

Open letter

To

Mayor of Berlin Mrs Franziska Giffey,
Senator for Integration, Labour and Social Affairs Mrs Katja Kipping and
Senator for Science, Health, Nursing and Equality Mrs Ulrike Gote

as well as

the Mayor of Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Mrs Clara Herrmann
the City Councillor for Social Affairs Mr. Oliver Nöll and
the City Councillor for Health Mrs. Regine Sommer-Wetter

Berlin 15.12.2022

To whom it may concern,

We are residents, traders, initiatives, associations, and collectives from the Wrangelkiez neighbourhood in Kreuzberg, and we are contacting you with an urgent request:

We have discovered that, in the past two years, the social problems in and around Görlitzer Park and Wrangelkiez have intensified, and as residents we have been confronted with the following:

- An increase in drug use in the neighbourhood, particularly a noticeable increase in the use of hard drugs in public spaces (heroin, crystal meth, and a marked increase in crack use over the past year, according to addiction support specialists)
- An increase in drug use in stairwells, house entrances, playgrounds, gardens, etc.
- Drug paraphernalia and residue (excrement, syringes, etc.) in public spaces and building entrances
- Associated social impoverishment: homeless and poverty-stricken people in the neighbourhood, some with considerable psychological difficulties

What is missing:

- Sufficient, adequate, decentralised offers of help for consumers, such as consumption rooms, outreach services, up-to-date offers for psychosocial and medical care, overnight accommodation and day rooms
- A point of contact for us

Previous offers of help until now have been absolutely inadequate.

The huge police presence in and around Görlitzer Park and Wrangelkiez does not solve the problem. A rethink is necessary!

We therefore demand:

- More (mobile) consumption rooms with health care services and attached social work for referral to help systems
- Late night opening hours (20:00 – 03:00)
- Outreach drug services
- A point of contact for residents
- Focused and targeted cooperation strategies between the district and the senate

Signatories: