

The Fear Stayed

A story of fear, isolation, and safety gaps in public transport

Characters



Passenger

- Gender: Male
- Age: 28 years
- Role: Passenger
- Situation: Traveling alone after work
- Experience: Target of verbal harassment and intimidation

Two Passengers (Unknown)

- Gender: Male
- State: Intoxicated
- Role: Strangers
- Behavior: Racist remarks, staring, intimidation



Current Environment

- Location: Heimstetten S-Bahn station → S6
- Time: Evening
- Conditions: Crowded train → confined space → limited intervention

Experiencing Harassment on the S-Bahn

One evening, after work, I was heading home.



I was at Heimstetten S-Bahn station.



I got on the S6.



Two drunk passengers came in.



My German wasn't very good—but I understood that.



They are watching me.



After that day, I changed my route and avoided it as much as possible.



Solutions & Reflection

What Went Wrong

- Racist language was used openly
- Verbal harassment was minimized as “not physical.”
- Intimidation through staring and proximity
- No immediate intervention by others
- Harassment occurred in a confined public space

Impact

- Immediate fear and unease
- Change of travel behavior and route
- Long-term psychological effect
- Loss of trust in everyday mobility



How Bystanders Could Help

- Notice racist language or intimidation
- Sit or stand near the targeted person
- Check in (“Are you okay?”)
- Speak up if safe (“That’s not okay.”)
- Alert staff or security
- Stay with the person until they feel safe

What can Help the Victim

- Move closer to groups or staff
- Use phone calls to reduce isolation
- Change seats if possible
- Take help from staff
- Report the incident when safe