

Dear friends

We are writing you to ask you for help to our „smallest“ Slavic fellows – Lusatian Sorbs. In these days they're in a tough fight against Saxony (in Germany) government to preserve contemporary network of grammar schools. In Lusatia there are only 6 of them. Only 17 pupils wanted to start this school year in the 5th grade of grammar school (1st grade of secondary school) in Chrosćicy. But Saxony ministry of education applied a normative for German schools (minimum is 20 pupils in one class). As a result they forbade to open this class. A law court in Dresden rejected protests of Domowiria (organisation of Lusatiari-Sorbs in Germany) and the village Chrosćicy. Nowadays, protests of citizens are in progress in Lusatia. Members of Domowina are trying to find a possible way to persuade Saxony government to accept reasonable demands of Lusatian-Sorbs. Finally, various organisations (Official Czech writers club, political parties) are stating their sympathy to Lusatian-Sorbs.

The supplement of this letter is a signature sheet claiming solidarity with the rightful effort of Lusatian-Sorbs to save their school network, which is essential for the future existence of their nation. This action is initiated by the North Bohemian (part of the Czech republic) town Varnsdorf – the gate to Lusatia. A place where the co-operation with Lusatian-Sorbs is a tradition.

Thank you very much for your help.

In the name of signatories

Your *Milan Hrabal*

In Varnsdorf 5th of September, 2001.

In the case of a deeper interest send your questions to an e-mail address:  
[okvdf@interdata.cz](mailto:okvdf@interdata.cz)

or to

Milan Hrabal, Městský úřad - OSK, Varnsdorf, 407 47, The Czech republic

# **Die Lausitz – sorbische Schulen müssen erhalten bleiben**

(Varnsdorfer Solidarität mit den Lausitzer Sorben)

Mit Interesse und Spannung verfolgen wir die Mühe der Lausitzer Sorben in Sachsen (BRD) um Erhaltung der Grundschulen des ersten und zweiten Grades, wo es z. Z. hauptsächlich um die Auflösung des Verbotes der Eröffnung der 5. Klassen der Schule in Chrósćice (Crostwitz, Kreis Kamenz) geht.

Die Geltung der Forderungen der Schülerzahlen gültig für die deutschen Schulen auf die Lausitz-sorbische Schulen ist untragbar und hätte fatale Folgen für das Volk der Lausitzer Sorben, besonders im Zeitraum, wo das Volk mit einem niedrigen Bevölkerungszuwachs kämpft.

Wir sind überzeugt, dass gerade der Zeitraum der demokratischen Lockerung in Europa mit der fortschreitender Liquidierung des mühsam aufgebauten Netzes der Lausitzsorbischen Schulen in Sachsen verbunden wird.

Wir äussern Solidarität mit der Bemühung der Lausitzer Sorben um Erhaltung des Schulnetzes mit Bewusstheit, dass es sich um eine absolute Bedingung für die weitere Existenz dieses kleinen Volkes handelt.

Milan Hrabal, Schriftsteller, Mitglied des tschechischen Zentrums PEN klub,  
Varnsdorf, CZ

Jaroslav Tomášek, Bürgermeister, Varnsdorf, CZ

Zdenka Vejlová, Stellvertretender Bürgermeister, Varnsdorf, CZ

Varnsdorf 14. 8. 2001

Mit meiner Unterschrift äussere ich meine Solidarität mit dem oben aufgeführten Text:

Vorname	Name	Beruf	Wohnort	Staatsangeh.	Unterschrift
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Den Unterschriftenbogen senden Sie bitte an die Adresse:

Městský úřad Varnsdorf, odbor školství a kultury, nám. E. Beneše 470, 40747 Varnsdorf, CZ

# Lusatia-Sorbian schools have to be saved

## (Varnsdorf solidarity with Lusatia-Sorbs)

We are observing with a tension an endeavour of Lusatia-Sorbs in Saxony (Germany) to save the network of their primary and secondary schools (zakladna šula, srjedźna šula). In these days we are concentrating mainly on their effort to cancel a ban on opening 1st year of a secondary school in Chrósčicy (district Kamjenc).

It is unfair to apply normative – the minimal number of pupils in one class – for German schools on Lusatia-Sorbian schools. In addition to a low natality it would be fatal to Lusatia – Sorbs as a nation.

We don't want the period of a democratic freedom in Europe to be connected with a gradual liquidation of elaborately constructed network of Lusatia-sorbian schools in Saxony.

We sympathize with present effort of Lusatia-Sorbs to preserve contemporary school network which is essential for the future existence of this small nation.

Milan Hrabal, writer, a member of the Czech branch of PEN club, Varnsdorf, Cze  
Jaroslav Tomášek, a Varnsdorf mayor, Cze  
Zdenka Vejlova, a secretary of a Varnsdorf city council, Cze

In Varnsdorf, 14th of August, 2001

I agree with above stated solidarity with the need of preserving the network of Lusatia-Sorbian schools in Saxony (Germany)

Please, send the signature sheets to:

Please, send the signature sheets to:  
Milan Hrabal, Městský úřad – OŠK, Varnsdorf, 470, 47 The Czech republic