



Basel, May 2018

- Open letter -

to the government of the Canton of Basel-Stadt and the parties in the Grand Council

**Not in our name, Basel!**

By ousting the demonstrations against Syngenta from the city centre, Basel is actively protecting the harmful agrochemical industry. **In this open letter we express our indignation and urge the Basel government to shoulder its responsibility for the role played by Basel-based corporations in the world.** Basel lives at the expense of others and ignores the associated global exploitation and human rights violations. The Syngenta business model, which contributes to the over-exploitation of human, animal and natural resources worldwide, is a particularly good example of this imperial way of life.

The canton of Basel-Stadt decided to banish the broad-based “March against Monsanto and Syngenta” from the city centre. The March is supported by about 60 organizations and parties and mobilizes thousands of people each year ([www.marchagainstsingenta.ch](http://www.marchagainstsingenta.ch)). This submissive decision is, however, just another classic example of a masterly achievement of profiteer Basel in the global system: the total marginalization of the global consequences of our corporations’ business models and our way of life.

**According to a UN report, 200,000 people die every year from pesticide poisoning – a number equal to the population of Basel.** In addition, millions more suffer poisoning that is extremely harmful to their health. What is Basel’s role? After all, the world’s largest pesticide corporation has its headquarters here in Schwarzwaldallee. Syngenta’s global market share is about 20%. **What is 20% of 200,000?** Since the Basel chemical industry long ago outsourced pesticide production to China, Brazil, India, etc., we can swim pleasantly in the clean Rhine. All the more pleasantly since the profits continue to flow into our city. Those who are poisoned usually live and die far away in the countries of the south. Meanwhile, the Basel government is getting Syngenta to sponsor its pavilion at Expo 2015 in Milan on the topic of ‘Feeding the Planet’ and the Municipal Gardens are having Syngenta sponsor their app ‘iTour Basel’. The Basel government is thus an active part of Syngenta’s greenwashing strategy. We refuse to accept the normalization of this imperial way of life! We refuse to accept the banishment of us, people and organizations that no longer tolerate these contradictions, from downtown Basel!

We make the following demands to the Government and the parties in the Grand Council:

- 1. All victims of Syngenta toxins must receive the necessary medical treatment.** The City of Basel provides a reparations fund of CHF 150 million for this purpose.



2. We are demanding the **funding of an agro-ecological institute at the University of Basel**, whose mission will be to research sustainable and solidarity-based agricultural models. Syngenta makes world agricultural policy from Basel. With a lot of money and a lot of influence, which it uses to promote harmful industrial agriculture. Basel must act against this, because alternatives do exist. Then Basel would be equipped for the next Expo!
3. **Basel must terminate all sponsorship arrangements and public-private partnerships with Syngenta. Furthermore, the current tax deal must be terminated immediately.** Syngenta's profits must be taxed at the ordinary tax rate.
4. **The Basler government should** officially and emphatically **support the corporate responsibility initiative in the referendum campaign.** And make available a **research fund** to investigate and publicize human rights violations by Basel-based corporations in the countries of the South.
5. **Demonstrations through the city centre must be approved at any time** and fundamental democratic rights be protected!

In times when climate disaster constitutes the greatest challenge to humanity, the agribusiness groups are strengthening their power and thus the model of fossil-fuel-based, dirty agriculture. Human rights and environmental protection inevitably fall by the wayside. We all know that things cannot go on like this. And we demand that our government should not keep actively helping to sweep these issues under the carpet. To allow a demonstration through the city centre would be the very minimum. Or rather it would be the implementation of a fundamental democratic right.

With best regards

The representatives of the core group of "March against Monsanto & Syngenta" and the following signatories:

Dr. Alex Schwank, general practitioner, Basel  
Alin Renggli, student, Basel  
Andrea Spiess, DaZ course instructor, Basel  
Andreas Vincenzi, teacher, Basel  
Andreas Suter, museum studies expert, Basel  
Anina Jendreyko, artistic manager, Basel Volksbühne, Basel  
Anna Hodel, literary scholar, Basel  
Anna Pietrafesa, student, Basel  
Anne Beutter, research assistant, Basel  
Annelies Nicolodi, retiree, Basel  
Aram Suermeli, rhythmist, Allschwil  
Aurora Garcia, Solifonds coordinator, Basel  
Beatrice Messerli, BastA!, Grand Council, Basel  
Beatrice Pregger-Laufner, Basel



