



Press release

#OutInChurch.

For a church without fear

With the initiative "#OutInChurch. For a church without fear" and as part of a TV-documentary, 122 LGBTIQ+ people who work full-time or voluntarily in the Roman Catholic Church in the German-speaking world are now coming out. Among other things, they work and are involved in the areas of education and upbringing, care and social work, church music and pastoral care. Among them are priests, pastoral officers, religious teachers, but also administrative staff.

The initiative #OutInChurch is inspired by the impressive #ActOut campaign, in which numerous germanLGBTIQ+ actors came out at the beginning of 2021.

Initiator Jens Ehebrecht-Zumsande, speaker in the Vicariate General of the Archdiocese of Hamburg, explains the action: "Far too often people talk abstractly about those affected. With #OutInChurch, those people become audible and visible in the church by themselves."

In the ecclesiastical context, such a step still entails a considerable risk, because coming out can have serious consequences up to the termination and destruction of professional existence. Deeply rooted ecclesiastical methods of condemnation and shame make it difficult for queer people in the service of the Catholic Church to show themselves.

The initiative #OutInChurch aims to contribute to a renewal of the credibility and philanthropy of the Catholic Church.

The initiative's manifesto aims, among other things:

- to revise defamatory statements of the church's teaching on sexuality ,sexual and gender identity on the basis of theological and human scientific findings;
- to change ecclesiastical labour law in such a way, that a life according to one's own sexual orientation and gender identity, even in a partnership or civil marriage, does not lead to the exclusion of duties and offices or to dismissal;

- that the church makes visible and celebrates in rites and sacraments, that LGBTQ+ persons and couples are blessed by God.

#OutInChurch calls on all LGBTQ+ people, who work full-time or on a voluntary basis in the Roman Catholic Church, to join the initiative. In addition, all people are invited to show solidarity with the initiative. The bishops and all those, who have responsibilities in the church, the parishes, associations and religious communities are invited to declare publicly their support for the manifesto.

Manifesto in full text: <https://outinchurch.de/manifest/>

Kernforderungen aus dem Manifest: <https://outinchurch.de/manifest/forderungen/>

More informationen: <https://OutInChurch.de/>



- <https://www.instagram.com/outinchurch/>
- <https://fb.me/OutInChurch>

Press contact and interview requests:

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TV-documentary "How god created us": January 24, 2022 at 10:25 p.m., Das Erste

Homepage of the TV documentary: <https://www.ardmediathek.de>

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