

Overview of the Detached (DT) Segment¹
 based on data from *surveys & focus groups* & secondary sources
 Nov 9, 2024

Summary Description: Split on issues, Unsure about NGOs, See themselves as migration losers, Resist participation/rules, Conspiracy talkers, Younger, Self-reliant.

Attitudes to Great Replacement & pathway narratives on NGOs	Openness to GR based on attitudes to migration/Muslims	Anxieties on Belonging & Control	Demographics
<p><i>Great Replacement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 1/3 aware of GR • Unsure whether to believe in the idea of the GR • Tend to disagree GR is a deliberate plan by global elite • Unsure if German liberal elite is aiding the GR global plan • <i>didn't bring GR themselves in FGs</i> <p><i>Traitor & Pathway narratives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tend to agree that NGOs are too political • Agree that the Klima Kleber are too radical/extremist • Tend to agree with a humanitarian, open borders idea • Tend to disagree that NGOs are wasteful and incompetent 	<p><i>Attitudes to Migration & Integration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tend to see/mostly spending on refugees as a loss for them (on welfare, pensions etc. But those with good skills can come.</i> • Think continuing migration will lead to increasing conflict & loss of state control • Unsure if migrants try to integrate • Tend to agree well-integrated guest workers can stay and especially 2nd or 3rd generations contribute equally • Tend to agree refugees deserve asylum • Tends to think white population will become minority & that increasing migration threatens EU. <p><i>Attitudes to Muslims & Islam</i></p>	<p><i>Belonging (in & out group feelings)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tend to feel valued • Quite distrustful of others • Tend to agree it's not important to meet new people • Lower levels of belonging than other segments (same as DI) • Highest level of loneliness (same as DI). • <i>But quite proud of their self sufficiency</i> <p><i>Control (responsibility & ability to take action)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tend to feel in control of their future • Tend to think the world is changing too fast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youngest (56% 18-39) • More suburban • More Catholic • Unsure who to vote for, but some Union, SPD & AfD supporters • Most are parents with young/minor kids <p><i>Prone to Conspiracy ideas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most employed, incomes in low-mid range • Tend to have average to lower levels of education • Financial situation worsened during covid and inflation • Highest proportion with migration background (1 in 5)

¹ Profile developed as part of the [Proactive Protection](#) (Proaktiver Schutz) project by ICPA 2024, with analysis commissioned from Dr. James Dennison (Migration Policy Centre). See sources on p.2. Supported by the Innovation Fund of the [Demokratie Leben](#) Programme.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 pathway narratives above came up in the focus groups – not 2 below • Tend to disagree that NGOs are traitors acting in the interest of foreign actors • Tend to disagree that NGOs are a front for terrorism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On balance, think Islam & Germany society are incompatible • Unsure if Muslims are part of the community • Disagree Muslims hold similar values to them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling gradually more economically marginalized (through covid & inflation) • Strong resistance to participate or support institutions or less willing than others to follow rules (like covid) • Agree that “people look after themselves” vs each other 	
<p>Attitudes on NGOs</p>	<p>Conspiracy mindedness</p>	<p>Trust in Democracy & Institutions</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tend not to trust NGOs • 47% have knowledge of the sector • But back and forth on positive/negative views of the sector • Limited view about different types of NGOs • “Good ones” perform charitable/helping the needy functions • “Bad ones” involved in ‘lobbyism’ and trying to influence public opinion • NGO people often focused on own interests/corruption (specifics on wasteful and some allusion to acting for others interest too) • See NGOs often as idealistic & impractical (specifics on incompetent idea) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/3 hold a conspiracy-minded world view • Unsure if secret orgs influence political decisions & events are the result of secret activities • Unsure about government & media conspiracies around covid • Spilt on trusting scientists - adding knowledge vs suspicion on doing the work for money and fulfilling an agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divided over their satisfaction with democracy • No real insight into what democracy means • Tend not to trust politicians, the federal government & media • See politicians as not qualified and lacking common sense • Frustrated with the traffic-light coalition • Disagree it’s very important to live in a democratic country • Unsure about EU membership • Tend to agree that working with international institutions to solve things like covid or climate change is good • Have some Authoritarian tendencies & tend to agree, in emergencies we need a strong leader willing to break the rules. 	<p><i>Sources:</i> This profile was built mainly on data from 2 national surveys (n = 1000) conducted by ICPA using IPSOS Fast Facts panel in 2023 & 2024. In addition, the profile was confirmed, adjusted and some new data points added based on 2 focus groups with the Detached run in November 2023. The foundation of this segmentation profile comes from More in Common study in 2019. It was updated with insights on this segment from More in Common papers from 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024 and a Bosch & More in Common paper from 2021. Insights from the OSF Barometer and FES Middle Study from 2023 also fed in.</p>

The Detached/DT - Qualitative profile

from 2 x National Surveys, 5 x Focus Groups in 23 & 24 and secondary sources on P2.

