

## **Speech on the necessity of solidarity in times of crisis**

**Dilara Toprak Q2**

Do you think it is necessary to go panic-buying? Do you still go out and meet all your friends because you want to demonstrate against this crisis? Do you think it is not that serious? Let me tell you, if you answered all these questions with “yes”, you surely do not have a proper understanding of solidarity and ethically correct behaviour.

Coronavirus is serious. Any virus is.

Of course, the media tries to exaggerate the whole situation, using the unknown crisis and the fear of everyone for their own good, but regardless, coronavirus affects us all. I am not saying “believe everything that is shared on social media”, “believe these audio messages going around on platforms like WhatsApp” or “believe all these conspiracy theories” but what I am saying is: “Educate yourself!” Do your own research. Read scientific articles and consider scanning the official page of your government.

Because this situation is so new to all of us, it is more important than ever to stick together as one nation. In times like these, it is a must to show solidarity because of all the people losing their jobs and all the people infected by this virus. In times like these, we have to stop egoistical behaviour, stop storing toilet paper and noodles and start acting responsibly. Let me tell you how this can work:

Everything starts with following the rules of the government. Monday afternoon the Federal Chancellor of Germany presented 10 principles and rules for this crisis also mentioning that this situation is very new for all of us. She also stressed that there will be consequences when these rules are being disrespected. One of these principles is to avoid groups and only go out with a person living in your household or one other person outside this household which clarifies that you have to stop going on corona parties, that you have to stop meeting your friends outside and passively demonstrate against this crisis and if not, there will be consequences for you because you risk the life of another person and support the extension of the virus. It is ethically justifiable to demonstrate against right-wing extremism, against injustice, against political decisions but we are in a serious, deadly pandemic and there is absolutely no defensible reason for a demonstration against that.

I don't want to tell you what you already know, I want to clarify how important it is to stick together and help one another. Please stop buying extreme amounts of toilet paper, the grocery shops will always be open. Please stop stocking on food for the next few months, you are taking it away from people who really need it. Please go support your local shops, because they are suffering under the economic consequences of this virus. Please give up meeting your friends or going to illegal corona parties for the next few weeks. It will be worth it! If all of this is over, we will be able to breathe.

We are currently in a very serious historical situation. This crisis or any crisis in general requires strong measures. If everyone follows them – everything will be better in a short period of time. It is in our hands to change the future for the better. We have to stop panicking and start creating harmony. We have to keep our hopes up and use this time of isolation productively. If we stick together – we will pass this crisis and anything else that could happen, easily. Thank you.