



Foto: Stefan Baumgarth

Women of Europe Award – Germany



Foreword

An inspiration of strength - Hanna Veiler, the Woman of Europe 2024, defies fear.

Tolerance, respect and diversity - these are the values we live by. And these values are repeatedly challenged. Especially since the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023.

The security of the Jewish community is under threat in Germany and throughout Europe. Hanna Veiler makes the voices of Jewish life in Europe visible. She is involved in youth organizations and campaigns for solidarity, peace and togetherness. Europe stands for life in a tolerant, respectful and diverse environment. It is our duty to create and protect this environment for every person, regardless of their religion or origin. Hanna Veiler is a shining example of this commitment and we congratulate her on winning the Women of Europe 2024 Award.



Barbara Gessler,
Representative of the European
Commission in Germany



Katharina Wolf, President of the
Women of Europe Award



Sabine Overkämping, Member of
EM Germany's Board of Directors

European unification is based on words. And on actions! Courageous, committed and strong women who promote European understanding with their actions and stand up for European values are always involved.

Jewish life is part of our everyday life in Europe. But it is often invisible. Our award winner this year, Hanna Veiler, has made it her mission to bring the needs and demands of young Jews into the public eye through her journalistic and activist activities. Born in Belarus, the President of the Jewish Student Union in Germany and Vice President of the European Union of Jewish Students has been committed to the empowerment of minorities and the enforcement of human rights for many years. In addition to her work for democracy and against extremism, she is also particularly interested in the culture of remembrance in Europe and the visualization of Eastern European identities.

Since 1991, our network of European women has presented a broad picture of women's commitment to Europe. The award honors special personalities who serve as role models for all. In our further work, we are committed to expanding the network in Europe and (re)introducing the award in other European countries.

And now: enjoy getting to know our prizewinner Hanna Veiler and her passionate commitment to Europe!

Award Winners 1991-2024



2024	Hanna Veiler	6
2023	Yevgenia Belorusets	7
2022	Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann	7
2021	Lisi Maier	
	Ingeborg Tömmel	8
2020	Sonderpreis für das Lebenswerk: Margrit Weimeister	9
2019	Katharina Wolf	9
2018	Düzen Tekkal	10
2016	Adriana Lettrari	10
2014	Linn Selle	11

2013	Daniela Topp-Burghardt	11
2012	Jasmina Prpić	12
2011	Irina Gruschewaja	12
2008	Necla Kelek	13
2007	Inge Bell	13
2006	Magdalena Baur †	14
2005	Gesine Schwan	14
2004	Regina Hellwig-Schmid	15
2003	María del Rosario Hickmann	15
2002	Ludmilla Irscher & Cathrin Schauer-Kelpin	16
2001	Philomena Franz †	16
2000	Dagmar Schipanski †	17
1999	Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner	17
1998	Sr. Lea Ackermann †	18
1997	Sissy Thammer	18
1996	Christina Grotensohn	19
1995	Monika Hauser	19
1994	Irina Prinzessin zu Sayn-Wittgenstein	20
1993	Susanne Tiemann	20
1992	Gundi Gompf †	21
1991	Csilla Freifrau von Boeselager †	21

Woman of Europe 2024

Hanna Veiler

An important pro-European voice that stands up against extremism and in favour of democracy – this is what Hanna Veiler, who has been an activist and journalist for many years, represents.



As Vice President of the European Jewish Students Union, Veiler is also active at European level, where she is concerned with the culture of remembrance in Europe and in particular the visualisation of Eastern European identities. She demonstrates this commitment, for example, in the „Zwischenräume“ project, in which young Jews explore Jewish identity. Further, she initiated a JSUD support campaign for Ukrainian refugees, in which several tonnes of relief supplies were collected and donated, and works with refugees herself.

„As the child of Jewish quota refugees from Belarus and the granddaughter of a man who survived the Shoah in Ukraine, I learnt early on that freedom and self-determination cannot be taken for granted. European values were hard-won and must be defended. Standing up against unfairness and injustice is our common task,“ says Veiler.

In her journalistic activities for renowned media such as Die Zeit, taz, FAZ and Jüdische Allgemeine, as well as through her social media activities, she takes a clear stance to draw attention to the needs and demands of young Jews.

www.jsud.de
www.eujs.org



2023

Yevgenia Belorusets

Artist/Author

The commitment to women, girls and the LGBTQ+ community in Ukraine and for the European public – this has represented the artistic work of Dr Yevgenia Belorusets for over 10 years.

