

***Prevention Policy in a Democratic State governed by the  
Rule of Law Must not be Left to Soapbox Rhetoric and  
Populism***

**Erich Marks**

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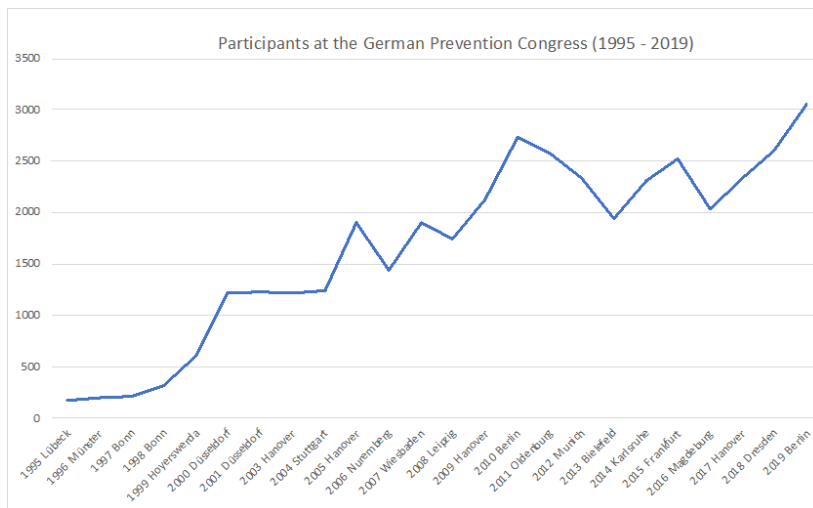
Erich Marks

## Prevention Policy in a Democratic State governed by the Rule of Law Must not be Left to Soapbox Rhetoric and Populism

On the Occasion of the Opening of the 24th German Prevention Congress in Berlin

### Welcome to the 24th German Prevention Congress in Berlin!

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to warmly welcome all of you to the state and national capital of Berlin for the 24th German Prevention Congress. With more than 3,000 experts registered to attend, this year's congress sets a new record in terms of participation.



Prevention research and prevention practice provide us with unequivocal empirical data and experience regarding successful (crime) prevention. When measures are carefully and accurately chosen and programmes are implemented well, (crime) prevention is effective and efficient, saving enormous expenses otherwise needed for repairs and recovery. These findings apply both on the national and the international level.

This is why expenditure on crime prevention should be increased significantly in the coming years and be made an integral part of all public budgets. The relevant international analysis and planning data attest to the high return to be expected on the appropriate investments. Tax revenues invested in crime prevention represent highpriority structural funding that benefits the whole of society.

Large sections of the young generation are demanding more proactive and sustainable preventive action from all of us – quite rightly so, and not only with the current international „Fridays for Future“ movement. Translating knowledge and insight into concrete action is what is called for here and now. Prevention policy in a democratic state governed by the rule of law must therefore not be left to soapbox rhetoric and populism.

## Guests of honour

The organisers are delighted that several hundred guests of honour from civil society, politics, administration, science and academia and non-governmental organisations have indicated their attendance at the 24th German Prevention Congress. I sincerely thank all of them and the representatives of the more than 30 partner institutions both for personally attending the congress and for their support of this year's event in terms of content, concept and financing. From the long list of the guests of honour, I would like to especially welcome the following individuals as members of various parliaments, government officials and elected representatives, diplomats, key speakers, and high-ranking representatives of their respective institutions and organisations<sup>1</sup>:

Dr. Mohamed Dileita **Aden**, Ambassador of Djibouti in the Federal Republic of Germany

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<sup>1</sup> Current as of: 14 May 2019

Dr. Mustapha **Adib-Abdul-Wahed**, Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon in the Federal Republic of Germany

Dr. Andreas **Armborst**, Director of the National Centre for Crime Prevention (Nationales Zentrum für Kriminalprävention, NZK), Bonn

