

*Translated by Chat cpt:*

"I had never previously addressed homophobia, and that is a lie. It is even verifiable."

On the day following my incriminating interview, the Soester Anzeiger stated:

"Both WMS employees and Mr. Hänsch [then Chairman of the Supervisory Board]

assured that such allegations had 'never been discussed even once.'"

This was a lie!

As part of the legal proceedings, Andre Hänsch himself now admits: "The plaintiff occasionally hinted that her [...] life partner was not accepted. Homophobia and misogyny were never a topic."

To derive from the fact that I described homophobic discrimination but did not use the term "homophobia" that I never talked about homophobia is a comical argument, to say the least.

Furthermore, it begs the question of why this issue became the central theme of the reporting. Even if I had never explicitly mentioned the term "homophobia," whether with or without the specific terminology, it wouldn't prove that there was no homophobia. However, if it was deemed important whether I mentioned the topic of "homophobia" or not, then it was a lie to claim that I never did.

In fact, there are several documents that prove my life partner and I did discuss how distressing the behavior of Soest's politicians was. Just before my non-re-election, in a letter dated June 2, 2020, I asked council members:

"With great zeal for burdening, it appears that reasons are being sought to justify my non-re-election, initially with the pretext that I mistreat my employees, and now with blatant defamation. It sends shivers down my spine to see how ruthlessly an attempt is being made to take everything away from me – my career, my livelihood, and even my home. I urge those who participate in this to question themselves and

ask why they are so urgently seeking a reason and what the real reason is for not re-electing me. Could it be that the true reason lies in my gender, my sexual orientation, and/or my urban background?"

According to their own statements, the Soester Anzeiger knew about each of my letters to the (Supervisory) Council, and they were probably aware of this letter as well.

Furthermore, the Mayor himself now presents the following email that I sent to Achim Kienbaum from the Soester Anzeiger on December 13, 2019, with a copy to the Mayor:

"Dear Mr. Kienbaum,

My life partner and I live our relationship openly, and I take her to every event where it's possible to bring one's partner, but even after 3 years, large parts of the people in Soest ignore our relationship, try to make my life partner invisible. Many of them do not shake her hand, and when they can't avoid it, they don't look her in the eye. At events, she is almost always introduced as my 'companion,' even though I clearly introduced her to the host as my life partner.

Your article is the culmination of this invisibility. My life partner is everything but a Lippstädterin [in my press release, I referred to "my life partner," but in the article, Kienbaum replaced it with "a woman from Lippstadt"]. She is trying to live here with me, and our center of life is Soest, even though we live in my parents' house in Lippstadt. We don't even have social contacts with people from Lippstadt, so your article is wrong in that respect. But, above all, she is my life partner, not just any woman from Lippstadt.

While my position still offers me some protection, and the people in Soest are forced to interact with me, all this homophobia affects my life partner. I am deeply concerned about my life partner because nobody can endure this.

I am attaching a guide for you on how gay and lesbian individuals wish to be reported on. Pages 6 and 7 state that they particularly desire natural reporting and the mention of their partner."

This email also proves that it was a lie for the then Chairman of the Supervisory Board to claim that I never spoke about homophobia. Achim Kienbaum, the editor of the Soester Anzeiger, made this lie the central statement of his reporting on the day following the incriminating interview. And yet, just a few months prior, I had a documented altercation with him because he had also acted homophobically. Mrs. Stenzel, the editor-in-chief of the Soester Anzeiger, who, like the Mayor, received the email in copy, immediately admitted that she understood my frustration and had at least amended the online version of the article accordingly.

Moreover, the Mayor now presents this email as evidence that my accusations of homophobia only pertained to my life partner and not to myself. This, however, is nonsense. Even if it were true that "only" my life partner was excluded while I was not, this still had implications for me. (Supervisory) council members should consider whether they would remain unaffected if they entered an event with their partner, and people visibly turned away. Imagine having your dream job while your partner wants to leave the region. On one hand, significant pressure is exerted on you to move to Soest, but on the

other hand, your partner is ostentatiously unwelcome.

The statement by the WMS Supervisory Board that the exclusion of my life partner is irrelevant concerning me is also to be assessed in the context that the WMS Supervisory Board requires each Managing Director to view the position not as a job but as a vocation, to identify 100% with it, bring above-average dedication, and become a member of the city's society. Yet, the WMS Supervisory Board finds it insignificant when politics excludes the long-term partner of the Managing Director to the point where she wants to leave the region.

However, beyond any legal obligation: Wouldn't it have been a sign of a genuinely lived Christian human image, of empathy and respect, and, not least, of a respectful treatment of me if the Mayor had contacted me, especially after the email to Kienbaum, and offered to show up at the next public event with me and my life partner and introduce my life partner as such? This might not have changed everything, but it would have changed so much fundamentally because it would have signaled to other politicians that it is appropriate to respect the couple's relationship. However, he DID NOTHING..

**PS: I hereby prohibit the Soester Anzeiger and other representatives of the press from directly or indirectly quoting or making**