The study investigates the increase in knife attacks in Germany and the United Kingdom, highlighting their social and political implications. In recent years, both countries have seen a rise in the number of such crimes, particularly among young men with a migrant background. The phenomenon is often driven by social problems, mental disorders, integration difficulties, and, in some cases, extremist ideologies. Knife violence therefore also highlights the challenges of multiculturalism and integration. In response, Germany tightened the conditions for carrying sharp objects, implemented stricter immigration controls, and accelerated deportations. In the United Kingdom, weapons that were freely available previously were banned, and prevention programs were launched. However, it appears that current measures and policies are proving ineffective in addressing migration-related violent crime.

Introduction

The number of knife attacks in Germany and the United Kingdom is increasing year on year, the phenomenon has by now become a social problem. As these crimes are often committed by people with a migrant background, both the German and British governments are under increasing pressure to tighten weapons laws and take stronger action against perpetrators of violent crimes. Their task is made more difficult by the fact that the weapons used in these attacks are harder to identify than firearms or explosives. In addition, such weapons are easily accessible, and many attacks were carried out with kitchen knives and other edged or bladed weapons readily available to purchase legally. While knife crime tends to become associated with motivations of radical ideologies, it needs to be noted that these attacks often occur during the commission of other crimes, such as robberies, that lack ideological overtones.

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In our study, we present the types of cases classified as knife attacks in German and British law enforcement studies, how crime statistics have developed in recent years, and what lies behind the trends.

Defining mass stabbings

German Police Crime Statistics (*Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik*, PKS) classify any crime in which a person is threatened, injured, or killed with a knife as a knife attack. In a legal context, such cases are considered assault or homicide, depending on the severity of the act and the circumstances. Influencing factors include, for example, the attacker's intent – in particular whether there was an attempt to kill – and the physical or psychological consequences of the injuries.¹ Carrying a knife alone is not sufficient for an incident to be recorded as a knife attack.² German criminology classifies knife attacks into three types:

1. cases where the perpetrator carries a knife or other edged or bladed instrument for the purpose of committing a crime – this includes, for example, robbery or domestic violence;
2. psychiatric cases when the perpetrator suffers from mental illness;
3. Incidents where the perpetrator does not plan to use the knife but ends up doing so during an argument or other conflict.³

German authorities have issued numerous statements on how to defend oneself against knife attacks, which can result in serious injuries and even death. The police union *Polizei Dein Partner* (GdP) urges caution in party districts of large cities, at festival stands and schools, as well as on public transport (e.g., buses and trains). “A folding knife can be pulled out in seconds and used to stab someone”, the union's warning states. The statement also points out that in the case of people with mental health issues, it is almost impossible to predict an attack as perpetrators often choose their victims at random. At the same time, it is not uncommon for knife attacks to be preceded by an argument.⁴ Similar appeals are also published on the websites of the provincial police forces; the statements typically provide advice on what people should do if they are attacked with a knife or if they witness such an incident. If someone is attacked with a knife, the North Rhine-Westphalia provincial police recommend fleeing and dialing the German emergency number 110; if someone witnesses the incident, they also recommend calling for help and keeping their distance. The statement also warns that stab wounds to the limbs can quickly become life-threatening.⁵

¹ JURA FORUM 2024.

² BUNDESKRIMINALAMT 2020. p. 10.

³ GHELLI – HASSELMANN 2025.

⁴ POLIZEI DEIN PARTNER 2023.

⁵ POLIZEI NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN n.d.

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British media frequently use the term “knife crime”,⁶ but it is often unclear exactly what falls into this category. According to the definition of the British College of Policing, knife crime is any offense involving knives or other bladed or pointed articles.⁷ Accordingly, this includes not only crimes committed with knives, but also those involving other instruments such as razor blades, swords, axes, forks, needles, or even broken glass. The college distinguishes between two basic types of knife crime. The first category includes cases where the perpetrator owns or possesses knives when doing so is illegal – either because its possession is specifically banned (e.g., in the case of certain offensive weapons) or because the circumstances make it unlawful (e.g., possession in a public place without good reason). The second category includes cases where a knife is used in the commission of another crime (typically robbery, burglary, or violence against a person).