Zivorad **Arsenijevic**, Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in the Federal Republic of Germany

Dr. Dirk **Aßmann**, Head of Division of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Development Cooperation), Eschborn

Andreas **Backhoff**, Inspector of the Riot Police of the German Federal States in the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Berlin

Dr. Katarina **Barley**, Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection, Berlin

Dr. Ludovít **Bíró**, Counsellor, Embassy of the Slovak Republic in the Federal Republic of Germany

Prof. Dr. Antje **Boetius**, Director of the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, Bremerhaven

Michael **Brahl**, Vice President of the Federal Police Directorate Berlin

Wolfgang **Brand**, Deputy Chief of Police, Hamburg

Achim **Brauneisen**, Chief Public Prosecutor of the State of Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart

Stefan **Daniel**, Executive Director of the German Forum for Crime Prevention foundation (Stiftung Deutsches Forum für Kriminalprävention), Bonn

Aleksander **Dzembitzki**, State Secretary for Sport at the Senate Department for the Interior and Sport, Berlin

Günther **Ebenschweiger**, President of the Austrian Platform for Crime Prevention (Österreichisches Zentrum für Kriminalprävention), Hausmannstätten, Austria

Bernhard **Egger**, Chief of the Criminal Division at the Bavarian State Office of Criminal Investigation, Munich

Heinz-Josef **Friehe**, President of the Federal Office of Justice, Bonn

Prof. Dr. Helmut **Fünfsinn**, Chief Public Prosecutor of the State of Hesse, Chairman of the Hesse Crime Prevention Council, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the German Foundation for Crime Prevention and Offender Support (Deutsche Stiftung für Verbrechensverhütung und Straffälligenhilfe, DVS), Frankfurt am Main

Andreas **Geisel**, Senator for the Interior and Sport, Berlin

Dr. Franziska **Giffey**, Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Berlin

Steve **Goedert**, Director of Crime Prevention in Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Prof. Dr. Christian **Grafl**, Institute for Criminal Law and Criminology at the University of Vienna, DPT (German Prevention Congress) – International Prevention Board, Austria

Petra **Guder**, Programme Manager at the Glen Mills Academy Deutschland, Lübbecke

Bernd **Gründel**, Vice President of the Lower Saxony State Office of Criminal Investigation, Hanover

Thomas **Hampel**, President of the Bavarian State Office for Asylum and Repatriation, Ingolstadt

Dr. Daniel **Heinke**, Head of the Bremen State Office of Criminal Investigation

Martin **Hess**, Member of the Bundestag, member of the AfD (Alternative for Germany) parliamentary group in the German Bundestag, Berlin

Martin **Hikel**, District Mayor of Berlin-Neukölln

Frank **Hoever**, Director of the North Rhine-Westphalia State Office of Criminal Investigation, Dusseldorf

Alexander **Homann**, Head of the DGCFRW delegation in the Embassy of Belgium in the Federal Republic of Germany

Dr. Cristian **Ionus**, Attaché of the Interior, Embassy of Romania in the Federal Republic of Germany

Prof. Dr. Kheswar **Jankee**, Ambassador of the Republic of Mauritius in the Federal Republic of Germany

Mohamed **Jinah**, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Republic of Maldives in the Federal Republic of Germany

Wilfried **Kapischke**, Inspector with the Mecklenburg-West Pomerania Police, Schwerin

Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen **Kerner**, Senior Professor at the University of Tübingen, Chairman of the German Foundation for Crime Prevention and Offender Support (Deutsche Stiftung für Verbrechensverhütung und Straffälligenhilfe, DVS), President of the German Prevention Congress, Tübingen

Thomas **Krüger**, President of the Federal Agency for Civic Education, Bonn

Johannes **Kunz**, Head of the Rhineland-Palatinate State Office of Criminal Investigation, Mainz

