

Resolution of the 128th German Medical Assembly in 2024 in Mainz

Never again is now: Physicians in Germany stand for democracy, pluralism, and human rights

Physicians serve the health of the individual and of the population. They practise their profession according to their conscience, the precepts of medical ethics, and humaneness. The Declaration of Geneva: The Physician's Pledge applies to all physicians. We provide medical care to patients regardless of their origin, gender, religion, social status, or sexual orientation. Cooperation among physicians from different nations and cultures enriches the practice of medicine and is essential to the collaborative provision of patient care, scientific excellence, and medical advancement.

It follows from this professional identity that human rights, freedom, pluralism, and democracy are of fundamental importance to the medical profession. Physicians in Germany have a particular historical responsibility in this regard: During the National Socialist era, the German medical profession was deeply guilty of betraying fundamental values of humanity and medical ethics. This remains a permanent appeal to confront any resurgence of racism, antisemitism, and discrimination in our country vigilantly and decisively.

The German Medical Assembly acknowledges this responsibility and reaffirms the Declaration of Berlin on Racism in Medicine adopted by the World Medical Association in 2022. Physicians in Germany stand with other health professions in their commitment to democracy and human rights, as expressed in the joint declaration of more than 200 associations and organisations from the German health sector in March of this year.

The 128th German Medical Assembly in 2024 in Mainz adopts this resolution with awareness of the fact that democracy and human rights are currently under greater threat worldwide and in Germany than they have been for decades. Inhuman discourse, actions, and plots, trivialisation of the Nazi era, attacks on Jewish people and institutions, racist attacks, and attacks on people seeking protection in Germany from persecution and displacement are deeply appalling and completely unacceptable. All physicians in Germany are called upon to take a stand against this with great determination, moral courage, and solidarity. Never again is now!

