

## Violence Against Gays – That Is Just Not Right !

### MANEO – The Gay Anti-Violence Project in Berlin – introduces itself

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## WELCOME

### **Berlin city's Mayor, Klaus Wowereit**

“For many years I have followed with respect and compassion MANEO’s professional efforts in supporting the victims of violence as well as their focus on educational and informational work. Even though Berlin has earned the reputation of being a tolerant city, there is still a lot of work to be done in order for gays and lesbians to live free from discrimination. There is still the need for advice and support, and above all informing society.”

There is still a need for counseling, support and, not least, the educating of society. With this in mind, I welcome the serious and ongoing efforts made by MANEO to further develop its violence prevention outreach work. In addition to senate’s financial backing of the MANEO project since 1990, Berlin has set yet another mark with the support of the MANEO “Campaign of Education and Tolerance” by the Deutsche Klassenlotterie foundation in Berlin. Berlin strives to defend its reputation as a cosmopolitan and tolerant city.

“I would be delighted if many people from all walks of life express their disapproval towards violence and exclusion also towards homosexuals, so that they make it clear that they support anti-violence projects like MANEO.”

### **MANEO project manager, Bastian Finke**

“The gay anti-violence project MANEO in partnership with Mann-o-Meter has been in existence for 19 years. MANEO is the most experienced gay anti violence project in Germany. We have a huge volume of phone calls every single day. We advise and support over 300 victims of violence every year. Another important part of our work is the documentation of anti gay activities in Berlin and the county of Brandenburg. The aim of our work is to contribute to show that anti gay violence is not a petty crime and bring this to light. Another important of our work is anti violent public relations work. The latter is there to point out the dangers of anti gay violence and to indicate that it remains society’s responsibility to spread sufficient information to overcome homophobia.”

“Without the help of our volunteers, as well as the many of our supporters who have accompanied our project over the years, we couldn’t have provided the quality of support and advice that our project offers today. I would like to express my thanks to all of you.”

We would like to extend and develop our project work. In order to be able to do this, we continue to rely upon our friends and supporters. This year, as in any other year, we are dependant upon donations.

## WHY MANEO?

### I will survive

**MANEO comes from the Latin expression for “I continue to exist.** It doesn’t matter what happens to me. I will survive” just like it is described in Gloria Gaynor’s disco hit “I will survive” which dates back to a time in which gays faced many more difficulties than they do today. The situation for gay and lesbian people in Germany has improved considerably within the last ten years. But it is still not enough. Have you ever been insulted on the street as a “queer,” “faggot” or “poof”? Violence against gays, verbal or physical with bodily harm is, unfortunately, still part of everyday life. We decided to act.

### Insult number one

“Gay” is still (or again?) the biggest insult in the playground in schools which also indicates that being gay has become more visible in society. They have fought and gained their place in society in doing so they have made themselves more noticeable and open for attacks from certain parts of society. Young people often use “gay” as a synonym for “weak” or “strange”. Trifling? No, because what they do is devaluing facts, things or people. It is especially young men who try to prove their manliness and strength by attacking gays. Homosexuals end up being the victim of it all. Violence starts with words already. Unfortunately, the second favourite swear word still is “You gay pig.”

### ‘No show areas’

Every gay knows best where not to go, where not to kiss his partner, in order to be left alone. Even in a liberal city like Berlin it is often advisable to be discreet in certain parts of the city where gay life is not so well established. What happens when, despite all precautions, you come across problems and dangerous situations? A punch in the face? A kick in the ribcage? One insult too many that hurts your soul?

MANEO ensures that no gay man has to carry their burdens alone because he doesn’t know who to turn to for help. All gay victims of violence have a place at MANEO, where they can find someone they can talk to, where face to face or on the telephone.

## MANEO’S WORK

### What we do

MANEO is an independent project of Mann-O-Meter e.V. (registered organisation of charity), Berlin’s gay information and advice bureau at the underground station “Nollendorfplatz.” Mann-O-Meter is located in a popular gay neighbourhood in the

district of Berlin-Schoeneberg. We have two offices there and you can phone us between 5 and 7 pm everyday, or you just pop in. So it does not take much to drop by for a cup of coffee and a chat. If you prefer to stay anonymous or just favour an easier way to get in touch with us, you, of course, can check our website:

[www.maneo.de](http://www.maneo.de)

The MANEO project combines volunteer work as well as full-time involvement. At the moment there is one full-time staff (project leader), one young man doing his community service (alternative to military service) and ten volunteers. Latter help us with manning the phones and giving personal initial advice at the weekends.

