

Press Release

Bonn / Berlin, 27. August 2019

Ten principles for freedom of science

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Research organisations unveil voluntary commitment at close of campaign

To mark the 70th anniversary of the German constitution – known as the Basic Law – the Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany has drafted a Memorandum which spells out a voluntary commitment in the form of Ten Principles for Freedom of Science. The objective of this memorandum is to draw attention to scientific freedom and strengthen it for coming challenges. Whether it be aiding scientists and academics from abroad who are threatened (“scholars at risk”), dealing responsibly with simplistic or one-sided information, meeting compliance obligations, or promoting a culture of constructive debate: In this memorandum, the science community lays out its responsibility to promote and support scientific freedom to the best of its ability within its own structures and to increase awareness of the importance of scientific freedom in a democratic society. The memorandum is published at the conclusion of the joint campaign “Freedom is Our System. Together for Science. 70 Years of the Basic Law” being conducted by the Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany. Since spring, numerous events have been conducted in this connection and compiled on the website www.wissenschaftsfreiheit.de using digital formats such as podcasts, video interviews and many other articles and reports.

The Alliance of Science Organisations is a union of the most important science and research organisations in Germany. It regularly issues statements regarding important science policy issues. The Leibniz Association is a member of the Alliance and is chair of the organisation for 2019.

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

HRK



Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung/Foundation

HELMHOLTZ
GEMEINSCHAFT

Leibniz
Leibniz-Gemeinschaft



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT



Fraunhofer Gesellschaft

Please direct any questions to:

Cordula Luckassen
Provisional Head of Press
Relations / Spokesperson
DAAD – German Academic
Exchange Service
Tel.: +49 (0)228 882-454
presse@daad.de
[\[mailto:presse@daad.de\]](mailto:presse@daad.de)

The Alliance's other members are the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), the Helmholtz Association, the German Rectors' Conference, the Leibniz Association, the Max Planck Society, the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, the German Council of Science and Humanities, and the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft.

CONTACT:

Medienkontakt für die Kampagne Wissenschaftsfreiheit:

Dr. Christine Burtscheidt

Max-Planck-Gesellschaft

Büro Berlin, Markgrafenstraße 37, 10117 Berlin

Tel.: +49 (0)30 4990 5652, Fax: +49 (0)30 4990 5642

christine.burtscheidt@gv.mpg.de

Medienkontakt für die Allianz der

Wissenschaftsorganisationen:

Christoph Herbort-von Loeper

Leibniz-Gemeinschaft

Chausseestraße 111, 10115 Berlin

Tel.: +49 (0)30 20 60 49 - 48

herbort@leibniz-gemeinschaft.de