



Edition 207 – September 2022

## **Good News: Berlin Volunteer Days “Common Cause“**

Since its beginning in 2012, the “Common Cause” volunteer days have become well-established. In 2022, the organizers Der Tagesspiegel and the Paritätische Wohlfahrtsverband will have more than 30 partner organizations taking part. You can already get to know many of the initiatives taking part in the Berlin Volunteer Days from September 9<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> this year at [www.gemeinsamesache.berlin](http://www.gemeinsamesache.berlin). Just like last year, when more than 340 activities demonstrated the diversity of volunteer work, volunteers will once again be active in all districts to beautify the city and to support refugees, the elderly or the sick.

**Prayer: Thank God for this great volunteer campaign, in which Christians and churches can also take part**

## **Problems in the New School Year**

On August 22, the new school year started - with great challenges. There are still about 1000 teachers missing. The application process is very tough and slow. But 1100 new teachers and 450 career changers were able to start as teachers. Union officials warn that the current generation’s educational opportunities are at risk. There is also a record number of first graders: 37,000 children. In addition, there are 5,000 children from the Ukraine who are now going to school. Schools also need to save energy. And Corona is not yet banned. However, the school senator Ms. Busse is determined that there will be no school closures this school year because of this.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray that the new teachers can quickly get used to their task**
- **Pray that other teachers apply and that the application process can be implemented quickly**
- **Pray that the first graders enjoy going to school and that their teachers are motivated**

## **Saving Water**

Senator for the Environment Bettina Jarasch (Greens) is calling for water saving. For the fifth year in a row, it has rained too little. She said: “We live in a new age”. When visiting the Tegel waterworks, she issued the slogan: “We have to save water and I want to give the starting signal for that today.” So far there is no acute shortage of water in Berlin, but this could well happen in the coming years.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray for good communication with the public**
- **Pray that there would be a spiritual thirst for living water. In John 7, 37 Jesus says: “If anyone is thirsty, come to me and drink!”**

## **Crisis at rbb Broadcasting Company**

Scandal at rbb about director Patricia Schlesinger because of nepotism, reimbursing private dinners, controversial consulting contracts and other things! The moderators of the evening show who reported on it seemed visibly upset by these events. Ms. Schlesinger was dismissed with immediate effect. A week later she was dismissed without notice by the board of directors and will most probably not receive any severance pay etc. The Chairwoman of the Broadcasting Council, Friederike von Kirchbach, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Wolf-Dieter Wolf, resigned. The rbb is therefore facing a new start.

**Prayer:**

- **Pray for clarity and fairness in allegations and investigations**
- **Pray for restoration of the good reputation of rbb, which is an important media organ for Berlin and Brandenburg**
- **Pray that new trust for this station will be built**

## ***Attacks on Clinic Staff***

Doctors, nurses and paramedics are repeatedly being molested, threatened or injured in or in front of Berlin clinics. The police have to come regularly. Emergency services often cannot work peacefully at the scene. In the emergency room, on the other hand, it mainly affects the nursing staff. They are closer to the patient, and unfortunately, they are often the lightning rod for accumulated aggressiveness.

### **Prayer:**

- **Pray for respect for paramedics, nurses and doctors**
- **Pray for help and protection for emergency services while in action**
- **Pray for healing and courage for all who professionally come to help people**

## ***Liberalisation of Hard Drugs?***

According to a proposal by the Greens, Berlin's Justice Senator Lena Kreck (Die Linke) wants to examine in the coming months whether basic impunity for consumers is possible even with small amounts of hard drugs. Interior Senator Iris Spranger (SPD) has spoken out vehemently against it. At present, prosecutors have discretion over how to deal with possession of small amounts of cocaine, heroin or ecstasy. According to the Narcotics Act, impunity is generally possible for small quantities. For cannabis, an order was issued in Berlin that regulates impunity for up to ten grams - at least if there is no danger to others or relevant criminal. There are also strong reservations about the new initiative in the SPD parliamentary group: "There will be no 'right to intoxication' in Berlin during this legislative period, and the choice of words is more than cynical," says SPD MP Christian Hochgrebe. He was referring to the coalition agreement, in which this demand was not included because the SPD refused it. Among experts, the addictive potential of cannabis is also considered to be high. Consumption can also trigger mental illnesses. This is even more true for harder drugs.

### **Prayer:**

- **Pray for a comprehensive discussion in the coalition which takes the health risks into account**
- **Pray that the use of soft and hard drugs will be reduced**
- **Pray for help for the many drug addicts**
- **Pray that education about the dangers of drugs will already begin in the schools**

## ***Re-Run of the Elections?***

A repeat of the federal elections in some parts of Berlin is becoming more and more likely. A new vote is to take place in 440 out of a total of 2,257 polling stations - according to the draft resolution of the Election Review Committee, on which the SPD,

Greens and FDP have agreed. The CDU/CSU and the AfD want to vote against it. The committee wants to make a decision on September 8, and the Bundestag will then vote in October. All twelve Berlin districts would be affected, especially Pankow, Mitte and Reinickendorf. It's all about the second vote - with the exception of constituency 77 in Reinickendorf, where the election of the direct candidates is to be repeated because the gap between the winner Monika Grütters (CDU) and second-placed Thorsten Einmann (SPD) was extremely small. Concern is growing in the Senate that the election to the Berlin House of Representatives will also have to be repeated. The Berlin Constitutional Court decides on this. However, a decision is not expected until the end of the year. A repeat election could take place in March 2023.

### **Prayer:**

- **Pray for a careful examination of electoral deficiencies**
- **Pray that the decision about a new election will be made soon**
- **Pray that as little political damage as possible to democracy from the election mishaps will occur**

## ***Jewish Life***

The Jewish New Year begins on the evening of September 25th. It is a festival celebrating the creation and beginning of mankind. But it is also a day to take stock. Believers have the opportunity to receive the "Seal of Life" through their deeds and faith between New Year's Day and the Day of Atonement. For believers, the New Year festival is always an opportunity for sinners to find their way back to the "right path".

### **Prayer:**

- **Pray for protection over all Jewish families and institutions**
- **Use the day yourself to take stock before God: where do I need to repent to restore my relationship with God?**

## ***Keeping On: Prayer for Rain***

It is still too dry in 47 percent of Europe this summer. Lack of rain and heat waves are contributing to this problem in our region. The rivers and lakes in Berlin also carry far too little water. The groundwater level has been falling for years.

**We continue to ask God for merciful rain for us and in other dry regions.**

## ***Dates***

**September 14: Prayer for City Politics**, 6-7 pm, Rotes Rathaus in front of the main entrance

**September 17: March for Life**,

<https://www.bundesverband-lebensrecht.de/marsch-fuer-das-leben/>