

FAQ

How did the idea for the Bi+Pride evolve?

Frank Thies, a long-time Bi+ activist and teacher, is the initiator. He had the idea to implement such an event in Germany after the example of West Hollywood, where a Bi Pride took place for the first time in 2018. He directly inspired other people from his regulars' table Bi & Friends HH and other Bi+activists* and people from his network for the idea, so that the group formed in December 2020.

When is the Bi+Pride and what exactly is planned?

The event consists mainly of three days, starting on September 23, the official day of bisexuality.

Day Thu, September 23:

On Thu, September 23, there will be flag-raising events offline and online. Check the homepage for an overview of exact cities and spots where flags will be hoisted. So far 15 cities and 24 buildings have confirmed their participation. E.g. Bamberg, Berlin-Schöneberg, Darmstadt, Flensburg, Hamburg, Kiel, Cologne, Mannheim and Viernheim. We will also visit the places in and around Hamburg on the day and accompany the hoistings with a small speech. Currently, we are looking to see if it can be realized at other locations for this year. Otherwise, next year will hopefully be even bigger and with even more capacity.

We'll explain how the digital flag-raising will work in concrete terms on September 20 on our social media channels, but basically it's about Bi+ and allies posting in some way to show digital bi+sexual visibility on the day. So a small act with hopefully a big impact.

Day Fri, September 24:

There will be four workshops (offline and online). Originally this was going to be concentrated on Fri, Sept 24. The offline workshop will be in Hamburg in St. Georg at the Schorsch on 9/24. But the online workshops will take place on three different days: Tue, 9/21 and Thu, 9/23 and Fri, 9/24.

Day Sat, September 25:

On Sat, September 25, there will be a demonstration through the city center in Hamburg. You can see the complete route of the demonstration on our homepage. The starting point is Lange Reihe 101-99. There we will gather at 12 o'clock. At 12:30pm the first rally will start and at about 1 pm we will start walking. There will also be intermediate rallies, namely opposite the Europapassage (corner Jungfernstieg/Ballindamm) and at the Gänsemarkt. The final rally will be at the Rathausmarkt. We expect it to end around 3:30 pm. At the demo we will have a loudspeaker van from where the speeches and moderation will take place and the accompanying music will be played.

Why is an extra Bi+Pride important? Isn't it enough if we all have a CSD?

Together under the rainbow? Absolutely! But there are also bi+-specific topics. And unfortunately, there is always ignorance, invisibility and not taking Bi+ seriously in the community. We would like to clarify this and of course change it. But of course, we at Bi+Pride also stand up for the whole community - including gays, lesbians, trans* people, inter* people, non-binary and asexual people as well as aromantic people. Many of our demands are for the whole community or specific groups that are not necessarily bi+. If you want to have a shared community, you must also have to have knowledge of all subgroups.

So what are these bi+ specific issues?

If you want to read about them in great detail, you can do so on the homepage of our orga member Melina Seiler. The journalist and author has researched and worked up the topic.

Bi+ Erasure (making bi+sexuality invisible) means, among other things, lack of representation, lack of community, lack of awareness of the topic, lack of language and lack of recognition. This means that most of our culture is and operates most of the time under the assumption that bi+sexuality does not and cannot exist. This has consequences.

Consequences:

Bi+sexual youth need role models and visibility, as they are significantly more likely than homosexual (and heterosexual) peers to be bullied or prone to substance abuse, significantly less likely to be outed, and bi+sexual girls to complain of sexual assault. (1)

Bi+sexuals are also often not taken seriously in the LGBTIQIA+ community, and they are also repeatedly denied the right to belong. (2)

Bi+sexuals are not a small unimportant minority, but 21% of German adults classify themselves in the bi+sexual spectrum (among 18- to 24-year-olds even 39%). (3)

6 out of 10 bi+sexual women (61%) have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner - significantly more than lesbians (44%) or heterosexual women (35%). (4)

(1) cf. US study "Supporting And Caring For Our Bisexual Youth".

(2) <https://www.dw.com/de/bisexualit%C3%A4t-du-geh%C3%B6rst-not-too/a-45943143>

(3) cf. representative study by YouGov

(4) <https://broken-rainbow.de/lesben-haeufiger-von-gewalt-in-der-partnerschaft-betroffen-als-heterosexuelle-frauen>

How did you organize the flag-raising events?

