

MANEO Report 2018 published

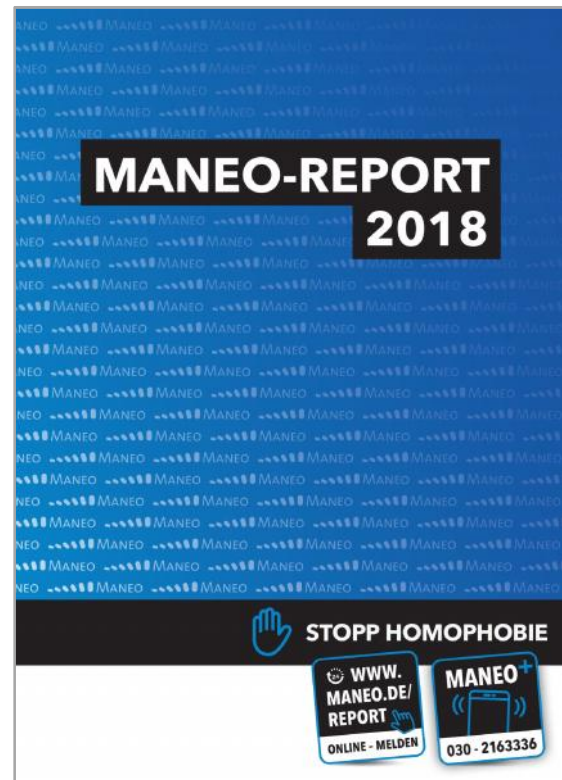
382 cases with a homophobic and trans*phobic background recorded – Berlin model achieves increased transparency

The number of recorded cases of homophobic and trans*phobic attacks has increased by 58 on the previous year to 382. Over the past two years, there has been an almost one-third increase in the number of recorded cases of homophobic and trans*phobic violence in Berlin (31.3% = 91 cases). In 2018, MANEO – THE GAY ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT IN BERLIN counselled 733 people. Director of MANEO Bastian Finke, said: “We have to assume that a lot more cases took place in Berlin in 2018, although more and more victims are finding their way to the police and protecting themselves by reporting the incidents.”

Even if there is still a lot to do, Berlin remains the national leader in the effort to shed light on homophobic and trans*phobic attacks. In no other German region are comparable efforts made with the same seriousness. Across the country, there is not only a lack of full-time LGBT* liaison officers at regional police authorities but also qualified anti-violence projects that, in dialogue with the police and the public prosecutor's office, break down the hurdles that victims face in terms of access to the criminal prosecution authorities. The Berlin model shows how this works.

MANEO operates as a qualified, target group-specific victim support centre that meets the needs and concerns of gay and bisexual victims of violent acts and provides them with specialist support. MANEO co-operates with expert organisations across Germany. The lesbian anti-violence project L-Support, which was launched in Berlin in 2018 to deal with the concerns of lesbian and bisexual women who have been subjected to anti-lesbian attacks, is a partner project of MANEO.

According to Bastian Finke, director of MANEO: “Homophobia and trans*phobia are essentially still problems that grow from the centre of our society. They are recognisable in the trivialisation of homophobic and trans*phobic violence and in the lack of solidarity that LGBT* people experience when they are devalued and degraded as people. Clearer words and more visible signs are needed in order to punish anti-LGBT* violence. Homophobia and trans*phobia, as well as every



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MANEO ist ein eigenständiges Projekt von Mann-O-Meter e.V. – Mitglied im Arbeitskreis der Opferhilfen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (ado) e.V., im Deutschen Paritätischen Wohlfahrtsverband/ LV Berlin und Partner von Schule ohne Rassismus / Schule mit Courage – finanziell gefördert durch die Berliner Senatsverwaltung für Arbeit, Integration und Frauen (SenAIF) – gewürdigt von der Landeskommission Berlin gegen Gewalt (2003), ausgezeichnet mit dem Mete-Eksi-Preis (1999), CSD-Preis für Zivilcourage (2001), CHANCE-Award (2006) und dem Preis „Aktiv für Demokratie und Toleranz 2015“ des Bündnisses für Demokratie und Toleranz der Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (bpb) –. Gemeinsam mit Kampania Przeciw Homofobii (Polen), Lambda-Warszawa (Polen), SOS-homophobie (Frankreich) und The Rainbow Project (Nordirland) vergibt MANEO jährlich den europäischen TOLERANTIA-AWARD. MANEO organisiert das BERLINER TOLERANZBÜNDNISSES, dem bereits über 135 Unternehmen, Events und Institutionen aus Berlin angehören.

from of prejudice-motivated hate crime, must be actively taken up as a challenge by all social groups, institutions, administrative bodies and politicians.”

