



Europäische Toleranzgespräche

2017 30. Mai bis 3. Juni
FRESACH | KÄRNTEN



THE FREEDOM CHARTER OF FRESACH

The Freedom Charter of Fresach has been created during the citizens' dialogue of the "European Tolerance Talks Fresach 2017" through collective work in small mixed groups. Participants from Fresach, Carinthia, Austria, Europe and the Arabic world have formulated what's important to them in regard to the "Future of Freedom".

I. Personal Freedom

Freedom as basis of a self-determined life

Part of this is the personal, free development, the overcoming of inappropriate social constraints and conventions, the free choice of education and of profession.

Liberty and responsibility go hand in hand

All of us take responsibility that freedom can be successfully implemented - in our families and our social relations. Society plays an important part on the way to reconcile the freedom of the individual with the freedom of the others. There is no absolute freedom of individuals.

Education supports freedom

Handling diversity and discrepancy has to be learned. Important rules are: Listen, discuss, collect arguments. It is as well important to be sufficiently informed about social circumstances, to know political and governmental structures and to critically assess information and media contents. For this parents and school can help best, political education in school will be more and more important as we go into the future. We specifically call upon political education!

Democracy is based on freedom of speech and media freedom

The new media are challenging society. Any internet user can get into touch with almost limitless contacts – at the same time they are in danger of losing touch with society and ending up in isolation. New forms of solidarity, raising emotions but also frequent demonizing demand our positive critical following, discussions and civil courage.

Commitment for freedom

People around the world are fighting for their freedom. They stand up against paternalism and unjustified compulsion. Acknowledgement and support deserve all those who contribute to the preservation and enforcement of freedom through their work – even when giving up advantages.



II. Political Freedom

Democracy, tolerance and acceptance of others

A diverse society is an integral part of freedom. Opinions and attitudes which are different are important to us. We are actively communicating with people who don't think the way we do and invite every Austrian resident to do the same.

The European Unity is based on freedom

Europe has learned its lessons from periods of dictatorship, bondage and hate on other people(s). We expect that the European Union represents freedom, democracy and tolerance inwards and offers those core values to anyone else as a model.

Freedom needs economical and social security

Insecurity and chaos make people want to have authoritarian systems and leaderships. Such systems and their leaders will constrain freedom and liberty – sooner or later.

Free market and global responsibility

A prospering economy needs a free market. But we also know that competitive equality and societal goals such as ecological sustainability and a more equitable income distribution have to be controlled and steered. Rules are appropriate when they are valid for everyone and when they support private initiative, innovation and creativity. We Europeans take responsibility for fair international trade and a fair international economical system.

Employment and fairness

Freedom contains the choice of profession and employment opportunities. A fair job market and up-to-date working conditions where people can develop are the foundations. Working places which are digitized and automated have to be bearable in a social way. That's an important challenge which we have to work with.

III. Religious freedom

Freedom of religious expression and of conscience

To be socially tied to different cultural and religious societies is the basis of individual freedom as well as of social cooperation. Every person has the right to follow their religious principles of choice as well as the liberty not to be religious at all.

Human rights first

We are committed to free religious practise and the interreligious dialogue while fully acknowledging and valuing human rights and applicable laws and regulations. This also includes the separation of state and church.

Fresach June 1st, 2017

