

## **Did you know that...**

### **... abortion is illegal in Germany?**

Abortion has been regulated in the penal code for almost 150 years: § 218 StGB states: "Anyone who terminates a pregnancy is punished with a prison sentence of up to 3 years or a fine." Abortion can be exempt from punishment under certain conditions. But remains illegal.

### **... § 219a StGB prohibits gynecologists from providing information on their website about possible abortions in their practices?**

They are also not allowed to explain what procedures they are using. If they do, they face up to 2 years imprisonment or severe fines.

### **... most abortions are carried out on an outpatient basis in gynecological practices?**

In 2017, 97% of all abortions in Germany were carried out on an outpatient basis, four out of five in gynecological practices and only one out of five outpatients in hospitals. Only three out of 100 abortions are carried out on a stationary basis.

### **... women have to seek advice according to § 219 StGB in order to be able to get an abortion without any punishment?**

This can only be done after 3 days of „reflection“.

The legal mandate of counseling is to encourage people to continue their pregnancy.

### **... people have to prove that they are permanently registered in Germany before the costs for the surgical abortion will be covered by the health insurance?**

Who is not taken into account?

### **... surgical abortions are not part of gynecological training in Germany?**

For this reason, medical practices rarely find doctors who can perform an abortion.

### **... that the operator of the website "Babycast.de" compares abortions with the Holocaust?**

For years, Klaus Günter Annen has reported medical practitioners for §219a and has probably the most complete list of "abortion doctors" with around 1,200 sorted by zip code with names and places.

### **... the number of abortions in Germany is very low in an international comparison and is decreasing?**

Since 2008, less than 6 in 1,000 women between the ages of 15 and 49 have an abortion each year. 20 years ago it was 6.6 out of 1,000 women.

## **Did you know that...**

### **... access to abortions is significantly more difficult due to the corona pandemic?**

Reason 1: The advice required by law is made more difficult because the advice centers had to severely restrict their offers or close them entirely. That means: less appointments, longer waiting times, difficulties in meeting deadlines.

Reason 2: There is a lack of protective equipment (masks, protective gowns, disinfectants) in practices and clinics; shift work prevails and offers are reduced in order to minimize the risk of infection for patients and staff or because clinics do not consider abortions to be a necessary procedure; If the staff is infected, there will be two-week quarantine closing time.

Reason 3: Consequences of the contact and exit restrictions for unwanted pregnant women: Children and relatives have to be looked after at home; possibly the unwanted pregnant woman is herself in quarantine; Transport options are reduced by restrictions on public transport - even before the pandemic, the distances to the demolition were between 50 and 200 kilometers for many.

### **... the difficult access to abortions due to the corona pandemic leads to the following fears:**

- that women resort to "unsafe abortion methods" again with the risk of damage to health such as inflammation, sterility, bleeding, and even death,
- That there will be more unwanted pregnancies as a result of the increase in domestic violence / rape as a result of exit restrictions.

### **... some countries have abortion laws tighten?**

In Brazil, abortions are only allowed after rape, if the mother's life is at risk or the fetus is seriously malformed. Raped women can only have an abortion with impunity if they report the rape. However, they must expect criminal prosecution if they cannot prove the rape and are also obliged to provide a "detailed account" to the doctors. Doctors must now, among other things, ask those affected to look at the embryo or fetus on ultrasound images.

<http://bitly.ws/show/9N6r>

### **... in Germany the abortion medication has to be taken under medical supervision up to the 9th week?**

A demand from associations such as Doctors for Choice and Pro Familia is therefore to allow drug abortion at home up to the ninth week.

Source: <https://taz.de/Schwangerschaftsabbruch-waehrend-Corona!/5684989/>

## **Did you know that...**

... the "International Planned Parenthood Federation" (IPPF), the patronage of family planning organizations worldwide, in 1996 in the "Charter on Sexual and Reproductive Rights" explicitly stipulates that everyone can freely decide whether, when and how many children they want to have.

<https://bit.ly/3kvPoqn>

**... christian fundamentalists recurrently report doctors for showing supposedly abortion ads and for offering abortion as a service on their websites?**

These so-called "life protectors" refer to Section 219a in the Criminal Code, which was enacted by the Nazis in May 1933. Every year they organize "marches for life" in various cities and demand a total ban on abortion.

**... over 50 % of unwanted pregnancies were aborted in difficult partnerships?**

In a study by the Federal Center for Health Education, every fifth woman cited professional or financial insecurity as the reason for the abortion.

