



# I Sued Meta to Defend My Identity – and Won

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**EPA**  
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4-6 SEPTEMBER 2025  
**HAMBURG, GERMANY**

# About me



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**TRANS\* RIGHTS  
ARE  
HUMAN RIGHTS**



# TRANS\* RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

RAINBOWMAP

EQUALITY & NON-DISCRIMINAT... ▾

Map

• Bar chart

1 ICELAND

93.96%

14 GERMANY

63.25%

# Hate Crime Online

- Online hate is rising - especially against trans people
  - Social media platforms are key arenas
  - Hate speech, threats and harassment often go unmoderated
  - Platforms amplify visibility, but fail to ensure protection
- Common forms of digital attacks
  - Insults / Shaming
  - Misgendering: denying someone's gender identity
  - Deadnaming: public exposure of a person's former name
  - Digital stalking / Doxxing

# The Rise of Trans Hostile Attacks

- A growing problem
  - Sharp increase in trans-hostile attacks over recent years
  - Strong escalation during the discussion about the Self-Determination Act
- Impact / Desired Impact
  - Establishing trans\* people as a common scapegoat to distract from social injustice and to strengthen right-wing extremist forces
  - Psychological harm, fear, silencing of trans voices
  - To keep us busy and stop us from working on important stuff
  - Dehumanization and humiliation as entertainment

# Germany's Self-Determination Act (SBGG)

- Replaced the outdated Transsexuals Act (1981)
- Allows for legal gender and name change by self-declaration
- Changes possible since November 2024
- The numbers show how eagerly the community has been waiting for this

# Number of Gender Changes (2024), Germany

Monat	Männlich zu weiblich	Weiblich zu männlich	Männlich zu divers oder zu ohne Angabe	Weiblich zu divers oder zu ohne Angabe	Sonstige	Insgesamt
Januar bis Oktober	270	289	14	17	6	596
November	2 355	3 166	459	1 066	11	7 057
Dezember	842	1 323	218	547	6	2 936
Insgesamt	3 467	4 778	691	1 630	23	10 589

Source: destatis.de

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# Disclosure Ban & Fines

- §13 SBGG – Prohibition of Disclosure:
  - It is forbidden to disclose or investigated someone's previous legal name or gender without consent
- §14 SBGG – Fine:
  - Violation of §13 can result in a fine of up to **€10,000**

**Gesetz über die Selbstbestimmung in Bezug auf den Geschlechtseintrag (SBGG)  
§ 14 Bußgeldvorschriften**

(1) Ordnungswidrig handelt, wer entgegen § 13 Absatz 1 Satz 1 die Geschlechtszugehörigkeit oder einen Vornamen offenbart und dadurch die betroffene Person absichtlich schädigt.

(2) Die Ordnungswidrigkeit kann mit einer Geldbuße bis zu zehntausend Euro geahndet werden.

# My Case: Deadnamed on Facebook

- What happened
  - In late 2024, a public Facebook post revealed my former legal name
  - The post was part of a hate campaign against me and my work against hate crimes
- Why it matters
  - This was a clear violation of §13 SBGG (disclosure ban)
  - Facebook refused to remove the post, even after my lawyer asked them to do so

**Are platforms above the law?**

# How it started - how it's going

SPiEGEL Netzwelt

Soziale Medien in den USA

## Meta-Konzern kippt zahlreiche Hassrede-Regeln

US-Amerikaner können künftig auf Facebook und Instagram Frauen als Eigentum oder Homosexualität als »Geisteskrankheit« bezeichnen. Ein EU-Verbot gegen derartige Ha-

ist für Meta-Chef Zuckerberg »institutionalisierte Zensur«.

08.01.2025, 18.36 Uhr

2 Min



Selbstbestimmungsgesetz

## Facebook muss Post mit "Deadname" von trans Person löschen

Facebook muss einen Post, in dem der ursprüngliche Name einer trans Person gegen deren Willen öffentlich gemacht wurde, entfernen. Die Richter drohten mit Zwangsgeldern.

Aktualisiert am 10. Januar 2025, 17:57 Uhr | Quelle: DIE ZEIT, dpa, alx

98 Zusammenfassen



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# Ruling of the Court (Landgericht Hamburg)

- The post **violated the disclosure ban** under § 13 SBGG:  
Once someone's gender and first name have been changed, the previous entries may not be revealed or investigated without their consent
- This rule applies to both state authorities and **private actors**
- **Meta**, as the host provider, was responsible **after being clearly notified** of the violation but failed to act
- Penalty up to **€250,000** for each violation

# Why this case matters?

- More than a personal win
  - Many trans people experience digital violence – harassment, public shaming, and involuntary outing
  - Platforms often refuse to act, even when national laws are violated
  - Legal tools like the disclosure ban exist – but need to be enforced
- The broader implications
  - This ruling sets a legal precedent
  - Shows that deadnaming is not just offensive – it's illegal
  - Empowers others to take legal steps and demand accountability

# Conclusion

It's fun to beat Mark Zuckerberg, but it's even more fun to live in a society where you don't have to.

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