“I wish that the work of the many people who are fighting for human rights in Ukraine under the conditions of war would also be seen and honoured. I hope that such extremely tough, everyday heroism will soon no longer be needed. **That we will all find a way together to put an end to Russian aggression and crime,**” says Belorusets.

The German studies graduate, writer and philosopher has published a total of six books, with the most recent from 2022, “Beginning of the War – Diaries from Kyiv”, receiving international attention. In it, she documents everyday life under wartime conditions in Kiev. Belorusets also uses documentary photography and various formats to impressively demonstrate a reality of life that is unimaginable for us.

www.belorusets.com



2022

Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann

Europa-Union Berlin e.V.

A citizen-oriented European Union and the inclusion of women in the political discourse on Europe – these goals drive Dr Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann’s passionate commitment to Europe.

Born in East Berlin, she has been committed to Europe for over 30 years, both on a voluntary and professional basis. After first being a member of the Volkskammer and the German Bundestag in 1990/91 and serving as an observer in the European Parliament from 1991 to 1994, she was elected to the European Parliament from 1999 to 2009 and from 2014 to 2019, and served as Vice-President of the Parliament from 2004 to 2007.

“A united Europe guarantees peace and freedom for all of us. That is why it is important to me that citizens play an active role in shaping the European unification project and resolutely defend it against the poison of nationalism,” says Kaufmann. With this in mind, she has always been active on a voluntary basis in various organisations, for example as a member of the supporting association of the European Academy Berlin. She was Chairwoman for many years and has been Honorary Chairwoman of the Europa-Union Berlin since 2021. Her focus: more civic participation, strengthening women’s rights and involving young people.

www.europa-union-berlin.de



2021

Lisi Maier

Deutscher Bundesjugendring (DBJR)

„Europe for the youth, the youth for Europe“ – this is how Lisi Maier’s multifaceted commitment can be summarised. The teacher has been active as a volunteer at many levels from an early age, for example in the „Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend (BDKJ)“ (Federation of German Catholic Youth), of which she was the full-time Federal Chairwoman from 2012 – 2021, and as Chairwoman of the „Deutscher Bundesjugendring (DBJR)“ (German Federal Youth Council). Her goal is a democratic, solidarity-based and youth-friendly Europe. For example, she was involved in setting up a national youth council in Ukraine and provided support for the Belarusian youth council RADA. Altogether, she stands for networking and encounters between young democratic civil society in Europe.

Lisi Maier has also been involved in the jury of the Franco-German Civic Fund, the advisory board of the German-Polish Youth Organisation and the German Council for Sustainable Development. In her work as Deputy Chairwoman of the „Deutsche Frauenrat“ (German Women’s Council) from 2016 – 2021, she also promoted gender equality on the federal level. Her nomination states that throughout all this, she shows that **„cordiality, team play and assertiveness do not have to be opposites“**. She has been Director of the new „Bundesstiftung Gleichstellung“ (Federal Foundation for Gender Equality) since 2021.

www.dbjr.de
www.bundesstiftung-gleichstellung.de



2021

Ingeborg Tömmel

European Studies

Bringing Europe closer to its citizens – that is the goal of political scientist Prof Dr Ingeborg Tömmel. The long-standing professor founded the first full-time European Studies programme in Germany in 1993, making the subject of Europe accessible across all disciplines. She also stimulated European policy debates in broad sections of society. The „Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in European Studies“, which she founded for this purpose, serves to critically examine the EU and is particularly aimed at young people.

Ingeborg Tömmel also organises European political theme evenings at adult education centres and is involved in a variety of local initiatives for North-South understanding in the EU and for transnational solidarity. Moreover, she was a co-founder of the „50 from Idomeni“ initiative, which aimed to bring at least 50 refugees from Greece to Osnabrück, and is an active member of „Seebrücke-Osnabrück“.

