

## Speech from Lause bleibt

Dear people from Hermannstr. 48,

we are sending you solidarity greetings from Lausitzer Str. 10!

The current pandemic makes political efforts difficult. Keeping distance, isolating oneself, fearing for one's own economic existence, worrying about one's own health and the health of others – all of it affects our political fights as well.

But acting in solidarity is important – especially during a crisis – and it is possible to do so in a corona compliant way. That's why we are happy to take it to the streets responsibly, distancing from each other but nevertheless fighting together: against displacement and gentrification and for a right to the city for all!

The question of ownership becomes even more pressing in times of corona. The costs of the pandemic will be paid for with financial cuts in all public and social sectors. These costs are high because, against all reason and counter-productive to our health, "the economy is to be kept going". Preventing the cities' sell-out and the displacement of residential and commercial tenants is therefore more important than ever.

Dear Hermannstr. 48 – at Lause we're a bit like you.

We act collectively, despite our differences: we are political and artistic initiatives, craftspeople, small business owners, residential tenants, musicians and scientists. We run workshops and archives, do research, take photos, make films and campaigns, write texts, program, curate, teach and translate. We are: neighbours. Amidst our many staircases, floors and hallways, collaborations and networks were formed.

Many years ago, the city sold Lause to an investor for only a small price – the investor's plan was to turn it into luxury lofts. After years of protest, demos, rallies, meetings, poster campaigns and alliance work, it now looks like the Senate will buy back Lause from its current owner. We are happy about it – but feel that it is not enough. We do not see ourselves as an isolated house project, but as part of the struggle for a city for all.

H48 is a very similar project – a mixture of residential and commercial space, just as Urban 67 and Ratibor. We'd like there to be security for all of these projects – and also for those whose names we do not know. That's why we stand with you today.

The previous senate pushed the sell-out of this city. We are now fighting to take it back, piece by piece! That's why we hold the senate responsible: if we are to fight for our houses and make up for the previous senates' mistakes, the least our current senate could do is to support us and secure our successes. We want to save Kreuzberg from becoming a soulless „Start-up-AirBnB-Lieferando-Café-Einstein“ district where rents skyrocket. Many of the neighbours currently living and working there would no longer be able to afford doing so in the long run. We want the senate to find ways and means to support the various and mixed models of commercial and residential coexistence! We call on the senate and the district to change their entire rent and urban policy – in favour of those who live and work in these houses, and are engaged to fight for them!

Our strongest argument is our struggle. It's a gruelling one, but it's also one that creates important moments of solidarity. We look forward to many more rallies, demos and networking plenums with you – and if we get Lause back, we look forward to sharing this space with you all.

A huge thank you to all of you!

Lause stays and Lause lives!