

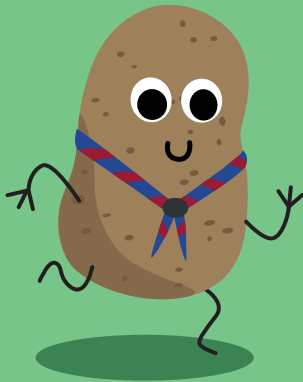
vcp



VERBAND CHRISTLICHER
PFADFINDERINNEN UND
PFADFINDER

On your marks against agitation!

A VCP-campaign





Name

Published on the behalf of the National Board of Verband Christlicher Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder e.V. (Protestant Guide and Scout Association)

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The VCP is a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) as well as the

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Dear Guides and Scouts,

we are happy to share with you the booklet

»On your marks against agitation«, which was originally published in German in 2017.

This booklet was the result of a resolution taken by the VCP's National Assembly.

The Resolution entitled »Let's be good neighbours« aimed at showing VCP's deep concern about the right-shift of political landscape the world over, but particularly in Europe. This concern was and is shared and being addressed by all German Guide and Scout Associations.

VCP decided to take action and encourages its members to get informed about right-wing ideologies and extremism and peacefully speak out against any kind of hostility against foreigners.

This booklet wants to support this effort in a funny and educative way.

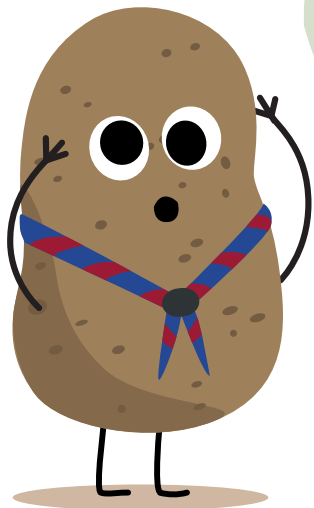
We received positive feedback from the international Guide and Scout community; therefore, we had it translated to offer it to a larger circle of young people.

We hope you find it useful and may be able to apply the same approach to other current social topics in your national or local community.

Yours in Guiding and Scouting

Fabian and Oliver

International Commissioners



Up there they don't care about our needs down here! We should form a potato movement. Because only we know what is good for us – and not those mainstream vegetables!

Bananas don't belong to Germany. They can't stand our climate, anyway!

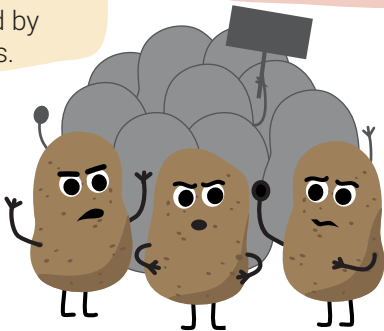
Every nation has their own vegetable culture. It is good the way it is and should remain so!

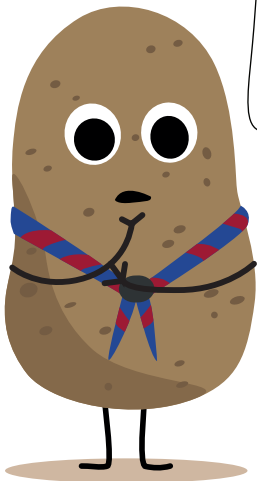
As a good German potato, I had to work hard deep in the earth for four months in order to make it onto the plate. Meanwhile the corn is swinging lazily in the wind and enjoying the sun!

In such dishevelled times, it needs a strong "Fuehrer" to be followed by all potatoes.

None of them contains as much starch as the German potato, this simply makes us superior to all other vegetables!

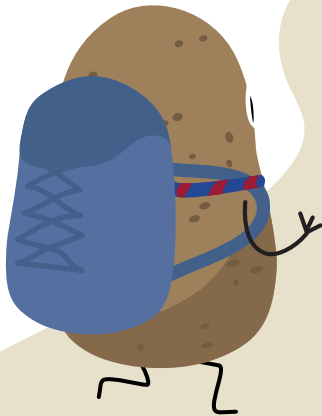
Exotic fruits don't belong in a good German fruit salad!



