

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

Newsletter - May 2019

EDITORIAL

Dear reader

Assisted suicide is still prohibited by law in many countries. Free and responsible citizens continue to be patronised and prevented against their will from ending their suffering and life in a manner they personally consider dignified. Relatives and friends who respect the wish of a seriously ill person to die and who give him or her their support are still being treated as criminals.

Freedom of choice, self-determination and self-responsibility in life and at life's end: This is what "DIGNITAS – To live with dignity – To die with dignity" continues to work for internationally: in its political and legal work, in its daily advising of individuals seeking help and in preparing and providing assisted suicide for suffering individuals who have made a clear and well-considered choice and who are still denied this right in their home country.

Feel free to share our newsletter with other interested parties. You are also welcome to show support for our goals and international activities by [joining as a member](#) or by [making a donation](#).

Ludwig A. Minelli
Founder of DIGNITAS
Secretary General

Sandra Martino
Board Member

Silvan Luley
Board Member

COUNTRY UPDATE

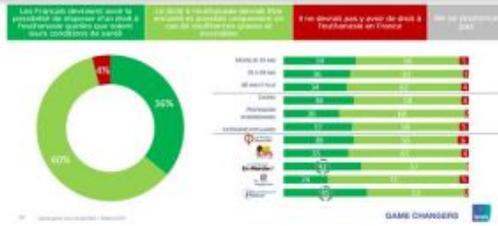


GERMANY

Two days in Karlsruhe raise hopes for human dignity

On 16/17 April 2019, Ludwig A. Minelli and Sandra Martino, both board members of DIGNITAS, appeared together with a number of other complainants at a hearing before the German Federal Constitutional Court: The question was whether § 217 ("Geschäftsmässige Förderung ... [read more](#)

FRANCE

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Despite many years of efforts by organisations and individuals in France to ensure the right to a self-determined and dignified end of life and against the clearly and repeatedly expressed opinion of the French population, legal access to assisted dying (assisted suicide and/or active euthanasia) remains wishful [read more](#)



UK

We need UK politicians to show bravery on assisted dying

by guest writer Carrie Hynds*

Carrie Hynds, board member of My Death, My Decision (MDMD) and co-chair of the newly founded Assisted Dying Coalition, explains MDMDs envisaged assisted dying model and the Coalition's political goals.

[Read more](#)

INSIDE DIGNITAS

DIGNITAS establishes a fund for financing legal proceedings and a fund for granting reduction/exemption of membership fees for persons living in modest economic circumstances – donations are welcome.

The Manfred Kuhn Fund: Support for DIGNITAS' International Political and Legal Activities

Since its foundation in 1998, our non-profit association "DIGNITAS – To live with dignity – To die with dignity" has been developing international law. The aim of this activity is to enforce and safeguard the freedom and right of every human being to decide on the manner and time of their own end of life. Every person should have the opportunity to exercise this right where he or she lives - in a legal and secure manner and in the presence of his/her loved ones.

The international political and legal activities of DIGNITAS have steadily increased in recent years. The association conducts legal cases in various countries, supports and participates in cases of third parties, participates in political consultation procedures for law amendments, advises on the development of new laws, etc.

Your donation to the "Manfred Kuhn Fund" helps us cover the costs of these activities, in particular for legal proceedings and lawyers.

The fund is reminiscent of a member of the DIGNITAS board of trustees who helped to found our association and provided excellent advice to the association's board. Attorney-at-law Manfred Kuhn (1930-2003) was Vice President of EXIT (German Switzerland) and a close friend of DIGNITAS founder Ludwig A. Minelli. After the foundation of DIGNITAS, he transferred from EXIT to DIGNITAS and contributed decisively to establishing the association.