At the core, the Detached believe in a kind of “bootstraps”, economic liberalism, where success and happiness come from independent self-reliance, with low level state intervention. But, they are not nearly libertarians and still *expect* the state to be there to provide services and security. Nevertheless, their focus is still firmly on how the state can support them as individuals, more than a broader societal view of its role.

“Democracy is fuzzy and non-binding for them”¹ and when asked about democracy in the abstract will return quickly to their dissatisfaction with national politicians (especially the 2023/24 traffic light coalition), who they claim are putting their benefits and security at risk. With their firm focus on self-reliance, they are not big participators or associators and with “weaker anchors of identity”² than other segments have less interest or drive for more community. In fact, they are the segment that was the least committed to following Covid rules and also are the least supportive segment on big government change agenda items like Universal Basic Income or a Green New Deal³.

When it comes to their attitudes on issues such as migration and NGOs, there is a back and forth (*Hin und herr*) in the group with some holding more liberal ideas and others not – meaning they are often categorised as ‘unsure’ on issues in survey results, but unsure with a relatively large distribution of opinion either side. However, the one thing they do seem to agree on is that, while they are supportive of humanitarian efforts on asylum, they see themselves as economic losers over the last 10 years of accepting refugees in Germany, and the use of the competition/deprivation narrative is widespread and acceptable in the group, i.e. supporting refugee populations is said to be done at the expense of their own economic security.

On NGOs, they have a limited charity-oriented view of the sector focused on those organisations that are helping the needy in society. They see these types of NGOs and humanitarian organisations helping refugees and others as the good ones, with those more involved in politics and trying to shape public opinion as the bad/illegitimate side of the sector. They fear that those on the bad side are often involved in ‘lobbyism’ and just looking after their own interests. They are against the youth environmental protest movements like Fridays For Future and Last Generation (often referred to as the ‘Klima Kleber’). They also view the role of NGOs not as a safety net, but more providing help and advice for people to help themselves, i.e. back to their ideas of self reliance. They also have competency doubts about NGOs seeing them many as wasteful and inefficient. Overall, they tend not to trust the sector. But they don’t support or didn’t bring up the more extreme ‘traitor’ narrative around NGOs that is associated with the Great Replacement.

They are one of the segments that are one of the loneliest (along with the Disillusioned). Interestingly their low levels of social bonding and independence is viewed with pride by some in the segment and so, overall come across as quietly confident about the future. However, this confidence is at risk as they have become more economically marginalised though the covid and inflation periods⁴

As a segment they are “more inclined to believe in narratives of distrust”⁵ around institutions and most are open to using or entertaining conspiracy thinking. However, they are definitely more [conspiracy talkers rather than conspiracy thinkers](#), i.e. their whole world view is not based on conspiracy thinking. In fact, given their more pragmatic nature, they just need an answer that works and this seemingly can be something on a continuum from an evidence-based answer to a conspiracy. However, they did not bring up the more extreme ideas like Great Replacement themselves in focus groups and never spoke about a global conspiracy dimension around these issues.

¹ More in Common & Robert Bosch Stiftung (2021) [It’s Complicated. People and Their Democracy in Germany, France, Britain, Poland, and the United States](#)

² More in Common (2019) [Die andere deutsche Teilung: Zustand und Zukunftsfähigkeit unserer Gesellschaft](#)

³ More in Common (2021) [Vertrauen, Demokratie, Zusammenhalt: wie unterschiedlich Menschen in Deutschland die Corona-Pandemie erleben](#)

⁴ More in Common (2021) [Vertrauen, Demokratie, Zusammenhalt: wie unterschiedlich Menschen in Deutschland die Corona-Pandemie erleben](#); More in Common (2023) [Zukunft, Demokratie, Miteinander: Was die deutsche Gesellschaft nach einem Jahr Preiskrise umtreibt](#).

⁵ More in Common & Robert Bosch Stiftung (2021) [It’s Complicated. People and Their Democracy in Germany, France, Britain, Poland, and the United States](#)