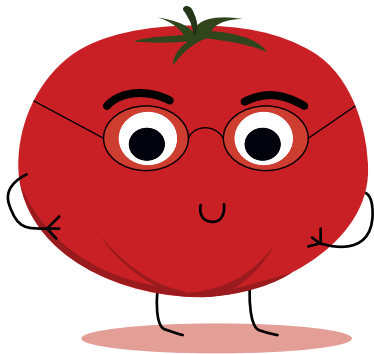


Potato movement? Sounds like »Potatoes for Germany«, such nonsense! Some comments don't sound all that wrong though ... the local climate is obviously not suitable for everyone ... however »Fuehrer« does sound like right wing extremism. But what exactly is that?

I am confused and will rather ask Uncle Gregor. He always tells me a lot about politics!

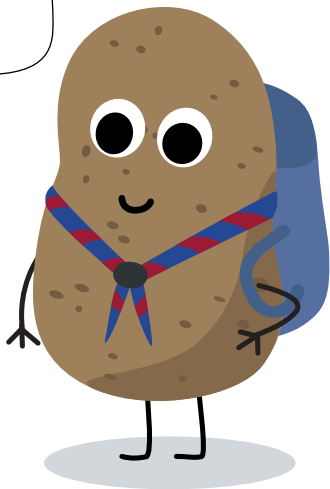


Right-wing extremism describes a political mind-set or movement that contains the following major elements more or less pronouncedly:
ideologies of inequality, lack of freedom and violence.

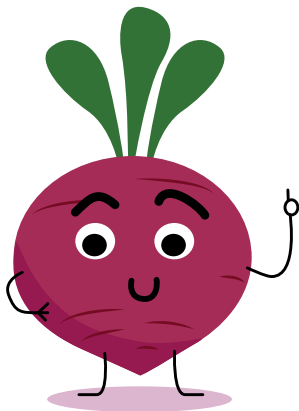


You ought to look closer at the various ideologies, which are part of right-wing extremism. You best ask the other vegetable experts, they can help you further.

Wow, that sounds real complicated! I thought, I'd get quick and simple answers to my questions. Well then... let's go!

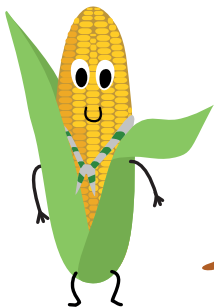


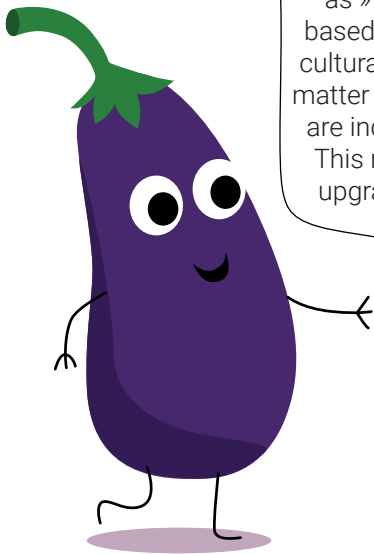
Nationalist ideologies glorify the own nation and consider it superior to others. Right-wing extremists often stand for nationalistic ideas by defining a nation by their »common« descent. With such nationalistic ideologies one can distance oneself from so called »foreigners« like for example refugees.



Yes, that is true. However, believing in »their« nation helps some people to ignore their own problems. Because a nationalist attitude makes it easy to blame others for your own situation.

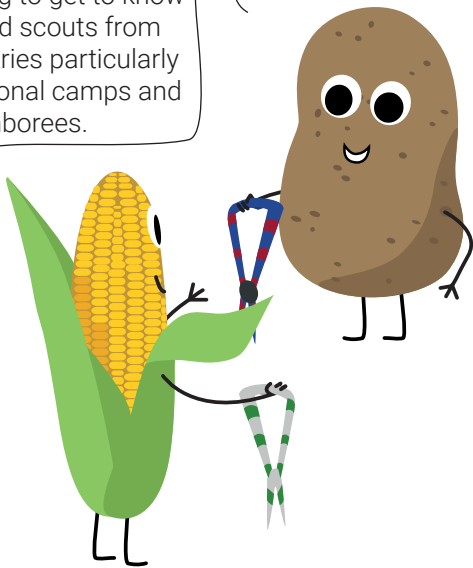
I don't understand that. I met so many guides and scouts from other countries at our National Jamboree, with whom I got along as well as with my German friends. Moreover, they were as talented in cooking, camp constructions and singing as we are.