Marco **Langner**, Deputy Chief of Police, Berlin

Knut **Lindenau**, Police Director for the state of Lower Saxony, Hanover

Dr. Mohamed **Maenroufou**, Attaché, Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the Federal Republic of Germany

Henry **Maldonado**, Vice Consul of El Salvador in the Federal Republic of Germany

Prof. em. Dr. med. Isaac **Mapingure**, Minister, Counsellor of the Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe in the Federal Republic of Germany

Gisela **Mayer**, Chairwoman of the Foundation Against Violence in Schools (Stiftung gegen Gewalt an Schulen), Winnenden

Dr. Irene **Mihalic**, Member of the Bundestag, spokesperson for domestic policy of the Bündnis 90 / DIE GRÜNEN (Alliance 90/The Greens) parliamentary groups in the German Bundestag, Berlin

Prof. Dr. Dr. Grygorii **Moschak**, Director of the Institute of German and European Law at the National Maritime University

Odessa, DPT (German Prevention Congress) – International Prevention Board, Ukraine

Roswitha **Müller-Piepenkötter**, retired former State Minister, Dusseldorf

Dr. Felix **Munger**, DPT (German Prevention Congress) – International Prevention Board, Waterloo, Canada

Jürgen **Mutz**, President of the management council of the German Foundation for Crime Prevention and Offender Support (Deutsche Stiftung für Verbrechensverhütung und Straffälligenhilfe, DVS), Immenstaad

Mobolaji Sakirat **Ogundero**, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Nigeria in the Federal Republic of Germany

Daniel Hark-Mo **Park**, Representative of the Korean Institute for Criminology (KIC), Seoul, Korea

Lydia Maria Peralta **Cordero**, Ambassador of Costa Rica in the Federal Republic of Germany

Harald **Pickert**, Inspector with the Bavarian Police, Munich

Lulzim **Pilana**, Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in the Federal Republic of Germany

Iliya **Pulov**, Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in the Federal Republic of Germany

Susann **Rüthrich**, Member of the Bundestag, Chairperson of the Children's Commission of the German Bundestag, spokesperson for the horizontal working group „Strategien gegen Rechtsextremismus“ („Strategies against right-wing extremism“) of the SPD parliamentary group in the German Bundestag, Berlin

Anna **Salminen**, Communications Specialist, Embassy of Finland in the Federal Republic of Germany

Mathias **Schaeff**, Head of Unit with the German Federal Police, Potsdam

Dr. Edit **Schlaffer**, Chair and Founder Women without Borders, Vienna

Jürgen **Schmöckel**, Director of the Saxony-Anhalt State Office of Criminal Investigation, Magdeburg

Joachim **Schneider**, Executive Director of the Police Crime Prevention at State and National Level programme (Polizeiliche Kriminalprävention der Länder und des Bundes), Stuttgart

Jürgen **Schubert**, Vice President of the Federal Police Headquarters, Berlin

Horst **Seehofer**, Member of the Bundestag, Federal Minister of the Interior, Building and Community, Berlin

Sinan **Selen**, Vice President of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, Cologne

Dr. Barbara **Slowik**, Chief of Police of Berlin

Gerald **Stock**, Chief of the Criminal Division at the Saarland State Office of Criminal Investigation, Saarbrücken

Katrin **Stüllenberg**, board of directors, Stüllenberg foundation, Münster-Hiltrup

Tommy **Tabor**, Member of the AfD (Alternative for Germany) parliamentary group in the Berlin House of Representatives

Sabine **Thurau**, President of the Hessian State Office of Criminal Investigation, Wiesbaden

Marten **van de Donk**, Senior Manager of the European Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN), Rotterdam, Netherlands

Florencia **Vilanova de von Oehsen**, Ambassador of El Salvador in the Federal Republic of Germany

Prof. Dr. Irvin **Waller**, DPT (German Prevention Congress) – International Prevention Board, Ottawa, Canada

