

Address to the H48 rally on Saturday 16th January

Dear people of Neukölln, dear residents of Hermannstraße 48, dear visitors to the project space,

For many years we, the group Theorie, Kritik & Aktion | Berlin [TKA], have used the project space in H48 for political events and networking. Every two months, we organised a political meeting in the project space. There were political lectures, often on feminist themes or dealing with the fight against anti-Semitism; we debated, we watched films together. And beneath all this there was always a comfortable sense of togetherness, as well as good music and conversation. We looked forward to the people we were able to meet in the project space – the meetings were partly for our political comrades, and partly to meet new people who might happen to come by, who were particularly interested in that evening's theme or wanted to make connections in the neighbourhood. For us, these were mostly wonderful moments, and wonderful evenings.

We also visited the project space to participate in the campaigns and events of other groups and broaden our own horizons. And we sometimes booked the whole space as a group to carry out more complex group processes, work more intensively on particular themes, prepare demonstrations, or plan coalition work.

The project space is one of the last autonomous spaces of its kind in Berlin. Here, groups with emancipatory aims can meet, feel at home and network. The people who use the space decide together how it should be used. It is available for free, for non-commercial purposes. If H48 is sold, it is likely that the project space will also disappear from Neukölln entirely – yet again, there will be one fewer autonomous space in Berlin. And it is not only space for autonomy and self-determination that will disappear – but with it, numerous political meetings, solidarity events and networking spaces.

Gentrification is marching on and taking from us the spaces where we feel at home, and can meet and organise outside the commercialised mainstream. This makes us furious! We wish for Berlin, for Neukölln and for this neighbourhood to remain vibrant and diverse!

Therefore, today we are sending greetings – angry and militant greetings – to this rally. We demand that H48, and with it the project space, remain a vibrant space for solidarity. We demand that the district prevent the sale of H48 and carry out its pre-emptive right-to-buy. Against the sellout of the city! H48 stays!

Greetings and solidarity,
TKA - Theorie, Kritik und Aktion | Berlin [TKA]