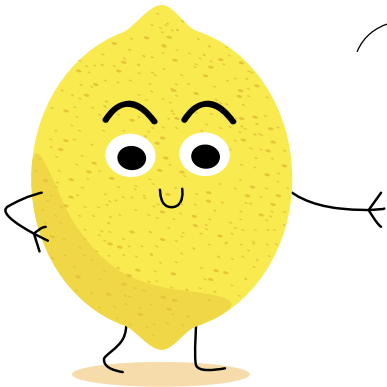




Xenophobia (hostility towards foreigners) describes the rejection of people who are perceived as »foreign«. This is mostly based on an ethnic, national or cultural classification. It doesn't matter whether those concerned are indeed »foreigners« or not. This rejection often results in upgrading of the own group.

How nonsensical! As guides and scouts, we are part of a worldwide movement. It is so exciting to get to know guides and scouts from other countries particularly on international camps and jamborees.

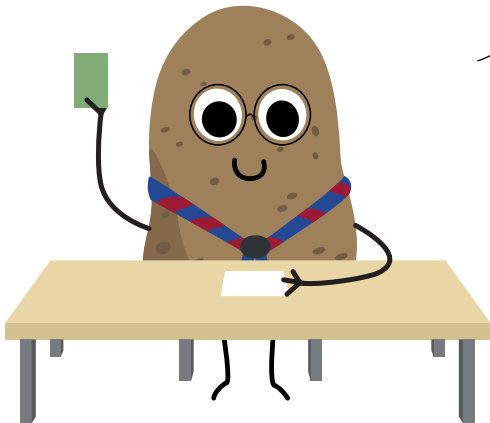


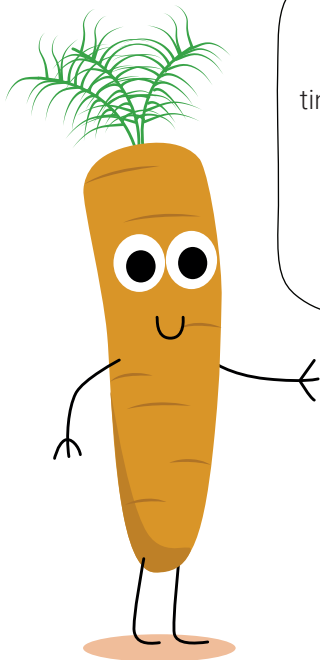


The concept of an **authoritarian society** endorses the limitation of democratic involvement and participation, in favour of a strong »Fuehrer«.

Yes, but there are people within the society who are not willing to take on any responsibility. They prefer an authoritarian regime that settles everything for them.

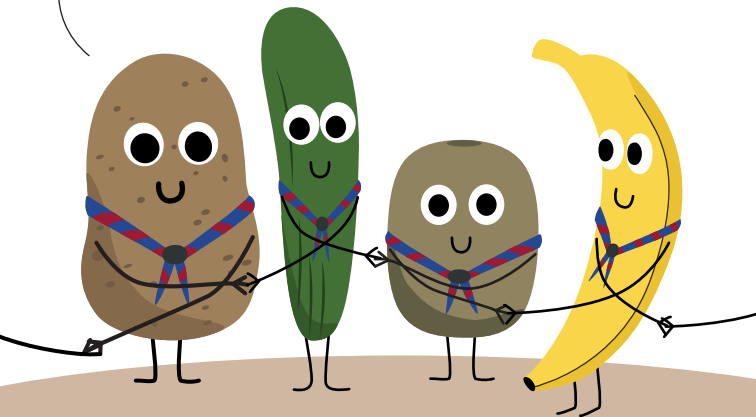
But decisions are good when reached and supported by as many as possible. If our tribe's leadership wants to make decisions without us, we openly discuss and question their ideas critically.



