

Welcome to Our Annual Prevention Survey in Prevention-Eager Times - 2017 German Congress on Crime Prevention in Hanover

Erich Marks

Around 3,000 participants and guests have confirmed their attendance of the 22nd German Congress on Crime Prevention in Lower Saxony's capital Hanover. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation that they are participating in our joint effort to perform the 2017 prevention survey in what appear to be particularly prevention-eager times. To begin with, I would like to mention a number of individuals from this year's long list of honorary guests. The high-ranking representatives¹ from civil society, politics, administration, science and non-governmental organisations and the representatives of over 30 partner organisations of the German Congress on Crime Prevention, who deserve my particular gratitude for their factual, material and non-material support, include:

*Dr. Andreas **Armborst***, Head of the National Centre for Crime Prevention (Nationales Zentrum für Kriminalprävention, NZK), Bonn

*Juma **Assiago***, Urban Safety Expert, UNHABITAT, Nairobi

*Heike **Bartesch***, German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Berlin

*Konstanze **Beckedorf***, Head of the Department of Social Affairs and Sport of the State Capital of Hanover

*Karsten **Becker MdL***, Member of the SPD parliamentary group at the Lower Saxony Parliament, Hanover

*Uwe **Binias***, Chief of the Lower Saxony State Police, Hanover

*Dr. Ludovít **Biró***, Counsellor at the Slovakian Embassy in Berlin

*Bianca **Biwer***, National Secretary of WEISSER RING, Mainz

*Prof. Dr. Thomas **Bliesener***, Director of the Lower Saxony Crime Research Institute (Kriminologisches Forschungsinstitut Niedersachsen, KFN), Hanover

*Dr. Stephanie **Bradley***, Director EPISCenter, Pennsylvania State University

*Maren **Brandenburger***, President of the Lower Saxony Department for the Protection of the Constitution, Hanover

*Gerald **Busch***, Deputy Chief Constable at the Bavarian State Office of Criminal Investigation, Munich

*Prof. Dr. Marc **Coester***, President of the Social Work, Criminal Law and Crime Policy Association (Fachverbandes Soziale Arbeit, Strafrecht und Kriminalpolitik – DBH), Cologne/Berlin

*Stefan **Daniel***, Executive Director of the German Crime Prevention Foundation (Deutsche Stiftung für Kriminalprävention), Bonn

*Marten van **de Donk***, Director RAN Centre of Excellence, Amsterdam

*Johannes **de Haan***, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna

*Ava **Diaconu***, Attachée for Home Affairs at the Romanian Consulate General in Bonn

*Bärbel **Dieckmann***, President of the Welthungerhilfe Organisation, Bonn

*Prof. Jochen **Dieckmann***, Chairman of the State Crime Prevention Council of North Rhine Westphalia, Düsseldorf

*Elizabeth **Drake***, Supervisory Senior Research Associate, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Olympia (USA)

*Norbert **Drude***, President of the Customs Criminal Investigation Office, Cologne

*Günther **Ebenschweiger***, President of the Austrian Centre for Crime Prevention (Österreichisches Zentrum für Kriminalprävention), Graz

*Ulrika **Engler***, Head of the Lower Saxony Agency for Civic Education, Hanover

*Heinz-Josef **Friehe***, President of the Federal Office of Justice, Bonn

*Joachim **Fritz***, Section Manager, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Berlin

*Prof. Dr. Helmut **Fünfsinn***, Attorney General of the State of Hesse, Frankfurt

*Prof. Dr. Christian **Grafl***, Representative of the German Congress on Crime Prevention, Austria, Vienna

*Petra **Guder***, Programme Manager at the Glen Mills Academy Deutschland, Lübbecke

Jens **Grote**, President of the Lower Saxony State Reception Authority (Landesaufnahmebehörde Niedersachsen), Braunschweig

*Prof. Dr. Ute-Ingrid **Haas***, Chairwoman of the Lower Saxony Crime Prevention Council (Landespräventionsrat Niedersachsen), Hanover

*Gerald **Heere MdL***, Member of the Bündnis90/Die Grünen parliamentary group at the Lower Saxony Parliament, Hanover

*Dr. Daniel **Heinke***, Head of the Bremen State Office of Criminal Investigation

*Frank-Martin **Heise***, Deputy Chief Constable at the Hamburg State Office of Criminal Investigation

*Thomas **Hermann***, Mayor and Chairman of the Council of the State Capital of Hanover

*Prof. Dr. Theresia **Höynck***, Chairwoman of the German Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Court Representatives Association (Deutschen Vereinigung für Jugendgerichte und Jugendgerichtshilfen, DVJJ), Kassel

Bernd **Holthusen**, Section Manager at the German Youth Institute (Deutsches Jugendinstitut), Munich

