

German Humanist Convention 2019

To take place in Hamburg, 5th to the 8th September 2019

Humanists for human rights and tolerance

The foundation "*Geistesfreiheit*" (spiritual freedom/ free thinking) in cooperation with KORSO e.V. (coordinating body of secular organizations, registered society) and the "Säkulares Forum Hamburg e.V." (secular forum Hamburg registered society) together with affiliated groups in these two associations are organising the **German Humanist Convention in 2019** in the **Patriotische Gesellschaft** from 1765 (patriotic society) in Hamburg from the 5th to the 8th September 2019.

The first Humanist Convention took place in Hamburg in 2006. Subsequently the German Humanist Convention 2013 was hosted in the theatre Fliegende Bauten in Hamburg. Well-known participants included Dr. Henning Voscherau (former Mayor of Hamburg), Ingrid Matthäus-Maier, Aydan Özoguz, regional bishop Ralf Meister from Hannover, Professor Frieder-Otto Wolf. Further Humanist Conventions took place in Regensburg in 2014 and in Nürnberg in 2017 and 2018. The Humanist Conventions' target group comprises those people who are committed to Humanism (atheists as well as religious humanists) wishing to make a contribution to peaceful co-existence in our society, rejecting fundamentalism and extremism.

The former head of government in Hamburg, Olaf Scholz, and the former federal justice minister, Heiko Maas, supported this objective with their contributions in the form of a preface and a greeting for the book "Humanisten für Menschenrechte und Toleranz - gegen Rassismus, Antisemitismus, Fundamentalismus, Extremismus" (Humanists for human rights and tolerance - against racism, antisemitism, fundamentalism, extremism) which was published in 2017.

Nowadays especially, when populists and extremists, who feature in the book, are trying to gain increasing influence in Germany, Europe and throughout the world, active involvement is necessary as a commitment to our democracy, our values and human rights. This is the intention of the Humanist Convention in Hamburg in September 2019.

Lectures, discussions and workshops regarding topics such as "The religious and philosophical communities' approach towards human rights", "Human rights in Germany and Europe", "Religious freedom in Germany and the E.U.", "Participation of atheists in religious education for all", "Secular courses for young people", "Jugendweihe (Humanist initiations ceremony) in Germany and Scandinavia", "Atheism in predominantly Muslim countries" and "Problems of Euthanasia" are planned. Scientists, politicians from various Hamburg parties, Germany and the European Parliament, other active secular citizens, Protestant and Catholic Church representatives, Muslims and Jews together with organizers and participants from Humanist organizations representing Germany and Norway have been invited.

An alternative harbour trip, guided tours of the town hall, a theatre visit, music and a poetry/science slam form the framework of the cultural programme being offered.

As has been the case in former Humanist Conventions, there will be a brochure regarding topics and participants. A short greeting for this brochure has been written by Dr. Katarina Barley, who is currently the federal minister for justice and consumer protection. Further contributions have been made by leading politicians and scientists, e.g. by representatives of "Dignitas" from Switzerland. There will also be a subsequent document to this year's Humanist Convention in book-form. Tide (a local citizen radio and TV programme) and hpd (Humanist press network) will report and support this document.

The aims of the convention are the exchange between humanists in Germany and guests from Scandinavia and Switzerland but also the discussion of ideological and philosophical views of various religions in order to promote the peaceful co-existence of all ideologies in Germany and Europe.