



Federal Foreign Office

# WILLKOMMEN

Visitors Program of the Federal Republic of Germany

Preliminary Program

## Strategies to curb homophobia and transphobia in the MENA region

Information Tour at the Invitation of the Federal Foreign Office

11/01 - 07/2015



Monday, 10/19/2015

**Dear Sir or Madam,**

Goethe-Institut and Hirschfeld-Eddy-Stiftung are pleased to welcome you to Germany as a guest of the Federal Government.

We have planned your information trip on behalf of the Federal Foreign Office in cooperation with Mantiqitna.

We wish you a pleasant stay in our country as well as many interesting encounters and discussions!

Yours faithfully,  
Gerrit Book



**HIRSCHFELD-EDDY-STIFTUNG**



**مَنْتِقِيْتِنَا**

[www.mantiqitna.org](http://www.mantiqitna.org)



**GOETHE  
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

## Organization and Contact

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2015-9-200-07-22

# Travel Information

Cities	Travel Period	Tour Guide	Accommodation
Berlin	11/01 - 07/2015	-tba- Goethe-Institut Besucherprogramm	-tba-

## Itinerary

### Sunday, 11/01

<b>During the day</b>	<b>Arrival as per your individual travel arrangements</b> Welcome at the airport by your tour guides
<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Sightseeing Tour</b> of Berlin by bus for all participants who have already arrived in Berlin
<b>Evening</b>	<b>Welcome Dinner</b> and official introduction to the program

### Monday, 11/02

<b>09:30</b>	<b>Visit to</b> the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe  The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in the center of Berlin is the Holocaust memorial for Germany. From 2003 to spring 2005, the memorial was built in the middle of Berlin. It was designed by Peter Eisenmann. The memorial consists of a Field of Stelae covering an area of 19,000 sq m and containing 2,711 concrete blocks in parallel rows, which are tilted by 0.5° to 2°. The memorial and its underground Information Center were inaugurated in 2005 during a special ceremony.
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**Monday, 11/02**

- Afterwards**
- Visit to**  
the Memorial to the Homosexuals Persecuted under the National Socialist Regime
- The Memorial to the Homosexuals Persecuted under the National Socialist Regime was designed by artists Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset and opened in 2008. The artists have adopted the formal language of the Holocaust Memorial, adding an element: through a small square window the spectator can see a film depicting a kiss. It serves both as a memorial to the homosexual victims of National Socialism and as "a lasting symbol against exclusion, intolerance and animosity towards gays and lesbians".
- 11:00**
- Stiftung Topographie des Terrors**  
Topography of Terror Foundation
- Guided Tour**  
of the exhibition
- Subject**  
The persecution of homosexuals during the Nazi era
- 13:00**
- Lunch**  
with a representative of Alliance 90 / The Greens
- Subject**  
Development and current situation of the LGBTI community in Germany
- 15:00**
- Deutscher Bundestag**  
German Bundestag  
Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid
- Discussion**  
with members of the committee
- Subjects**  
Human rights violations as well as gender and sexual discrimination and ways of overcoming them; possibilities for further exchanges and future cooperation
- Afterwards**
- Visit to**  
the dome of the Reichstag Building
- The Reichstag building has been the seat of the German Bundestag since 1999. Built in the late 19th century as parliament building of the German Reich, it looks back on an eventful history: the Weimar Republic, the Reichstag fire of 1933, heavy destruction during World War II, reconstruction in the 1950's and 1960's, as well as a complete modernization during the 1990's. The glass dome designed by Norman Foster has become a major tourist attraction and a symbol of Berlin.