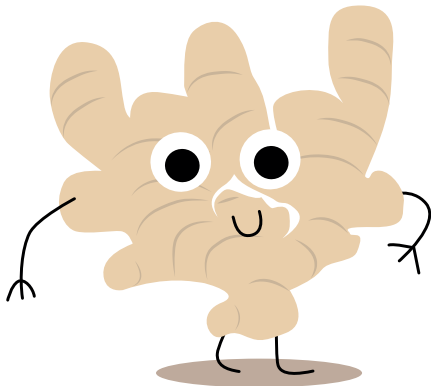


Right-wing extremists claim that nations ought to be as homogenous as possible. At times they justify this with racist arguments about biological differences among people. Presently however they also oftencite cultural differences euphemistically called **»ethno-pluralism«**.

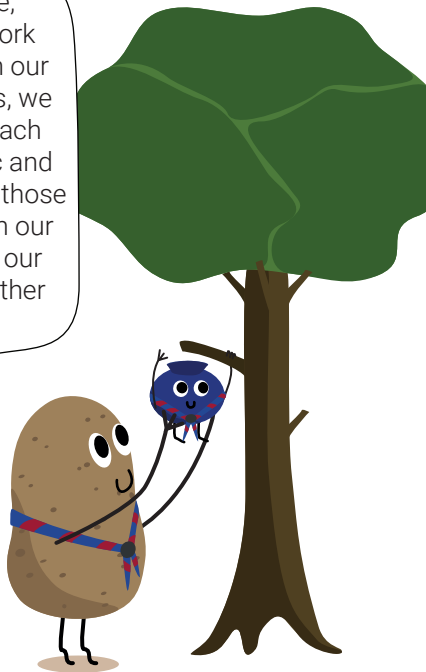
This does not make sense at all! In our association, the VCP, we all have different backgrounds. Still we get along very well. Actually, this is what really makes it particularly exciting; my Ranger/Rover group would be rather boring if we were all the same. What we do is living diversity.



Complaints about people who allegedly don't want to work but rely on public support are based on a **Social Darwinist concept**. »Strong« people should have more rights and »weak« people should not be supported. »Strong« and »weak« is mostly defined by economic performance and often used to generalise groups of people, such as refugees and Muslims.

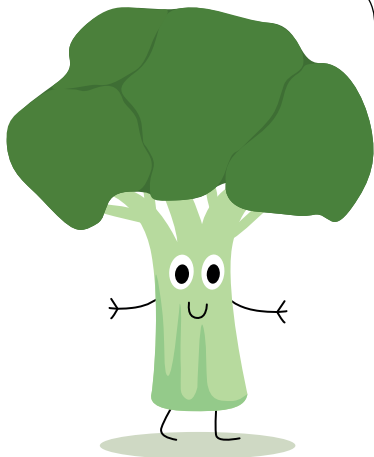


So what about those, who are not able to work and rely on our help? In our guide and scout groups, we are considerate with each other; we feel empathic and show solidarity towards those who are weaker. Even in our society, we consider it our responsibility to help other people.



Watch out though! Right-wing extremists are no longer very easy to identify. They tend to hide their misanthropy behind seemingly harmless statements or they put them into perspective afterwards. They are trying to create a gap between »the people« and »those up there« while portraying

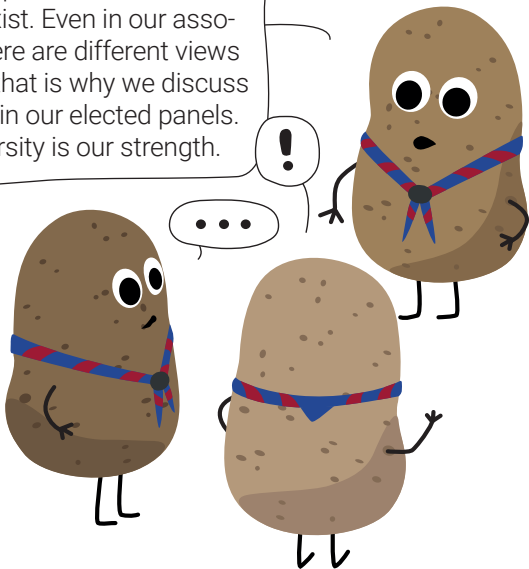
themselves as the sole advocates for »the people«. This is called **right-wing populism**.