Stabbings in Germany

When examining national statistics in Germany, it should be noted that the PKS has been recording knife attacks (*Messerangriffe*) as a separate category at the national level only since January 1, 2020, in accordance with an agreement reached at the conference of provincial interior ministers between June 6 and 8, 2018.⁸ Accordingly, the first report for 2020 should have been presented in 2021, but due to the lack of necessary data at the federal level, the Federal Criminal Police Office (*Bundeskriminalamt*, BKA) published the first report in 2022 based on 2021 data.⁹ It should also be noted that in recent years, the PKS has not published statistics on knife attacks in a uniform and comprehensive manner,¹⁰ with the result that the data do not reflect the full range of crimes committed with knives. In 2021, the PKS published a national aggregate figure, but in 2022 it divided the incidents into two groups, distinguishing between the use of knives in incidents resulting in dangerous assault and grievous bodily harm, and in robberies. In addition to the national PKS statistics, some federal states also publish data on knife crimes, but these are compiled using different data collection bases and methodologies and therefore cannot be aggregated into a national figure. In consultation with the states, the federal government ordered two quality improvement measures for the rules on data recording. From January 1, 2024, it will be mandatory to record a value for each case: this can be a specific phenomenon from the *Phänomenkatalog* (e.g., *Messerangriff*), or, in the absence of such a phenomenon, it must be indicated that there is no specific phenomenon. Previously, when crimes were recorded it was not mandatory to fill in the *Phänomen* field in all cases, which led to the national

⁶ For example, the BBC’s homepage lists “knife crime” as a separate tag label under news, see:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/c12kgj2e4g6t>.

⁷ COLLEGE OF POLICING 2025.

⁸ BUNDESKRIMINALAMT 2020. p. 10.

⁹ DEUTSCHER BUNDESTAG 2024. p. 1.

¹⁰ MEDIENDIENST INTEGRATION 2023. p. 1.

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aggregates remaining incomplete or impossible to compare. The amendment which came into force on January 1, 2025, made it possible to record the way the weapon was used (*Art der Waffenverwendung*): this makes it possible to distinguish more precisely who used the weapon (including knives) and how during the attack. Previously, it was not made clear which party used the knife in crimes involving multiple perpetrators.¹¹

In 2021, the PKS classified 6.6% of all crimes as knife attacks: a total of 10,917 incidents were recorded, of which 7,071 were crimes involving dangerous assault and grievous bodily harm, and 3,060 were robberies. In 2022, a total of 12,355 knife attacks were registered, of which 8,160 incidents were recorded as crimes involving dangerous assault and grievous bodily harm, and 4,195 cases were recorded as robberies.¹² In 2023, there were 13,844 knife attacks, of which 8,951 were crimes involving dangerous assault and grievous bodily harm and 4,893 were robberies.¹³ The PKS report on the 2024 data revealed that 29,014 knife attacks were recorded, 54.3% of which were violent crimes and 43.3% were threats.¹⁴ The figures show that between 2021 and 2024, the number of knife attacks increased by 44.3%, with robberies increasing by 55.8% and dangerous assault and grievous bodily harm increasing by 40.3%.

The majority of knife attacks are committed by adults over the age of 21, but there are also a relatively large number of perpetrators aged between 14 and 20. The perpetrators are predominantly (approximately 90%) male, with foreigners accounting for between 33% and 50% of the total, which is significantly higher than the proportion of foreign nationals in the total German population and among males aged 14–60. In 2025, German criminologists warned that the average age of people carrying guns was decreasing, which could be explained not only by a lack of fear but also by psychological reasons such as the expression of masculinity.¹⁵ Data from the Federal Police (*Bundespolizei*, BPOL) show that knife attacks are committed most frequently by German nationals, but the number of people from third countries, including Syrians, Turks, Algerians, Iraqis, and Afghans, is particularly high. Among European immigrants, Poles and Ukrainians commit the most knife attacks.¹⁶ An examination of individual cases also reveals that perpetrators with a migrant background mostly come from similar social situations, family environments, and social and economic statuses that are conducive to crime. They are typically characterized by poverty, low educational attainment, connections to criminal networks, and often hear personal experiences from other offenders. In a study published in 2023, the Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony (Kriminologisches Forschungsinstitut Niedersachsen, KFN) examined youth crime. Surveys conducted during the research confirm that knife

¹¹ DEUTSCHER BUNDESTAG 2024. p. 3.

¹² BUNDESMINISTERIUM DES INNERN UND FÜR HEIMAT 2023. p. 15.

