

Follow-up to the statement of the Senate, Rectorate and Staff Council of the TU Dresden dated 12.06.2019 on the upcoming state elections and on current political developments of DRESDEN-concept partners

Democracy is a valuable asset that must be protected!

The partner institutions of the DRESDEN-concept association have spoken out emphatically for cosmopolitanism and tolerance, humanity and respect on numerous occasions in recent years. These basic values of coexistence in a democratic society are at the same time an indispensable basis for excellence in research and teaching. As a DRESDEN-concept partner, we offer people from all over the world a home and warmly welcome international students and scientists to Dresden as a research location: regardless of where they come from, which religion they belong to, which sexual orientation they have or which form of coexistence they choose. The freedom of science, art and culture is a prerequisite for the sustainable and peaceful development of our society.

We expect such an open-minded and tolerant cooperation in our research environment as well as in the city of Dresden and in the entire Free State of Saxony. For without a clear commitment to these fundamental values in word and deed, the polarization of our society in Saxony will continue and, in addition, Saxony's reputation will be further damaged on national and international levels. The Free State of Saxony will become less attractive for students, scientists, qualified staff and companies, which in turn would also mean the loss of jobs.

We would be delighted if all our colleagues, employees of the DRESDEN-concept institutions as well as all citizens of Dresden and the Free State and all local and state politicians would show even more commitment than before to an open and non-discriminatory society and stand up for the basic values of a free, democratic and open society!

Erich Kästner said: **„All the mischief that happens is not only the fault of those who do it, but also of those who do not prevent it.“**. Today this statement is more important than ever!

With a view to the forthcoming state elections, we appeal to all voters to consider the election programs of the individual parties: Read the programs and do not allow freedom of opinion, science, art and the media to be restricted! Prevent democracy and the rule of law from being jeopardized!

June 27, 2019