### **Target group**

MANEO advice and care is directed at gay and bi-sexual people who are victims of violent acts and anti gay discrimination. Included here are victims of domestic violence. There is also violence in gay relationships. We also support relatives, partners and witnesses of violent acts. These people are also very important to us, because witnesses can suffer from the experience of violence too. This is why they often make a quick escape from the crime scene. Later on they often feel ashamed and scared, because they did not stay there. The fact that they are not around when the crime is being investigated makes it difficult to find the culprit in many of the cases.

MANEO is located in the heart of Berlin, which attracts tourists, people coming here to work and lots of inexperienced young men, who only just had their coming-out moving here from the "provinces." MANEO wants to be a first point of advice for them.

### **Advice and action**

MANEO's first priority is victim support. Victims of violence and discrimination shall come here to feel welcome for our support. MANEO offers advice and support of any kind. In order to avoid violent activity in the first place, MANEO offers anti-violence projects that are meant for prevention and education. Part of this is the documentation of criminal acts that have not been reported to the authorities. Scientists estimate that more than 80 % of the crimes against homosexuals do not result in a conviction. We are dedicated to increasing the rate of conviction.

Our anti violence prevention is based upon analysing information which are partly findings from our victim support work, but also from our documentation of violent activities. We inform the public about our work on a regular basis and report on current occurrences. We organise anti violence seminars and special lessons at police schools. By now most of the police force knows what homophobic violence means and have been specially trained to deal with cases involving the matter.

## How MANEO HELPS

### Victim support

**The Berlin anti-violence project MANEO was founded in 1990 under the name “gay emergency hotline, Berlin.”** Since then around 3000 cases of violence against gay and bisexual men have been reported to us. Many more victims have been informed, advised or supported by us free of charge. The project advises 300 affected people every year, documents violent acts with homophobic background and offers PR work that helps to prevent violence.

### Partisanship

The MANEO package covers information, advice and support in the form of psychosocial support, in the short term as well as in the long term. It is not important for us whether the act of violence happened five minutes or five years ago. Victims are supported so that at the end they will be able to help themselves again (empowerment) in order to live each day free from the fear of violence. MANEO supports the victim by offering to accompany them to the police, or lawyer or a court of law. They also help the victim find the strength to confront their attacker in a conflict regulation outside the law courts (“victim-offender-mediation”), for example.

### Being close to the scene

Our project work is aware of the fact that victims in the past often felt very uncomfortable to consult non-gay advice centers, which is why we make sure that when we offer our support their sexual orientation is taken into account. We do not initiate any action against our clients’ wishes.

## HERE WE GO!

### The “MANEO campaign for tolerance”

The main financial support comes from the Berlin’s administrative ‘department for education, youth and sport’. The sub-department responsible for us is the one for ‘homosexual ways of life’. We have not received any major rise in the financial support coming from this department, although our numbers of clients are continuously growing, which means that we have to rely on donations.

From 2006 to 2009, MANEO was granted funding by the Deutsche Klassenlotterie Berlin Foundation (DKLB), which has allowed us to extend our outreach work. **In turn, this made possible the first large awareness campaign in 10 years.**

### **Some things change, some do not**

Even though Berlin is well known for being a liberal city, there are still too many violent attacks against gay people which regularly demand the attention of the police and the law courts.

The finances available to our project in the past years have not been nearly enough to support our public relations work that highlights the changes in our city and gay scene. The changes have been caused by such factors as new arrivals in the city, tourism and migration. We have often realised that many victims and other people affected by discrimination were not aware of our project and the work that we do. Because of this many of these people have not found their way to us or the police. That is why the main aim of our information campaign is to make ourselves and our work known to the public. Thanks to the lottery money we are able to react to the changed conditions in Berlin.