www.jean-monnet-centre.uni-osnabrueck.de



2020

Special Lifetime Achievement Award

Margrit Weimeister

Europa-Jugendbauernhof Deetz

In 1992, Margrit Weimeister founded the **“Jugendseeheim”** association in Deetz in Saxony-Anhalt to organise international youth work. As a lesson learnt from the Second World War, the former member of the Saxony-Anhalt state parliament wanted to make a contribution to a peaceful Europe and to tolerance and openness locally. In 1996, this gave rise to the idea of the „Europa-Jugendbauernhof“ (European Youth Farm), with which she created a meeting place for young people from Germany and abroad. The aim of the farm is to educate about the importance of the environment and agriculture together with the values of democracy and free self-determination, **thus sending a clear signal against xenophobia and in favour of peaceful understanding**. Since 1992, numerous young people from Germany and all over the world have been able to take part in international work camps within this framework. Weimeister led the work on the European Youth Farm until 2013 and is still involved today despite handing over the management to her son Ulrich Weimeister. In 2020, the EBD honoured this outstanding personal commitment for the first time with a **special award for lifetime achievement** as part of the 30th anniversary of German reunification.

www.europa-jugendbauernhof-deetz.de



2019

Katharina Wolf

Europa-Union Sachsen e.V.

Defending European values with civic means – Katharina Wolf has been doing just that for decades. Her radius of action lies in Saxony, where she still sees a need for the communication of European integration and European education. **“Patriotic Europeans look different!”** was her decisive response to the Pegida movement in 2014, and she did not stop at counter-demonstrations: Together with fellow campaigners, she founded the Europa-Union Sachsen e.V. in March 2015 and has been its chairwoman ever since.

“Europe doesn’t just take place in Brussels, but in every place where people are actively involved in shaping the European idea,” says the lawyer. She is therefore also committed to networking pro-European organisations in Germany and Europe. She is the Chairwoman of the Federal Committee of the Europa-Union Deutschland, the largest citizens’ initiative for Europe in Germany. In 2000, she co-founded a European association of female lawyers. Her professional career as a state civil servant is also characterised by her European background, including positions in Brussels and Berlin.

www.europa-union-sachsen.de



2018

Düzen Tekkal

Hawar.help. e.V.

When the so-called Islamic State committed genocide against the Yazidis living in northern Iraq in 2014, Düzen Tekkal made a documentary film – “HÄWAR – Meine Reise in den Genozid” (“HÄWAR – My Journey into Genocide”) – in order to expose the atrocities. In 2016, the political scientist and war correspondent published a book entitled “Deutschland ist bedroht – Warum wir unsere Werte verteidigen müssen” (“Germany is under threat – why we must defend our values”). She founded the HAWAR.help association and, working with the Ministry for Development, launched the “Back To Life” project, which provides women who were once imprisoned by IS with a path back into society.

Tekkal knows diversity is more than just an empty phrase. It means a lived experience of democracy that allows for a range of opinions and protects minorities. **“There’s no way to do it that doesn’t involve women,” says Düzen Tekkal. “I firmly believe that no society can develop in a positive way if it suppresses women’s potential.”** At the heart of integration is the ability to reconcile diversity. And this can only happen when different cultures, religions and people of many different backgrounds are able to talk, live and shape society together. These are Düzen Tekkal’s values – values that represent Europe’s diversity.

www.hawar.help/de/bundestags-petition
www.germandream.de



2016

Adriana Lettrari

Netzwerk 3te Generation Ostdeutschland

What role does the former division of Europe play in the lives of the „children of reunification“ of 1989?

Adriana Lettrari has been pondering this question since 2009. With the „Netzwerk 3te Generation Ostdeutschland“ (3rd Generation East Germany network), which she founded, she is researching the experience of reunification as an opportunity.

The communications and political scientist was born in Neustrelitz in 1979 and grew up in Rostock. Childhood behind the Iron Curtain, youthful years in a reunified Germany – Lettrari, like her peers in the neighbouring Eastern European states, received a kind of „double socialisation“: they learned two cultural languages and can mediate between two worlds. They know that everything can suddenly change and have the power to help shape change: transformation skills. The network engages in cross-border dialogue on this and other topics.

With the memorandum „We’ll just get started“, the „German Unity Generation“ (expanded to include children from the West and migrants) advocates a pluralistic approach to solving current issues of the future, including pan-European ones.

www.netzwerk.dritte-generation-ost.de



2014

Linn Selle

Junge Europäische Föderalisten e.V.

