



City Hall London  
Mayor of London  
Sadiq Khan  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE 1 2AA  
Great Britain

Düsseldorf, 20.12.2021

Dear Lord Mayor Khan,

currently this year's Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square is being talked about with mockery. In the press we read comments like: a Christmas tree should be different: plump, green and healthy. The gift from Norway, however, obviously appears particularly puny this year.

Using the attributes "plump, green and healthy" seriously in this context reveals ignorance as it fades out that even if a cut tree may still appear vital and stately, its lasts hours are already counted. Because after a few weeks – equipped with Christmas decoration and light - of contribution to the festive mood, it prosaically moves to the garbage - a tree that was splendid until it was felled. It had to exchange its ecological contribution for a short-lived deco existence.

The momentary talk about a torn, half-dead tree in the venerable square with the monument of Admiral Nelson can easily be avoided, if you are ready to be inspired by our example. Some years ago we have founded the initiative „Living Christmas trees“ in Düsseldorf

<http://baumschutzgruppe-duesseldorf.de/lebende-weihnachtsbaeume/>

by decorating rooted trees. By this means we give an opportunity of how to maintain a long tradition in a resource-efficient manner with a guaranteed beautiful needle dress – that grows and flourishes throughout the whole year.

In Düsseldorf trees have been planted in various places or we take existing trees to be decorated during the Christmas season. At the same time we limit the enormous waste of resources

This could also be realized in the large sunny Trafalgar Square. There would be the perfect location for a "living Christmas tree" that could put down roots and bring back feelings of pre-Christmas every year in the Advent season. Perhaps your twin city



Oslo in Norway would be ready for such a living gift without breaking with the tradition of being a generous donor.

If you are open to our suggestion, which we hope, we would be happy to support you with our experience in choosing a suitable conifer for this urban location.

For the future of all of us we need innovative ideas that do not only conserve limited resources, but also preserve traditions, such as the Christmas tree in a sustainable way.

We wish you and the citizens of London to have plenty of strength to withstand the corona crisis and that all of you stay healthy.

With best regards from the Rhineland

Uli Schürfeld

Andrea Vogelgesang

Im Namen der Baumschutzgruppe Düsseldorf  
[www.baumschutzgruppe-duesseldorf.de](http://www.baumschutzgruppe-duesseldorf.de)