### ÜBERSETZUNG in English:

#### **Information and education are the answers**

Starting in 2006 we conducted a three-year-long information campaign in Berlin, which has helped to bring more attention to the problem of anti-gay violence. We aim to make MANEO's work popular to a wider audience in the gay scene and to fight against the widespread belittling of homophobic violence: violence and discrimination shall not be simply accepted as normality. This also means to report any act of anti-gay violence. Because Berlin has become one of the world's most popular travel destinations in recent years, we offer our informational materials in several different languages.

In the future, we would also like our concerns/interests to reach a broader audience by uncovering homophobic violence. We would like to point out to the society that civil liberties that have been fought for have to be protected and that anti gay violence does not have a place in our city.

### **HOMOPHOBIA**

#### **“Are you gay, or what?”**

**Homophobia:** unfounded, exaggerated – sometimes even an obsessed fear of or anxiety towards homosexuality and homosexuals (definition by [www.wikipedia.de](http://www.wikipedia.de) ). People are being isolated, discriminated or attacked because of being gay or taken for being gay, not mattering where they come from.

### **Homophobia does not fall from the sky**

Homophobia becomes visible through regular attacks. The crime is often committed by a specific kind of people. There are laws that sanction and condone such attacks. Such attacks are an expression of the culprit's anti gay attitude.

We do not think that this attitude is free from influences from the society the person lives in, which does not make it an isolated part of one's personality.

We look at it as being part of an individual biography, which also contains homophobic tendencies that can be found in our culture and society. The culprit bases his attitude on prejudices towards homosexuals that are still latent in the society, such as homosexuals being ill or abnormal. From this assumption the attacker derives that it is acceptable to attack and rob homosexuals.

### **Education is necessary**

Our information makes it clear that there is anti gay discrimination and violence in our society. You can find it across the whole society. That is why we think it is important that we fight against homophobic attitudes across the whole society.

Anti gay violence, we think, is often based on patriarchal structures, the search for the male identity and lack of sexual education. Our knowledge and efforts back up what has already been confirmed by scientists.

## **MEN AS VICTIMS**

### **“Are you a victim, or what?”**

#### **The word "victim" ranks just behind "gay" as a swear word amongst young people. So what can be worse than a gay victim?**

The victim support and the gay movement are both social movements. Public and civil institutions have tried for years to develop sensitivity towards victims of violent and criminal acts. Traditionally our society mostly cares about the culprits (and their punishments). The needs of the victims have been neglected. Nowadays youth provoke their parents with the help of martial macho attitudes, which are meant to show who is stronger: “Victims” and “gays” are weak. So does it come as a surprise that many young people are afraid of contacting a victim support organisation?

#### **“Big boys don't cry!”**

Society still primarily believes that gay men are men, and men are known not to be victims. A man has the power to handle things himself and violence is only directed from him because he has the potential to be a danger for other people. The message to young boys, whether they are gay or heterosexual, is that they cannot be hurt by anything: “Big boys don't cry”. Who gets into the life boats first? Women and children do.

Statistics however report something entirely different. If you look at cases of murder and manslaughter, robbery and grievous bodily harm, two thirds of the victims are male. But women are ten times more likely to become a victim of sexual violence.

### **“Just don’t be a weakling!”**

If men become victims things often get complicated. Because there is that myth of man being the stronger part of society, the victims find themselves in a crisis of identity. Men do not like to admit that they need help; this also applies to gay men. They are scared to fulfill the general cliché of someone being gay, i.e. being a weakling. MANEO takes this into account and contributes to male emancipation work. Male stereotypes lead to immense pressure for affected people. That is why MANEO always acts regarding the issue of fragile male identity.

## **MANEO HELPS AND REPORTS**

### **“Faggot! Gay pig!”**

#### **Violence against gays is horrible, but, unfortunately, part of everyday life.**

MANEO documents all violent and criminal acts which are reported to our project. We have lots of file but this is only the tip of the iceberg. Enough incidents are still kept in the dark and not brought to our attention.

#### **Abused, spit at, beat up**

The majority of homophobic acts reported to MANEO take place in public, for example, on public transportation or on the street. Over the past few months, several serious attacks against gay men have made headlines:

In July of 2008, in Volkspark Friedrichshain, a 41-year-old family man who was assumed by his attackers to be gay was beaten so badly he had to be hospitalized with a broken jaw. The heterosexual man continues to suffer from the effects of the attack.