Sparking young people’s interest in Europe

Charisma and a clever choice of political means: Linn Selle’s commitment in the 2014 European election campaign showed that this can literally move the masses. When ARD and ZDF only wanted to debate the leading European candidates („Spitzenkandidaten“) on the special-interest channel Phoenix, Selle mobilised almost 30,000 supporters with an online petition within a very short time and attracted nationwide attention. For years, the political science graduate was active on the national board of the „Jungen Europäischen Föderalisten e.V.“ (Young European Federalists), including as deputy national chairwoman and national secretary. „We young people in particular live Europe today – very differently to the generations before us. That’s why I want to campaign and raise my voice for us to live in a real European community one day,“ says the Westphalia native, explaining her voluntary work. She has been President of the European Movement Germany since 2018 – and is the youngest representative in this office to date.

www.jef.de
www.netzwerk-ebd.de



2013

Daniela Topp-Burghardt

Ring europäischer Frauen e.V.

„Europe is not just a continent, Europe is a vision.“

Bringing women from all over Europe together and allowing a sense of community to grow through dialogue – this idea has been driving Daniela Topp-Burghardt, Chairwoman of the „Ring Europäischer Frauen e.V.“ (European Women’s Circle), for over a decade: „A sense of togetherness grows from a sound knowledge of commonalities; from knowledge of differences, one can develop understanding or learn from each other,“ the economics graduate is convinced. In 2003, she founded the non-profit association in Cologne, which organises a wide variety of lectures and information events as well as annual trips to the countries of Europe: In an open exchange of ideas and thoughts with local parliamentarians and representatives of women’s organisations, similarities and differences in economic, cultural, educational and social systems are discussed.

There is one thing in particular that unites the women of Europe, as the Frankfurt-born woman repeatedly recognises: the struggle for equal rights in politics, business and society. „We owe it to younger generations to improve this situation.“

www.r-e-f.eu



2012

Jasmina Prpić

Anwältinnen ohne Grenzen e.V.

„The enforcement of human rights depends on their legal defence.“

Born in Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the lawyer and women’s rights activist came to Germany as a war refugee in 1992. Among other things, she worked in Kosovo for three years to accompany potential witnesses to rape crimes before the Hague Tribunal and provide them with legal support. It was there that she realised how much women and women’s organisations need legal help - and how much human rights depend on their judicial enforcement.

In 2007, Jasmina Prpić, LL.M., founded the association „Anwältinnen ohne Grenzen e.V.“ (AOG, Lawyers without borders) with eleven colleagues from Germany and various countries of origin, of which she is currently the honorary managing director. The association, which is currently building up a network of local female lawyers in its members’ countries of origin, fights for the promotion and enforcement of women’s human rights by legal means and for the elimination of all forms of unequal treatment or discrimination at home and abroad – a commitment that Jasmina Prpić has been pursuing with tenacity and creativity for more than half of her life.

www.anwaeltinnen-ohne-grenzen.de



2011

Irina Gruschewaja

Den Kindern von Tschernobyl

Fight against the silence about Chernobyl and in favour of a civil society in dictatorial Belarus 1986 – the Chernobyl reactor disaster. In Belarus, this meant state silence and trivialisation. Irina Gruschewaja, a professor of German studies, could not accept this and founded the „Den Kindern von Tschernobyl“-initiative (To the Children of Chernobyl) with her husband.

„The future of the world lies in international civil society cooperation“

Hundreds of thousands of Chernobyl children from different generations are still travelling to Western Europe, especially Germany, on recuperation trips. Today, the initiative includes projects that go far beyond the children’s trips: youth work, help for girls in prison who are at risk of dropping out of society because of petty offences, help for old people who have been transplanted from their homes near Chernobyl into faceless prefabricated buildings and for whom no one else cares. Irina Gruschewaja’s civic engagement connects many thousands of people in East and West. This makes her life’s work a unique bridge-builder between people.



2008

Necla Kelek

Social scientist and publicist

Integration and a self-determined life for Muslim women

In 21st century Europe, a self-determined life for Muslim women is still not a matter of course. Necla Kelek fights against the oppression of these women and advances the discussion about the cultural and political dimensions of the integration of Muslim women and Muslims in Germany and Europe with sometimes provocative demands.

Necla Kelek, born in Istanbul in 1957, came to Germany at the age of ten. She studied economics and sociology and wrote her doctoral thesis on the subject of “Islam in everyday life”. Kelek was awarded the Geschwister Scholl Prize for her bestseller “Die fremde Braut” (The Foreign Bride), published in 2005. She was a permanent member of the German Islam Conference from 2005 to 2009 and is a member of the Senate of the German National Foundation. Necla Kelek lives and works as a freelance author in Berlin.



