



KATOLICKIE STOWARZYSZENIE LEKARZY POLSKICH

POLISH ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS

Oddział Mazowiecki im. bł. dr Ewy Noiszewskiej

The Blessed Dr Ewa Noiszewska Masovia Division

01-960 Warszawa ul. Przy Agorze 9

Parafia Niepokalanego Poczęcia NMP,

Prezes (head) prof. Bogdan Chazan, e-mail: b.chazan@wp.pl

Delegat (delegate) dr Grażyna Rybak, e-mail: grazyna.rybak@op.pl

NORGES KRISTELIGE LEGEFORENING

Storgata 10B, 0155 Oslo

Generalsekretær Magnar Kleiven

Mobil: 952 48 733, E-post: magnar@vivilja.no

Warsaw, 22.02.2017

Dear Dr. Kleiven,

we heartily thank you and all the members of the Norwegian Christian Medical Association for all the support you have given for the Polish physician, Dr. Katarzyna Jachimowicz. We are especially grateful to you for your presence in the court and acting as Dr. Jachimowicz's spokesman helping her in the contacts with the media. We would also like to thank you for organising the fundraising to cover legal costs incurred by Dr. Jachimowicz.

We are glad that in the situation, when the law in Norway completely forbids family doctors to invoke the conscience clause, your association has stood up in defence of our colleague. We admire the attitude of our compatriot who has refused to practice the insertion of the intrauterine coils which are harmful for women and lethal for children. We are proud that the Polish doctor working abroad has invoked the universal conscience clause when she was dismissed from her job by the municipality of Sauherad on the basis of the law from 1 January 2015 which says that a physician has no right to the conscientious objections and she or he cannot decline to recommend an abortion or insert an intrauterine coil to patients.

We deplore that the intrauterine coils, which can act as abortifacients and often can cause infertility, are commonly used as “contraceptives” in Norway. We are thankful to you for your pronouncement that inserting an intrauterine coil is in practice performing an abortion in an early stage of development of the child.

Dr. Katarzyna Jachimowicz is for us an example of a doctor with conscience who works in agreement with the Polish Code of Medical Ethics, who has a deep respect for the patients and for any human life.

The decision of Dr. Katarzyna Jachimowicz’s dismissal is incompatible with the resolution 1763 on “The right to conscientious objection in lawful medical care” adopted on 7 October 2010 by the Council of Europe, which explicitly states that: „*No person, hospital or institution shall be coerced, held liable or discriminated against in any manner because of a refusal to perform, accommodate, assist or submit to an abortion*”. Dismissal from job is an example of harassment and discrimination of a doctor because of his conscientious attitude aiming at the protection of the life of the conceived child and his mother.

The dismissal of Dr. Jachimowicz is also incompatible with Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1966, which states in point 1: “*Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion*”. By suppressing the right conscientious objection Norway also violates Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

We protest against violation of the freedom of conscience of the Polish physician as well as of all the physicians working in Norway. Similarly to Dr. Katarzyna Jakimowicz, we have taken the Physician's Oath, that we “*shall serve human life and health*” and “*shall guard the dignity of the medical profession*”. We do not agree with calling abortion a health treatment.

We hope that the Norwegian Christian Medical Association will continue the efforts so that Norway will abide by international conventions and admit the rights of physicians to obey their consciences and follow the professional ethics and Christian values in their work.

On behalf of physicians - members of The Blessed Dr Ewa Noiszewska Masovian Division of the Polish Association of Catholic Physicians

Prezes (head)

Prof. Bogdan Chazan

Delegat (delegate)

dr Grażyna Rybak