**Tuesday, 11/03**

- 10:00**                    **Meeting**  
of all participants to prepare for the conference
- 14:00**                    **Auswärtiges Amt**  
Federal Foreign Office
- Attend the Conference**  
"The LGBTI movement after the Arab Spring: opportunities and threats in North Africa and the Middle East"

**Wednesday, 11/04**

- 09:30**                    **Schwulenberatung Berlin gGmbH**  
Gay counseling
- Discussion**
- Subject**  
History and general work of "Schwulenberatung" and their project for queer refugees
- 11:30**                    **Mann-O-Meter e.V.**  
Information and counseling center for gay men  
Berlin's information and counseling center for gay men
- Discussion**
- Subject**  
The history and general work of Mann-O-Meter and their project MANEO
- 15:00**                    **Lesben- und Schwulenverband in Deutschland (LSVD)**  
Lesbian and Gay Association in Germany (LSVD)  
and  
**Lesben- und Schwulenverband Berlin-Brandenburg e.V.**  
Lesbian and Gay Association Berlin-Brandenburg  
"MILES" Project (center for migrants, lesbians and gay men)
- Workshop**
- Subjects**  
Human Rights and the evolution of the legal status of LGBTI people in Germany and the situation in the MENA region; the MILES Project: Experience and best practices
- 19:00**                    **Dinner**  
with representatives of the Liberal Muslims of Germany, Berlin community

Thursday, 11/05

- 10:45**                    **Forum Menschenrechte**  
 Human rights forum  
 Network of German human rights organizations
- Discussion**
- Subjects**  
 Alliance building between different human rights and LGBTI organizations; possibilities for cooperation and joint projects between German human rights organizations and the MENA region
- 15:00**                    **Tactical Technology Collective**  
 International organization dedicated to the use of information in activism  
 Europe Office Berlin  
 Security in-a-box
- Workshop**
- Subject**  
 Online security training: protection strategies and security management tools
- optional
- 19:00**                    **Attend the**  
 Opening of the exhibition of the drafts for the future monument to the first homosexual emancipation movement
- Starting November 5, 2015, the Lesbian and Gay Association of Berlin and Brandenburg and the Berlin University of the Arts will show the designs for the future monument to the first homosexual emancipation movement in Berlin's Haus der Kulturen der Welt. Berlin was the starting point of the world's first homosexual movement. The Wissenschaftlich-humanitäres Komitee (Scientific Humanitarian Committee) was established here in 1897. Courageous women and men around sexologist Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld created a social and political movement with the aim to fight for rights that would allow lesbians and gays to lead a life free of state persecution and ostracism. Hirschfeld's work had a worldwide impact in favor of the abolition of homophobic legislation. This first homosexual movement will now be honored with a monument which will be inaugurated in summer 2016.

## Friday, 11/06

**09:30**                    **Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V. (ifa)**  
 Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations  
 "zivik" program - civil conflict management

**Discussion****Subject**

History and work of the ifa and its "zivik" program

**14:30**                    **Deutsches Historisches Museum**  
 German Historical Museum  
 and  
**Schwules Museum\***  
 Gay Museum\* -tbc-

**Guided Tour**

of the temporary exhibition "Homosexualität\_en"  
 (Homosexuality\_ies)

With the exhibition "Homosexuality\_ies", the Deutsches Historisches Museum and the Schwules Museum\* present the first comprehensive show on the history, politics and culture of homosexuality. Covering a total area of 1600 square meters, the show addresses society's handling of homosexuality in light of social, legal and scientific repression. It follows the gradual process of emancipation from the late 18th century into the present. Jointly funded by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes and the Kulturstiftung der Länder, "Homosexuality\_ies" will be on view at the Deutsches Historisches Museum and the Schwules Museum\* simultaneously from June 26 to December 1, 2015. Given the ongoing, worldwide discourse on equal rights for homosexuals, both institutions see this exhibition as an act that positions a socially and politically current topic at the center of society.