Karl-Heinz **Weidner**, President of the Federal Police Directorate Berlin

Detlef **Werner**, Inspector with the Baden-Württemberg Police, Stuttgart

Keisha Kal **Witter**, Chargé d’Affaires in the Embassy of Jamaica in the Federal Republic of Germany



Wolfgang **Zepfer**, Chief Public Prosecutor of the State of Schleswig-Holstein, Schleswig

Jörg **Ziercke**, President of the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation, retired; Federal Chairman of the National WEISSER RING organisation, Mainz

## International guests

As of 15 May 2019, more than 200 international participants have registered for the 24th German Prevention Congress and have come to Berlin from the following 46 states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, India, Italy, Jamaica, Korea, Kosovo, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Zimbabwe.

The international guests at this year's congress come in turn from the three fields of prevention research, state and civil society prevention practice, and prevention policy. I would like to especially welcome numerous ambassadors accredited to Germany and other embassy staff.

I am delighted at the large number, traditionally high in the past also, of participants from our immediate neighbours the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Austria, and would like to express my thanks at this point for the constantly deepening exchange of knowledge and information and the fruitful crossborder cooperation.

A particular word of welcome this year to our guests who have travelled sometimes very long distances with larger delegations in order to benefit from personal exchanges in the field of crime prevention. Specifically, and *pars pro toto*, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the delegations from Croatia, Moldova, Mongolia, Poland, Serbia, South Africa, Sweden and the US.

## Thank you!

It has always been the dedication and excellent cooperation of many individual people, organisations and institutions that have made the German Prevention Congress what it is. For the 24th German Prevention Congress, I would like to express special thanks to the following individuals and institutions for their support in terms of content, funding and organisation:

- the patron of the congress Federal Minister Dr. Franziska Giffey and the highly dedicated team at her Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)<sup>2</sup> and in the federal programme „Demokratie leben!“ („Live Democracy!“)<sup>3</sup>,
- the members of the programme advisory committee<sup>4</sup>,
- all national and international sponsors and partners<sup>5</sup>,
- the speakers and presenters,
- the exhibiting institutions<sup>6</sup> and all other active participants in the various congress sections, and
- the extremely capable, full-time German Prevention Congress team<sup>7</sup> and all of the dedicated helpers on the ground and behind the scenes.

## Crime prevention and the promotion of democracy

The various fields covered and more than 600 individual papers<sup>8</sup> at the 24th German Prevention Congress deal once again with the broad thematic range of current issues around crime prevention and related fields. The abstracts of the individual papers are printed in the congress catalogue, which is also available online.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bmfsfj.de/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.demokratie-leben.de/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.praeventionstag.de/nano.cms/24-gcocp-advisory-board>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.praeventionstag.de/nano.cms/24-gcocp-congress-partners>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.praeventionstag.de/nano.cms/dpt-24-kongressprogramm?xa=kategorie&kategorieid=3#a>

<sup>7</sup> Tana Franke, Rolf Grimmer, Dr. Claudia Heinzelmann, Margo Krenz, Sven Krupnik, Karla Marks and Dr. Malte Strathmeier

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.praeventionstag.de/nano.cms/24-dpt-program>

<sup>9</sup> [www.praeventionstag.de/go/24kat](http://www.praeventionstag.de/go/24kat)

The key theme for the year 2019 is „Crime prevention and the promotion of democracy“.

Participation and creation, diversity and tolerance are concepts derived from the fundamental values of democracy. Democracy thus creates the conditions for preventive action. It is both the basis and the engine of prevention. In the field of preventing violence and radicalisation, the promotion of democracy is also a central means of prevention. The 24th German Prevention Congress focuses on this comprehensive interrelationship.

### **Academic reports from various disciplines<sup>10</sup>**

Nine experts from a total of seven different institutions have prepared five reports for the 2019 German Prevention Congress. These five interdisciplinary position papers formed the basis for the 2019 Berlin Declaration. The experts come from the disciplines of psychology and social psychology, history, social education, political science, youth research and sociology.