2007

Inge Bell

Journalist

Fighting human trafficking and abuse of defenceless women and girls in the Balkans

Look and act – these are Inge Bell’s maxims. The Slavist and Eastern European historian had seen a lot of suffering during her months of filming and research trips to (Southern) Eastern Europe during her active time as an ARD foreign reporter. It was not enough for her to report on it. The logical consequence for Inge Bell was to set up humanitarian aid projects to eliminate social ills. In this way, for example, underage girls who were forced into prostitution could be offered sheltered housing, psychological help and vocational training. The media entrepreneur and human rights activist accompanies and monitors these and other aid projects, for example for the disabled, with an unerring eye and unrivalled commitment. As an expert, author, lecturer and speaker, Inge Bell continues to dedicate herself to her commitment against human rights violations to this day. In 2012, Federal President Joachim Gauck awarded her the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

www.ingebell.de



2006

Magdalena Baur †

europafels e.V.

Even as a schoolgirl Magdalena Baur, who was born in Upper Silesia (Poland), was convinced of the need for European states to move closer together. **As a teacher, she organised European projects, school exchange programmes and supported related initiatives.** The protection of and support for minorities are a particular area of focus for her.

She set up an extensive network linking educational institutions in various countries, in order to implement the idea of “learning from each other” at a practical level. This involves bringing people into direct contact with each other as part of international seminars and projects, providing teachers, and the people that train them, with ideas and help to make European cooperation in the field of education a reality.

„Gesellschaft europafels e.V.“ (European association for education, lifelong learning and studies) was founded at Magdalena Baur’s instigation and supports transnational initiatives aimed at developing schools.

www.europafels.eu



2005

Gesine Schwan

Dialogue between Germany and Poland

“Trust, the foundation on which friendship between Germany and Poland is built, can only grow out of personal encounters between people.”

In keeping with this motto, professor Gesine Schwan has been working to establish and expand cultural exchanges and contact at the civil society level, primarily between young people in Germany and Poland, for more than 30 years.

Gesine Schwan was an early supporter of the “Solidarność” (Solidarity) trade union movement in Poland, has helped a wide range of German-Polish initiatives to establish contacts and structures and continues to support ongoing dialogue today. Her goal is to bring people together and make a difference.

Gesine Schwan was president of the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt an der Oder from 1999 until 2008. She was a co-founder of the Humboldt-Viadrina School of Governance and was its president from 2010 until 2014.



2004

Regina Hellwig-Schmid

Visual artist/curator

Building bridges with art and culture

Since 1992, Regina Hellwig-Schmid has worked to promote international understanding in a unique way – using art and her skill at bringing people together. Acting as a catalyst and facilitator of ideas, she is the driving force behind international projects dealing with cultural, scientific and artistic cooperation in the Danube region.

As a way of thinking about war and peace, she organised the “pax danubiana – Flaschenpost für den Frieden” initiative (“pax danubiana – a message in a bottle for peace”), in which 1,856 artists in ten countries on the banks of the Danube entrusted a personal message of peace to the river on 23 September 2000.

In 2001 she set up the first International Danube Conference on Art and Culture in Regensburg, which was followed by further conferences in the Danube region. One example of her many projects was “documenta”. Running from 2003 to 2012, it reached its peak with “14 x 14 Survey of the Danube Region. Positions in Contemporary Art”.

www.documenta.de
www.regina-hellwig-schmid.de



2003

María del Rosario Hickmann

More than 30 years of voluntary work for German-Spanish cultural exchange

Dr. María Rosario Hickmann came to Kiel in 1976 when she got married, **and since then she has been involved in cultural exchanges between Germany and Spain.**

In 1977 she founded a women’s group to help Spanish “guest worker” families integrate. Then, in 1980, she set up language courses at the “Deutsch-Iberoamerikanischen Gesellschaft” (German-Ibero-American Society) which was subsequently at the heart of her masterpiece in 1991 – the “Institut für Spanische Sprache und Kultur” (Institute for Spanish Language and Culture) in Kiel. The institute rapidly developed into a centre for German-Spanish communication. For Spaniards, it’s a “home away from home”; for Germans, it’s the ideal place to learn Spanish and experience Spanish culture. Alongside her work as a lecturer at Kiel University’s Institute of Romance Studies, she has also published the German-Spanish cultural journal “Solera” since 2002. In 1997 she was awarded the Spanish Order of Merit “Lazo de Dama de Isabel la Católica” for her outstanding commitment to voluntary work, and in 2000 she received the Medal of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany.

www.solera-difusion.de



2002

Ludmilla Irmscher & Cathrin Schauer-Kelpin

Karo e.V., Plauen

Since 1994, KARO has been working in the border region between Germany and the Czech Republic against forced prostitution, human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children. Ludmilla Irmscher and Cathrin Schauer-Kelpin provide vital assistance to affected children, young people and women. Alongside the provision of psycho-social and medical care, building relationships and establishing a trusted network of contacts on both sides of the border are at the heart of their work.

