

Memorial for the Homosexuals Persecuted under National Socialism

On 12 December 2003, the Bundestag (the German Lower House) decided to establish a memorial for the homosexuals persecuted under National Socialism. The design of this third memorial, which will be situated near the Reichstag building and commemorate the victims of the Nazis, is to be chosen in an artistic design competition. The competition will be staged by the Berlin Land government on behalf of the Federal Government in co-operation with the initiative *Der homosexuellen NS-Opfer gedenken* ("Remember the Homosexual Victims of the Nazis") and the *Lesben- und Schwulenverband in Deutschland e.V.* (LSVD; the "Lesbian and Gay Federation of Germany").

We cordially invite you to attend the colloquium which forms the prelude to the artistic design competition for a "Memorial for the Homosexuals Persecuted under National Socialism".

The colloquium addresses artists, who are invited to participate in the competition, as well as specialists working in the fields of art and politics are interested in this subject, and members of the gay community.

We look forward to seeing you at the colloquium. As the number of participants is limited, we would appreciate your informing us in advance if you wish to attend.

Berliner Forum für Geschichte und Gegenwart e.V.
on behalf of the Senate Department for Science, Art and Culture

Colloquium on the Artistic Design Competition A Memorial for the Homosexuals Persecuted under National Socialism

Thursday 7 and Friday 8 April 2005

The Festsaal at the Abgeordnetenhaus, Berlin, Niederkirchnerstraße 5, 10117 Berlin

Programme

Thursday, 7 April 2005

- 1.00 p.m. Excursion to Sachsenhausen Memorial Museum**
Rendezvous for registered participants: the Abgeordnetenhaus, Berlin
Bus transfer to Oranienburg, tour of the memorial museum
Guide: **Eberhard Zastrau**, advisory board member of the Stiftung Brandenburgische Gedenkstätten (Foundation of Brandenburg Memorial Museums)
Prior registration obligatory
- 5.30 p.m. Return to Berlin**

Why a Memorial for the Homosexuals Persecuted under National Socialism is important to the Federal Republic of Germany and the Gay Minority

Open to the public

- 6.00 p.m.** Welcoming speech
Dr. Ehrhart Körting, Berlin Senator of the Interior (invited)
Message of greetings:
Central Council of the Jews in Germany
Petra Rosenberg, Central Council of the German Sinti and Roma (invited)
Lea Rosh, Förderkreis Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas e.V. (sponsors of The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe)
- Papers
Prof. Dr. Christoph Stölzl, (CDU), Vice-president of the Berlin Chamber of Deputies
Dr. Günter Grau, medical historian, Berlin
- Panel (including speakers)
Prof. Dr. Peter Steinbach, Wissenschaftlicher Leiter at the German Resistance Memorial Centre
Volker Beck, Member of the German Lower House (Bündnis 90 / The Greens)
Prof. Dr. Andreas Meyer-Hanno, co-founder of the initiative *Mahnmal Homosexuellenverfolgung* (Memorial Commemorating the Persecution of the Homosexuals), Frankfurt/Main
Host: **Günter Dworek**, LSVD (Lesbian and Gay Federation of Germany)
- 8.00 p.m.** **Reception** organised by the LSVD (Lesbian and Gay Federation of Germany) and initiative *Der homosexuellen NS-Opfer gedenken* (Remember the Homosexual Victims of the Nazis) for colloquium participants

Friday, 8 April 2005

Biographical Aspects of the Persecution of Homosexuals under National Socialism

Exhibition by the Schwules Museum, Berlin (Gay Museum, Berlin) and the

Forum der Geschichtsinitiativen (forum of historical initiatives; all day)

- 9.00 a.m.** **Opening**
Dr. Thomas Flierl, Berlin Senator for Science, Research and Culture
Günter Dworek, Lesben- und Schwulenverband Deutschland (LSVD; Lesbian and Gay Federation of Germany)
Albert Eckert, initiative *Der homosexuellen NS-Opfer gedenken* (Remember the Homosexual Victims of the Nazis)

The history of homosexuals persecuted during the Nazi era

- 10.15 a.m. **Homophobia and Extermination**
Andreas Pretzel, historian and cultural analyst, Magnus-Hirschfeld-Gesellschaft, Berlin
In the Shadows of Persecution – Lesbian Women under National Socialism
Dr. Claudia Schoppmann, historian, Berlin
Host: **Eberhard Zastra**
Discussion

The Memorial for the Homosexuals Persecuted under National Socialism in an urban setting

- 11.30 a.m. **Visit**
Stopping at the Topography of Terror, The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the site of the planned memorial for the murdered Sinti and Roma, the site of the planned memorial for the homosexuals persecuted under National Socialism
Guided tour, approx. 2 hours
Prof. Dr. Stefanie Endlich, Katja Lucke, Angelika Meyer
- Rendezvous in the foyer of the Abgeordnetenhaus
Prior registration obligatory

- 2.30 p.m. **The Tiergarten – a Protected Site. The Environmental Setting of the Memorial for the Homosexuals Persecuted under National Socialism**
Dr. Klaus von Krosigk, Landesdenkmal Amt (Land Office for Historical Monuments), Berlin

The Memorial for Homosexuals Persecuted under National Socialism and its relationship to other memorial sites

- 3.00 p.m. **Historical Memorials. Places, Forms and “Functions” of Remembrance**
Dr. Gabi Dolff-Bonekämper, University of Technology Berlin

- 3.30 p.m. Panel
National Memorial and Authentic Sites
Prof. Dr. Günter Morsch, Sachsenhausen Memorial Museum, Oranienburg
Dr. Wolf Kaiser, House of the Wannsee Conference Memorial Museum, Berlin
Katharina Kaiser, Haus am Kleistpark (Gallery and Exhibition Hall), Berlin
Dr. Gabi Dolff-Bonekämper, University of Technology Berlin
Host: **Prof. Dr. Stefanie Endlich**
Discussion

Target Groups and Artists. The Design of the Memorial and its impact

- 5.00 p.m.** “Living with their lot “ – relatives report
Dieter Zimmer, Wiesbaden, and **Petra Hörig**, Berlin
Host: **Jan Feddersen**, journalist, Berlin
- 5.30 p.m.** Panel
The power of art. Memorial art and expectations
Karen Daan, Artist, Amsterdam
Dr. Christian Saehrendt, Humboldt University zu Berlin
Albert Eckert, initiative *Der homosexuellen NS-Opfer gedenken* (Remember the Homosexual Victims of the Nazis)
Host: **Leonie Baumann**, New Society for Visual Art, Berlin
Discussion
- 7.30 p.m.** “Paragraph 175“ (Rob Epstein, Jeffrey Friedman, USA 1999)
“We had a capital letter A on our legs“ (Elke Jeanrond, Joseph Weishaupt, 1991)
Films showing interviews with people who witnessed the persecution of homosexuals
Kino Arsenal, Potsdamer Straße at Potsdamer Platz

Reorganisation:

The excursion to Sachsenhausen Memorial Museum will be repeated on Saturday, 9 April at 11.00 a.m., accompanied by Dr. Günter Grau.

On Sunday, 10 April there will be a repeat screening of the film at the Arsenal at 7.30 p.m.

If there is sufficient demand, there will be a visit to the Tiergarten on Saturday 9 April at 11.00 a.m.

Organiser: Monika Geyler, Eberhard Zastra

Organisation: Berliner Forum für Geschichte und Gegenwart e.V.
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