¹³ BUNDESMINISTERIUM DES INNERN UND FÜR HEIMAT 2024. p. 15.

¹⁴ BUNDESMINISTERIUM DES INNERN UND FÜR HEIMAT 2025a. p. 20.

¹⁵ GHELLI – HASSELMANN 2025.

¹⁶ DEUTSCHER BUNDESTAG 2025. p. 2.

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carrying is more common among young people without a migrant background, while young people with a migrant background are more likely to use weapons—including knives and other stabbing or cutting instruments—during incidents

The number of *Messerangriffe* knife attacks is particularly high due to threats which rarely result in mass stabbings causing grievous bodily harm. However, since 2021, there have been a number of mass stabbings in Germany, and the number is on the rise. These include cases where the attacker’s goal is to kill and injure multiple people. Attacks in Germany reveal that mass stabbings are motivated by the attacker’s mental disorder or Islamist extremism (Table 1).

Table 1: Mass stabbing incidents in Germany between 2021 and 2025

Date	Location	Persons killed	Persons injured	Perpetrator
June 25, 2021	Würzburg, Bavaria	3	8	Somali Abdirahman Jibril Ali, 24, lodged his asylum application in Germany in 2015. His application was rejected, but he was granted subsidiary protection. ¹⁷
November 4, 2021	Neumarkt in der Oberpfalz, Bavaria	0	4	Palestinian Abdalrahman A., 26, has lived as a refugee in Germany since 2014. He struggled with psychiatric issues. ¹⁸
January 25, 2023	Brokstedt, Schleswig-Holstein	2	10	Palestinian Ibrahim A., 33, lodged his asylum application in Germany in 2015. The court believed his anger and frustration led to the attack. ¹⁹
February 22, 2024	Wuppertal, North Rhine-Westphalia	0	5 (including the perpetrator)	A 17-year-old student attacked classmates. The prosecutor’s office found mental health problems. ²⁰
May 31, 2024	Mannheim, Baden-Württemberg	1	6 (including the perpetrator)	Afghan Sulaiman Ataee, 25, arrived in Germany as an unaccompanied minor in 2013. The attack he carried out was motivated by Islamist intent. ²¹

¹⁷ REISTER 2021.

¹⁸ DEUTSCHE WELLE 2021.

¹⁹ NORDDEUTSCHER RUNDFUNK 2024.

²⁰ Lumpe 2025.

²¹ Heymann – Houben 2025.

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June 15, 2024	Wolmirstedt, Saxony-Anhalt		3	A 27-year-old Afghan man attacked his neighbors. Local people said the man had displayed signs of mental health issues several times, and he often carried a knife. ²²
August 23, 2024	Solingen, North Rhine-Westphalia	3	8	Isaa al Hassan, 26, arrived from Syria after crossing Turkey and Bulgaria. He lodged an asylum application in Germany in 2023, but his application was rejected. His deportation could not be executed because he disappeared from the sight of the police. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack. ²³
August 31, 2024	Siegen, North Rhine-Westphalia	0	6	A 32-year-old German woman attacked her fellow passengers on a bus. She was diagnosed with a medium severe psychiatric condition. ²⁴
January 22, 2025	Aschaffenburg, Bavaria	2	3	Afghan Enamullah Omarzai, 28, attacked a group of kindergarten children. Authorities said the attack had no political or religious motivation, the man had previously been diagnosed with a mental disorder.
May 23, 2025	Hamburg	0	17	German Lydia S., 39, attacked people indiscriminately at Hamburg railway station. Police found no political or religious motives, the attacker was struggling with psychiatric disorders. ²⁵

The pattern of mass knife attacks in Germany clearly shows that these are not uniform phenomena: in addition to those with a migrant background, the attackers also include

²² Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk 2024.

²³ Großkemper – Wiedmann-Schmidt 2024.

²⁴ DIE ZEIT 2025.

²⁵ SAMPSON – SCHUETZE – RISEN 2025.

