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Erotic Center vs Pilgrimage Church

15 FEB 2024 09:48 | Lourdes on the Amstel

Erotic center a danger for the future of Amsterdam

Today, the Amsterdam city council will decide on the exact location of an erotic center or mega brothel on the Zuidas. The intended location is in the area where the long-awaited Marian pilgrimage cathedral for the Lady of All Nations should be built, according to many believers.

According to the Lourdes aan de Amstel Foundation, which has been working for years to realize this pilgrimage cathedral modeled on the Aya Sophia in Istanbul, this would be disastrous for the future of Amsterdam.

Amsterdam a very strong and beloved "brand"

Such a mega brothel, as the erotic center is called in the corridors, can seriously damage the "brand" of Amsterdam. The city of Amsterdam is a very popular tourist destination. The visitor forecast of the municipality of Amsterdam itself gives an estimate of the number of tourist overnight stays over the period 2023-2025 of around 20 to 25 million.

Nuisance

The motivation of the city council for the plan of the erotic center is the great nuisance that - some of the tourists - cause in the city center in particular. For some tourists, the fame of Amsterdam as a city of coffee shops and of the 'Red light district' works like a magnet; "Have a nice drink, smoke weed and go to the puffiness".

However, the construction of an erotic centre on the Zuidas will only strengthen this magnet function. The fact of a 'mega brothel' that is open 18 hours a day with an indoor Sex Museum and other attractions as well as 100 'ladies', will only strengthen the image of Amsterdam as a 'fun city' and can therefore attract many more fun tourists to Amsterdam with even more nuisance as a consequence.

Good strategic solution

According to Lourdes aan de Amstel, the solution to the problem of nuisance is not a 'mega brothel' but a change in the image of Amsterdam. The already strong brand 'Amsterdam' should be stripped of the negative 'fun aspects' (drinks, coffee shops, redlight) and the positive aspects - which are already abundantly present - should be strengthened. This would be achieved by developing activities and 'attractions' that have a positive, connecting appearance, appropriate to Amsterdam.

Pilgrimage church

The construction of a large pilgrimage church on the Zuidas could play a role in this. The devotion to the Amsterdam Marian apparitions, which took place between 1945 and 1959, has already spread worldwide. For many millions of believers, Mary as Lady of All Nations is a popular devotion. A 'pilgrimage cathedral'

modelled on the Aya Sophia could therefore attract many pilgrims to Amsterdam. Such a cathedral modelled on the Aya Sophia could also be attractive for people who are less religious.

'Lourdes on the Amstel' versus 'Erotica on the Amstel'

Aan de nabijgelegen Amstel, waar nog plaats genoeg is, zou een waar 'Lourdes aan de Amstel' kunnen verrijzen, een bedevaartdorp met faciliteiten, hotels, kapellen, e.d. Samen met een grote bedevaartkerk bij de RAI zou dit een positieve bijdrage kunnen leveren aan het merk 'Amsterdam'.

Toeristen zullen blijven komen

Toeristen zullen in grote getallen naar Amsterdam blijven komen. Aan ons - de Amsterdammers / de gemeenteraad - de keus welke soort toeristen we willen aantrekken. Een megabordeel wat commercieel geëxploiteerd en gemarket zal worden, zal het sterke merk 'Amsterdam' zeer verslechteren en slechts voor meer prettoerisme en overlast zorgen.

Stichting Lourdes aan de Amstel Stichtinglada@gmail.com 0619983416

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