

Der Regierende Bürgermeister von Berlin

Berlin International Women's Club e.V.
Ms. Patricia Arlig
Ms. Angela Andersen
Marienstrasse 19/20

10117 Berlin

Berlin, November 2007

Dear Ms. Arlig,
Dear Ms. Andersen,
Dear Members of the Berlin International Women's Club,
Dear Friends of the BIWC,

It seems hard to believe, but the Berlin International Women's Club will be celebrating its 15th anniversary this year. The Berlin Senate and I would like to convey our sincere congratulations and our very best regards to the BIWC and its members.

Our city has undergone dramatic changes since the fall of the Wall. It has opened itself up to the rest of the world, and the world reciprocates this interest. Berlin is more popular now than at any time in its history. Countless people have moved to Berlin in the last almost two decades. They have made a decisive contribution to our reputation as an international, culturally diverse metropolis with high quality of life.

It is thus all the more important that newcomers are able to feel comfortable and at home here in Berlin. The opportunity to be quickly integrated and a tolerant, cosmopolitan climate are essential in this regard.

Thanks to the BIWC, our city has had an organization that has worked with great élan since 1992 to help new arrivals from all over the world settle into life in Berlin. Your club has long since become an important contact point for women of various ages and nationalities. It helps its members in many different areas, keeps them informed about culture, science, academics, and business in the city, and helps them to develop their own networks in an unfamiliar city and make new friends.

In this way, you, the members of the BIWC, have helped to enhance the internationality and the cosmopolitanism of our city. Rather than having people live side by side, with little contact, our goal is a city in which people of various origins, religions, and ways of life are actively engaged with one another. Your club has been very successful over the last 15 years in working to achieve this goal. And the fact that you and your members are so active in raising money for charitable causes is yet another reason to express our sincere thanks to your club.

In this spirit, I would like to congratulate you once again on your 15th anniversary and to wish the Berlin International Women's Club and all its members all the best for the future, too. And, of course, I would like to wish you and your guests a wonderful anniversary celebration that you will long remember.

Yours sincerely,


Klaus Wowereit