

Call to Action: Safe Abortion Day 2023



Abortion: Bodily autonomy is not a crime! Abolish § 218!

The decision whether to carry out a pregnancy can only be made by the pregnant person. But in Germany abortion is still regulated in the completely outdated paragraph 218 of the criminal law code. A commission by the federal government is currently advising what has been clear to us all along: Bodily autonomy is not a crime! Gender-specific criminalization through the law must finally stop. Reproductive rights and adequate healthcare are fundamental human rights and not a crime. That's why for this year's Safe Abortion Day we demand: Abolish § 218!

[The International Safe Abortion Day](#) has been celebrated in parts of Abya Yala* since 1990 and is still relevant today. For example, in our neighbouring country Poland. In 2020 one of the strictest anti-abortion laws in Europe entered into force which already cost several women [their lives](#). In Poland, abortion is only permitted by law in the case of rape or if the life endangerment of the pregnant person. In practice, even these exceptions are ignored, and abortions are de facto no longer possible. This violation of the bodily autonomy of pregnant people is an unacceptable form of state violence and we extend our full solidarity to those affected!

Criminalization of abortions also has harmful and far-reaching consequences in Germany: The healthcare of an entire group of the population is insufficient when it comes to abortions. It is a deterrent for doctors who find themselves in a legal grey zone. Due to criminalization, abortions are also not part of medical university and specialist training. Young doctors are not filling gaps in coverage and access in many regions of Germany is in a critical state. Additionally, people who have an abortion are stigmatized. Stigma that often leads to loneliness since it continues to be a taboo to speak about abortions openly. **We call on politicians to break this cycle. Bodily autonomy is not a crime! Abolish § 218!** This demand is supported [by the majority of Germans](#) and by medical, legal and welfare organizations.**

It is the responsibility of the government, on the other hand, to create a conducive environment for family planning. This is what makes freedom of choice possible. We demand nationwide access to reproductive health care, inclusion of contraception and abortion as standard care covered by health insurances, comprehensive public support for families, the removal of structural obstacles such as racism, hostility towards disabled, transgender and intersex* people and, above all, protection of bodily autonomy instead of criminal disempowerment.

Especially considering the rise of right-wing groups and parties and the governments that have emerged from them, we must stay vigilant and loud. Restricting reproductive rights is often one of the first steps in curtailing the human rights of minorities and marginalized people. We must not give space to this dehumanization!

This is why we call on you: Join us for the nationwide day of action on 28 September!

- **Plan an initiative in your local community!** For visibility, we would like to include your action in our nationwide press release. Therefore, **make sure to let us know about your initiative by [filling out this template](#)!**
- On our [blog](#) you will find all [actions](#) planned so far, [tips for taking action](#) and [graphic templates](#) for Safe Abortion Day.
- Every small campaign counts and stands a good chance of being included in local news as part of the nationwide campaign day.
- You can send questions to safeabortionday@sexuelle-selbstbestimmung.de

Hashtags: #SafeAbortionDay #wegmit218 #28Sept



* Latin America and the Caribbean; on the term Abya Yala: <https://www.npla.de/lexikon/abya-yala/>

** Examples of statements by medical, legal and welfare organisations:

- Deutscher Juristinnenbund (German Association of female lawyers): <https://www.djb.de/presse/stellungnahmen/detail/st22-26>
- Doctors for Choice: <https://doctorsforchoice.de/2023/08/position-gesetzliche-neuregelung-schwangerschaftsabbruch/>
- Hausärzterverband (General Practitioners' Association): https://www.hausaerzterverband.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Veranstaltungen/2023_04_25_HAEV_Beschlussuebersicht_Delegiertenversammlung_FJT_2023.pdf (S.31)
- Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband (Joint Welfare Association): <https://www.der-paritaetische.de/alle-meldungen/paritaetische-positionierung-zur-rechtlichen-verortung-des-schwangerschaftsabbruchs-ausserhalb-des-strafgesetzbuchs/>
- pro familia Bundesverband (Association for planned parenthood): https://www.profamilia.de/fileadmin/profamilia/verband/Neuregelung_SchwA_BV_07.05.2023.pdf
- Humanistischer Verband (Humanist Association) <https://humanismus.de/presse-aktuelles/aktuelles/pressemitteilung/2022/10/neuregelung-schwangerschaftsabbruch/>
- Giordano-Bruno-Stiftung (Giordano Bruno Foundation) <https://www.giordano-bruno-stiftung.de/meldung/fuer-die-entkriminalisierung-des-schwangerschaftsabbruchs>