**Afterwards**            **Reception at the invitation**  
 of the Schwules Museum\*

## Saturday, 11/07

**During the day**        **Departure as per your individual travel arrangements**

# Appendix

## Contact

**Auswärtiges Amt**  
Federal Foreign Office  
  
[www.auswaertiges-amt.de](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de)

## Information

The Federal Foreign Office represents Germany's interests to the world. It promotes international exchange and offers protection and assistance to Germans abroad. With headquarters in Berlin and a network of 229 missions abroad, the Federal Foreign Office maintains Germany's relations with other countries as well as with international and supra-national organizations. The Visitors Program and its information tours are also initiated by the Federal Foreign Office. Each year these information tours give more than 1,000 guests, among them foreign journalists, politicians, and experts from all fields of education, art and culture, an up-to-date and varied picture of Germany through exchange with specialists and personal experience.

**Deutscher Bundestag**  
German Bundestag  
Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid  
  
[www.bundestag.de/bundestag/ausschuesse17/a17](http://www.bundestag.de/bundestag/ausschuesse17/a17)

The Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid is a standing parliamentary committee that was established in 1998. Its members focus on issues relating to human dignity and human rights. Their work concerns as much the remedying of abuses in Germany as the upholding of human rights in the fight against international terrorism, prevention through humanitarian aid and the development of national, European and international instruments of human rights protection. To achieve these goals, the committee collaborates regularly with NGOs.

**Deutsches Historisches Museum**  
German Historical Museum  
  
[www.dhm.de](http://www.dhm.de)

The German Historical Museum, DHM for short, is a museum in Berlin devoted to German history; it defines itself as a place of enlightenment and understanding of the shared history of Germans and Europeans. The museum is located in the Zeughaus (old Arsenal) on the avenue Unter den Linden as well as in the adjacent Exhibition Hall designed by I. M. Pei.

**Forum Menschenrechte**  
Human rights forum  
Network of German human rights organizations  
  
[www.forum-menschenrechte.de](http://www.forum-menschenrechte.de)

The Forum Menschenrechte brings together some 52 NGOs that operate in the field of human rights. The main objectives of their common work are to observe compliance with and implementation and development of human rights in Germany and internationally. The Forum also creates an awareness of human rights issues among the German public at large.



**Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V. (ifa)**  
 Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations  
 "zivik" program - civil conflict management  
[www.ifa.de/foerderprogramme/zivik/kontakt](http://www.ifa.de/foerderprogramme/zivik/kontakt)

The ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) promotes art and cultural exchange in exhibitions, dialogue and conference programs. As a competence center for foreign cultural diplomacy, the ifa connects civil societies, cultural practices, art, media and science. It initiates, moderates and documents discussions on international cultural relations. The ifa has a global network and relies on long-term cooperation. It is supported by the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, the state of Baden-Württemberg and its capital Stuttgart. The "zivik" program promotes international peace projects in crisis regions and advises non-governmental organizations and the Federal Foreign Office in such matters. The program promotes not only civil conflict management, but also contributes to the networking of state and non-state actors. Its focuses range from training in non-violent conflict resolution and supporting confidence-building measures between conflicting parties to trauma processing and the reintegration of ex-combatants.

**Lesben- und Schwulenverband Berlin-Brandenburg e.V.**  
 Lesbian and Gay Association Berlin-Brandenburg  
 MILES Project (center for migrants, lesbians and gay men)  
<https://berlin.lsvd.de/projekte/miles/>

The Lesben- und Schwulenverband Berlin-Brandenburg e.V. (Lesbian and Gay Association of Berlin and Brandenburg) is part of the Lesben- und Schwulenverband in Deutschland (Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany, LSVD). The MILES project provides advice and help for lesbian and gay migrants and their relatives, such as information on coming out and homosexuality. MILES offers psychosocial counseling, provides "first aid" in crisis situations and refers people to other competent counseling centers. It also offers legal counseling and organizes awareness-raising events, training sessions for multipliers, lecture series and cultural evenings. Moreover, MILES helps people set up self-help groups and promotes networking among such groups.