A month later, in the corridor of a building in the Berlin district of Friedrichshain, two gay men were attacked with bottles and subjected to homophobic insults.

In August of 2008, in the Tiergarten park, several gay men were attacked. One 48-year-old man was nearly beaten to death and lay in a coma for several weeks. He subsequently required nursing care after undergoing a long inpatient stay.

In October of 2008, a 33-year-old became the victim of a serious homophobic attack in the U-Bahn. Two young immigrant men attacked him because of his homosexuality, beating and kicking him in public. Witnesses immediately rushed to aid the man whose jaw was broken in two places. He could only be released from the hospital after five days of inpatient treatment.

A few days later, a lesbian couple in the district of Hellersdorf was beaten, kicked and sprayed with paint. The state security handled the investigations since the police suspected an anti-gay motivated hate crime.

In January of 2009 a 23-year-old gay man suffered life-threatening injuries and had to undergo an emergency operation for severe head injuries. He and a friend were on their way to a bar in the gay scene in the Berlin district of Schöneberg when they were brutally attacked by five strangers. The police investigation is in progress.

## **Support**

MANEO provides support by discussing the incident with the persons affected, handling necessary formalities and providing additional referrals. Until the date of the actual trial, which often takes place several months later, the persons affected can remain in contact with our counseling center and report to us concerning setbacks and the progress of their recovery process.

### **MANEO TAKES FEELINGS SERIOUSLY**

#### **“Don’t be such a wimp”**

**Violence causes a chaos of one’s feelings.** MANEO, being a victim support and advice bureau, knows about this problem. Gay men are often faced with a social environment that suspects them to quickly be able to cope with a situation. After shocking incidents gay people are often faced with old nightmares of their time of their "coming out" crisis situations and coming to terms with their feelings of being gay. Victims tend to feel ashamed, angry and scared. A chaos of one’s feelings and emotions that is based on shame, fear and anger.

#### **“I don’t know where to go.”**

Victims of violent attacks often feel left alone and misunderstood - sometimes simply scared and defenseless. In addition they happen to feel that they come second to the interests of other authorities and institutions, such as the police, insurance companies, or the law courts – in the eyes of the courts of law they are often only used as a means to give a verdict, and their feelings are left on the sidelines. Some victims even feel guilty themselves or they are accused of having provoked or contributing to the attack. Even friends often say "why did you have to act so gay?" or "why did you have to dress the way you did?"

#### **MANEO takes victims seriously**

MANEO takes the problems and fear of the victims seriously and also the ones of the witnesses. MANEO doesn’t do anything that is not approved by the victim and offers and advises on the possibilities of prosecuting, reporting to the police and other alternatives. We mediate between lawyers, doctors and accompany them to the police and the law courts.

The first contact is often via the telephone. We also offer the possibility of getting in touch by email which offers them anonymity. The doors of the MANEO advice office at Nollendorfplatz are always open, most of the advisory services happen here. If the situation is serious, we also come to the hospital.

## FEAR AND ANGUISH ON THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

### **"We hate gays!"**

**What a nice feeling, wandering through Berlin at night with all the other "party people" that paint the town red in order to find true happiness – but sometimes all you find is pure hatred.**

### **Finally on the way home**

Early on Sunday morning two gay friends were on their way home on the S-Bahn (city train). At the station "Neukölln" a group of seven young men gets on the train. The youngest among them were about 18, the group leader was about 25. One member of the group suddenly shouts: "Are you gay?" Before the victims were able to say anything, other people from the group started shouting: "You are definitely gay" and "Gays are the last piece of dirt/gays are a piece of shit" as well as "We hate gays." One of the gays replied saying: "Even if, gays are humans too." The gang leader responded by telling them: "The gay Wowereit won't help you here. We are in Neukölln. " One of the attackers shortly after spat in one of the victim's face, only to be joined by the rest of the group.

### **"Please help us!"**

At the next stop the victims managed to get onto the neighboring carriage and shouted: „Please help us! They want to beat up gays!" Three of the about twenty passengers on the carriage immediately reacted, two young men and a young woman. They asked about what happened. The victims welcomed this sympathy, which they thought felt good.

había pasado. Para las víctimas, fue todo un alivio.

