

Speech IDAHOBALTI* in Heidelberg 2023

Dear rainbow community,
dear supporters,
dear listeners,

In the name of the Queer Network Heidelberg, I welcome you to this year's IDAHOBALTI*.

IDAHOBALTI* - that's the international day against queer hate. A day on which we have gathered on the streets for decades, to rally against discrimination and violence.

We stand up for equal rights and diversity, not only today but every day. The Queer Network and I are incredibly thankful – thankful for everybody who fights tirelessly for a colorful, free and dignified life here in Heidelberg and across the world. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

The acceptance and rights we queer people have here today – they weren't gifted to us, they were fought for, by queer generations before us and by our allies. This acceptance and these rights – we have to keep defending them today. Because queer hate speech, violence and groups are widely spread, well connected and persistent.

Worldwide, queer people still experience a lot of inequality. That means, we still have a lot to fight for! Those who know our history and community know:

We are resistant and we love us and the free life more than all of humanity's enemies together!

That is why I look forward to the day

- „gay“ and „lesbian“ are no loner swear words
- bi people aren't labeled as confused and asexual and aromantic people aren't labeled as sick
- trans and inter people can autonomously decide over their bodies and documents
- rainbow families are treated as equal to other families
- we get to express ourselves freely without being excluded, disadvantaged and hated
- nobody has to fear punishment, violence and murder because of their gender or romantic or sexual orientation

I look forward to the day it is acknowledged that we as queer people naturally are worthy of respect and make every society a more beautiful one.

I look forward to the day we can enjoy May 17th just like any other summer day.

And I look forward to the journey to these days with you, dear community and dear allies!

In order to go on this journey together, we ask from everybody in this town, in schools and universities, training and work places, clinics, offices, political institutions and on the streets:

- Protect us from discrimination and violence, defend our rights!
- Support our groups for young and old, our counselling, culture and leisure time projects, our political fights!
- Support the movement for a Queer Center in Heidelberg
- Demand from German and international authorities that they support their local queer communities and that they protect queer refugees!
- Join uns:

The next important date in Heidelberg for example is:

May, 20th: All over Germany we rally on the streets for a better „Selbstbestimmungsgesetz“. Come along, get informed and show up for trans, inter and non-binary people! This Saturday, 3 pm, Bismarckplatz.

You can show your solidarity today, too: After the speeches we will form a human chain with signs. Everybody is welcome to join us!