The report by Prof. em. Dr. Manfred Görtemaker<sup>11</sup> is titled „The Development of and threats to democracy“. It deals in three broad sections with the emergence of democracy and human rights, the development of democracy in Germany, and the risks and threats to democracy.

„A sociopolitical essay on the necessities and possibilities of promoting democracy today“ is the title of the report by Prof. Dr. Harald Welzer<sup>12</sup>. It deals in four broad sections with the paradox of democracy, the threats to democracy, the civilising mission of democracy, and, lastly, with Social Inequality with regard to cultural, communicative and political education practice.

The report by Prof. em. Dr. Roland Eckert with Dr. Coerw Krüger and Prof. Dr. Helmut Willems<sup>13</sup> is titled „Social conflicts and fields of prevention“. Following an introduction to the connection

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.praeventionstag.de/nano.cms/24-dpt-gutachten>

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.praeventionstag.de/dokumentation/download.cms?id=2789&datei=DPT24\\_Stellungnahme\\_Goertemaker\\_web-2789.pdf](http://www.praeventionstag.de/dokumentation/download.cms?id=2789&datei=DPT24_Stellungnahme_Goertemaker_web-2789.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.praeventionstag.de/dokumentation/download.cms?id=2793&datei=DPT24\\_Stellungnahme\\_Welzer\\_web-2793.pdf](http://www.praeventionstag.de/dokumentation/download.cms?id=2793&datei=DPT24_Stellungnahme_Welzer_web-2793.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.praeventionstag.de/dokumentation/download.cms?id=2791&datei=DPT24\\_Stellungnahme\\_Eckert\\_Krueger\\_Willems\\_web-2791.pdf](http://www.praeventionstag.de/dokumentation/download.cms?id=2791&datei=DPT24_Stellungnahme_Eckert_Krueger_Willems_web-2791.pdf)

between democracy, the rule of law and the prevention of violence, it deals in seven broad sections with the following subjects: questionable changes in Germany's social topography; presentday conflict scenarios; conflict, escalation and violence; three prevention approaches; as well as fields of prevention and, finally, conflict management in European and global politics.

Dr. Björn Milbradt, Katja Schau and Dr. Frank Greuel<sup>14</sup> have titled their report „(Social) education approaches in the field of preventing radicalisation – the logic of action, levels of prevention and approaches“. They explore the following questions in three broad sections: What is crime prevention? What is (radicalisation) prevention? How is the field of radicalisation prevention through (social) education structured in Germany?

The report by Prof. Dr. Andreas Beelmann<sup>15</sup> is titled „Foundations of a development-oriented radicalisation model“. It deals in four broad sections with the subjects: Definition and problems of definition of radicalisation and extremism; theories of radicalisation and extremism; developmentoriented model of radicalisation; and, finally, implications for the prevention of radicalisation.

The German Prevention Congress will publish the reports in print and online following the event.

### **Berlin Declaration<sup>16</sup>**

Each year the German Prevention Congress and its main event partners publish a declaration on the key theme of each annual congress. The first such declaration was published in 2007. In the Berlin Declaration, the partners describe the state of German society today along with the opportunities and challenges of a modern democracy. The Berlin Declaration is based on the academic position papers described above. The declaration is intended primarily for the political decision-makers responsible for (crime) prevention in the local authorities, federal states and the Federal Government and in Europe, as well as for science and academia and field practice.

