

Press release February 12th, 2018

How to be a Game Changer:
A pioneer in transformative philanthropy, Ise Bosch is awarded the
German Donor Award 2018
(,Deutscher Stifterinnenpreis‘)

This year, the Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen presents its highest award to Ise Bosch. The award ceremony will be on May 16th, 2018 in Nuremberg during the *Deutsche Stiftungstag*. Amongst other things, Ise Bosch will receive the honor for the interdisciplinarity of her donor activities. Michael Göring, Chairman of the Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen: “Ise Bosch uses the different ways of philanthropic tools with virtuosity, from funds, to community foundations, the Not For Profit LLC, and the network for women with inherited wealth. She embodies a generation of donors whose work reaches beyond the traditional foundation.”

A traditional foundation has to invest its capital in restrictive ways; only the earnings can be spent, while a Not for Profit LLC (*gemeinnützige GmbH*) can use its capital more creatively. All capital, via grants and financial investments, can be utilized for social impact, such as gender equality and gender diversity. This is done in the Dreilinden gGmbH.

Ise Bosch’s work offers a new view on philanthropy and its impact.

She grew up privileged and learned early in life that money and power bring responsibility. “I would like to see more people, with and without power, working together. I would like there to be more bridges, and hopefully more egalitarian societies,” Ise Bosch describes her vision. “This is why I say ‘yes’ to the power that is available for me – while I am not saying ‘yes’ to the exclusion from power of others.”

Ise Bosch seeks to motivate other wealthy people to take their own philanthropic steps. In her book, “besser spenden!” she draws a tableau on how to give well, and how to find out which topics are closest to one’s heart. In her point of view, such a strong personal motivation is necessary to develop trust in the field one gives to.

Ise Bosch, a member of the LGBTQI community, knows from personal experience the struggles and lived realities in this field. She has an insider’s view. “Why the categorical distinction between ‘man’ and ‘woman’,” she asks, “why the unequal valuation? This forces power structures upon us, and is a main source of violence and poverty.”

Ise Bosch works toward a society where people with diverse gender conditions, identities and sexual attractions can live together, and where power is distributed more equally. “Societies are more liveable and stronger if gender roles are less fixed, and less hierarchically ordered”.

As early as 1996, Ise Bosch became the founding donor to the ‘International Fund for Sexual Minorities at the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice’ (New York, USA), the only foundation worldwide focusing explicitly on Lesbian issues. Today, Astraea is one of the leading LGBTQI human rights funders, supporting more than 500 groups in 99 countries internationally. www.astraeafoundation.org

Alongside with eight other women, Ise Bosch founded the community foundation *filia.die Frauenstiftung* (women’s fund). Here, money, ideas, and projects with a feminist focus are pooled under the premise of “Change not Charity”. “It is an easy and direct way to invest money in the women’s movement,” says Ise Bosch. www.filia-frauenstiftung.de

Even today, women experience a major inheritance quite differently from men. The network Pecunia, co-initiated by Ise Bosch in 2003, provides a platform for women inheritors to connect personally, and to support each other in finding meaningful ways of dealing with their inheritance. In this context the book ‘Wir Erbinnen – Frauen übernehmen Verantwortung’ (women inheritors taking responsibility) was published in 2016. <http://pecunia-erbinnen.net>

At the moment, Ise Bosch is working on her new book, which will be published on the occasion of the *Deutsche Stifterinnenpreis*. Together with co-authors Justus Eisfeld and Claudia Bollwinkel, she reflects on ten years of holistic grantmaking and investments by Dreilinden gGmbH, and defines the method of ‘transformative philanthropy’. According to a recent impact analysis, 86 percent of projects supported by Dreilinden indicate a sustainable strengthening of their structures and resulting power shifts, serving the communities on the ground, and 82 percent say that Dreilinden is supporting new work.

How does this come about? Transformative philanthropy makes the power of money available as creative power and decision making power for many. It questions mechanisms of inequality and respects the expertise of people in the field. The donors are part of the process in direct exchange with the groups supported. Transformative philanthropy specifically supports young projects, it invests in organizational structures, offers flexibility in the way the money is used, commits to the long term, and keeps paperwork to a minimum.

In this way, the power of the money operates in favor of the local groups’ social innovation. Their actions take center stage, not the capital provided. This way, investments in a more equal and more humane world are made with a special kind of efficiency.

How to get started? Ise Bosch in her recent book: “Find one topic. Mine came to me from life experience - and everyone has life experiences. Once you have your topic, go out and find one or two or three or four organizations working on it. Get to know them well, stick with the best ones for the long term. If you keep doing that for a few years, there’s a fair chance that there will be some successes, that you’ve learned lots and found friends. And you’ve truly been of help.”

„To give means to take an influence“ - filia.die frauenstiftung invites you to a discussion about philanthropy for an equal and diverse society. filia.Panel at *Deutscher Stiftungstag* on May 17th, 2018 with Ise Bosch – donor activist, Dr. Wilfried Vyslozil – managing director, SOS children’s villages international, Sonja Schelper – managing director filia.die frauenstiftung & Anja Paehlke - Moderation.

Steph Klinkenberg

Dreilinden gGmbH Kommunikation

steph.klinkenberg@dreilinden.org

* 49 0178 518 10 99

www.dreilinden.org / steph.klinkenberg@dreilinden.org

www.filia-frauenstiftung.de / k.wolf@filia-frauenstiftung.de

www.stiftungen.org / katrin.kowark@stiftungen.org

Download of printable photos under <http://dreilinden.org/deu/downloads.html>

Interview requests to steph.klinkenberg@dreilinden.org * 49 0178 518 10 99