**Lesben- und Schwulenverband in Deutschland (LSVD)**  
 Lesbian and Gay Association in Germany (LSVD)  
 Head office  
[www.lsvd.de](http://www.lsvd.de)

The Lesben- und Schwulenverband in Deutschland (Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany, LSVD) has more than 4000 individual members and 100 member organizations, making it the largest LGBT rights organization in Germany. The organization's work focuses on achieving an anti-discrimination law for Germany, equality of treatment for same-sex couples under fiscal law and civil service law as well as joint adoption and custody rights for same-sex couples. LSVD is also active in the field of anti-discrimination policy in the EU as well as human rights for lesbians, gays and transgender people.

**Liberal-Islamischer Bund e.V. (LIB)**  
 Liberal Muslims of Germany, Berlin community  
[www.lib-ev.de](http://www.lib-ev.de)

The Liberal-Islamische Bund e.V. (Liberal Islamic Federation) was founded in 2010 to represent the Muslim community and the predominantly liberal positions of European Islam. The LIB provides a forum for all citizens who wish to engage with Islamic, interreligious and societal questions in a spirit of mutual respect. It is open to conflicting perspectives contributing to an evolving self-conception and allowing for new, shared insights. The LIB advocates a pluralistic society and is committed to a free and democratic social order. Accordingly, the LIB rejects all racist, anti-Semitic, anti-Christian or anti-Muslim views.

**Mann-O-Meter e.V.**

Information and counseling center for gay men  
Berlin's information and counseling center for gay men

[www.mann-o-meter.de](http://www.mann-o-meter.de)

Man-O-Meter was founded over 25 years ago, which makes it the oldest information and counseling center for gay men in Germany. The services offered by the Mann-O-Meter team are as diverse as gay life itself. The organization provides information on the vast gay and lesbian scene in Berlin, leisure activities, self-help groups, as well as on meeting and counseling centers. Above all, however, it provides support to people with problems of any kind. Man-O-Meter's work includes fighting against discrimination and for equal civil rights, education and prevention relating to AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, support for people who want to come out, counseling for work-related or relationship crises, as well as the anti-violence project MANEO.

**Schwulenberatung Berlin gGmbH**

Gay counseling

[www.schwulenberatungberlin.de](http://www.schwulenberatungberlin.de)

"Schwulenberatung Berlin"'s has provided advice to gay and bisexual men for more than thirty years under the banner "Gays helping gays". Over the years, its services have expanded and Schwulenberatung is now an aid organization for gay and bisexual men, transsexual and intersexual people, as well as for people with H.I.V. and AIDS in Berlin and beyond.

**Schwules Museum\***

Gay Museum\*

[www.schwulesmuseum.de](http://www.schwulesmuseum.de)

The Schwules Museum Berlin is a private museum and was founded in 1986. It focuses on the history of gay men and gay life in Germany. It is also an archive and a library.

**Stiftung Topographie des Terrors**

Topography of Terror Foundation

[www.topographie.de](http://www.topographie.de)

More than 1,000,000 people visited the "Topography of Terror" in 2014, making the documentation center one of the most frequently visited places of remembrance in Berlin. During the "Third Reich" the headquarters of the Secret State Police, the SS and the Reich Security Main Office were located at the site. The documentary exhibition conveys the European dimensions of the Nazi reign of terror.

**Tactical Technology Collective**

International organization dedicated to the use of information in activism  
Europe Office Berlin  
Security in-a-box

<https://tacticaltech.org/projects/security-box>

The Tactical Technology Collective is an international organization dedicated to the use of information in activism. Security in-a-box was first created in 2009 by Tactical Technology Collective and Front Line Defenders, to meet the digital security and privacy needs of human rights defenders. Since then, the website has been updated and expanded to keep up to date with a rapidly-changing digital environment.

Security in-a-box was created by a diverse team of experts who understand not only the conditions under which advocates work, but also the resource restrictions they face. It is basically a toolkit designed primarily to address the growing needs of advocates in the global South - particularly human rights defenders, but the software guides and security strategies in the toolkit are relevant to everyone; specifically people working with sensitive information. This may include vulnerable minorities, independent journalists or whistleblowers, as well as advocates working on a range of issues, from environmental justice to anti-corruption.