In the most difficult terrain

In 2004, what was once a social project became the not-for-profit association KARO e.V. In 2008, Ludmilla Irmscher stepped down. Cathrin Schauer-Kelpin continues to spread the word about the unthinkable, gives victims a voice and challenges people to take responsibility for their actions and their fellow human beings. She ventures into the most difficult terrain, where our society has only a limited number of solutions to offer.

www.karo-ev.de



2001

Philomena Franz †

Remembrance of the Holocaust

Philomena Franz comes from a Sinti family that has lived in Germany for centuries. In 1943 she was arrested and deported to the Auschwitz extermination camp. She has experienced hatred, humiliation, agony and fear. Many members of her family did not survive the Holocaust.

When we hate, we lose. When we love, we become rich.

She has written about her experiences in a book entitled “Zwischen Liebe und Hass” (“Between Love and Hate”) and gives readings and talks at schools.

Her message: “We survivors bear the scars. But my life has taught me one thing – When we hate, we lose. When we love, we become rich.”

Philomena Franz encourages her readers and listeners to face the unknown and learn to understand it. She fights for reconciliation and understanding, and in so many ways spreads the message that tolerance must come from the heart.



2000

Dagmar Schipanski †

Shaping the scientific landscape in the European Context

Professor Dagmar Schipanski has been involved with many international bodies, such as the UNESCO World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology and the International Scientific Advisory Committee of the United Nations University in Tokyo.

Between 1999 and 2004, in her role as Thuringia’s Minister for Science, Research and the Arts, she helped Thuringian universities expand their various relationships with partner institutions in central and eastern Europe. From 2004 to 2009 she was the president of Thuringia’s state parliament. **In this capacity, she worked hard to promote relationships with partner parliaments throughout Europe.** Between 2011 and 2013 Dagmar Schipanski was the principal of the European “Studienkolleg” in Berlin.



1999

Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner

Building bridges between western and eastern Europe

Working on projects between northern Germany and the Kaliningrad Region/ Russia

Professor Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner is concerned with promoting understanding of the different living situations and ways of thinking that can be found in western and eastern Europe.

She was behind the founding of the “Hanse-Büro” (Hanse Office) in 1992, and today’s “Schleswig-Holstein Informationsbüro” (Schleswig-Holstein Information Office). The association she founded „Förderverein für Kaliningrad/Russland“ (Kaliningrad/Russia Development Association) works with young people to promote voluntary work, solidarity and individual responsibility for shaping communities. This helps them to learn the importance of these fundamental European values in human interaction.

As well as mentoring former interns, who today are successful businesspeople, Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner also works to promote the integration of disadvantaged young people into society.

www.fuer-kaliningrad.de



1998

Sr. Lea Ackermann †

SOLWODI e.V. Solidarity with women in distress

Initiative for the victims of human trafficking and forced prostitution

In 1985, Sr. Lea Ackermann founded SOLWODI e.V. – an abbreviation for “Solidarity with women in distress” – in Mombasa, Kenya. Germany now also has 16 advice centres which provide seven safe apartments, as well as with psycho-social counselling and advice on legal matters and mentoring services. The assistance on offer is also available to women from other countries who have fallen victim to violence and exploitation, whether they have entered the country as migrant workers or through marriage, or as a result of forced prostitution and human trafficking. The aim is to use education and training to help the women achieve financial independence and thereby open up new perspectives on life for them, or to use contacts with NGOs in the women’s countries of origin to support their future reintegration in that country, for those women who want it.

Solwodi is a human rights organisation whose clear goal is to achieve dignity for women within German society and in a united Europe. In 2014, Sr. Lea Ackermann was awarded the Augsburg Peace Prize for her work in this field. In 2020, she founded the Lea Ackermann Foundation for Children in Need.

www.solwodi.de

www.lea-ackermann-stiftung.org



1997

Sissy Thammer

„A stage where the world’s youth can rehearse“

Committed to international cultural exchange

Dr. h. c. Sissy Thammer has headed the Bayreuth Young Artists’ Festival since 1986 and has put into practice her vision of a broader understanding of the word “Europe” from the outset. For her, Europe is not “east” or “west”, Muslim, atheist, Jewish or Christian, but rather a system of values based on culture, art and music.

