

From
Prof. Dr. Herta Daeubler-Gmelin
Member of the German Parliament
Former Minister of Justice
Chair of the committee for human rights and humanitarian help.

To all, who are present.
Dear friends and guests of the Gay Fest here in Romania
Dear LGBT People

First of all I want to send heartfelt greetings from Germany: Romania – a wonderful country with an ancient culture and long European tradition finally is a member of the family of European people again. Especially we Germans rejoice in the entry of Romania to the European Union and to the European Council – after all, there are many very old and mostly good historical connections between our people.

I myself remember especially fondly a wonderful vacation at the Romanian black sea shore. There we met a very knowledgeable former teacher, historian and archeologist, who explained to me and my husband the excavations of roman and pre-roman times. His love for his homeland came out of every sentence. This is a lasting memory.

My next and especial greeting goes to all of you, who came today to this Gay Fest. Last year at Gay Pride in Germany I met one of the organizers of this important demonstration. This Gay Fest is a demonstration of joy of live, of tolerance and of respect for sexual minorities.

Unfortunately he had to tell, that there are still a lot of trouble for LGBT People in Romania. I can understand that well, because the point of view of people in Germany for centuries was one of persecution and oppression of minorities, especially the homosexual minority. In our country, too, the state, the administration and politics have participated in that.

Only about 30 years ago it was accomplished, that the bad Law against homosexuals, the infamous Paragraph 175, was abolished. With that at least an important first step was made not to strengthen again the prejudices against homosexuals. And to stop to ruin and destroy the lifes of many talented, laborious and good people.

We all - Germany and Romania - are members of the European civilization which is built on the human rights.

Human rights also guaranty every person, that his own sexual orientation is respected.

Those human rights prohibit, that administrations and people with different sexual orientation discriminate against others or look down on others.

Only this tolerance, this respect of people who are different ensure a peaceful, and with that, human living together.

In a lot of countries we have already come a good step on this way. In other countries there remains still a lot to do.

I am glad that you, who are present, today and at this Gay Fest, are setting a sign for respect and against discrimination, for a peaceful and human living together and against the rotten and stale smell of the past.

I wish all of you not only a good and successful demonstration, but a lot of joy and fun.
With all best wishes

Yours

Herta Daeubler-Gmelin