

FRANKFURT DECLARATION

**NO TO WARMONGERING!
SCIENCE FOR PEACE!**

**16.-17.03.2024
FRANKFURT AM MAIN**

YES TO CIVIL CLAUSES!



CLOSING STATEMENT OF THE NATIONWIDE CIVIL CLAUSE CONGRESS

United in the conviction that a world without the logic of war is possible and necessary; determined to promote the international and cooperative advancement of humanity, we stand against the current militarization of society and the opening of universities to the military. We engage and act on this as collective researchers, educators and students.

The historical victory over fascism laid the groundwork upon which the inviolability of human dignity and the imperative for peace in German Basic Law were built. In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, they form the basis for a common effort towards the sustainable development of our world. 75 years after the adoption of the Basic Law, this effort remains relevant and, in the last four decades, more than 70 German universities have passed a civil clause. They are self-commitments to contribute to a peaceful development of society and to teach, learn and conduct research for civil purposes.

With the declaration of the so-called "Zeitenwende" by the German chancellor, we are being pushed into believing the alleged inescapability of violence and militarization. Warmongering rhetoric has reached new heights. The consequences of German history and the legacy of "War and Fascism: Never again!" are turned upside down as our society is subjected to a process of desensitization and brutalization. As a consequence, the gates are being opened wide for extreme right-wing thought and worldviews.

We oppose the current brazen attempts by the arms industry and their political spokespeople in federal and state governments to open public universities for military purposes. We oppose their efforts to undermine civil clauses in order to subdue science in the name of security and geopolitics. We want to work, learn, and perform research peacefully and in a civil manner. It is our aim to collectively build a world in which everyone may live in peace! Together, we want to contribute to the realization of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, as decided upon by the United Nations.

FOR THE EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND SCIENCE DIPLOMACY!

We demand a departure from isolationist and bloc-building policies in science and elsewhere. Current global crises are of such a character and magnitude that no one nation or leader can bring them under control. They can only be solved productively through international and cooperative efforts. International scientific cooperation has for decades been instrumental for civil development, disarmament treaties, and the shared use of resources, knowledge, and technologies. It plays an irreplaceable role in international understanding and multilateralism, and is central for solving problems in the interest of the vast majority of countries. This is why, now more than ever, we must work towards realizing and enabling cooperation between nations. This includes:

- Civil clauses must be further expanded and adopted. They provide generalizable criteria for international cooperation not only with China but also with Turkey, Iran, Israel, France, and the USA. In all collaboration, the focus must be purely civil and oriented towards a world of peace.
- To break down stereotypes and enable critical work on stopping climate change, scientific cooperation with Russia must be resumed.
- As the complete destruction of academic infrastructure in Gaza continues, intensified efforts by the scientific community, for the advancement of peace and immediate reconstruction, are required. Scientific cooperation with universities in both Israel as well as Gaza and in the West Bank must be promoted. This cooperation must contribute to international mutual understanding.

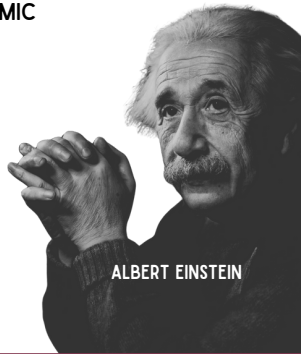
SCIENCE FOR EVERYONE, THROUGH EVERYONE: FOR THE DEMOCRATIZATION AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF OUR UNIVERSITIES

For decades, our universities have been underfunded, pushed into competition, and de-democratized. Science must be freed from the chains of market economy. Researchers, educators, and students must be enabled to contribute to a humane, peaceful, and democratic development of society and international relations.

This positive framework for the freedom of science can only be fulfilled if the necessary material conditions are met: universities must be adequately publicly funded and competitive mechanisms such as the Excellence Strategy must be rolled back. Universities must contribute to the education and growth of responsible and compassionate individuals. For this, employment conditions must be improved and students must be provided social security. Curricula must be changed from the ground up to rid them of examination marathons. Decisions in universities have to be made in accordance with democratic principles and include the interests of all members. Only once they are structured in a democratic and socially beneficial manner, universities will be able to truly promote societally responsible actions by their members and the critical reflection of current political, social, and economic conditions.

»THERE WOULD BE ENOUGH MONEY, ENOUGH WORK, ENOUGH FOOD IF WE DISTRIBUTED THE WEALTH OF THE WORLD CORRECTLY, INSTEAD OF BECOMING SLAVES TO RIGID ECONOMIC DOCTRINES OR TRADITIONS.

OUR WEAPONS SHALL BE WEAPONS OF THE SPIRIT, NOT TANKS AND BULLETS. WHAT A WORLD COULD WE BUILD IF WE USED THE FORCES UNLEASHED BY WAR FOR CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS, (...) TO HELP PEOPLE IN ALL COUNTRIES LIVE A LIFE OF DIGNITY?«



ALBERT EINSTEIN

TAKING HISTORY INTO OUR OWN HANDS!

The past and the present teach us: no war can be prepared for and waged without the involvement of scientists!

We oppose any and all destruction of perspectives for sustainable development. We have better things in mind: we advocate for science in the cause of international disarmament, understanding and cooperation. The social and ecological development and renewal of our livelihoods is our goal.

This goal is not an uncontested one. For example, the Bavarian state government is planning to ban civil clauses and force universities and schools to cooperate with the German armed forces. To this unconstitutional interference with the fundamental right to academic freedom we respond:

Not with us!

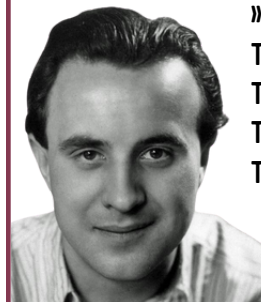
In a world where, more than ever, efforts for sustainable development and peace are necessary, the consequence must be: civil clauses everywhere now!

This is what we strive for and we urge everyone to join us!

»YOU. RESEARCHER IN THE LAB. IF TOMORROW THEY COMMAND YOU TO INVENT A NEW DEATH AGAINST THE OLD LIFE, THERE IS BUT ONE OPTION:

SAY NO!«

WOLFGANG BORCHERT



JOINT ACTION ON 13./14. MAY 2024 IN FULDA

On May 13th and 14th, 2024, representatives from over 270 university administrations will come together in Fulda for the University Rectors' Conference (Hochschulrektorenkonferenz, HRK). There, we will intervene for a shift in educational and research policy - join us!

MORE INFORMATION ON WWW.ZIVILKLAUSEL.DE