It is in this spirit that she creates a unique place for intercultural learning in Bayreuth every August – a place to experiment with new developments in the world of art, a place for active and committed peace-building.

The Bayreuth Young Artists’ Festival is a unique blend of many things – it is an arts event that offers a nurturing environment for young artists, provides training and social work, and promotes international understanding. All these things make it a cultural event that is European in its scale and reach, imbued with passion and a spirit of sustainability.

Sissy Thammer, international youth worker, arts manager and lecturer, is the holder of prestigious awards from the Federal Republic of Germany and the Free State of Bavaria.

www.youngartistsbayreuth.de



1996

Christine Grotensohn

AKIK – Aktionskomitee Kind im Krankenhaus

AKIK represents the rights of children and their parents before, during, and after hospital treatment for children and young people.

As the mother of one such child, Christine Grotensohn was involved with the “Aktionskomitee Kind im Krankenhaus” (Action Committee for Children in Hospital, or AKIK) from 1977 onwards, and made it her goal to see the introduction of unrestricted visiting hours and free accommodation for one parent in hospitals. She also supported the integration of parents into daily hospital life.

She played a major part in the “Charta für Kinder im Krankenhaus” (Charter for Children in Hospital) that was drafted during the first European Conference of AKIK Initiatives in 1988, and today enjoys support throughout Europe from professional associations, pediatricians, and the World Health Organization.

In 1993, Christine Grotensohn played a decisive role in the establishment of the European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH), the European network of „Kind im Krankenhaus“ initiatives, which works to implement the rights of hospitalized children in Europe.

www.akik.de



1995

Monika Hauser

medica mondiale e.V.

Supporting traumatized women and girls in war zones and crisis areas

The news of mass rapes in the former Yugoslavia in 1993 led gynecologist Dr. Monika Hauser to work with female doctors, psychologists, and nurses in Bosnia to found Medica Zenica – a center for medical and psychosocial therapy for women traumatized by war in the Bosnian city of Zenica.

Her work in this field expanded to include the foundation of further projects in Kosovo, Albania, Liberia, and Afghanistan. As well as providing medical care, medica mondiale helps to give traumatized women a new perspective on life again, through psychosocial support, legal advice, and also political human rights work.

Medica mondiale operates internationally and is part of a transnational network opposing violence against women. In 2008, Monika Hauser received the Alternative Nobel Prize for her work.

www.medicamondiale.org



1994

Irina Prinzessin zu Sayn-Wittgenstein

For Poland's integration into Europe

A commitment to German-Polish understanding

Recognizing that education and training are key starting points for the integration of Poland into Europe, Irina, Princess zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, supports initiatives in the field of student exchange programs, training, and further education.

As chairwoman of the "Verein der Freunde und Förderer der Katholischen Universität Lublin e.V." (Association of Friends and Supporters of the Catholic University of Lublin), she has been promoting German-Polish dialogue since 1987, through exchange programs between German and Polish universities. With the "Verein für deutsch-polnische Managerfortbildung" (Association for German-Polish Manager Training), she has demonstrated her commitment to economic cooperation between Germany and Poland since 1990.

Since 1983, Princess zu Sayn-Wittgenstein has also been involved in the social sector as co-founder and chairwoman of the "Malteser-Johanniter-Johanneshaus" (Maltese Knights of St. John of Jerusalem Care Center), which runs a group of long-term homes for people suffering from mental illness.



1993

Susanne Tiemann

Promoting the interests of freelance professionals at the European Level

Professor Susanne Tiemann is concerned with **giving a broad range of professionals an understanding of what European unification means and the opportunities it brings.**

Between 1987 and 1994, she represented the "Bundesverband der Freien Berufe" (German Association of Liberal Professionals) on the European Union's Economic and Social Committee. She was president of that committee from 1992 to 1994. Working on a voluntary basis, she developed, among other things, a "Europäische Charta der Freiberuflichkeit" (European Charter for Liberal Professionals).

Susanne Tiemann was also president of the "Bund der Steuerzahler" (German Taxpayers' Association) and president of the European Secretariat for the Liberal Professions (SEPLIS) in Brussels. She was a professor of management science at the Catholic University of Applied Sciences in North Rhine-Westphalia and an honorary professor of social law at the University of Bonn. From 1994 to 2002, she was a member of the Bundestag, the lower house of the German parliament.



