

# DEAR AIRBNB GUEST!

You may not know this, but there is a law in Berlin called “ZWECKENTFREMDUNGSGEBOT” that makes the renting of regular flats on a short-term basis to visitors ILLEGAL.

Yes, that’s a crazy long word, but we’ll break it down for you:

## ZWECKENTFREMDUNGSGEBOT

“intention or purpose” “alienation, estrangement” “decree”

... that is, a decree on the separation of something from its intended purpose. I.e. the use of a FLAT that is *intended* to be for someone who wants to live here year-round and aspires to make a decent, dignified life for themselves while contributing to their community, as a HOTEL, whose profits only benefit its individual owner or contract-holder in MONEY. This means, your host may be breaking the law.

## DEAR HOLIDAY SUBLETTER!

Nowadays, the insanely rising rents, especially in “hip” neighborhoods like Kreuzberg, Neukölln, Friedrichshain and Mitte, have forced a lot of people to rent out their places or extra rooms to be able to pay it. That sucks that they have to do that.

But what also sucks is having to live in a building full of constantly changing AirBNB guests because our neighbors have chosen to do this without notifying us. Many of you AirBNB’ers are considerate and quiet. Many of you are not. Some of you don’t realize that the reason we have 5 dumpsters in our patio is to separate different kinds of trash, and that old batteries and plastic bags don’t belong in the organic waste bin. Some of you wake us up in the middle of the night by insistently ringing the wrong doorbell. Sometimes you make us residents act as receptionists and tourist information agents for you, when we are not being remunerated as such. Some of you simply don’t respond with a smile or a salutation when we say “hi” to you in the hallway and spaces that we are forced to share with you.

Berlin loves people from all over the world. We don’t care where you came from, what color you are, what language you speak. You are welcome here. That is not the point though... The point is that Berlin is in a housing crisis because of greed. Because legitimate living space has been made into a business that is not benefiting its citizens. Our homes have become theme parks that we’ve been forced to work in for nothing. Dear AirBNB guest, dear holiday subletter: Please consider where your EUROS are going

and what the consequences of your purchase is. **Next time, please stay in a real hotel or in a legal holiday flat. THANK YOU** - *The Neighbors*