

Ladies and Gentlemen,
dear Students!

“An individual is forgotten not until their name is forgotten.” This sentence from the Jewish Talmud guides our Stolperstein project in Göttingen. Twelve years ago, the first stone was laid on private property and, as of today, there will be 106 stones commemorating the names of people who once lived among us in Göttingen. On behalf of the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation, I would like to welcome you to this 9th Stolperstein laying at the third laying site.

As you know, at the beginning there was not only approval but also protest against this project in Göttingen. After years of discussions, a compromise was found that allows us to lay Stolpersteine provided the descendants of the people concerned give their consent. But since not every Jewish family had survivors whose descendants could be found by us today, the number of Stolpersteine in Göttingen is significantly lower than in other cities.

For example, in Braunschweig there are more than 400 stones whereas today we have just exceeded the number 100 although the number of the murder victims is far greater as you can see on the bronze plaques in the nearby memorial.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have contributed to the fact that today we can commemorate another nine people by means of the new Stolpersteine:

My thanks go to the historians for their research on the biographies – Mr Kriedte and Mr Lippert from the Göttingen Historical Society, Mr Driever from the Historical Workshop and, particularly, Ms Bury from the Max-Planck-Gymnasium who went to the city archive with her advanced history course and carried out this remembrance work with her students. My thanks go to the team of the City of Göttingen, first of all to Mrs Kalisch. As the head of the city archive, she coordinated the work for this laying together with Mr Grops from the cultural office. Although we as the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation are officially in charge, we would not be able to make the layings in this form without the cooperation with the city that has proved to be successful since years.

I would also like to thank the godparents and sponsors who paid the costs for these nine Stolpersteine: This year those are the Rotaract Club Göttingen, the Rotary Club Göttingen and the Rotary Club Göttingen-Sternwarte, as well as three members of the KlezPO project orchestra and Mr Kriedte from the Göttingen Historical Society.

For their musical contribution to this 9th Stolperstein laying I give thanks to the musicians of the Max-Planck-Gymnasium.

And I thank all of you who are standing here – particularly the students and their teachers – for your compassion and your interest. You help to ensure that these nine people and their names will not be forgotten.