



The Federal President of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, on 3 June 2018, photo: Marko Priske

HISTORY OF THE MEMORIAL

The memorial was built in accordance with a resolution of the German Bundestag. It was initiated by the »Remember the Homosexual Victims of National Socialism« initiative and the Lesbian and Gay Federation of Germany (LSVD). The Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe has been entrusted with administering the memorial site on behalf of the Federal Government.

Resolution of the German Bundestag from 12 December 2003

»The Federal Republic of Germany shall erect a memorial in Berlin to the homosexuals persecuted under the National Socialist regime.

With this memorial, the Federal Republic of Germany intends – to honour the victims of persecution and murder, – to keep alive the memory of this injustice, and – to create a lasting symbol of opposition to enmity, intolerance and the exclusion of gay men and lesbians.«



MEMORIAL TO THE HOMOSEXUALS PERSECUTED UNDER THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST REGIME

OPENING TIMES, ADDRESSES AND CONTACT

Address

Tiergarten, Ebertstrasse, opposite of the Holocaust Memorial, 10117 Berlin

Public Transport

Brandenburger Tor and Potsdamer Platz stations

Foundation

Phone +49 – (0)30 – 26 39 43 – 11, info@stiftung-denkmal.de
www.stiftung-denkmal.de

Visitor services

Mon–Thurs 10 am – 4 pm, Fri 10 am – 1 pm
Phone +49 – (0)30 – 26 39 43 – 36, Fax – 21
besucherservice@stiftung-denkmal.de

Press

Phone +49 – (0)30 – 26 39 43 – 26, presse@stiftung-denkmal.de

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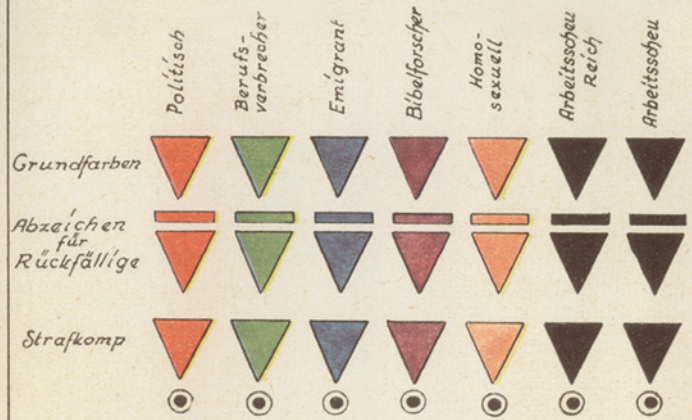
Federal Government Commissioner
for Culture and the Media

upon a decision
of the German Bundestag





Photo: Marko Priske



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THE MEMORIAL

The monument was designed by the artist duo of Michael Elmgreen (Denmark) and Ingar Dragset (Norway) and opened to the public on 27 May 2008.

In the memorial, the three-dimensional shape of the stelae of the Holocaust Memorial acquires an additional element: through a window the spectator can see a film with a same-sex love scene. According to the dynamic conception of the memorial, the film will be exchanged in regular intervals. The film on display since 2018 is a work by the Israeli artist Yael Bartana.

PERSECUTION AND LACK OF COMMEMORATION

In 1935, the National Socialists issued an order making all male homosexuality a crime; the provisions governing homosexual behaviour in Section 175 of the Criminal Code were significantly expanded and made stricter. There were more than 50,000 convictions. Thousands of gay men were sent to concentration camps.

In concentration camps such as Dachau near Munich they had to wear a badge on their uniform with a pink triangle identifying them as gay. Many of them died of hunger, disease, abuse or as a result of targeted killings. The National Socialists destroyed the communities and lives of gay men and lesbian women.

For many years, the homosexual victims of National Socialism were not included in public commemorations – neither in the Federal Republic of Germany nor in the German Democratic Republic. In both East and West Germany, homosexuals continued to be prosecuted for decades. In many parts of the world, homosexual love remains illegal.

BIOGRAPHIES

Photo left: Elisabeth »Lilly« Wust (1913–2006) and her Jewish partner Felice Schragenheim (1922–1945). In 1944, the Gestapo deported Felice Schragenheim to Theresienstadt. The place and the date of her death are unknown. Their story was made famous by the book and the film »Aimée & Jaguar«.

Photo right: Robert T. Odeman (1904–1985), poet and pianist, with his partner Muli, around 1931. In 1942, Odeman was deported to Sachsenhausen concentration camp.