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German citizens, which suggests that the decisive factors in these crimes are social status, age and gender, environment, norms of violence, and marginalization.²⁶

Stabbings in the United Kingdom

According to a report²⁷ prepared for the House of Commons based on data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the number of serious crimes²⁸ committed with knives in England and Wales fell by 1.3% between 2024 and 2025, from 53,700 to 53,000. Compared to the peak of 55,200 recorded in 2019, the 2025 figure is 3.8% lower. The decline is particularly significant in the case of homicides whose number fell by 23% between 2024 and 2025. However, the statistics show an improvement only compared to recent years, as the number of knife crimes in England and Wales increased by 87% in the decade prior to 2024, which is considered exceptionally high by European standards.²⁹

A relatively significant proportion of knife crimes are committed by minors and young adults. In the year leading up to March 2024, there were more than 3,200 cases in which children (aged 10–17) committed crimes with knives or offensive weapons that resulted in reprimands or convictions. During the same period, of the 262 homicides committed with a knife or other sharp object, 57 were committed by perpetrators under the age of 25.³⁰

According to a 2018 report, Black, South Asian, and other ethnic minorities were overrepresented among both perpetrators and victims of knife crime in London.³¹ While 43% of the city's population belonged to this demographic group in 2017, the proportion was 50% among perpetrators and victims of knife crime. Of the perpetrators of stabbing attacks resulting in injury 83% were male, 35% were between the ages of 17 and 24, and 69% were black, South Asian, or other ethnic minorities. The demographic composition of the victims showed a similar pattern: 68% were male, 32% were aged 17–24, and 55% were Black, South Asian, or other ethnic minority. The proportion of black victims was particularly high among homicide victims: 68% of victims under the age of 20 were from this group.

²⁶ GHELLI – HASSELMANN 2025.

²⁷ ALLEN-WONG. 2025.

²⁸ These include homicide, attempted murder, grievous bodily harm, armed robbery, threat to life, and rape.

²⁹ DEMONY – MAKORI 2025.

³⁰ DEMONY – MAKORI 2025.

³¹ MAYOR OF LONDON OFFICE OF POLICING AND CRIME 2018.

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Table 2: Stabbing incidents with more than three victims in the United Kingdom, 2024–2025

Date	Location	Persons killed	Persons injured	Perpetrator
April 30, 2024	Hainault, London	1	4	Spanish-Brazilian national Marcus Arduini Monzo, 36 ³²
July 29, 2024	Southport, Merseyside	3	10	Axel Rudakubana, 17, British national of Rwandan origin ³³
January 23, 2025	Beddington, London	0	5	30-year-old British resident male ³⁴
May 17, 2025	Thamesmead, London	0	5	Five British resident men aged 22–32, presumed gang members ³⁵
July 28, 2025	Bermondsey, London	2	2	A 17-year-old student attacked classmates. The prosecutor’s office found mental health problems. ³⁶
October 2, 2025	Crumpsall, Manchester	2	3	Jihad Al-Shamie, 35, British national of Syrian origin ³⁷
November 1, 2025	Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire	0	11	Anthony Williams, 32, Black, British national ³⁸

The demographic patterns characteristic of perpetrators of knife crimes can also be observed in cases involving multiple victims, which cases generate the greatest social response and public outrage. As Table 2 shows, the perpetrators whose identity was revealed in the past two years were either migrants themselves or had an immigrant background. In cases where the identity and origin of the perpetrator is not known, such as in Beddington and Thamesmead, the location of the crimes (in both cases, neighborhoods densely populated by immigrants) and the nature of the crimes suggest that the perpetrators were likely to have had an immigrant background.

Failures of multiculturalism

In Germany, the knife attacks of recent years generated heated social and political debates about immigration policy. The reason for the divide is that many of the perpetrators had

³² MANNING – SMITH 2025.

³³ HUMPHRIES – O’NEIL 2025.

³⁴ COOK 2025.

³⁵ SHEAD 2025.

³⁶ Lumpe 2025.

³⁷ HUME 2025.

³⁸ KALUS 2025.

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an immigrant background, which prompted direct government responses to the attacks. The focus of the debate—especially around the early federal elections of February 23, 2025³⁹, but also in the 11 months since then—has been on the effectiveness of deportation, particularly returns under the Dublin system and the removal of perpetrators of serious crimes. In connection with the Solingen case on August 23, 2024, it was specifically pointed out that the attacker should have been deported to Bulgaria where he first entered the European Union, but this did not happen.⁴⁰ Similar questions arose during the Aschaffenburg attack on January 22, 2025. The discussions centered on three recurring themes: why the deportation did not take place earlier, the lack of enforcement under the Dublin system, and where and how rejected applicants and convicted offenders can be returned.

