



## **8. Arndt Klocke's Bi+Pride speech**

**- member of the State Parliament and member of the NRW GRÜNEN parliamentary group since 2010**

Hello Hamburg,

I'm from Cologne, last year I took notice of this demo here via Instagram and thought, this year I have to come here. Very big thanks and what joy, that you are organizing this. Hamburg is an absolute trendsetter in Germany with this. No city offers a Bi+Pride, you do that and find despite this weather so many here together on the street which is a huge success. Many thanks to all who organized it, especially to Frank and his whole group. I think you can be proud of yourselves. Great.

My goal is not only to be there today and to demonstrate with you, but to take the whole thing to North Rhine-Westphalia. Because North Rhine-Westphalia is big, we have 18 million inhabitants. I think we should do everything possible to get this going in Cologne next year as well.

My life experience simply tells me that visibility is absolutely necessary. Already when I was studying in Münster. There were a lot of people who approached me again years later-people I didn't know at all, and I was impressed and touched - "because you were brave out there, that's why we dared". And because of that, that all people go out on the streets, also at the Hamburg Pride, also on social media, show their faces, show their names. That is a huge step for the people, who can't be here today. Who are not here yet, and maybe next year will finally go along. You can be proud, it's a highly important event that's happening here today.

I want to say something in closing. I'm also taking something with me. Frank asked me about something. My husband is Sven Lehmann, that's the queer commissioner of the federal government who also stands up for bisexuals and for the Bi+Pride. And that's the issue. You can live a relationship being a bisexual, it doesn't have to be monogamous. It certainly isn't for me. And still be with a man or a woman for many many years. And that is often a prejudice that bisexuals can't live in a steady partnership. That is not true. I live for myself, I am a great person, I have my possibilities, and I think that we should be able to bring that home.

Bisexual means to have different options, which you can also live at the same time. But it is not a life in somehow loneliness, but bisexual means. community, tolerance, empathy and also to make such a great event in Hamburg.

I thank you for the invitation. We have a bicycle demo in Cologne, it's about traffic safety. recently for the fourth time, comes from Great Britain and the USA, and we were able to establish this in Cologne. That works and my next goal is that we should have a Bi+Pride in Cologne on the row. Thank you very much for the invitation and wish you a lot of success.