

German State: Citizenship Applicants Must Support Israel

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The state of Saxony-Anhalt has said people who do not recognize Israel's right to exist cannot become naturalized citizens. The eastern state's interior minister said Germany's other 15 states should take similar steps.

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The eastern [German](#) state of [Saxony-Anhalt](#) will require individuals seeking to become naturalized citizens to confirm in writing, "that they recognize Israel's right to exist and condemn any efforts directed against the existence of the State of Israel."

Speaking on Wednesday, ahead of a meeting of state and federal interior ministers, Saxony-Anhalt Interior Minister Tamara Zieschang called on Germany's 15 other states to adopt similar rules.

Zieschang previously said her ministry had sent a decree to all Saxony-Anhalt municipalities informing them of the policy in late November.

No Citizenship Without Supporting Israel's Existence

The decree instructs authorities to pay close attention to whether an applicant exhibits [antisemitic](#) attitudes and states that "obtaining German citizenship requires a commitment to Israel's right to exist."

In a letter to local authorities, the Saxony-Anhalt state Interior Ministry said naturalization is to be denied to foreigners who engage in activities directed at Germany's liberal democratic order as outlined in the country's Basic Law. The denial of [Israel's](#) right to exist

and [antisemitism](#) are included among such activities.

Local authorities have been instructed to deny an applicant's naturalization request if they refuse to sign the declaration. A refusal is also to be documented in the individual's application filing for future reference.

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