The MANEO Report 2018 will be published on the upcoming International Day against Homophobia, Trans*phobia and Biphobia (May 17). On May 7, it will be presented by MANEO to the President of the Berlin House of Representatives Ralf Wieland as well as to MPs from all parties represented in the parliament and who are present on that day. **The report also includes figures and information from Berlin Police and the Berlin Public Prosecutor’s Office (see appendix).**

For many, visibility means danger

In the past year alone, we recorded several dozen cases in which ‘couple recognition’ was the trigger for an attack, i.e. the victims were recognised as same-sex couples in public because of showing who they love: they walked hand-in-hand, hugged each other in the Berlin underground or kissed each other goodbye. We recorded 50 cases alone in which trans* people were recognised and attacked in public. There are gay, lesbian and trans* people who, on account of their identity, for who they are, were insulted, spat on, threatened or physically attacked. In some of the cases we processed, the victims were attacked so brutally that they sustained the most severe injuries.

For example, on February 9, 2018 at 4.30am, two gay youths aged 17 and 18 were pushed off one of Berlin’s city rail trains onto the platform at Schönhauser Allee station because they were visible as a couple. As they lay on the floor, they were punched and kicked by the perpetrators. On March 8, 2018 at 11.40pm, two gay men aged 24 and 27 were attacked by unknown youths while walking arm-in-arm down the street at Boddinplatz in Neukölln. One of the men was

stabbed in the leg. On May 4, 2018, a 53-year-old trans* woman who was waiting at a bus stop on Sonnenallee was suddenly hit on the head by an unknown person and then kicked in the larynx. On August 12, 2018 at 6pm, two lesbian women, aged 35 and 36, who had left Möckernbrücke underground station hand-in-hand were insulted and hit by an unknown person in an anti-lesbian attack. On April 18, 2019, two gay men aged 19 and 20 were subjected to anti-gay insults and spat on by unknown young men in the public park Volkspark am Weinberg because they were walking hand-in-hand.

We have recorded numerous incidents of property damage where unknown perpetrators want to ‘paint away’ or ‘scratch out’ the visibility of LGBT* people in public. At Magnus-Hirschfeld-Ufer in the Berlin district of Tiergarten, the eyes of Anita Augspurg (1857–1943) and Karl-Heinrich Ulrichs (1825–1895), the protagonists depicted on the memorial for the world’s first emancipation movement, were again

‘scratched out’ in August. The banner covering the Berlin public transport company BVG’s site fence on Unter den Linden was repeatedly the target of property damage in July/August 2018. The gay men depicted kissing on the banner were sprayed over and in a further incident marked with “HIV”.



Visibility means equal opportunity



When LGBT* people show themselves visibly in public, they are often alleged to have 'provoked' conflicts because they want to portray themselves as something 'unique'. Many people are familiar with this allegation. Ultimately it means depriving LGBT* people of the fundamental right to be equal citizens of this society. Many perpetrators pursue precisely this goal and not only in Germany. Homosexuality continues to be illegal in 72 countries and is often punished with prison sentences of more than five years. Eight countries even apply the death sentence. But even in countries where homosexuality is officially legal, LGBTI* people are discriminated against and oppressed by society, even by state officials. Only in around one-third of all the countries in the world are there anti-discrimination laws protecting LGBT* people.

This is why many LGBT* refugees find their way to us. They are seeking protection, as many people see Germany as a country where LGBT* people are well protected. It is alarming for us that they have fled violence and persecution at home and

- 3 may now again become attack victims in Berlin. In 35 cases, we counted 41 refugees who had become the victims of attacks in Berlin. In our work, we also cater specifically for refugees.

