

Press release

**“We thought we could turn the world upside down.
The Independent Initiative of Potsdam Women (1989 to 1995)”**

**An exhibition by the Lindenstrasse Memorial Foundation in cooperation
with the Autonomous Women's Center in Potsdam**

August 26th 2022 to January 8th 2023

“We thought we could turn the world upside down,” recalls one of the founders of the women's initiative. Political work, election campaigns, work, family... Where the energy came from to master all of this still amazes those involved to this day.

From August 26th, 2022 to January 8th, 2023, a special exhibition at the Lindenstraße memorial honors the political commitment of women during the Peaceful Revolution and the period of transformation, using the example of the independent initiative of Potsdam women.



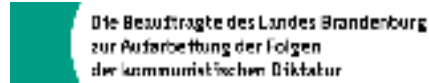
1) Opening of the café in the women's center, July 6th, 1990 © Jeanette Toussaint
2) Logo of the independent initiative of Potsdam women, design: Beate Müller

The initiative was founded in December 1989. From January 1990, together with other groups of the citizens' movement and newly founded parties, the group was based in the former Ministry for State Security (Stasi) detention center in Lindenstraße. With their commitment to legal, social and political equality for both sexes, they were involved in the development of democratic structures in Potsdam as well as in the state of Brandenburg.

The founders of the women's initiative had already acquired the necessary tools for democracy, for example in the non-governmental working groups, solidarity, church and feminist theology. The exhibition follows the development of the group and the resulting projects. Among the best known are the Autonomous Women's Center Potsdam e.V. and the Girls' Club Zimtzicken. Selected biographies show what motivated the women to get involved. With films, photos and interviews, the exhibition takes a look back at the eventful years. But what is the result of this awakening and what has become of the gender-political demands from this period?

An extensive accompanying program with readings, film events, discussions, city tours and workshops for young people expands one's understanding of selected topics from the exhibition while at the same time broadens their view to new aspects of the women's movement.

Sponsored by



gefördert aus
Lottomitteln des MSGIV

In cooperation with



Contact

Tina Weber-Volk
Tel. +49 (0)331-289 61 13
presse@gedenkstaette-lindenstrasse.de

Stiftung Gedenkstätte Lindenstraße
Lindenstraße 54 | 14467 Potsdam

www.gedenkstaette-lindenstrasse.de
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Press image list

Note: The press photos are available for download on our website.
Please note the copyright information.



First public presentation of the independent initiative of Potsdam women in the club of artists and architects "Eduard Claudius", January 28th, 1990 © Jeanette Toussaint, photo: Bernd Gurt



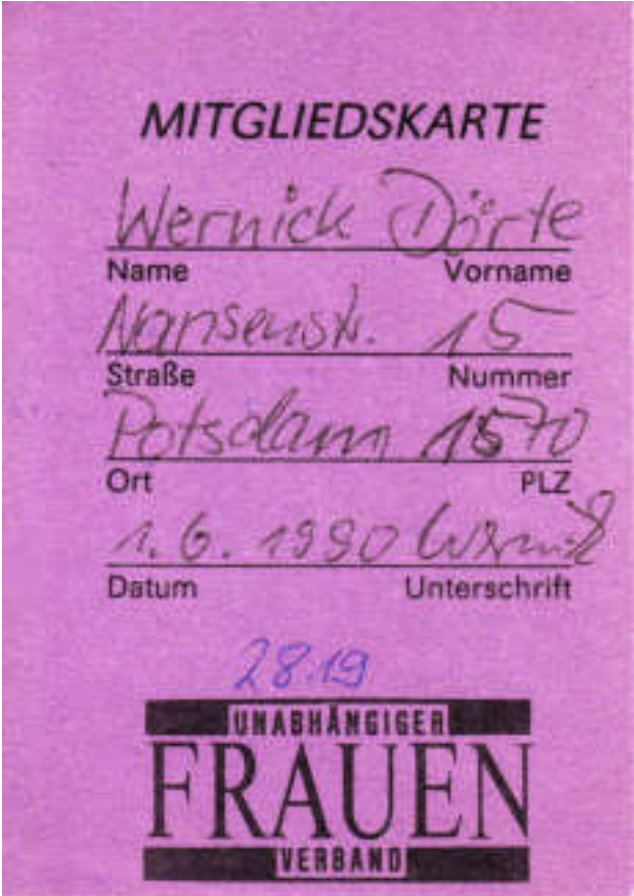
Logo of the independent initiative of Potsdam women, design: Beate Müller



Election campaign of the Independent Women's Association and the Green Party on the occasion of the first free People's Chamber elections, March 1990 © Photo: Klaus D. Fahlbusch



Opening of the café in the women's center, July 6th, 1990 © Jeanette Toussaint



Dörte Wernick's membership card for the Independent Women's Union, June 1st, 1990 © Jeanette Toussaint