LSVD
20 Years of campaigning for equal rights

Berlin, 22 November 2010
• February 18th: SVD founded in Leipzig (former GDR)
• first regional branches: three in East Germany and one in West Germany
• SVD becomes member of ILGA
• Regular press work (including public relations work) as essential SVD-strategy from the very beginning
1991

- First intensive debates about opening marriage
- President of German Parliament Rita Suessmuth: "partial equality of same-sex couples necessary"
- SVD’s draft law for same-sex marriage,
• Campaign "Civil Registry Office“
• 250 lesbian and gay couples follow SVD’s call for a run to registry offices in Germany
  – demanding registration of their partnerships
  – PR success
1993–1994

- Beginning of 1990s: explosion of right-wing violence in Germany
- SVD asks for a national action plan to fight homophobic violence
- June 1994: abolition of § 175
- European Parliament resolution in favour of equality of gays and lesbians, based on a petition of SVD
• Oct. 1995: first congress "Gay and Grey" takes place in Cologne
1996

• Campaign "Love deserves respect" by SVD and police:
• First rainbow flag for gay pride on Berlin city hall
1997–1998

- **1997** First Anti-discrimination laws in Germany (Sachsen-Anhalt, Saarland)
- **1998** new govt. promise to improve legal situation of gays and lesbians

- SVD demands liberal visa rules for binational couples
1999

- SVD becomes LSVD
- Intense campaigning for same sex marriage, "Say Yes! campaign
• A “year of meetings“ with Federal President Johannes Rau, a visit of the Minister of Family Affairs Christine Bergmann

• And of fights for the registered partnership law, which is finally adopted in November 2000

• And of protests: against christian-democrat and conservative counter attack
• 2001: August 1st registered partnership law comes into force
• ban of discrimination of gays in German army
• Campaign for a memorial for homosexual victims of NS regime
• Constitutional court decision that registered partnership law is constitutional
• Parliament decision for rehabilitation of homosexual victims of § 175 during NS regime
• „A family year“:
  – Start of rainbow family project, funded by federal ministry of family affairs
  – First rainbow family conference for consultants, teachers, politicians and other experts
• Ratzinger’s hate speech brings new members for LSVD
• LSVD’s membership campaign
• Parliament’s decision for a memorial for homosexual victims of NS regime
2004

- Begin of campaign against hate music
- Campaign for an antidiscrimination law
- Begin of „Gay Solidarnosc“ campaign
• Begin of our project „Homosexuality and Migration“
• New Pope, new hope?
• Gay prides against catholic hate speech
• campaign 1:1 for fully equal rights
2006

- Antidiscrimination law including sexual identity
- President Köhler speaks out in favour of rainbow families
- LSVD‘s ECOSOC status at UN
• Hirschfeld Eddy Foundation
• Another year of protest and campaigning for fully equal rights
2008

- Inauguration of Memorial for homosexual victims of NS regime
- Continuing campaign for fully equal rights (tax law)
2009

- Intensifying campaign (started in 2007) to get sexual identity included in section 3 of German constitution (ban of discrimination), lots of public support of VIPs and allies
- LSVD celebrates 10 years of LSVD
2010

- German President meets LSVD
- 20th anniversary
- Making new friends in Africa
- ...

www.hirschfeld-eddy-stiftung.de
www.lsfd.de
Thank you!

LSVD

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