Knife crime also became a symbolic issue in public debate: some parties are calling for stricter immigration policies, while others are emphasizing public safety or preventive and anti-radicalization measures. The most stringent reforms are being pushed by the right-wing Alternative for Germany (*Alternative für Deutschland*, AfD) party, whose member of parliament Martin Hess spoke of “imported crime” during the Bundestag debate on May 21, 2025. Also highlighting the need for tightening rules are the Christian Democratic Union (*Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands*, CDU) and the Christian Social Union in Bavaria (*Christlich-Soziale Union in Bayern*, CSU) which became the main governing party in a coalition with the Social Democratic Party of Germany (*Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands*, SPD) following the early elections in 2025. At the same time, Marc Henrichmann, a representative of the party alliance, believes that the problem of knife attacks goes back to earlier than *Willkommenskultur*. The Alliance ‘90/The Greens (*Bündnis 90/Die Grünen*) and The Left Party (*Die Linke*) are already emphasizing anti-radicalization and deradicalization measures, with a particular focus on Islamist and right-wing extremism.⁴¹ In party political debates, it is clear that while the AfD focuses on failed migration policies, other parties emphasize social factors, law enforcement capacities, and radicalization. However, the government’s justification for the packages does not present the problem solely as a migration issue, but also links it to public safety, terrorism and extremism, as well as gun control regulations.

There were two turning points in German politics that particularly intensified the debate on irregular immigration. One was the knife attack in Mannheim on May 31, 2024, in which a police officer lost his life. Public discourse and politics became focused on the deportation of irregular migrants, and government communications included promises to resume deportations in cases of serious criminals. The Mannheim attack was carried out by an Afghan immigrant, which led the government coalition led by former Chancellor Olaf

³⁹ DÓCZA 2025, p. 4.

⁴⁰ ASSOCIATED PRESS 2025.

⁴¹ DEUTSCHER BUNDESTAG 2025.

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Scholz (SPD) to resume deportations to Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover on August 15, 2021. The first deportation flight to Kabul took off on August 30, 2024, with 28 convicted Afghan criminals on board.⁴² The second incident was the knife attack in Solingen on August 23, 2024, which prompted the federal government to announce a two-pronged package (*Sicherheitspaket*) of security and asylum reforms. The central elements of this are the ban on carrying knives at public events (such as festivals, sporting events, fairs, exhibitions), on public transport (primarily long-distance transport) and in enclosed public transport facilities⁴³, as well as the acceleration of the execution of deportations.⁴⁴ The new regulations came into force on October 31, 2024.

Restrictions on carrying knives were also a topic of political debate in 2025. Several provinces introduced bans on local public transport within their own jurisdiction, resulting in a “layered” approach to knife regulations and the emergence of knife-free zones. Based on a decree issued on June 24, 2025, Berlin banned the carrying of weapons and knives on public transport and in related transport facilities from July 17, 2025. The decree also states that the police may carry out checks without suspicion.⁴⁵ In the state of Baden-Württemberg, the cabinet decided on July 22, 2025, to impose a ban on all public transport and allowed local authorities to establish general knife-free zones, regardless of the type of knife or blade length.⁴⁶ In September 2025, the Federal Ministry of the Interior announced the start of a comprehensive review of gun laws, indicating that the debate on knife violence has become an item for a longer-term regulatory agenda.⁴⁷

In the United Kingdom, the government is focusing primarily on regulating the weapons used in attacks: several types of knives were banned, including long, serrated, or particularly sharp blades classified as offensive weapons, such as “Rambo knives” and “zombie knives”.⁴⁸ Drop-off points were set up across the country, and young people in particular are encouraged to hand in their illegally held weapons. In addition, there are plans to introduce mandatory age checks for buyers and to place greater emphasis on prevention, education, and mental health protection.⁴⁹ However, these measures ignore the demographic background of the perpetrators, as this is a politically sensitive issue.

There is heightened attention on knife attacks in British public opinion; riots broke out across the country following the Southport stabbing in July 2024.⁵⁰ After the attack on a dance group of young children, which left three dead and ten wounded, false reports

⁴² DAZIO 2024.

⁴³ These include structures surrounded by walls and covered with a roof, built for human use.

⁴⁴ ZDFHEUTE 2024.

⁴⁵ POLIZEI BERLIN n.d.

⁴⁶ BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG MINISTERIUM DES INNEREN, FÜR DIGITALISIERUNG UND KOMMUNEN 2025.

