

Interview with Gorge Mause

How many victims asks for help per year?

To roughly estimate it, I would say around 400 - 600 a year.

How old are they? Have you noticed certain age groups?

I've been at „gayBrandenburg“ for almost 6 years now and over the last two years I've seen a big slope of young people seeking help. More and more adolescent people are looking for help with their outing or their difficulty accepting themselves as a homosexual. Furthermore, we experience an increase on migrants or refugees who want to stand by their homosexuality and need some help. Many also have a family, which makes the situation very difficult.

Which gender?

Mainly men. Most conversations show that women are more open to their homosexuality and more self-confident.

How do you help them ? what kind of support do you provide? Is this ongoing support or one offs?

We offer everyone the opportunity for a consultation. Be it boys, girls or transgender people. Either you can reach us by phone and is advised by one of our consultants anonymous and free. Otherwise by email or looking for direct contact at our location in Potsdam. We have many volunteers and assisting volunteers who support us on various events. For example, we can offer our help seekers opportunities to meet people and exchange ideas.

Do you see any improvement throughout the years? (increase/decrease in incidents of harrassment? Are there any reasons you can identify for this?)

In Potsdam, the exercise of the sexuality is not necessarily easy. Many are still hiding and it takes a lot of courage to come out. Nevertheless one can say that in the last four years a clear improvement has resulted. The bullying has gone down, especially in schools and universities we recognize a social acceptance of the gay and lesbian community. Every now and then there are incidents the same-sex couples get thrown on the street nasty looks or a misplaced spell. But the self-confidence of homosexuals is increasing and they are not alone. This is also an important thing for us, supporting the people seeking help. Through repeated discussions, we emphasize time and again that they are not alone and they belong to a large and important community!

Is there a common case?

No. absolutely not. Due to the changes of the last 10 years, the gay and lesbian community has changed a lot. It is easier for many to talk about it and especially the central Berlin offers many opportunities for expressing sexuality. Although we have received a high increase on young help seekers as mentioned above, we also receive many requests from older men. Many want to confess their sexuality after their divorce or are in an unhappy relationship and seek support from us.

What is the goal of this association?

If we could, we would like to help everyone and encourage them to contact us. Our goal is to provide first aid to those seeking help and to answer their questions. Depending on the situation and the person, everyone needs help but the goal remains the same: to strengthen self-esteem, to be self-accepting and to help others.

Can anyone access your service?

yes, we offer help to anyone who either needs it or is just unsure about their sexuality.

Is your association international or local (in Berlin)?

We are in Potsdam, Falkensee and Cottbus.

What are the ways to contact them? and when /where ?

Telephone consultation: usually Mondays - Fridays from 10:00 - 21:00: 0331 240 190

E-Mail-Consulting: beratung@gayBrandenburg.de

Consultation and / or Orientation Talk: Appointment in the Council + Tat - Centers Potsdam

what do you think is working?

Regarding our contact, I think calls are the fastest and most noncommittal way that many choose. For people who still like to talk about their problem, write us a very detailed email and we will do our best to answer you as soon as possible. Of course, many come spontaneously to us, but we then give an appointment because we are busy and direct recording for a call is not always necessarily possible.

What would you like more of? (beyond funding - are there any gaps you have noticed in service provision?)

We have great partners with whom we work together, such as the association Katte e.V., which makes many events throughout Germany for the gay and lesbian community. Many of our employees work voluntarily and support us every day. We really can not complain. Of course we also have to contend with the government when it means we want to demonstrate and more resources to support. But that is a problem for any organization and probably will not be resolved that quickly.