Results of the MANEO Report 2018

The case figures recorded are again high. We cannot provide any assertion as to whether the increase in these figures means that attacks against LGBT* people in Berlin have objectively increased. It is conceivable that in 2018 we have again succeeded in shedding more light on the 'dark field' (of unreported and unrecorded incidents), which is estimated to be very high. On the other hand, we cannot rule out an increase, particularly as Berlin is currently registering an annual increase in its population. However, for many people the figures continue to reflect an alarming everyday reality: living with the fear of being harassed or attacked solely for being gay, lesbian, bi-, trans* or intersexual, or queer.

MANEO received 818 notifications of acts of violence (2017: 801; 2016: 659). 446 cases could be evaluated (2017: 407; 2016: 353). 733 people were counselled (2017: 719).

382 of the cases that relate to Berlin showed clear and simple indications of having a homophobic or trans*phobic background – a good 50 more cases than in the previous year (2017: 324; 2016: 291).

- 19 cases targeted LGBT* people generally, as a group (e.g. attacks on LGBT* memorials)
- 286 cases targeted gay / bisexual men
- 27 cases targeted lesbian / bisexual women
- 50 cases targeted trans* people

In its report, MANEO has listed **38 sample cases** that show the range of reported incidents.

The **main types of offence** in anti-gay/ homophobic acts of violence (286 cases) included:

- Insults: ↑ 123 (2017: 68; 2016: 45)

- Actual and grievous bodily harm: 67 (2017: 80; 2016: 77)
- Coercion and threats: 54 (2017: 59; 2016: 64)
- Robbery crimes: 20 (2017: 28; 2016: 35)

Anti-gay/homophobic attacks (286 cases) were most regularly reported in these **districts** (old districts):

- Schöneberg: 49 (2017: 69; 2016: 61)
- Neukölln: ↑ 38 (2017: 19 ; 2016: 22)
- Tiergarten: 26 (2017: 30; 2016: 25)
- Mitte: ↑ 27 (2017: 20; 2016: 24)
- Kreuzberg: ↑ 22 (2017: 18; 2016: 21)

123 cases of homophobic insults were reported, almost twice as many as in the previous year. Victims are starting to protect themselves.

Attacks in Neukölln have clearly risen. The number has doubled year-on-year.

At the start of 2013, the high number of incidents in Schöneberg and the Schöneberg rainbow neighbourhood led to more in-depth discussions between MANEO, police and the local authority, which in turn led to increased and on-going police and crime-prevention measures in the area. These discussions have been continued, since 2017 for Berlin-Tiergarten and since 2018 also for Berlin-Neukölln.

The **specified crime scenes** for anti-gay/homophobic attacks (286 cases) were mainly:

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- Public space generally: 117 (2017: 137)
 - o Public thoroughfares: 75 (2017: 94)
(8 of these (2017: 12) took place in front of bars with a specifically gay and LGBT* clientele);
 - o Public transport: 34 (2017: 31)
 - Residential flats and the immediate neighbourhood: ↑ 48 (2017: 37)
 - Cruising sites, for example park and woodland areas: 17 (2017: 17)
 - Internet: ↑ 30 (2017: 23)

More help for victims

With more than 1,987 consultations (2017: 1.784), MANEO is witnessing a further increase in its victim support work. The demand for advice and support is growing every year. MANEO runs a daily surgery from 5–7pm. Co-workers can be reached by phone during the day on 030 - 216 33 36, and they are also available in person in our advice centre on weekdays.

MANEO runs a surgery for refugees one day a week – currently Thursdays – with language support available in Russian, French, Farsi and Arabic. After initial clarification, appointments are made for further consultation sessions for follow-up outpatient, psychosocial victim support. Language mediators can again be on hand if necessary. Two part-time workers support the outreach work in the facilities for refugee work and organise the ‘tearoom’ safe space.

MANEO’s consultation services are aimed principally at gay and bisexual men looking for information, advice and clarification. As a specialist centre, MANEO co-operates with expert psycho-traumatology and medical organisations as well as with qualified victim support advice centres across Germany. MANEO works in accordance with the quality standards of the specialist ‘Working Group of Victim Support Organisations in Germany’ association, of which MANEO has been a member since 1992.

