

## BUNDESWEITE MEDIBÜROS UND MEDINETZE

c/o Medibüro Berlin | Netzwerk für das Recht auf Gesundheitsversorgung aller Migrant\*innen  
Gneisenaustr. 2a • 10961 Berlin • Tel: 030-694 67 46 • Fax: 030- 62 90 11 45 • E-Mail: [info@medibuero.de](mailto:info@medibuero.de)

PRESS RELEASE FROM APRIL 14, 2020

### ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE: FOR EVERYONE - NOW IMMEDIATELY - FOREVER!

35 Medibüros and Medinetze across Germany warn of dramatic health care crisis for hundreds of thousands of migrants without health insurance in the coronavirus crisis. In an open letter to those responsible for health policy, they urgently demand a quick, nationwide, uniform and sustainable solution. The signatories and supporting organizations urge that safe and reliable access to health care is a human right and must be granted without restrictions.

The open letter was sent on April 13, 2020 to:

Federal Health Minister **JENS SPAHN**, Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs **HUBERTUS HEIL**, Federal Minister of the Interior, for Construction and Home Affairs **HORST SEEHOFER**, the chairwoman of the Health Ministers 'Conference 2020 **DILEK KALAYCI**, the **PARTICIPANTS** of the Health Ministers' Conference 2020.

.....  
In view of the coronavirus pandemic, on April 4, 2020, the **WHO** asked governments worldwide to give refugees, migrants, homeless people and people without health insurance access to tests and treatment and to remove financial barriers.

On March 24, 2020, **ÄRZTE DER WELT**, and more than 40 signatory organizations, expressed their deep concern in an open letter to the Coronavirus crisis team of the Federal Government that **hundreds of thousands in Germany have no way to be tested and treated or to go into quarantine.**

Migrants without a residence permit who rely on doctors to treat them anonymously fear that their data will be transmitted to the immigration authorities (§ 87 Residence Act) and that they will be deported. Others shy away from high treatment costs and avoid visits to the doctor, examinations or tests.

Many people also do not have access to reliable information in their language about the coronavirus and the lung disease Covid-19 and are thus particularly at risk from the pandemic. In spite of local, nationwide and international pressure, recommendations and broad media coverage, procedures for allocating responsibility or covering the costs for uninsured people remain unregulated in Germany to this day. This is grossly negligent.

The coronavirus crisis also forces civil society and voluntary institutions for people without health insurance to reduce or even suspend their office hours due to the high risk of infection and the lack of protective measures. **People with chronic diseases or cases that need an urgent treatment simply do not get care.** This has devastating health consequences. **The dramatic conditions speak unequivocally for a quick, nationwide uniform and sustainable solution!**

We demand:

- 1. The immediate, exceptionless and permanent integration of all uninsured people into the regular, statutory health insurance system regardless of residence status.**
- 2. The complete abolition of the obligation to transmit patient data according to § 87 Residence Act.**

Even if provisional solutions in the crisis seem obvious: the current state of emergency only accentuates the problems we experience in normal times. The system was already deficient 'before Corona' - and urgently needs to be adapted to human rights binding

standards. **The pandemic is exacerbating day-to-day exclusion and deprivation of rights and makes the structural deficits of existing parallel medical systems visible.**

In Germany, there are hundreds of thousands of illegal migrants and EU citizens who are excluded from regular medical care. The disastrous consequence: illnesses are not recognized or treated in time, they become chronic, have a severe course and are fatal. For years, voluntary initiatives such as the Medibüros and Medinetze have been trying to organize care through doctors volunteering to treat these patients anonymously to prevent the worst. In recent years, temporary projects creating a clearing office and / or an "anonymized health insurance certificate" have been fought at the local level.

Other cities and federal states are currently trying to implement these. These steps should be supported as they improve the situation at least comparatively.

**However, temporary, local projects or voluntary support only solve the problems in a provisional manner.** They establish patchy parallel systems. Financial and human resources are limited and volatile. Projects for the allocation of "anonymized health certificates" are organizationally complex and if applicable cost-intensive. Voluntary initiatives, in turn, depend on donations, the time and motivation of volunteers. **In both cases, unlike those insured by law, those affected have no reliable and secure access to the health system - and thus to medical care.**

However, health care must be accessible to all people living in Germany: unlimited and long-term. We therefore urge those responsible for health policy: Give a guarantee of this human right by integrating these people into the statutory health system and by abolishing § 87 Residence Act., regardless of a person's residence status.

.....

The open letter is signed by the Medibüros and Medinetze Berlin, Bielefeld, Bochum, Bonn, Bremen, Chemnitz, Dortmund, Dresden, Düsseldorf, Erlangen, Freiburg, Gießen, Göttingen, Halle, Hamburg, Hannover, Jena, Karlsruhe, Kiel, Cologne, Leipzig, Lübeck, Magdeburg, Mainz, Marburg, Nuremberg / Fürth, Oldenburg, Paderborn, Plauen, Rhein-Neckar, Rostock, Solingen, Tübingen, Würzburg

KONTAKT: [info@medibuero.de](mailto:info@medibuero.de)

The demands are supported by

- Ärzte der Welt e.V.
- Bundesweite Arbeitsgemeinschaft Psychosozialer Zentren für Flüchtlinge und Folteropfer (BAFF e.V.)
- Bundeszahnärztekammer (BZÄK)
- Café 104 München
- Deutsche Aidshilfe e.V.
- Flüchtlingsrat Baden-Württemberg e.V.
- Flüchtlingsrat Berlin e.V.
- Flüchtlingsrat Brandenburg e.V.
- Flüchtlingsrat Bremen e.V.
- Flüchtlingsrat Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e.V.
- Flüchtlingsrat Rheinland-Pfalz e.V. | Arbeitskreis Asyl
- Flüchtlingsrat Sachsen-Anhalt e.V.
- Flüchtlingsrat Schleswig-Holstein e.V.
- Kritische Mediziner\*innen Freiburg der Fachschaft Medizin (Ofamed)
- Poliklinik Veddel e.V.
- Sächsischer Flüchtlingsrat e.V.
- Solidarity City Berlin
- Verein demokratischer Ärztinnen und Ärzte (vdää)
- Verein demokratischer Pharmazeutinnen und Pharmazeuten (VdPP)
- Women in Exile e.V.