

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Historical Society for Göttingen and its environs which is supporting this project together with the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation and the City of Göttingen, I would like to welcome you to the laying of two Stolpersteine in front of Rote Straße 16.

The year is 2024 and the era in which we are able to have recourse to the memories of contemporary witnesses so as to recall the atrocities of the Third Reich is drawing to a close. 91 years after the seizure of power by the National Socialists, 86 years after the November pogroms and 82 years after the last Jewish citizens were deported from our city, we will soon need different concepts of remembrance and commemoration.

How will we set examples in future?

From the Stolpersteine first laid by Gunter Demnig in the mid-1990s a unique work of art has evolved with more than 110,000 Stolpersteine in 32 countries by now: the largest decentralized memorial in the world!

Stolpersteine allow us, as the descendants of the perpetrator generation, to set an example. By researching the biographies of the then-victims and trying to get in touch with their descendants or relatives who are often scattered across the globe.

Stolpersteine allow us, as today's civil society, to set an example. By organizing, and providing musical and linguistic accompaniment to, commemorative events and supporting them with sponsorships or through our mere presence.

Stolpersteine allow us, as people living in Göttingen today, to set an example. By bowing down to those who were excluded, disenfranchised, expelled or murdered at that time, simply by reading their names, their biographical data and their fates.

Stolpersteine allow us, but also anyone else whether they like it or not, to come – occasionally and out of the blue – face to face with what hatred and baiting, ignorance and lack of compassion may eventually lead to.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today we are setting an example. By adding nine additional Stolpersteine to the world's largest decentralized memorial. By laying here, in front of Rote Straße 16, two Stolpersteine for Heinz Meyerstein and Karoline Piterson.