1992

Gundi Gompf †

Kinder lernen europäische Sprachen e.V.

A contribution to international understanding and the unification of Europe

From 1969 onwards, Professor Gundi Gompf was scientific adviser to the "Englisch ab 3. Grundschuljahr" (English from the 3rd year of primary education) pilot project in Hesse. In 1970, Hesse's then education minister charged her with developing new university courses that dealt with foreign language learning in primary schools. She was appointed professor of English Language Teaching and Literature at the University of Frankfurt am Main in 1976, a position which she held until her retirement in 2005.

In 1989, Gundi Gompf founded the not-for-profit association "Kinder lernen europäische Sprachen e.V." (Children Learn European Languages), in order to bring about reform of foreign language teaching in terms of education policy. She believed that moving the point at which **foreign languages are first taught into primary schools** was of the utmost importance in order to give children better professional opportunities and achieve better understanding within European business. Gundi Gompf died in the autumn of 2013.



1991

Csilla Freifrau von Boeselager †

Founder of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta

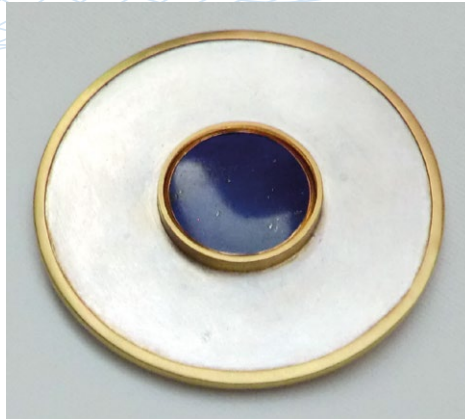
Through the Charity Service of the Order of Malta, Csilla Freifrau von Boeselager organized the **transport of relief from Germany to Hungary**, providing particular assistance to hospitals, retirement homes, and homes for disabled people.

In 1989, shortly before German reunification, she used the organization she founded to implement a dramatic relief operation – she took in thousands of GDR citizens in a hastily organized camp in Budapest.

Up until her untimely death in 1994, Csilla Freifrau von Boeselager, holder of the European Human Rights Prize, helped to promote international understanding through her involvement in numerous cross-border humanitarian initiatives, with the help of more than 9,000 volunteers.

About the „Women of Europe Award“

Strong women for a united Europe: Since 1991, the European Movement Germany (EM Germany) has honoured women who have made a special contribution to the integration of Europe through their courageous, creative or persistent voluntary work with the „Women of Europe Award“. The symbolic award – the award winner receives a brooch made especially for her and becomes part of an active network of award winners - is intended to bring active European women into contact with each other, network with the EBD member organisations and strengthen voluntary structures in civil society. Since 2021, the brooch has been sponsored by the Carl Friedrich Geiger Foundation.



A symbolic honour: The „Women of Europe“ receive a brooch specially made for them.

A jury consisting of EBD board members, the award winners and member organisations will decide on the winner. The EM Germany network is called upon to publicise the call for nominations for the „European Women’s Prize“ and to submit its own suggestions for nominations.

Katharina Wolf is President of „Women of Europe“, her deputies are Sissy Thammer and Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner.

European Movement Women of Europe Awards



Every year, the European Movement International (EMI), together with the European Women’s Lobby (EML), presents the European equivalent of the Women of Europe Awards in five categories. The „Women in Media“ category was introduced in 2023. The EM Germany submits a nomination for each category every year, which is determined by the EM Germany Board based on proposals from the EM Germany member organisations. The annually changing jury is made up of representatives from politics, business, science, media and civil society. On 9 November 2023, women were honoured in five categories for the eighth time. Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas was honoured in

the Women in Power category. The Women in Action award went to Ukrainian paramedic Julija Pajewska, who founded the volunteer rescue corps „Taira’s Angels“ during the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The winner in the Women in Business category is Emilie Schmitt, founder of the social enterprise Activ’Action, and the winner in the Woman in Media category is communications expert Shada Islam, who is a strong advocate for greater representation of ethnic minorities in the EU institutions and a leading voice for a fairer and more inclusive Europe. Margo (Marharyta) Vorykhava, Chairwoman of the Belarusian National Youth Council RADA, was named Young Woman in Europe.

<https://europeanmovement.eu/projects/women-of-europe-awards/>

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