⁴⁷ BUNDESMINISTERIUM DES INNERN UND FÜR HEIMAT 2025b.

⁴⁸ HOME OFFICE 2024.

⁴⁹ DEMONY – MAKORI 2025.

⁵⁰ KIRKA 2025.

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quickly spread on social media that the perpetrator was an irregular migrant.⁵¹ This led to acts of violence against migrants and attacks on accommodation facilities providing shelter to asylum seekers, in one case accompanied by arson. In fact, 17-year-old Axel Rudakubana was born in Cardiff to Rwandan parents.⁵² This case, among others, contributed to the decision by the National Police Chiefs' Council and the Police Professional Standards Authority to recommend that information about the nationality and ethnic background of suspects in serious crimes be made public.⁵³

The debates surrounding the police policy on disclosing the background of perpetrators clearly illustrate the divisions that exist in British public discourse and society. The editorial in *The Guardian*, the most widely read daily newspaper, published after the knife attack in Huntingdon, reflects the British left-wing interpretation.⁵⁴ The paper quotes opposition Conservative and Liberal Democrat politicians who criticized the police for not releasing details about the perpetrator sooner and thought it almost inconceivable that it was not a terrorist attack. According to the author of the article, these statements expose right-wing politicians who actively contribute to spreading suspicion and hysteria. However, the paper ignored the fact that the perpetrator was not a migrant but a British citizen—just like Axel Rudakubana, the perpetrator of the 2024 Southport attack, and Valdo Calcoane, the perpetrator of the 2023 Nottingham stabbing which left three people dead and two seriously injured.⁵⁵ According to *The Guardian's* editorial board, mental illness is the primary cause of these attacks, so the police and health authorities should focus on identifying and addressing the risks associated with them. The article also accuses the right of opportunistically exploiting tragedies, contributing to the rise of prejudice and racism against asylum seekers.

However, *The Guardian* and the British police turn a blind eye to the fact that all three perpetrators mentioned above are black and come from immigrant families. In contrast, the British right-wing and conservative media talk about the rise in violent crime linked to migration.⁵⁶ One proponent of this narrative is Daniel Hannan, a former Member of the European Parliament and member of the House of Lords, who expressed his views in the pages of *The Spectator*, considered the world's oldest magazine.⁵⁷ According to Hannan, by emphasizing that Williams—like the perpetrators of many high-profile crimes and terrorist attacks in recent years—was British-born, the police and the media are actually highlighting a deeper problem, namely the failure of integration. He argues that these perpetrators were second- or third-generation British citizens who nevertheless carried with them their family

⁵¹ THOMAS – SARDARIZADEH 2025.

⁵² NAUGHTIE 2025.

⁵³ SYVAL 2025.

⁵⁴ THE GUARDIAN 2025.

⁵⁵ MURRAY 2025.

⁵⁶ DEACON 2025.

⁵⁷ HANNAN 2025.

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and cultural heritage and displayed such a degree of alienation and hostility towards mainstream British society that it ultimately led to extreme acts of violence. Based on this, Hannan calls for the strengthening of education policies that emphasize patriotic values and promote assimilation, significant restrictions on immigration, the deportation of perpetrators, and a more open discussion of the cultural differences between immigrants from different regions of origin and their effects across generations.

Conclusions

Every year, more knife attacks are recorded in Germany and the United Kingdom. The increase in the number of attacks resulting in multiple fatalities and injuries is particularly worrying. In Germany, this phenomenon has been the subject of heated social and political debate over the past two years, leading to a number of reforms by early 2026: the federal government tightened gun laws and began discussions on the enforcement of deportations. Several of the attacks were carried out by irregular migrants residing in the country illegally.

The issue of crime linked to immigrants is not new in the United Kingdom: the Cambridgeshire police chief drew attention to this problem as early as 2007.⁵⁸ Admittedly, at that time he was referring primarily to immigrants from Central European countries that had recently joined the European Union. However, the series of attacks that have taken place since clearly illustrate that this is an acute challenge. In both countries, it is clear that the current tools are not sufficiently effective in dealing with migration-related crime. As Daniel Hannan pointed out, the mass attacks in the United Kingdom highlight the difficulties of assimilating migrants, because although the perpetrators were British citizens, they still felt like strangers in their own country. These cases therefore raise serious questions about the integration of those arriving through mass immigration.

⁵⁸ ATTEWILL 2007.

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