More information about our political and legal activities can be found on our website

www.dignitas.ch.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

"DIGNITAS – To live with dignity – To die with dignity" and, if needed, of submitting a request for an accompanied suicide. Article 9, paragraph 6 of the articles of association of DIGNITAS states that members living under very modest economic circumstances may, upon well-founded request, be exempted, partially or fully, from paying membership and other fees.

Your donation to the "Wolfgang Hopff Fund" helps DIGNITAS to grant reductions and exemption of membership dues and other fees to persons living under modest economic circumstances.

The fund is reminiscent of a member of the DIGNITAS board of trustees who helped to found our association and provided excellent advice to the association's board. Prof. Dr. med. et phil. Wolfgang Hopff (1930-2005) was a pharmacologist at the University of Zurich. After the foundation of DIGNITAS he advised the board regarding the application of drugs for the purpose of assisted suicide.

Donations

If you like to make a donation to one of these funds, you have the following options:

via bank transfer

DIGNITAS , P.O. Box 17, 8127 Forch, Switzerland

Bank: POSTFINANCE AG, Mingerstrasse 20, 3030 Bern, Switzerland

IBAN: CH79 0900 0000 8706 4492 2 / BIC / SWIFT: POFICHBEXXX

Bank account: 87-64492-2 / Clearing No. 9000

via PayPal

www.PayPal.com to our e-mail address dignitas@dignitas.ch

(please note that PayPal retains a 5% commission)

via TransferWise

www.TransferWise.ch

Please indicate the purpose of the donation ("Manfred Kuhn Fund" resp. "Wolfgang Hopff Fund") on the transfer.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...there were and still are unequal regulations within Switzerland with regard to self-determination and freedom of choice in life and at the end of life?

For example, the Swiss Penal Code of 1942 provided in principle that an abortion was permissible if the mother's life or health were at risk. This provision, however, was interpreted and put into practice in different ways by the individual cantons; as a result, women from more rural-conservative cantons often had to travel to another canton to exercise this right until the so-called "Fristenlösung" (law permitting an abortion within the first

MOREOVER

On the death of Uwe-Christian Arnold (1944 - 2019)



On 12 April 2019, Uwe-Christian Arnold, a committed fighter for freedom of choice and self-determination in end-of-life

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

without a marriage certificate was not permitted in all cantons for a long time. In the 1960s, numerous unmarried couples moved from the canton of Zurich to the neighboring canton of Aargau to be able to live together.

The practice of assisted suicide has also remained inconsistent to this day; while the retirement and nursing homes of the city of Zurich grant access to professional organisations for providing suicide assistance, a debate in the canton of Valais on a legally binding regulation of access to retirement and nursing homes is currently leading to heated debates. Residents of nursing homes who refuse to grant access to professional organisations must currently either transfer to a private apartment or to the premises of an organisation for being able to get assistance.

Anyone who has to go somewhere else in order to exercise a right to which they are entitled is not a tourist. He does not do this for pleasure, but because a freedom he is entitled to is denied to him in the place where he lives. The term "suicide tourism", which is often used in connection with DIGNITAS and other organisations that provide assisted suicide for persons living abroad, is extremely disrespectful and disguises the fact that people who travel to Switzerland for assisted suicide always do so to have true freedom of choice; for most of them, the journey is also extremely strenuous due to their advanced illness.

Arnold was a founding member of "DIGNITAS - Menschenwürdig leben - Menschenwürdig sterben (Section Germany) e.V.", Hanover and 2nd chairman of the association from September 2005 to October 2010.

A physician, dedicating his life with enormous personal commitment to helping hundreds of severely suffering people and living genuine humanity. A man who, courageously and without mincing his words, challenged stubborn professional organisations and authorities, including the Berlin Medical Association, and won before the Administrative Court. A cheerful, sociable person, a friend, a man with rough edges, honest, reliable, and above all with his heart in the right place.

Thank you for everything, Uwe-Christian!

The DIGNITAS Team

[Support DIGNITAS
Become a member](#)

[Support DIGNITAS
Make a donation](#)