

# FRANKFURT DECLARATION

## OF THE MANY

Following the greatest crime in human history, the broken civilization caused by National Socialism and the repression of free thinking by inhuman ideology, in Germany we now live in a democratic society in open exchange with each other and the world. This open spirit of our society is worth preserving and developing further.

Places of art and culture, education and science, museums and studios, stages and clubs, spaces for representation and discussion are open spaces that belong to many people. Art and culture are forms of expression for many people and of many things – but on one condition: that we live in a pluralist society.

This democratic and artistic freedom of ours is not without its contradictions and is never simple. But we will defend it against everything that threatens it: nativist-nationalist, fundamentalist, populist and authoritarian world views. We will defend it against incitement against and the exclusion and disparagement of other human beings, such as, for example, every form of racism, homo- and transphobia, misogyny, anti-Semitism and islamophobia and will not grant space to such positions.

We differentiate ourselves from any attempts to limit pluralism and diversity. In the interests of the community we pledge our solidarity with people who have been forced into the margins as well as to provide space for others to take part in our discussions and decisions. Democracy means continually renegotiating how we live together.

We are MANY, every one of us. What matters is the cohesion of all as well as each individual in a society of many opportunities. In our city the paths of many lives, different interests and beliefs, social situations and everyday experiences cross. For us Frankfurt is also the city of democratic traditions and tolerance, the artistic avant-garde and critical theory, books and publishing and a diverse city society that is home to all of us. However, that history also includes the discrimination against and persecution of minorities up to and including the crimes of the National Socialists, committed not least against those Jewish citizens to whom the city largely owes many of cultural and educational institutions. We will resist all attempts to relativize this historical responsibility.

The freedom of art, culture and science will tolerate no interference. They create space to change the world. We wish to contribute to this change by ensuring that our provision and structures remain equally open to all people in our city and grant them equal opportunities and participation.

- This Frankfurt declaration regards itself as part of the nationwide action THE MANY. This consistently has a local character and is spread by regional consortia making their own declarations across the country. All signatories are artistic, cultural, educational and scientific bodies from Frankfurt and the surrounding region, as well as freelance makers of art and culture, their associations or representatives of their interests. The list is open: signing expresses a voluntary obligation.
- The signatories approach the public with this shared position and will align their work with these declared principles. They will make themselves and their work available for reciprocal criticism and discussion through regular exchanges. They pledge mutual solidarity with cultural institutions and culture makers, with scientific institutions and scientists who come under pressure due to smears and interference in the freedom of art, culture and science. They will make this text known both internally within their own organisation and to the public e.g. on websites, in programmes, as notices in foyers or in some other appropriate form.
- As part of this nationwide action the signatories as well as their events and activities may be made known on the website [www.dievielen.de](http://www.dievielen.de). In return the signatories may also take part in nationwide activities and campaigns.

To find out more and join in: [frankfurter.erklaerung@dievielen.de](mailto:frankfurter.erklaerung@dievielen.de)