Violence prevention work

Violence and crime prevention in Berlin is a particular focus of MANEO's work, including area-based priorities, specifically in Berlin-Tiergarten, north Neukölln and the rainbow neighbourhood in Schöneberg. In the various 'district rounds' that MANEO has been organising in the rainbow neighbourhood since 1992, dialogues and exchanges of information, ideas and experiences are encouraged among traders, criminal prosecution authorities, administrative bodies and politicians. MANEO's high level of engagement has contributed to making the rainbow neighbourhood visible, and to helping identity-forging actions and initiatives – such as the illumination of the dome at Nollendorfplatz underground station in rainbow colours – have an integrative effect. MANEO reports regularly on its work in the **MANEO+ Newsletter**: <http://www.maneo.de/presse.html>

The positive developments in the rainbow neighbourhood should be consolidated further and communication improved – on the one hand among actors, on the other with local residents. For this, MANEO has initiated 'impulse groups' that meet regularly and exchange information, ideas and experiences. These groups are intended to strengthen district prevention. In short, MANEO wants to establish a Rainbow Neighbourhood Prevention Council.

The educational and training work at criminal prosecution authorities must be continued. It must be ensured that victims of homophobic and trans*phobic attacks are taken seriously when reporting a criminal offence. Evidence that points to a prejudice-motivated crime must be comprehensively determined. In 2018, MANEO employees have trained more than 600 more police trainees at the Berlin Police Academy.

Solidarity and networking

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MANEO established the Berlin Tolerance Alliance in 2009 and through it networked itself with 140 companies and institutions. The joint goal is to overcome discrimination and violence against LGBT* people (see: www.berliner-toleranzbuendnis.de).

The alliance reflects a broad social spectrum. The emphasis is on togetherness and connectedness; the promotion of social tolerance, diversity and acceptance; a determined stand against homophobia and hate crime, and against any form of prejudice-motivated group-focused violence – all this in the shape of diverse actions and initiatives, for example the lighting up of the dome at Nollendorfplatz underground station in rainbow colours (since 2014), the annual Kiss Berlin campaign – between the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21) and the International Day against Homophobia and Trans*phobia (May 17) – and support for the MANEO Empowerment Campaign (2015–2018).

MANEO

MANEO – THE GAY ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT IN BERLIN is an independent project of Mann-O-Meter e.V. and has existed for 28 years. It is the oldest and most experienced anti-violence project of its kind in Germany. MANEO currently has six permanent employees, making up 3 ¼ full-time posts (39 hours, 34 hours, 20 hours, 15 hours, 15 hours, 5 hours), a fee-based co-worker for language mediation and seven regular voluntary workers. The work takes place in three offices and a group room. Numerous other people (approx. 50) also support MANEO. Its work is funded in part by the Berlin Senate Department for Justice, Consumer Protection and Anti-discrimination. MANEO deals with four core areas.

- 1) **Victim support:** gay and bisexual men who become victims of discrimination and acts of violence, as well as witnesses and relatives, receive counselling and support. In an **open surgery** available daily from 5–7pm, incidents can be reported, victims can receive initial information and appointments with qualified full-time co-workers can be arranged for follow-up, outpatient **psychosocial victim support**. They offer specialist advice and support. In addition to homophobic attacks, we also deal with domestic violence, sexual assault, violence in the name of family honour (forced marriage), violence against guardians, crimes involving knockout drops, robbery, theft, etc. Since 1990, more than 14,000 victims have made use of MANEO's services, 800 in the past 12 months. MANEO co-operates with experienced victim support organisations in Germany and Europe.
- 2) **Recording crimes:** Anti-LGBT* incidents are recorded. The crimes for Berlin are evaluated every year and published with the MANEO Report.
- 3) **Violence prevention:** the public is informed about homophobia and hate crime, LGBT* scenes are informed of risks and dangers, and multipliers are networked and mobilised. MANEO adopts a proactive approach to Berlin's scene venues and events. MANEO has developed a dialogue with Berlin's criminal prosecution authorities that is exemplary in Germany, and since 1998 it has been conducting regular training sessions at the Berlin Police Academy.
- 4) **Engagement and empowerment:** Self-confidence and assertiveness is increased and civic engagement and voluntary work are mobilised.

Other MANEO tasks include: securing resources/acquisition of funds, quality management and networking. In order to sustain its Senate-funded project work, MANEO must make a contribution of currently a good EUR 4,000. Further donations secure additional engagement by MANEO.

Addendum:

The MANEO Report is available online on our homepage at:

<http://www.maneo.de/infopool.html>