*Gabriele **Immen***, President of the Regional Court of Göttingen

*Uwe **Jacob***, Director of the North Rhine Westphalian State Office of Criminal Investigation, Düsseldorf

*Elizabeth **Johnston***, Secretary General of the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS), Paris

*Bodo **Kaping***, President at the Federal Police Bad Bramstedt

*Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen **Kerner***, Chairman of the German Foundation for Crime Prevention and Offender Support (DVS), Tübingen

*Volker **Kluwe***, Chief of Police, Hanover

*Uwe **Kolmey***, President of the Lower Saxony State Office of Criminal Investigation, Hanover

*Robert **Kruse***, Chief of Police, Lüneburg

*Johann **Kuehme***, Chief of Police, Oldenburg

*Dr. Martin **Kuhlmann***, President at the Federal Police Hannover

*Johannes **Kunz***, President of the Rhineland-Palatinate State Office of Criminal Investigation, Mainz

*Stephanie **Lee***, Supervisory Senior Research Associate, Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Olympia (USA)

*Thomas **Lenz***, State Secretary, Ministry for Home Affairs and Europe of the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schwerin

*Dr. Olaf **Lobermeier***, Director of proVal, Hanover

*Prof. Dr. Wielant **Machleidt***, Hanover Medical School

*Dr. Susanne **Mädlich***, Department Head at the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection (BMJV), Berlin

*Ingolf **Mager***, Director of the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern State Office of Criminal Investigation, Schwerin

*Helmut **Marhauer***, International Director (LCI), Hilfswerk der Deutschen Lions, Wiesbaden

*Andreas **Mayer***, Director of Police Crime Prevention at State and National Level (Polizeiliche Kriminalprävention der Länder und des Bundes, ProPK), Stuttgart

*Gisela **Mayer***, Chairwoman of the Foundation Against Violence at Public Schools (Stiftung gegen Gewalt an Schulen), Winnenden

*Wilhelm **Mestwerdt***, President of the Lower Saxony Labour Court, Hanover

*Karin **Müller MdL***, Member of the Bündnis90/Die Grünen parliamentary group at the Parliament of Hesse, Wiesbaden

*Roswitha **Müller-Piepenkötter***, National Chairwoman WEISSER RING, Mainz

*Jürgen **Mutz***, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the DVS Foundation, Bonn

*Stephan **Nietz***, Deputy Chief Constable at the Schleswig-Holstein State Office of Criminal Investigation, Kiel

*Prof. Gerd **Neubeck***, Director of the Board of the German Forum of Crime Prevention (DFK)

*Antje **Niewisch-Lennartz***, Minister of Justice of Lower Saxony, Hanover

*Daniel Hark-Mo **Park***, Representative of the Korean Institute for Criminology, Seoul

*Michael **Pientka***, Chief of Police, Braunschweig

*Jutta **Rübke***, Lower Saxony Representative for the Rehabilitation of Victims of the So-Called Radicals Decree, Hanover

*Rita **Salgmann***, Chairwoman of the Director of Police Crime Prevention at State and National Level (KPK), Hanover

*Matthias **Schaeff***, Director at the Federal Police, Potsdam

*Dr. Martin **Schairer***, Chairman of Deutsch-Europäisches Forum für urbane Sicherheit e.V. (DEFUS), Stuttgart

*Heiko **Schmidt***, Deputy Chief Constable of the Thuringia State Office of Criminal Investigation, Erfurt

*Jürgen **Schmökel***, Director of the Saxony-Anhalt State Office of Criminal Investigation, Magdeburg

*Harald **Schnur***, Deputy Chief Constable of the Saarland State Office of Criminal Investigation, Saarbrücken

*Stefan **Schostok***, Mayor of the State Capital of Hanover

*Andrea **Schröder-Ehlers MdL***, Member of the SPD parliamentary group at the Lower Saxony Parliament, Hanover

*Jürgen **Schubert***, Vice President of the Federal Police, Potsdam

*André **Schulz***, National Secretary of the Association of German Criminal Police Investigators (Bund Deutscher Kriminalbeamter, BDK), Berlin

*Prof. Dr. Hans-Dieter **Schwind***, former Minister of Justice of the State of Lower Saxony, Osnabrück

*Dr. Peter **Sicking***, Programme Manager, Hilfspgemeinschaft Deutscher Lions, Wiesbaden

*Andreas **Skulberg***, Deputy Director General , Competence Center for Crime Prevention, Oslo (Norway)

*Dr. Wiebke **Steffen***, Member of the National Board of WEISSER RING and Research Consultant for the German Congress on Crime Prevention, Heiligenberg

