

# Public Declaration by Turkish Medical Association

1. The Central Council of Turkish Medical Association (TTB) made an open declaration on Wednesday, 24 January 2018.

2. Different reactions were received on the following two days. Besides many approving and supporting the statement there were also discourse and threats targeting the association and even inviting lynch by adding some statements that do not exist in the original declaration.

3. The TTB Central Council pays attention to reactions from both its members and citizens.

4. What must be repeated first of all is that the statement by the TTB Central Council is formulated with utmost meticulousness by observing the well-being of our children now beyond borders, their parents and close circles, devoid of any disrespect. Those who are on duty abroad are just our souls as others who react. The TTB Central Council rejects distortions made against itself in this respect.

5. The TTB Central Council expressed its opinion in this process in line with a stance and sense of responsibility that a medical association should adopt. The values of the profession of medicine in regard to such cases as conflict, war, actions against terrorism and similar others as well as position statements with long years of background are clear enough to dismiss divergent interpretations. The statement by the TTB Central Council dated January 24<sup>th</sup> remains fully loyal to this ground.

6. In spite of these we sadly hear, see and experience some reactions turning into calls of stigmatization that may well bring along some provocative assaults. Indeed, the latest statements made by the highest authorities of the State bear the risk that they can be conceived as se statements pointing out to the TTB Central Council as a common target.

7. In the light of this information, TTB Central Council reminds the public authority its responsibility to fulfill the duty of creating an environment in which the life safety of all is ensured and freedom of expression is protected for all without any exception. On this occasion we once more share our wish for a free, democratic and peaceful Turkey and world.

26.01.2018

**Central Council of Turkish Medical Association**