

Bern, 26th October 2022

Statement from the Ensemble of Bern Ballett

The unfolding of recent events in our company has shaken us. Although the team of artists that make up the ensemble might have changed over the years, we, the current dancers of Bern Ballett stand in solidarity with our colleagues who have fallen victim to sexual harassment and want to express our heartfelt support.

While we are in the midst of processing the heavy emotional load that comes with this difficult situation, we also sense the importance of this moment and its capacity to bring lasting change.

Discrimination and harassment are reoccurring problems in the international dance field. No matter how much someone may be respected and applauded for their knowledge and experience, it will never legitimise this sort of misconduct and cannot be tolerated.

Despite our continuous effort to establish a positive and safe working environment, it is now painfully clear that appropriate and transparent actions must be taken in order to foster a healthy working climate, as the events in our house unfortunately confirmed.

With this message, we want to actively encourage anyone that is facing cross-border behaviour to address it. By sharing your experiences, you do not need to face the emotional complexity of the situation alone. Together we can work towards a system where manifesting our art is rooted in a culture of mutual respect, security and trust.

This statement is the personal opinion of the dance ensemble of Bern Ballett.