

## SCHWEINFURT DECLARATION

### APPEAL FOR DEMOCRACY AND COHESION

Dear citizens,

For several weeks now, so-called "walks" against the measures to curb the pandemic have been taking place in Schweinfurt. At the same time, doctors and nursing staff in the region's hospitals are working at their limits. The majority of people in the region and in the whole of Germany are behaving sensibly, in solidarity and with consideration. Restaurants and retailers are implementing the 2G rule. Cultural institutions have severely restricted or stopped their operations for the good of all people. Many entrepreneurs are trying to keep up their production even in the pandemic, despite outages caused by 3G rules, quarantines and testing. Existences are at risk.

You all know that combating the pandemic is a task for society as a whole. This task can only be accomplished together. Everyone should show solidarity in supporting the worldwide vaccination campaign against the SARS-Cov-2 coronavirus and accept the government's vaccination offer. The way out of the pandemic is primarily through nationwide vaccination. We therefore once again call on all citizens of Schweinfurt: Let us become part of an unprecedented worldwide solidarity action through vaccination.

If the individual thinks only of his own self, he destroys social coexistence. The freedom of the individual ends where it limits the freedom of others. There is also a fundamental right to physical integrity, and the state must protect this.

It is not acceptable that the overall societal efforts to contain the coronavirus and all the deprivations are maligned by the irresponsible actions of a minority. We trust the recommendations of science to prevent greater harm to all.

We are very fortunate to live in a free, peaceful and democratic society. Many centuries have been fought for our democracy. Democracy and fundamental rights protect each individual and give everyone the opportunity to participate. This also gives rise to a responsibility of each and everyone for the community. The majority of people living in our region are aware of this connection. The right of assembly is a fundamental right that is an essential prerequisite for our basic democratic order. However, those who organise assemblies week after week without a legal basis and without people in charge are trampling on this fundamental right. The slogans of a vocal minority that the state acts like a dictatorship are absurd and mock all victims of dictatorships, in the past and today.

It should be clear to all: The supra-regional initiators of the Corona protests are using the pandemic as a pretext to cause unrest, endanger democracy and divide society. The rift goes through families and circles of friends. Partly covertly, partly consciously and openly, some Corona critics are seeking to close ranks with the extreme right-wing scene. The undersigned strongly condemn the verbal and physical violence emanating from the meetings and marches. Those who commit crimes under the supposed protection of anonymity, obstruct, attack and even injure police officers in the course of their duties are opposing our community of values.

A community with the organisers who remain hidden, who deliberately want to circumvent the right of assembly and conceal their identity, is misleading. Solidarisation harbours the risk of equating with people, groups or goals and of becoming instruments of dangerous currents. Every citizen should stay away from these "demonstrations".