

Initiative 'Düren talks ...'

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Protestant Church in Düren

Philippstr. 4

52349 Düren

Düren talks ...

Düren, 29.01.2018

To the Dürens associations, to the Dürens religious communities, to the business people, to the families, to the Dürens single people, to the homeless, to the Dürens atheists, to everyone in Düren.

In his Christmas speech, Federal President Frank Walter Steinmeier spoke to all of us about his intentions for the coming year: "Talk to people who do not agree with you". He asks us all to keep talking to each other, because this is the only way to prevent society from drifting apart. We see in the world around us what happens "when one side can hardly talk to the other without the sparks flying". "As much as we get angry with others or wish them away completely, one thing still remains true tomorrow: we all belong to this country - regardless of our origin or skin colour, our philosophy of life or our favourite soccer team," the Federal President continued.

After this speech, many people certainly thought: "This is a good idea", but a good idea will only be good if you do something to make it a reality. The Protestant Church has decided to bring people who do not yet know each other into conversation with each other in Düren.

We are writing to you because you may also find the Federal President's resolution the right one and would like to help implement it. Please help us to get as many Düren people as possible into good conversation with each other. We have found a good form for this. Together with the Hamburg artist Rudolf Giesselmann we start the initiative 'Düren talks ...'. In the first week in February Rudolf Giesselmann will provide a neutral space for conversations in a glazed caravan in the centre of the city, visible to all. This is intended to make 'Düren talks ...' known to such an extent that it can then be continued in other rooms and on a larger scale.

The glazed and heated caravan will be located on Schenkelstraße on the place in front of the church. All conversations that take place are visible examples for others to talk to each other. Rudolf Giesselmann has developed simple 'traffic rules' for the conversations: There is time for the theme of each person. Everyone has their say. No one is interrupted. These 'traffic rules' makes talking together in the caravan a special experience. Because only then, if one listens to each other actually it is worthwhile to talk to each other. Every day from the 04.02. to the 10.02. 2019 conversations begin at 2, 4 and 6 pm, at the weekend at 12 am and at 2 pm. An advance registration is necessary, because the number of participants is limited to five.

After that, when the caravan is no longer standing in front of the church, 'Düren talks ...' is expanded and offered continuously. The talks will be based on the same 'traffic rules'. The Protestant church will make rooms available for this purpose. Then a larger number of people can

get together for such talks. They are then divided into groups of five at random and can talk to each other about the topics they have chosen in the same way as in the caravan.

Please take part in the creation of a new We in Düren, in which people of different views can value and meet each other. The community that can arise from this helps all those who live in Düren, do their work there, go to school there, pray there and play football there. This unity helps all people living in Düren.

How you can participate?

- § Take part in the conversations in the caravan yourself.
- § Please spread the word that 'Düren talks ...' will be there.
- § Talk to friends, co-workers, colleagues about the possibility to take part in good conversations in the caravan from 4.2. to 10.2.
- § Explain to others that you can do something for the community in Düren.
- § Put up posters or distribute information cards. Church office Philippstr. 4 has both ready for pick-up.
- § Become a sponsor for the project and support us financially.
- § Become a sponsor for the project and support us by active cooperation in the group of active volunteers.

Do you have any questions?

This is how you can contact us:

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WhatsApp: Listening Project

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Photos from previous conversations: <http://www.artinprogress.info/en/dialogues-in-groups>