### **A victim of "Happy Slapping" (attacks filmed on a mobile phone)**

However, the feeling of security was deceptively, because at one of the next stops they were joined by the attackers again. One of the victims could just about see how one member of the group directed his video handy at them in order to film what was about to happen. One of the younger attackers kick boxed one of the victims' head and temple, while the others started punching and kicking his friend.

### **Vigilant witnesses intervene.**

Witnesses stopped the train and one of them was calling the police while the attackers managed to escape. Some of the passengers had looked after the victims until the police finally arrived.

At hospital was diagnosed with a fractured nasal bone and serious bruises across the face and body. He has suffered from bad headaches ever since. The other one ended up with bruises in the face, his ribcage and legs.

The police were unable to identify and arrest the perpetrators.

## A QUESTION OF ATTITUDE

### For your own safety

**There is nothing that can offer you a 100 per cent security.** Many of the suggestions often imply that the victim could have avoided the attack if only they had have acted differently. Afterwards you always know better. MANEO does not pass the blame bucket, but aims at strengthening people's self-confidence and reinstallation of a person's autonomy.

### Admit to what you are

Your sexuality is yours and is an important part of your personality. Sexuality is more than just sexual intercourse; it has a close connection with your sense of self worth and identity. Take your time and talk about that with people you are close to and the people you know you can trust. Self confidence and the sense of self worth help you to realize dangers and avoid them.

### Acting self confidently

Self confident appearances and attitudes often protect you from verbal abuse and violent physical attacks. To become a more self confident person can be learned in training sessions. We can provide you with contacts and addresses.

### Talking about it

Tel people you trust about your insecurities, questions or incidents which have shocked you or incidents which concern you. We offer you to come to us with your questions and problems. Together we can find solutions and answers to your problems and of course all in total confidence.

### Reporting a crime

Whoever has become a victim of violence finds it unbearable to go to a police station and being faced with unpleasant questions. However, to report an incident is vital, for yourself and your self-confidence, because someone did you an injustice. If you want, MANEO offers you support by getting things done, which means going to the authorities and reporting what happened to you. This way we can initiate the prosecution process.

## MANEO'S ADVISE

### For day and night

#### **Your will protect yourself and others, if you are careful and show solidarity.**

When you go out only take as much money as you need. Don't show off in front of strangers how much money or how many valuables you have. Leave your valuables at home.

Trust your gut feeling if it is trying to tell you something. There is no shame in feeling scared. It actually accentuates your senses.

Pay attention to your surroundings. Try to avoid dark streets and alleys. Stay close to people and well lit streets.

If you want to go off with someone you have only just met, introduce him to a friend or the bar keeper before you leave.

You don't have to go home to have fun and sex with your one night stand. Go to a hotel or a sauna instead.

If you do take your one night stand home, only take one person with you.

If you happen to witness an attack, do not ignore it. Don't look away. Get help and inform the police – as well as MANEO!

If the situation feels awkward or strange to you, try to alert other people around you, exchange each others thoughts on it and then decide what you can do about this.

If the situation calls for it be cooperative and don't lose track of what is happening.

If there is more than one attacker, try to pay attention to at least one of them. Many attackers are scared off by a self confident appearance.

Nearby people are potential witnesses. Approach them and ask for their help.

Keep an eye on your drink. If a stranger buys you an already open beer or a ready mixed cocktail, be aware.

Don't get involved with people who are under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. Long nights, a lot of alcohol or other kinds of drugs can lead to a deep sleep and lead to further consequences for you. The person you took home with you can use this opportunity to commit a crime.

## MANEO WORKS ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE

### All linked up

Since 1992 we have worked together with professional victim support organisations. We are member organisation of “Arbeitskreis der Opferhilfen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland – ado” (ado is a member organisation of the “European Forum for Victims Services” – EFVS). We brought Berlin’s “Gay and Lesbian City-Festival” to life (1993-98), founded the “Prevention and Settlement fund Tempelhof-Schoeneberg, PAF (2000) and in cooperation with the Berlin department for Justice initiated a witness room at the regional court Berlin (2003). MANEO is also involved in numerous other workshops and specialist departments; we try to show our presence in as many social institutions in order to represent our interests. We have become a model for other similar gay anti-violence projects across Germany.

