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STATEMENT FROM EUROCOP - 20 NOVEMBER 2024

The recent statements of the Berlin police chief, Barbara Slowik, who suggested that Jewish and openly LGTBI people avoid certain neighborhoods of the city due to security concerns, raise a number of fundamental questions about the role of law enforcement and the defense of human rights.

It is alarming that an authority figure would invite, albeit indirectly, oppressed people to go into hiding, rather than focusing effort on making every neighborhood a safe space.

Security forces exist to protect the population, and in particular those sectors that have historically suffered discrimination and violence. Instead of "advising" people to hide their identity, we should concentrate on dismantling those nuclei where hatred is generated and perpetuated. We cannot build a society in which certain groups feel safe only in certain areas or under specific conditions. Safety is a universal right and must be guaranteed throughout the territory of any city and country.

Furthermore, this type of recommendations put coexistence at risk and increase the gap between different communities, as they encourage the stigmatization of some groups. In this case, associating specific neighborhoods with homophobia or anti-Semitism perpetuates stereotypes and contributes to singling out entire communities, often made up of people who are not responsible for the acts of their neighbors.

European Confederation of Police