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<sup>14</sup> [http://www.praeventionstag.de/dokumentation/download.cms?id=2790&datei=DPT24\\_Stellungnahme\\_Milbradt\\_Schau\\_Greuel\\_web-2790.pdf](http://www.praeventionstag.de/dokumentation/download.cms?id=2790&datei=DPT24_Stellungnahme_Milbradt_Schau_Greuel_web-2790.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.praeventionstag.de/dokumentation/download.cms?id=2792&datei=DPT24\\_Stellungnahme\\_Beelmann\\_web-2792.pdf](http://www.praeventionstag.de/dokumentation/download.cms?id=2792&datei=DPT24_Stellungnahme_Beelmann_web-2792.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.praeventionstag.de/nano.cms/erklaerungen>

It is clear that all political decision-makers need to engage in a more concerted and sustained manner with the relationship between democratic social order and the prevention of extremism, violence and other significant criminality. This is especially necessary in view of current social developments such as the increasing right-wing extremism and right-wing populism, repeated attacks by violent Islamists and the excesses of left-wing extremists prepared to resort to violence. New movements that are sometimes prepared to resort to violence and which do not clearly fall into existing political camps, such as members of the Reichsbürger (citizens of the Reich) and Selbstverwalter („sovereigns“ or „self-governors“) movements, which do not recognise the authority of the current system of government, as well as the „Mouvement des Gilets Jaunes“ in France must also be viewed in this context.

### **2019 Crime Prevention Speech**

The traditional crime prevention speech for 2019 will be held by Professor Antje Boetius at the closing event of the 24th German Prevention Congress. Prof. Dr. Boetius directs the Alfred Wegener Institute (Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research)<sup>17</sup> in Bremerhaven and lectures in marine biology at the University of Bremen. A member of the science council since 2011, she is one of the most renowned climate researchers and has been awarded a number of distinctions, including the 2018 German Research Foundation’s Communicator Award and the 2018 German Environmental Award. The Presse Club Hannover will also award Boetius the renowned LeibnizRingHannover for 2019.

Antje Boetius has taken part in 49 expeditions on international research vessels and is currently working primarily on questions around the impact of climate change on the biogeochemistry and biodiversity of the Arctic Ocean. Her speech combines her fascination with studying and discovering the uncharted marine habitat with urgent questions regarding protection and utilisation concepts.

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.awi.de/>

### **Three federal ministries are involved in the 24th German Prevention Congress**

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) is providing financial assistance to the congress as part of the federal programme „Demokratie leben!“ („Live Democracy!“) and is responsible for the content of the „Demokratie leben!“ forum. Federal Minister for Family Affairs Dr. Franziska Giffey is the patron of the congress.

The Federal Minister of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI) in cooperation with the federal programme „Zusammenhalt durch Teilhabe“ („Cohesion Through Participation“) is organising the evening reception. Federal Minister of the Interior Horst Seehofer will open the event with some words of welcome.

The Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection (BMJV) in cooperation with the German Forum for Crime Prevention (DFK) is sponsoring the academic position papers for the 24th German Prevention Congress. Federal Minister of Justice Dr. Katarina Barley will say a few words at the closing event.

### **The forums „Live Democracy!“, „Political Education“ and „International Prevention Policy“**

The 2019 German Prevention Congress will for the first time present three forums over the two days of the congress: the forum „Live Democracy!“, the forum „Political Education“ and the international forum.

The forum „Live Democracy!“ is organised by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs and presents a series of interrelated talks bringing together information on the federal programme „Live Democracy!“ and offering insight into the forthcoming new funding phase for the federal programme from 2020 onwards.

The forum „Political Education“ presents talks, project ideas and stage plays and is organised by the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) together with numerous partner organisations.

The international forum will be held in 2019 for the 13th time as part of an annual German Prevention Congress. The presentations at this forum will either be in English or have simultaneous interpretation from German into English.

## **Exhibition and posters accompanying the congress**

The exhibition accompanying the congress includes 171 information booths and infomobiles over an area of more than 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> with non-governmental organisations and local and state institutions providing information on their key activities in the field of crime prevention.

In another highlight of the accompanying exhibition, a further 16 specialised organisations present special artistically designed and highly informative exhibitions. The themes covered by these special exhibitions range from the prevention of violence, the promotion of democracy and questions relating to social rehabilitation, to measures to prevent gang crime in South Africa.