### MANEO in Europe

We have also been involved in international projects for quite a while. The cooperation with the French partner organisation SOS Homophobia has been intensified. The same is true for the Foundation of Equal Rights (Fundacja Rownosci) and the campaign against homophobia (KPH – Kampania Przeciw Homofobii) in Poland. Since January 2005 the MANEO tolerance group (Tolerancja Po Polsku) has been meeting regularly. We have agreed to work and pull together.

### The Tolerancja Declaration

“We unite our power for the building of a civil society in Europe in which we can live in harmony, free of discrimination. We declare our solidarity which will help us to achieve this goal.

In the spirit of the European Human Rights convention we oppose hatred, violence and discrimination against social minorities. We show our solidarity with people who stand up for civil rights, equal rights and the protection of minorities and the maintenance of the European Human Rights convention.

We want to fight against discrimination and isolation of homosexuals in a unified Europe. We want that the basic and human rights of lesbians and gays are being respected.”

### “Tolerantia Award”

For the first time in 2006 our projects have rewarded the Tolerancja Award to personalities from France Poland and Germany who have fought against acts of violence and hatred and for equal rights in their countries. The prize should be a symbol for our shared efforts and has been awarded annually since then.

### **The network is growing**

Since 2008, MANEO has also intensified its collaboration with the Spanish organizations COGAM and TRIANGULO. In a Europe that is growing more intertwined, these challenges must be confronted together.

### **MANEO IS RIGHT**

#### **The law is on our side!**

#### **It is no longer a question of good will or humanity only to respect gay people.**

The German law makes it quite clear: It is illegal, to humiliate gays because of their identity. Whoever violates this commits a crime.

#### **What do you mean sick?**

On the 17 May 1990 the World Health Organization (WHO) decided to remove homosexuality from the list of psychological illnesses. On the initiative of the French man Louis-Georges Tin the “International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA),” which is the world’s leading gay and lesbian organization, decided to use this occasion and declare the 17 May the “International Day against Homophobia.”

#### **Long live Europe!**

In their declaration of the 18 January 2006 the European Parliament emphasized that discrimination because of sexual orientation will be heavily punished. All member states are required to ensure that homosexual men and women are protected from hate campaigns and violence, and that the fight against homophobia is strengthened through means of education and that cases of discrimination and violence are documented. This applies to Germany and France, as well as to Poland.

#### **Fundamental law of equal treatment**

After a long struggle the Grand Coalition Government in Germany agreed on a German version of the European anti-discrimination law. In the civil rights’ part of the law not only is the discrimination of sex and ethnical background forbidden, as stated by the EU, but also against handicap, age and sexual identity as well as faith and religion. The Conservatives eventually had to make concessions when it came to the question of sexual identity. The Berlin regional constitution on the contrary has had a law in place for this for quite some time already: “No one is allowed to be disadvantaged or privileged because of her or his sexual identity.”

## Recognition

MANEO has brought to life numerous unique initiatives and projects across the country. MANEO's efforts were rewarded with the "Metee-Eksi-Award" in 1999, the "Berlin Gay Pride Award for Courage" in 2001 and the violence prevention award "Chance-Award" in 2006. In 2003 the Regional Commission Berlin Against Violence praised MANEO's work and importance for violence prevention. Every legal and social step forward, among them the introduction of the discrimination law, eventually is a sign that MANEO is on the right track.

MANEO now awards other initiatives for their work and effort. However, there is still quite a lot of work to do.

## MANEO helps...

... gay and bisexual youth and men who have been affected by homophobic violence and discrimination, regardless of whether they have been the victim, witnesses or are life partners of the persons concerned.

Those who are affected often feel helpless and as if they are serving the interests of others, for example, the police, the justice system, insurance companies or the media.

MANEO takes the fears and concerns of victims of violence and witnesses seriously. MANEO counsels and provides assistance in difficult situations. MANEO will not do anything that the persons affected do not want them to do.

MANEO provides counseling regarding options for filing a police report, the penal process and helps to consider potential alternatives.

MANEO provides contact to experienced lawyers, doctors and other helpful resources.

MANEO accompanies persons who are involved, for example, when going to the police and going through legal proceedings, which often take place as long as six or even twelve months after the crime.

