

Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Minister Mag. Gerhard Karner  
Herrengasse 7  
1010 Wien

## **Open letter – Call for the withdrawal of the vaccination requirement and the end of the split of the society**

Dear Federal Minister Mag. Karner,

in view of the situation in our home country Austria, we see it as our duty, as police officers for fundamental rights and freedoms, to make our concerns known about the planned compulsory vaccination and the division of society.

We are not an association, not a trade union and not a legal entity. We are neither extreme right nor extreme left. We are by no means anti-vaccination or conspiracy theorists. We are a group of several hundred police officers from all over Austria who have come together informally due to the current situation. We are united by concerns about the rule of law, our freedom of expression and fundamental rights, and our health. We are both Covid-19 vaccinated and unvaccinated. We are people from different social backgrounds and our characters and needs are just as different. And as different as we are personally, we agree on this.

As civil servants, in accordance with § 43 Para. 2 BDG, we have to take care in our entire conduct that the public's trust in the factual performance of our official tasks is maintained. Since the introduction of the 3G (geimpft – vaccinated, genesen - recovered and getestet – tested) regulation in the workplace and the imminent obligation to vaccinate, there has also been a noticeable internal division within the workforce into “unvaccinated” and “vaccinated”, which has increasingly led to conflicts and even discrimination against unvaccinated colleagues. In our opinion, however, this internal division now impairs the perception of the objectivity of our official tasks. For example, colleagues who are now unvaccinated, but always tested, are now being threatened with disciplinary measures and reports. And although the narrative of “the unvaccinated as a driver of a pandemic” has now been invalidated by scientific findings, it still poisons trusting camaraderie and successful teamwork.

In our group, we are of the opinion that the decision to take medication or any type of vaccination must be made free of any coercion, pressure or discrimination, taking into account the individual risk assessment. This decision for or against vaccination MUST be respected and accepted by all parties, including the employer. As police officers, we practice a dangerous profession in which every official act can theoretically lead to the death of a person involved. In this respect, we allow ourselves to claim that an individual consideration and risk assessment for drug treatment or vaccination and the resulting highly personal decision-making is reasonable for us.

The solidarity towards society that is often demanded by vaccinated people when speaking out against a Covid-19 vaccination for various reasons is, in our opinion, a rather questionable argument that needs to be discussed. In the meantime, it has been scientifically proven that vaccination neither prevents one's own infection nor the transmission of the virus to others. All that remains is a reduced risk of a severe course of the disease with an unclear time dimension. In addition, as scientific studies have shown, vaccination carries a high risk of side

effects, the severity and frequency of which are not comparable to those of other vaccines that have been developed and tested to date, and the actual extent of which will probably only become apparent over time, since these side effects is currently (unfortunately) only given little attention in the media. But to assume that a group, such as the currently unvaccinated group, is responsible for the collapse of the health system is ethically questionable and morally reprehensible. Such a procedure is also not used within society for smokers, obese people, extreme athletes or other groups whose behavior and way of life are likely to place an undue burden on the health system maintained in solidarity. In fact, there are also many vaccinated people in the hospitals, although number games and different ways of counting or specifying numbers offer a variable perspective on both argumentation points depending on the way they are read and interpreted.

We are neither doctors nor can we or do we want to start a discussion about the effectiveness of the Covid-19 vaccination or gene therapy. Nevertheless, different experts from different disciplines have recognized and it has become clear from practice that vaccination as an isolated solution will probably not be able to bring the pandemic to an end. That is why we observe with concern how critical voices from specialist circles are immediately suppressed by superiors, employers, politicians and the media and how they are denied any competence and an open discourse about possible other (therapeutic) approaches is prevented. Instead, the vaccination narrative is preached mantra-like and the country is repeatedly brought to a standstill with lockdowns - with major effects on the economy and society. We are concerned about this development, because it undermines freedom of expression in a democracy, prevents scientific discourse and is an expression of a dictatorship of opinion - and that affects us too.

As police officers, we are obliged to maintain proportionality in all of our measures, especially when encroaching on fundamental rights and freedoms, and to take the measure that fulfills the purpose in the situation while protecting the rights of a person as much as possible. In view of all the circumstances, we therefore see the planned vaccination requirement as no longer proportionate. It massively interferes with the right to self-determination over one's own body and can probably not fulfill the purpose of ending the pandemic. All current vaccines and gene therapy drugs only have conditional approval and the effective duration of effectiveness is often unknown. In addition, the side effects have not yet been sufficiently documented or tested and, as has now been scientifically proven several times, they do not offer sufficient protection against infection and transmission. In addition to the lack of proportionality, the condition of the conditional approvals should be emphasized. As a result, all those previously vaccinated against Covid-19 are currently taking part in ongoing medical studies, which will last until 2024, depending on the vaccine. According to the Nuremberg Code, participation in a medical experiment must be done without the use of force, deceit, subterfuge, coercion, pretense, or any other form of persuasion or coercion. We would therefore like to make it clear that we do NOT wish to participate in such a trial or study.

We would therefore like to draw your attention to the fact that if there are staff shortages due to compulsory vaccination and the associated threat of official measures, you must in any case expect that the Republic of Austria will lose numerous motivated, committed and qualified police officers. We therefore ask you to also take a look at other countries in which attempts were also made to force a workforce to have such vaccinations with pressure and this then failed miserably due to the personnel situation.

Therefore, we demand:

- to work to ensure that no occupational or general vaccination obligation or any other form of indirect compulsory vaccination is introduced in Austria.
- to advocate that, both from a medical point of view and for reasons of equal treatment, 3G is completely suspended in the workplace, or at least converted to 1G - namely TESTED - and implemented with internal departmental resources.
- To ensure that discrimination against unvaccinated colleagues and threats of disciplinary action and complaints against your employees come to an end.
- for allowing us to focus on our core policing tasks again. We want to be there for the population as a "friend and helper" and not to face them threateningly during predominantly peaceful demonstrations that were called into being due to the increasing resentment of the population towards politics.

Sincerely

Press officer

Deacon Uwe EGLAU

Employee support of the Vienna State Police Headquarters

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Signatures of active policemen, including their service numbers, were notarized.