

# : Programme

## Public Evening Event – Online

### Cities and protest movements. Providing space for protest – and dialogue?

#### Online/worldwide

Thursday 17 June 2021, 18:00 - 19:30 hrs (CEST)

#### Conference languages

German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

## As part of the Berlin Summer Dialogue 2021

### Protesting for Political Reforms – Prerequisites for peaceful transformations and violence prevention

#### Cooperating Partners



#bsd21

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## BACKGROUND

Cities are of particular importance in the emergence of protest movements: conflicts are more likely to break out in larger cities – often capital cities – due to a higher population density: Furthermore, central squares in city centres enable people to gather and give expression to widespread protest. Tahrir Square, Maidan, Gezi Park or protests at the renamed Black Lives Matter Plaza – the images of mass protests went around the world and are closely linked to the names of these squares.

Protesting against injustices, inequality and lack of political representation is a basic right and a valuable expression of the people. Looking beyond the urban space enabling mass protests, one may ask what cities could contribute to responding to protest movements. Can cities and local enforcement strategies help to keep protests non-violent? Aside from “containing” protests, could cities play a role for becoming a laboratory not only for protest, but also for dialogue? Could this provide for a starting point for change, at least on a local level?

Welcome

### **Michael Müller**

Governing Mayor of Berlin

Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

Panelists

### **Professor Mona Harb**

Founder

Beirut Urban Lab

American University Beirut

### **Gábor Kerpel-Fronius**

Deputy Mayor for Citizens' Engagement and Digitalisation

City of Budapest

Discussion with the audience

Chair

### **Ute Lange**

Moderator and Communication Coach

i3kommunikation, Bonn