- The filing of a police report is not a prerequisite for counseling and support.
- Counseling is confidential and anonymous if requested.
- Our support is available on a one-time or long-term basis.
- We also provide counseling to relatives and immediate witnesses of a crime.

## MANEO investigates...

... acts of violence targeted at gays. These include cases of physical violence, robbery and extortion as well as sexual assault, threats, insults, discrimination and bullying. Witnesses or persons affected can report incidents or observations to the Gay Assault Hotline by phone or e-mail. Reports can also be made anonymous.

MANEO performs an annual assessment of all reported incidents. For this reason, all information is made anonymous and then summarized in a report that is made publicly accessible. The documentation serves to uncover the extent of homophobic violence and help to shed light on hidden figures.

Based on the findings, MANEO is able to take concrete measures for improving the protection against violence.

- Report acts of violence! Be a helpful witness!
- Assault hotline: 030 - 216 33 36, Reporting center: [meldestelle@maneo.de](mailto:meldestelle@maneo.de), [www.maneo-fallmeldungen.de](http://www.maneo-fallmeldungen.de)

### MANEO provides education...

... concerning homophobic violence and its consequences.

MANEO brings attention to cases of discrimination and acts of violence in order to prevent the trivializing of homophobia and anti-gay violence. MANEO has shown that it continues to be the task of all of society to provide education on equality, whether it be in schools or amongst the public at large.

Through anti-violence trainings in cooperation with the police, events at educational institutes and the publication of informational materials, MANEO is able to do its work in violence prevention outreach and education.

MANEO remains in contact with the representative for same-sex lifestyles of the Berlin police department and other investigatory bodies. By conducting on-site educational campaigns in the gay scene, MANEO is able to do its part in preventing violence.

- [www.maneo-toleranzkampagne.de](http://www.maneo-toleranzkampagne.de)

### MANEO mobilizes ...

... civic involvement to defend gay rights.

Numerous supporters and volunteers are trained by MANEO, making a significant contribution to the success of the projects.

Because financing by the Berliner Senate is not enough, MANEO depends on the regular support of sponsors and donors. Without their help, many of the past projects that were successful would never have been realized.

Once per year, MANEO invites its supporters and helpers to a party in order to thank them for their support and involvement.

### WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

#### Victim Support – Reporting Center – Prevention – Involvement

**MANEO – The gay anti-violence project in Berlin** (since 1990)

**Address:** MANEO, c/o Mann-O-Meter e.V., Buelowstr. 106, 10783 Berlin

**E-Mail address:** [maneo@maneo.de](mailto:maneo@maneo.de) **Homepage:** [www.maneo.de](http://www.maneo.de)

**Office Phone:** 030- 217 532 13, **Fax:** 030-236 381 42

(Opening times: Monday 2-4 pm, and Thursday 11am-1pm)

**Contact person:** Mr Bastian Finke (Sociologist), MANEO-Project Manager

**Gay emergency hotline and victim support (“Schwules Überfalltelefon und Opferhilfe”)**

Contacts:

**Advisory hotline:** 030-216 33 36 (Lines are open from 5-7pm every day)

**Fax:** 030-236 381 42, **E-Mail:** [info@maneo.de](mailto:info@maneo.de), **Homepage:** [www.maneo.de](http://www.maneo.de)

[www.maneo-fallmeldungen.de](http://www.maneo-fallmeldungen.de)

[www.tag-gegen-homophobie.de](http://www.tag-gegen-homophobie.de)

[www.maneo-toleranzkampagne.de](http://www.maneo-toleranzkampagne.de)

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**Important cooperation:**

- Association of victim support groups in Germany (ado)
- German Equality and Welfare Union (DPWV) Regional Section Berlin
- Prevention and Settlement fund Tempelhof-Schoeneberg (PAF)
- Work shop of gay and emergency hotlines and gay anti-violence project in Germany (ASAD)
- Gay Weimart Triagle
- Berlin Alliance Against Homophobia and Hate motivated Violence (AHV)

**Board of Trustees**

MANEO is an independent Project of and supported by Mann-O-Meter e.V.

Address: Mann-O-Meter e.V., Berlin's gay information and advice centre (since 1985)

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