

Bi+Pride 2022: Speeches in English



7. Becca's Bi+Pride Speech

- speaks on behalf of the
Church Out initiative

Hi, I'm Becca.

... I'm standing here today because I'm part of the Out In Church initiative. Who of you can relate to that?

I'm standing here today because I'm studying theology - and I'm an active Girl Scout. So I volunteer for the Catholic Church and plan to do that full-time someday. I'm also queer - somewhere on the bi+spectrum.

I'm standing here today because since February this year, I'm one of many Catholic full-time and volunteer queer people who are publicly outed. We did that with a campaign that initially had over

100 people making an impact. This year, it even won the Honorary Pride Award here in Hamburg - and with a film whose makers received the Catholic Media Award in August. The film is called "Wie Gott uns schuf" (~*How God created us*) and can be found in the ARD Mediathek. There you can also find individual videos of about 100 people, who all make a personal outing. An outing that is also a testimony of faith.

Because we tell of experiences of discrimination and pain that we have suffered at the hands of the Catholic Church. And at the same time make visible that we believe. And not only that; we are all in relationships of dependence to the Church - to a Church that we love.

And I have the impression that we have already achieved a lot with our campaign: many people within church structures are beginning to see our experiences of discrimination, and people outside now understand a bit more why we nevertheless attach our hearts to this church. We have achieved a lot simply by being VISIBLE. In doing so, we have taken space for ourselves - and perhaps opened a door for people who wonder if they are welcome.

We have done something we cannot get behind. And in doing so, we have freed ourselves - of secrets that could have cost some their jobs and everyone their ideas for the future. And above all, we have freed ourselves of the fear that we felt before - and for years.

And for the most part, we got back joy, pride, recognition, solidarity, understanding and, above all, a little bit of freedom.

So here I stand today: Catholic and queer, out and proud! Of all of us!