And who is supposed to be the people, anyway? How would they know what the people want?

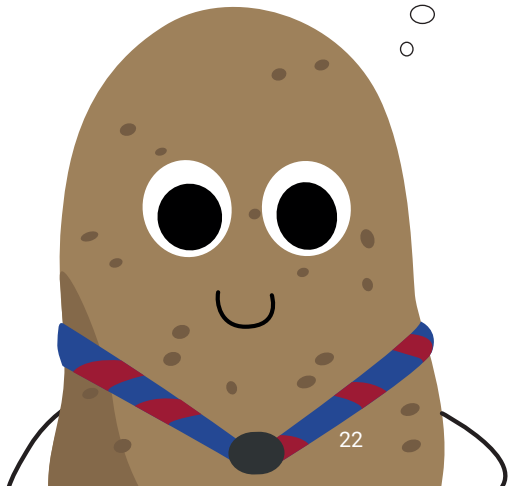
“ONE popular will” does not usually exist. Even in our association there are different views on things, that is why we discuss them within our elected panels.

Our diversity is our strength.



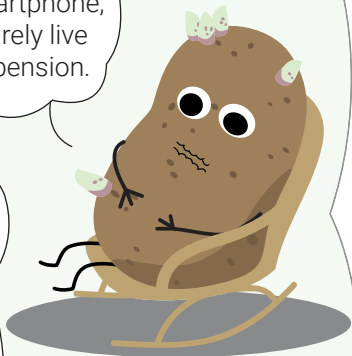
Well that was a very educative journey and now I know rather a lot about right-wing ideologies.

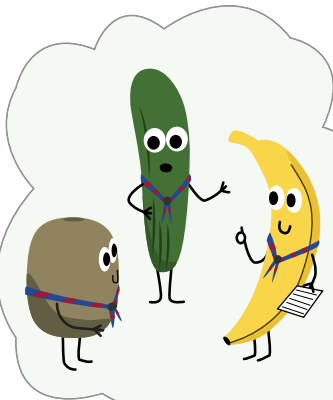
If old Gunda is lashing out against foreigners again at our next family gathering, I will be able to enter into a discussion with her.




The corn, this fraudulent asylum seeker, is getting everything for free and even has a smartphone, while I can barely live off my small pension.

Come on, Gunda! Do you really believe, that you would get a higher pension if the corn wasn't here? Did you get a higher pension two years ago? Besides, it seems to me that the corn is truly enriching our vegetable range.



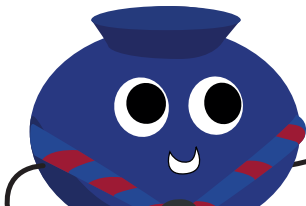


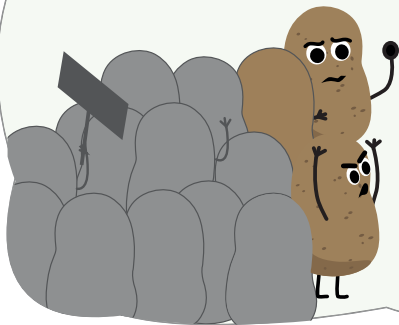
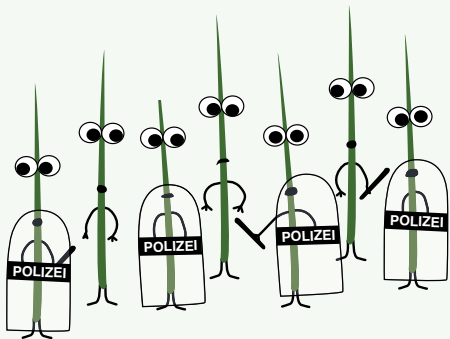
With the handout
"On your marks against
agitation!", we can work
on this subject in our
ranger and rover groups
or in our leaders'
meetings ...



... and organize an
information stall at
public events!

The campaign badge serves to let guides and scouts publicly show that they have taken a position ...





Sweet potatoes are snatching the role of side dish from us German potatoes!

... and show their true colours in public against right-wing extremism.



The campaign “On your marks against agitation!” includes a handout with suggestion for group meetings for ranger and rover ages.

The handout is only available in German and can be ordered and downloaded on our website www.vcp.de.

