

## Episode 43: Conflicts over the Conflict in Schools

**Gast:** Prof. Dr. Meron Mendel, Bildungsstätte Anne Frank, Frankfurt/Main / Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences

**Hosts:** Philip & Efe

**Bio: Prof. Dr. Meron Mendel** is an educator, historian, and publicist. Since 2010, he has been the Director of the Anne Frank Educational Center in Frankfurt am Main and also serves as Professor of Transnational Social Work at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. He is considered one of the most important voices in Germany when it comes to issues of remembrance culture, antisemitism, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in education and culture. For his work, he was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit in 2024 and the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal in 2025.

**In this episode:** We speak with Prof. Dr. Meron Mendel about the current escalation in the Middle East and its impact on politics, society, and education in Germany. Together we explore why the Israeli-Palestinian conflict provokes such deep divisions worldwide, how antisemitism and racism surface in this context, and what challenges schools are facing. Prof. Mendel discusses how teachers can reflect existing controversies in a multiperspectival way that allows students to engage critically and form their own opinions. We also look at political measures such as bans on symbols and restrictions on freedom of expression, and ask how educators should address the contentious debate surrounding the term *genocide*.

### Links:

Prof. Dr. Meron Mendel: <https://www.meronmendel.de/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Bildungsstätte Anne Frank: <https://www.bs-anne-frank.de/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Mendel, Meron. *Über Israel reden: Eine deutsche Debatte*. Kiepenheuer & Witsch, 2023. <https://www.meronmendel.de/ueber-israel-reden/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Bude, Heinz, and Meron Mendel, editors. *Kunst im Streit: Antisemitismus und postkoloniale Debatte auf der documenta fifteen*. Campus Verlag, 2025. [https://www.campus.de/buecher-campus-verlag/wissenschaft/soziologie/kunst\\_im\\_streit-18454.html](https://www.campus.de/buecher-campus-verlag/wissenschaft/soziologie/kunst_im_streit-18454.html) (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Mendel, Meron, and Saba-Nur Cheema. *Muslimisch-jüdisches Abendbrot: Das Miteinander in Zeiten der Polarisierung*. Kiepenheuer & Witsch, 2024. <https://www.kiepenheuer-witsch.de/buecher/muslimisch-juedisches-abendbrot>

[www.meronmendel.de/muslimisch-juedische-kolumne-faz/](http://www.meronmendel.de/muslimisch-juedische-kolumne-faz/) (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

A brochure the hosts are referring to in the interview published by the **Münster Police** classifies the accusation of genocide as a legally punishable act of “**incitement to hatred**” (*Volksverhetzung*, §130 StGB) (see p. 6). It was not withdrawn after the ICJ accepted South Africa’s genocide case in January 2024 and remains available online. [https://muenster.polizei.nrw/sites/default/files/2024-01/231227\\_lka\\_informationsbroschure-nahostkonflikt.pdf](https://muenster.polizei.nrw/sites/default/files/2024-01/231227_lka_informationsbroschure-nahostkonflikt.pdf) (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

### **Dedication:**

*We dedicate this Podcast to all victims and survivors of October 7, the hostages and their families, to all innocent civilians killed and injured in Gaza and their grieving families and friends. To our dear guests Udi Goren, Khalil Sayegh, Sima and Mai who shared their losses so powerfully with us. To their families: Tal’s wife Ella Haimi, their children Nir, Einav, Udi and Lotan, who never got the chance to meet his father. To Khalil Sayegh’s mother and siblings, to Mai’s and Sima’s family, to her mother Bushra.*

*To the blessed memory of: Tal Haimi, Lara Sayegh, Jeries Sayegh, Mahmoud, Danny Darlington and Haim Perry.*

### **Disclaimer:**

In each episode of this podcast, the invited guests speak on their own behalf. They share their experiences, assessments, and expert perspectives. These contributions are central to the multiperspectivity of the project but do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or producers.

### **Legal & Historical Anchor Episodes:**

This podcast may include controversial legal terms of specific technical significance. Their legal applicability requires a thorough expert contextualization; for this, we refer to our legal chapter. All relevant terms of international law, its institutions, current controversies, and the state of jurisprudence are explained in the anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Claus Kreß LL.M. (Cambridge) (Episode 36). He is co-author of the Rome Statute, Special Advisor to the International Criminal Court, and Judge at the International Court of Justice in the parallel Gambia vs. Myanmar genocide case.

Historical matters are discussed from multiple perspectives in this podcast. Please check the cross-references in the shownotes of the respective episodes for details. All historically contested issues are addressed in the history anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gudrun Krämer (Episode 21), author of the

comprehensive work *A History of Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel* (Princeton 2008), a standard reference in the field. For her scholarly achievements as a historian, she was awarded the *Preis des Historischen Kollegs* in 2025, the highest distinction in her discipline in Germany.