

Safe Abortion Day – Country-Wide Action Week 2024

Legal. Simple. Fair. For new regulation of abortion in Germany!

2024 is an important year for abortion legalisation in Germany. A commission has examined the deletion of Section 218 from the Criminal Code. However, at the same time, the rise of right-wing parties worldwide jeopardizes reproductive rights. We demand the legalisation of abortion in Germany in this legislative period! People with unwanted pregnancies need good medical care and social support, not the threat of punishment. Thus we demand new regulation of abortion and it should be legal, simple and fair!

LEGAL – current regulation in the Criminal Code criminalizes and stigmatizes people with unwanted pregnancies. It prevents health insurance companies from covering the costs and adequate teaching in medical studies, and is completely opposed to good care. A new LEGAL regulation would make it easier for people with unwanted pregnancies to speak about their situation and to find support services. A new LEGAL regulation is the first step towards good medical, social and financial care for people with unwanted pregnancies.

SIMPLE – abortion begins with an obstacle course for people who do not wish to be pregnant. Discovery they are pregnant, required counselling, attempts to get costs covered, three-day waiting period, and locating a doctor who will perform the procedure. A new SIMPLE regulation would abolish the waiting period, include a right to counselling instead of an obligation, assume costs by health insurance companies, and improve medical care. A new SIMPLE regulation supports people who do not wish to be pregnant.

FAIR – vulnerable people who live in poverty, have experienced violence or have an insecure residence status are affected in multiple ways by the current legal situation and resulting obstacles. Due to lack of medical care, they are unable to choose the medical staff and methods and ensure they feel comfortable. A new FAIR regulation would include low-threshold and local access to abortion that allows each person to choose their method. A new FAIR regulation creates healthcare in which people with unwanted pregnancies feel safe.

Our demands in detail:

- Abolition of Paragraph 218 from the German Criminal Code (StGB): the paragraph which criminalises abortion should be deleted.
- Medical care supply situation: we need more practices and clinics which perform abortions. State hospitals must be obliged to offer abortions and not have the right to refuse.
- Training: basis and advanced training, as well as continuing education, for doctors and medical professionals in the field of abortion must be mandatory.
- Right to counselling: pregnant women need the right to be counselled instead of an obligation.
- Waiting period: the three-day waiting period should be abolished.
- Cost cover: costs for abortions should – as with every other medical procedure – be covered by health insurance companies.
- Trust: people with unwanted pregnancies should be trusted to make the right decision.

We call on organizations and activists: Take part in the nationwide week of action for Safe Abortion Day from 21 to 28 September 2024!

We are already looking forward to taking to the streets with you all. We are loud and will not rest until abortions in Germany are finally LEGAL, SIMPLE, and FAIRLY regulated! Safe Abortion Day falls on a Saturday this year. You can also use the whole week for actions.

- **Organize local actions**, e.g. rallies, demonstrations, creative performances, film screenings, panel discussions, lectures, flash mobs, information stands, button workshops, vigils, or reading circles. Even small actions are very valuable and have a good chance of being included in local press as part of the nationwide day of action.
- **Be sure to let us know about your action** so that we can include it in the nationwide press release and on our blog and together gain a lot of attention. Please use this form to do so: <https://forms.gle/MEA6Ebb4Tjp5uiba9>
- **Write a press release** for Safe Abortion Day!
- **Do social media work** for Safe Abortion Day with the hashtags #SafeAbortionDay #WegMit218
- **You'll find materials and tips** for action planning and press relations on our blog: <https://safeabortionday.noblogs.org>
- **Spread the word in your circles!** Use supraregional structures in particular and activate other cities to become active on Safe Abortion Day.

In addition, this year there is a petition against paragraph 218 StGB under <https://innn.it/wegmit218>

- Share this petition in your own organization and publicly, especially in the action week for Safe Abortion Day.
- You'll find message templates, social media templates, and a QR code in the following materials folder, that you're welcome to share:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19nWHpBzQVaggVO8sAhRH8UPUtVr43Flw>
- **Sign the petition yourself!**

Get in touch if you have any questions or just drop by. We will keep you informed about dates, events, and developments.

- ❖ E-Mail: safeabortionday@sexuelle-selbstbestimmung.de
- ❖ Instagram: @prochoice_de
- ❖ Web: <https://safeabortionday.noblogs.org>