

DEFENDING HEALTH AS A SOCIAL RIGHT

DR. NADJA RAKOWITZ, ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC
DOCTORS

THE WAR ON EMPATHY AND THE ABOLITION OF HEALTH AS A SOCIAL RIGHT

DPGG, BERLIN 14.10.2025

THE BEAST HAS ARRIVED - CRISIS AND THE LOGIC OF WAR

- Economic Crisis with a decline in GDP since 2023
- Political shift to the right with the far-right AfD party and within the other liberal, conservative parties and the SPD
- Decision of CDU/CSU, SPD, Greens in January 2025: special fund for infrastructure: € 500 billion & exemption of military spending from the self-imposed constitutional "debt brake; Merz government has promised to spend 5% GDP for military from 2035 onwards
- The Merz government wants to spend around € 520 billion next year, the deficit is expected to reach a historic high of € 172 billion by 2029
- “The welfare state can no longer be financed by what we achieve economically.” (Friedrich Merz)

NO TAX RISES, BUT ATTACKS ON SOLIDARITY AND THE WELFARE STATE

The government intends to abolish the 8-hour day in favour of a maximum weekly working time (working days of 13 hours will then be possible again)

Economists and politicians propose cutting public holidays

They will tighten the rules on basic income support and want to raise the retirement age

They tightened asylum laws and restricted the opportunities of migration to Germany as a – wrong - answer to the rising of the rightwing party AfD

ATTACKS ON HEALTHCARE AND SOLIDARITY

Reforms and changes

- Hospital reform that will lead to the closure of hundreds of hospitals
- Cut of funding for other health services (e.g. psychosocial centres for refugees and victims of torture by 41%)
- A massive militarisation of the health service is being prepared

Ideas

- fees for visits to specialists in the outpatient sector (€ 200-300) or fees for every visit to the doctor
- limitation of medical services either for people above a certain age or for certain services (e.g. cancer drugs)

STRUGGLES, STRIKES, CAMPAIGNS

Hospital movement since 2015: strikes for guaranteed staffing quotas and against the economisation of hospitals

“Polikliniksyndikat” fighting for a Primary Health Care System for good medical care for all

Critique of the recruitment of skilled workers from abroad

Groups of critical medical students at university

Campaign against Militarisation of the Health System by IPPNW and vdää*

Make society and the health service fit for peace!

We say no to preparation of war, to armament and to the subjugation of the health service to the military.

Gesellschaft und Gesundheitswesen friedensstüchtig machen!

Wir sagen Nein zur Kriegsvorbereitung, zu Aufrüstung und Unterwerfung des Gesundheitswesens unter das Militär!

