



NEVER AGAIN IS NOW.

This is a letter to our granddaughters and grandsons, to first-time voters, to all democrats,

For millions of you, the European election is the first election in your life.

For many of us, it could be the last.

When the right-wing extremists came to power the last time, we were still teenagers, some of us even children. They promised to make this country great again. They promised that Germans would come first.

And they found scapegoats for everything that didn't work: the Jews, the Sinti and Roma, the homosexuals, the people with disabilities, the committed democrats. Step by step, millions of people were stripped of their rights, finally even their right to live.

We couldn't prevent it at that time. But you can today.

It didn't start with concentration camps. The right-wing extremists didn't come to power through a coup, but through democratic means. Too many underestimated them, didn't take them seriously. And in a few years, peace turned into war. Our democracy turned into a dictatorship.

That's why we are addressing you today with a simple message:

Long live democracy. Let's do everything in our power to protect it.

Because it is not as indestructible as it seems. We must fight for it every day. We must talk to each other, reach out to one another, extend a helping hand to the weakest among us.

We trust in the young generation, we trust in you! We admire your zest for life, your commitment to a better and more just world. And we also understand your frustration about many things in this country and in this world that do not work as they should. But believe us, not voting is not a solution.

Democracy is all of us. Young and old. Grandparents and grandchildren. Jews, Christians, Muslims, Atheists. It is up to all of us to make this country and this Europe what we dream it to be. Millions have already taken to the streets this year to protest against right-wing extremism, and that gives us hope.

A united, peaceful Europe is a wonderful gift for all of us. We can well remember a time when that seemed unthinkable.

So: Give democracy a chance. Go vote. Let's show together that "Never Again" is not just a phrase, but a promise. A promise that holds true today. And tomorrow. And forever.