**... a surgical abortion costs between 200 and 600 euros, depending on the practice and method?**

The costs for an abortion are rarely covered by the health insurance, e.g. if there is a medical risk for the pregnant woman or after a rape. Most of the time, the person affected has to pay for the procedure themselves. In Case of low income, the government will support.

**... Canada is the only country worldwide. where abortion is completely legal?**

In 1988 these were released without increasing the number of terminations.

Christian fundamentalists put pressure on clinics and practices here too.

In the GDR, termination of pregnancy was legal up to the 12th week and was paid for by the health insurance company.

**... since 2019 a register of the German Medical Association has been listing gynecologists who perform abortions?**

Unwanted pregnant women should be able to find practices for an abortion despite the advertising ban (§ 219a). But of around 19,000 resident gynecologists in Germany, only around 330 have so far been registered on this voluntary list. One of the reasons for this is the fear of attacks by anti-abortionists.

**... the number of abortion performing doctors decreased by 40 percent between 2003 and 2018?**

According to the Federal Statistical Office, the number of abortions decreased by only 21 percent over the same period.

**... the criminalization of abortion does not lead to less abortions, but to even more illegal abortions, which affects poor women in particular?**

## **Did you know that...**

**... according to a study by the Federal Center for Health Education, only four out of 100 women are heterosexually active, do not want a child, but still do not use contraception?**

On the other hand, almost 50 % of unwanted pregnancies occurred even though the women used contraception.

**... abortion is a safe procedure under appropriate conditions, but around 25 million unsafe abortions are performed worldwide each year?**

Tens of thousands of women die every year worldwide, because abortion is criminalized and women perform abortions by themselves harming their health or get an unsafe abortion.

**... that South Africa has liberalized the abortion law over ten years ago?**

Here women can legally have an abortion up to the 20th week of pregnancy if they declare that they are physically, economically or socially incapable of having a child. The number of abortions has not decreased, but deaths from abortion have decreased by over 90 percent. In other African countries, improperly performed abortions and their consequences are the main reasons for women death

**... Abortions after the 14th week are usually only allowed if the child is likely to be disabled.**

Source: <https://taz.de/Spaetabtriebe-in-Deutschland/!5681768/>

**... Pastor Wolfgang Boten (former CEO of DIAKO Flensburg) stated the following in the press release of November 8th, 2010:**

"The DIAKO has agreed to renounce of this intervention [surgical abortion] and has accepted the ethical position of the Catholic institution for the protection of all life. DIAKO made this decision because of the low average number of abortions performed at the current clinic. The agreement between the two hospital operators, DIAKO and Malteser, provides that in the event of a different assessment, the ethical position must be followed, which allows human life the most far-reaching protection. Therefore, apart from medically induced emergency treatments as a result of outpatient abortions, inpatient abortions can only be done out in the MALTESER-DIAKO Clinic in justified individual cases on the basis of special medical indications. "

<http://bitly.ws/9MSS>

Josefine, 27, Chemnitz

"When I found out about my pregnancy, I was in my fourth week.

And i knew immediateley that I didn't want a child at that time. I did not expect the following way to be as long and full of impediment, i was shocked about how hard it is made for women to manage.

I decided to have a drug abortion, which is only possible up to the ninth week. I asked three major clinics. I was offered an appointment in only one - six weeks later. Doctors, whom I called on suspicion, were heartbreakingly unfriendly, they just snapped: "You can remove make-up here with us." Pro Familia gave me a list of a few contacts I called. But some of these doctors only told me that they they quit performing surgical abortions - because of lawsuits and threats. After several phone calls I found a tactful and amiable doctor, just in time. I thought the taboo would not exist anymore in the crowd but that's not the case, especially if you look at the increasing number of right winged populists.. You are constantly told that is wrong to dicide that way and you feel bad about the unborn child and in the society. I felt as if i was externally determined and my only job is to breed.

<http://bitly.ws/9N6p>

### **Petition: #AbortionInCrisis**

Safe access to abortions even in the corona crisis

<http://bitly.ws/9MUj>

**Demand: Secure access to abortions through four specific measures**

1. Recognition of abortions as necessary medical services within the meaning of the pandemic regulations for medical institutions
2. Suspension of the obligation to provide advice and waiting time while guaranteeing the right to advice. Contactless, recognized advice via video or telephone.
3. A low-threshold and extended reimbursement of abortion costs
4. Examination and approval of medical abortions at home with telemedical support