

**THE LIBERAL JEWISH COMMUNITY OF HAMBURG (LJGH)
Statement to the events in Halle on 9.10.2019.**

To the current situation:

In view of the dramatic events in Halle we appeal to you to concern yourselves seriously with the resolution of our existential problems, especially the need to have a building which can be more easily secured to reduce danger, which as we know can come from several sides.

We condemn in the sharpest possible manner the cowardly attack on the Jewish community in Halle. It was a real Horror; the worshippers were locked inside the synagogue, the murderer attempted with shots and bombs to break into the building in order to kill all those there, the police arrived only after a delay of several minutes. Our thoughts are with the innocent victims and their families and especially with the members of the Jewish community in Halle who had to spend such dreadful hours in their synagogue on Yom Kippur.

Our own community is in a very constricted and threatened situation. For over 15 years we have not been able to have our own building! We have three locations, which are barely protected. During the events in Halle we were worshipping in the Simon-van-Utrecht Strasse 4, which is only inadequately protected. We do not have the means (neither personal nor communal, neither the personnel nor finances) to protect ourselves. At this building there is no video camera, no place for a doorman, no trained security personnel. Many members have refrained from coming to services out of fear - even before these latest events.

We need at last a solution to this problem; an own building - but one with adequate video supervision, trained security personnel. strong doors and a booth for a doorman. We do not wish to keep our activities secret and live in a shadowy existence. Perhaps now the time has come at last to discuss this issue properly, not just through expressions of solidarity.

We feel as though we have been abandoned. The existence of our community - the successor community to the 'New Israelitisch Temple Society' of 1817, the first Liberal Jewish Temple in the world - is simply not noted or even deliberately ignored. Even the Police have approached us and warned us that we are classified as a group at especial risk. This is a signal from those professionally involved! The time has come to make some proper decisions.

Our third Reform temple (at Oberstraße 120) has been sold. The post-war remains of the second temple, in the Poolstraße, decay although they are theoretically under protection as an historic monument. Our members feel uncertain due to the poor security of our buildings, the fact that our activities are scattered at different locations across the city and that we get such little recognition of Reform Jewish achievements in Hamburg, and in consequence attendance is reduced. In general it seems the only places in Hamburg where there is any public sign of something Jewish are those places from where Jews were once deported or murdered....

We have increasingly gained the impression that a basic part of the problem is that the Hansestadt Hamburg is simply not interested in its Liberal-Jewish inheritance and traditions and therefore considers all requests and appeals from our side as merely a nuisance. But the time has come to meet and discuss and make some practical decisions at last!

Sincerely,
Galina Jarkova
Vorstand LJGH eV

Here a link to an article in Hamburger Abendblatt, a regional newspaper:
<https://www.abendblatt.de/hamburg/article227360001/Zu-wenig-Schutz-Liberale-Juedische-Gemeinde-sendet-Hilferuf.html>

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