Boonchuen Häring, housewife, Basel  
Brigitta Gerber, former president of the Grand Council, Basel  
Brinton Wentz, University of Basel, Riehen  
Caspar Engel, carpenter, Basel  
Celal Düzgün, sociologist and catering entrepreneur, Basel  
Christian Pregger-Laufner, architect, Basel  
Christoph Albrecht, social worker, Basel  
Clara A'Campo, student, Basel  
Crain Fitzgerald, psychologist, Basel  
Daphne Stern, student, Basel  
David Koster, care expert, Basel  
David Villiger, social worker, Basel  
Dr. Denis Planchenault, chemist, Basel  
Elango Kanakasundaram, general secretary, Multiwatch, Basel  
Erika Bantle, retiree, Basel  
Ernst Greub, trade unionist, Basel  
Fabian Gasser, teacher, Basel  
Fabio Wettstein, teacher, Basel  
Franziska Stier, BastA secretary, Basel  
Gaëlle Brack, registered nurse, Basel  
Guy Krneta, writer, Basel  
Hannes Reiser, general secretary, Forum Civique/Pro Longo Mai, Basel  
Hans Schäppi, Solifonds president, Basel  
Heidi Mück, co-president BastA!, general secretary, FachFrauen Umwelt, Basel  
Ida Goetz, retiree, Basel  
Joël László, writer, Basel  
José Lopez, retiree, Basel  
José-Luis Trigo, employee, Basel  
Karin Vogt, translator, Basel  
Katharina Gallauer, teacher, Basel  
Kim Zumstein, assistant stage setter, Basel  
Linda Jucker, philosopher, Riehen  
Lucia Pietrafesa, student, Basel  
Luzia Böni, DAZ course instructor, Basel  
Madeleine Jaques, former teacher, Basel  
Madelon de Maa, artist, Basel  
Marco Jenni, student, Basel  
Martin Flückiger, former BastA ! secretary, Basel  
Martin Lötscher, proofreader, Reinach Basel-Land  
Maya Heuschmann, Basel  
Meret Greuer, social worker, Basel  
Dr. Michael Wüthrich, teacher/Green Party, Grand Council, Basel  
Milena Fögele, high-school student, Basel  
Milo Probst, doctoral student, Basel  
Monika Waser, bookseller, Basel  
Nicolas Eichenberger, audio/video technician, president of Young Socialists, Basel-Stadt, Basel  
Nicola Goepfert, general secretary, CIVIVA, Basel  
Nicole Gisler, trainee, Basel



Olivia Jost, social scientist, Basel  
Oliver Bolliger, social worker, Basta!, Grand Council, Basel  
Oskar Allan, student, Basel  
Peter Streckeisen, sociologist, Basel  
Renata Rovira, bookseller, Basel  
Raffaella Hanauer, swimming instructor, co-president jgb, Basel  
Raphael Fuhrer, Board of Green Party Basel-Stadt, Green Party, Grand Council, Basel  
Regula Senn, retiree, Riehen  
Rita Schiavi, trade unionist, Basel  
Roberto Lopez, social worker, Basel  
Roland Schiesser, trade union secretary, Bern  
Rolf Häring, former teacher, Basel  
Roman Künzler, trade union secretary, Basel  
Ruedi Moser, toolmaker, Basel  
Sabine Schumacher, municipal councillor, Lörrach  
Samuel Wanitsch, ALBA Basel, Basel  
Sandra Gasser, social educationalist, Basel  
Sandra Ebnetter, registered nurse, Basel  
Sarah Schilliger, sociologist, Basel  
Selma Vagg, Basel  
Silke Fögele, physiotherapist, Basel  
Silva Liebherr, agronomist, Basel  
Simon Rutz, Think Network assistant, Wattwil  
Sophia Polek, Eastern Europe historian, Basel  
Susanna Sutter-Kehlstadt, retiree, Basel  
Susy Greuter, ethnologist, Basel  
Sylvie Flämig, research assistant, Basel  
Therese Portugal, retiree, Oberwil  
Thomas Leuzinger, trade union secretary, Basel  
Tobias Voss, film projectionist, Basel  
Toya Krummenacher, president BGB/SP Grand Council, Basel  
Ueli Gähler, IT architect, Basel  
Ueli Mäder, sociologist, Rheinfelden  
Urs Haller, engineer, Basel  
Urs Hänggi, retiree, Riehen  
Urs Müller, former Basta! member of the Grand Council, Basel  
Valentin Wyss, landscaping draughtsman, Basel  
Vera Kämpfen, research assistant, Basel  
Wolfram Siede, social worker, Basel  
Yannick van den Berg, research assistant, Riehen  
Zoë Roth, medical student, Basel  
Zora Schuppisser, student, Riehen

This open letter is being submitted as a petition to the Government and the Grand Council of Basel-Stadt.