Another section of the exhibition accompanying the congress showcases 54 posters of national and international authors and institutions. Poster sessions including the opportunity to speak directly with the authors will be held once again this year on both congress days.

## **Supporting events**

The 24th German Prevention Congress is accompanied by a total of 22 supporting events with various formats, themes and target audiences. In addition to a few internal formats not open to the public, most of the supporting events are open to all registered congress participants. The range of supporting events is divided into the following individual subsections:

- Networking breakfast
- Prevention slam
- Symposia
  - Embarking on a whole-of-society crime prevention strategy (Neukölln Appeal by the IGG)
  - European PVE Practices presented by the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN)
  - Looking beyond our own backyard: Swiss, Austrian and German work on preventing sexual/sexualised violence

- Workshops
  - „Restorative practices“ at schools – for less troubled relations, shifts in perspective to encourage understanding, and more emotional security at school
  - Awareness workshop „STOP zum Rassismusalarm“
  - Improv theatre for intercultural education
- Information events
  - Presentation of the current Federal Government framework programme „Research for Civil Security“
  - Book Presentation: Science and Secrets of Ending Violent Crime
  - Information: Masterclass on Crime Prevention
  - When young people make provocative comments and express provocative views!
- Prevention exchange
- Internal supporting events, not open to the public

### **Berlin State Commission against Violence – 25 years on<sup>18</sup>**

The Berlin State Commission against Violence is celebrating its 25th anniversary at the 24th German Prevention Congress.

In keeping with the two-day congress at the Estrel in Berlin, the State Commission has designed the „Berliner Platz“ activity area showcasing Berlin crime prevention projects and exhibitions. A total of 25 Berlin institutions provide information for visitors to the „Berliner Platz“. The State Commission is also opening the interactive exhibition „WEHR DICH. Gegen Cybergrooming“ („Fight back against cybergrooming“), where interested individuals can learn how to protect themselves from the initiation of sexual contacts. The exhibition is a fun introduction for children, teachers and parents to measures for the prevention of the form of violence known as cyber-grooming.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.berlin.de/lb/lkbgg/>



## **The Neukölln Appeal by the Initiative Gesamtgesellschaftliche Gewaltprävention (Initiative for a whole-of-society approach to preventing violence, IGG)<sup>19</sup>**

The German Prevention Congress is coinitiator and supporter of the Initiative Gesamtgesellschaftliche Gewaltprävention (Initiative for a whole-of-society approach to preventing violence, IGG) and its Neukölln Appeal. The IGG presents a supporting event on its „Neukölln Appeal – Security, health, respectful coexistence: better quality of life through a sustained and whole-of-society approach to preventing violence“. With regard to implementation, the initiative calls on the Federal Government to

- initiate, in a timely manner, the development of a strategy and a concrete action plan for a sustained, whole-of-society approach to preventing violence,
- implement the action plan in stages by 2030 in accordance with sustainable development objectives and other government commitments,
- create a forum for the structuring of this process, consisting of representatives of the Federal Government, the federal states, the local authorities, science and academia, and civil society, and
- create a suitable structure for its organisation and implementation and make the necessary resources available.

### **Evaluation, documentation and the next edition of the event**

All congress participants are warmly invited to take part in the online evaluation of the 24th German Prevention Congress. Participants will receive notification of this by email immediately following the event.

The discussions and conclusions of the 24th German Prevention Congress will be documented in several ways in a variety of media. In addition to extensive online documentation at [www.praeventionstag.de](http://www.praeventionstag.de), there will be book publications and e-books in German and English as well as releases on the DPT's YouTube channel.

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<sup>19</sup> [www.gewaltpraevention.info](http://www.gewaltpraevention.info)

In these eventful times for democracy, the discussions from the 24th German Prevention Congress will play a constructive role in significantly strengthening whole-of-society crime prevention strategies. I hope that the 24th German Prevention Congress will be a rich source of insight and encouragement for all participants and guests for their – and all of our – ongoing work in the field of crime prevention.

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