At first, we had focused on Hamburg and the surrounding area. Then a committed group member wrote to all city halls/cities in Germany on the off chance. The cities listed on the homepage accepted, the others did not. Apart from that, we did not ask for concrete locations or organizations outside of Germany, because we did not have the capacity this year. However, we would like to tackle this next year. Who has contacts and can motivate to further flag hoistings, is very welcome. Preferably in consultation with us.

Why are flag-hoisting events important?

1. Bi+sexuality is invisible: a male read couple is read as gay, a female read couple as lesbian, a female read person and a male read person as heterosexual. But even if they come out as bi+sexual, bi+sexuals are not taken seriously or discriminated against.

2. Bi+sexual youth in particular need role models and visibility: bi youth are much less likely to be outed, suffer a lot of bullying. (See US study "Supporting And Caring For Our Bisexual Youth" http://hrc-assets.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com//files/assets/resources/Supporting_and_Caring_for_Bisexual_Youth.pdf).

3. Bi+sexuals are not a small unimportant minority: 21% of Germans classify themselves in the bi+sexual spectrum, among young adults it is even 39% (cf. representative study by YouGov: <https://www.bine.net/sites/default/files/bijou31yougov.pdf>)

4. In the USA, Great Britain and Australia, the bi flag has often been hoisted on government buildings and speeches on the topic have been made in parliament (see e.g. <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/300/bi-flag-to-fly-over-oxford-town-hall-for-the-first-time>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1vArYWZdwU>)

5. Schleswig-Holstein has been raising the Bi flag on 9/23 since 2017 and has published a brochure on the topic (already in its 2nd edition) (see https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/Landesregierung/VIII/Presse/PI/PI_Archive/2017_neu/170922_VIII_Bisexuelle.html, <https://echte-vielfalt.de/lebensbereiche/lgbtiq/bi/echte-bisexuelle-vielfalt-im-norden/>).

How are you organized as an orga team, and how many people are you?

The team is an association of different Bi+ activists* and people. Many, but not all of them live in Hamburg. Currently there are eleven people in the core team. This changes from time to time, depending on whether new people come or others leave. We also have a large number of cooperation partners and supporters. Soon we will be registered as a non-profit association, which will make many things easier for the future from a bureaucratic point of view. Basically, everyone contributes to the extent that their capacities allow. There are no hierarchies. Some people have specific responsibilities, but many things are done as the capacities and skills of the members allow, without fixed responsibilities, but in consultation. In the beginning we met online every two weeks, now weekly and additionally many more meetings in small groups.

How can you be supported?

At the moment we are looking for car angels (people who secure the loudspeaker car at the demo) and stewards for the demo on September 25th. But we are also happy about other support and future permanent members. Feel free to write us. In the future there is also the possibility to become a member of the association, which is of course not obligatory for joining us. We are also happy about donations: <https://www.betterplace.me/bipluspride>

What are your demands?

A complete list of demands can be found on our homepage. This and other information is also translated into English and Spanish.

How many people do you expect at the demo?

Of course, this is a question that is often asked and that we also ask ourselves. We can't say, because we're doing the event for the first time. The fact is that some people outside of Hamburg have already registered, but how will it be on the day? No idea, depends on many factors, some are as simple as the weather. We have officially registered 500.

What is your hygiene concept?

As usual, distance rules and the wearing of a medical mask apply. Otherwise, it is our urgent request that all demonstrators, regardless of whether they are vaccinated or not, be tested for Corona beforehand and only come with a negative test result. The orga team will be tested beforehand and will be vaccinated.

Is there an awareness concept?

Yes, we are currently working on an awareness concept. Information will follow soon.

Is the event barrier-free?

We try to make the event as barrier-free as possible. We have contact persons, a diversity and inclusion concept, paid attention to accessibility at our offline workshop and are still trying to check the demo route for any barriers. However, please be sure to speak to us if there are any requests or ambiguities - it is important to us to take these needs seriously.

Why not languages other than English and Spanish?

Basically, we want to make our event and the information about the event accessible to as many people as possible. More languages are of course very helpful in this regard. The fact that it is currently English and Spanish is because we can do that with our team. We are happy when other volunteers join us and can translate into more languages.

Do you have sharepics/press photos that can be used?

Yes we do. You can find them here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pbQU5EiPkZZabLR7AJjIXNMUoi9eJtTK?usp=sharing>. Please always credit Bi+Pride as the source.