



Bettina Solzbacher (Bi+Pride press spokeswoman, deputy civil equal opportunities officer at Hamburg's Helmut Schmidt University, freelance photographer; she/her)

Hi, I'm Bettina. And I'm scared!

Many of us know the problem that bisexuality is often made invisible. I know that too. It's just that it's all the more difficult for me because two queer issues come together here, and my bisexuality always takes a back seat. My trans identity is always "the" dominant topic in everyday life. As soon as someone finds out that I'm transgender, everything revolves around it. No wonder, as it's the much more noticeable characteristic. And many people are curious because I'm different. Who cares what sexual preferences I have or who I love? And so my trans identity stands in such strong contrast to my bisexuality.

I sometimes think to myself that, as a bisexual woman, I'm not just homo or hetero, but "both" - simply depending on the situation. And because, like the majority of society, I am "simply normal" with part of my sexual orientation (at least that's how the average hetero-normative citizen would probably put it), I don't really stand out. Just as I don't stand out in the homosexual community, because I'm also part of it, with my lesbian part.

And if it does stand out?

As a woman, this is apparently less of a problem, because for outsiders it often coincides with the fantasies of those who keep the patriarchy going. You're turned into a sex object and it's no longer offensive. And with men? - It's ignored, tabooed as if it wasn't there, hushed up like homosexuality was 100 years ago.

In an increasingly radical world in which violence is on the rise, in which freedoms are subjectively perceived to be restricted, in which social media is polarizing and radicalizing society with the help of fake news and in which freedom of expression is becoming increasingly dangerous, I am simply afraid. Afraid that as a bisexual woman, as a transgender person, as a mom to my three children and as a citizen of this country, I will soon no longer be able to live freely here. I'm afraid that my children will be taken away from me because I decided five years ago to live and not kill myself. I am afraid that my children will not be able to love the person they want, that the heteronormative image will be forced on them and they will have no choice. I am afraid that the freedoms that we stand for here, that we have fought for and will continue to fight for, will soon no longer exist.

At CSD eight weeks ago it was 5 to 12 - now it's 12!

I am afraid - because the bell has already rung twice at the 12th hour here in Germany.

I ask all politicians:

Do something against the shift to the right, against the groups that are just starting to take over the country. Preserve diversity in Germany - because many of us are afraid!

Proud & Loud for diversity and democracy!