*PD Dr. Rainer **Strobl***, Director of proVal, Hanover

*Katrin **Stüllenberg***, Chairwoman of the Crime Prevention Foundation, Münster

*Stephan **Weil***, Premier of Lower Saxony, Hanover

*Keisha Kal **Witter***, Counsellor at the Jamaican Embassy, Berlin

*Bernhard **Witthaut***, Chief of Police, Osnabrück

*Norbert **Wolf***, State Public Prosecutor, Braunschweig

*Wolfgang **Wurm***, President of the Federal Police Department Sankt Augustin

*Jörg **Ziercke***, President of the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation, ret., Vice President WEISSER RING, Mainz

*Dr. Tamara **Zieschang***, State Secretary at the Saxony-Anhalt Ministry of Home Affairs and Sport, Magdeburg

Furthermore, I would like to extend my greetings to the numerous colleagues who have travelled to Hanover from 45 different countries² and have, in some cases, undertaken long and arduous journeys to attend this congress.

It also gives me great pleasure to welcome the over 600 active prevention experts who will present papers and hold presentations at the congress. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to them, as well as to the entire organisational team, for their substantial preparatory work and valuable contributions. It is this outstanding commitment that will once again turn the 22nd German Congress on Crime Prevention into a 'comprehensive crime prevention oeuvre'.

At present, there is a general emphasis on the significance of preventive action. Given the range of undesirable societal conditions and developments, demands for a significant increase of prevention measures, prevention orientation and prevention strategies are intensifying. In many cases, such calls for 'more prevention' do not go beyond well-meaning catchphrases, or are presented as an alleged new panacea without any specific concepts, plans or links to concrete political or practical action.

Specific and concrete preventive action crucially depends on a thorough understanding of the prevailing situation – especially with a view to current social, political and environmental framework conditions at the global level. To quote philosopher and political scientist Hannah Arendt, who was born in Hanover in 1906: "Understanding is not the same as denying the monstrous, comparing the unprecedented with precedents or explaining phenomena with analogies and generalisations that disregard the harrowing reality and shocking experience. Instead, it means investigating and consciously bearing the burden placed on us by the events, and neither denying their existence nor submissively bowing under their weight, as if everything that happened could not have happened any other way. **In other words, understanding means confronting reality without bias, whatever this reality is or was.**"³

The interdisciplinary discourse on aims, standards and methods and the systematic development of sustainable and impact-oriented prevention strategies at the national, state and regional levels are of particular importance in these prevention-eager and prevention-dependent times. I am confident that the consultations at the 2017 German

Congress on Crime Prevention will make a valuable contribution to the debate on new challenges and extended fields of action; a contribution towards enhanced strategic prevention planning, concerted preventive action and adequate resource endowment.

In 2017, the German Congress on Crime Prevention will once again offer its participants over 500 different and diverse opportunities to gain insights and information and hold discussions. In compliance with the 'Quality Crime Prevention' Beccaria standards⁴, we would like to introduce greater clarity and truthfulness into the debate about current problem areas, their (assumed) roots, specific preventive measures and their ongoing evaluation and documentation.

In the light of recent events, I am basing my call for greater clarity and truthfulness in the development of future (crime) prevention strategies on a quote from one of our great German poets and thinkers. In his first lecture at the University of Jena in May 1789, Friedrich Schiller said: "- and what greater gift than truth has any man to give to man?", and concluded with: "A noble desire must glow in us to make a contribution out of our means to this rich bequest of truth, morality, and freedom which we received from the world past, and which we must surrender once more, richly enlarged, to the world to come, and, in this eternal chain which winds itself through all human generations, to make firm our ephemeral existence. However different the destinies may be which await you in society, all of you can contribute something to this! A path toward immortality has been opened up to every achievement, to the true immortality, I mean, where the deed lives and rushes onward, even if the name of the author should remain behind."⁵

Perhaps the view expounded by Roger Willemsen in his future speech 'Who We Were'⁶ may also help us point our preventive action in the right direction. In this speech, he asks 'who we will have been' rather than 'who we are' or 'who we will be'. Which assessment of our preventive efforts in 2017 would we like to hear from our children or grandchildren in twenty or thirty years? Will we have created positive conditions for subsequent generations that we can look back on with satisfaction or even some pride?

In conclusion, I hope that this year's congress will be an insightful and encouraging experience for you all. As is well known, prevention is first and foremost a question of attitude. With this in mind, my chosen motto is:

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON PREVENTING!

¹ As per 12 June 2017

² Afghanistan, Albania, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, East Timor, France, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Korea, Luxembourg, Marokko, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Seychelles, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Syria, Taiwan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America

³ Hannah Arendt 1986, *Elemente und Ursprünge totaler Herrschaft: Antisemitismus. Imperialismus. Totale Herrschaft*, 25

⁴ www.beccaria-standards.net

⁵ Friedrich Schiller 1789 (first published in the German Mercur), 'What Is, and to What End Do We Study, Universal History?'

⁶ Roger Willemsen 2016, 'Who We Were.'