

ADVISORY HANDOUT OF THE NETWORK AGAINST ABUSE OF POWER IN SCIENCE (MAWI)

Status: November 2022

1. What is the purpose of this handout?

With this handout, we would like to inform those affected by abuse of power in science about the general counselling services offered by the Network against Abuse of Power in Science (MaWi). It is helpful if you familiarise yourself with this handout before your counselling session. We are always grateful for feedback, both on this handout and in general on the counselling we provide!

On our website <https://www.netzwerk-mawi.de/en/the-network> and on our Twitter channel <https://twitter.com/MawiNetwork> you can find out more about our other activities. You can reach us at our email address: kontakt@netzwerk-mawi.de.

2. Why does the Network against Abuse of Power in Science offer counselling?

MaWi offers general counselling to those affected by abuse of power in science that is independent of institutions and institutional contact points.

In principle, MaWi strives to contribute to making abuse of power in science visible and removing the taboos, as well as to contribute to positive changes in the science system. Therefore, MaWi is also active in networking and public relations work.

3. Whom does the Network against Abuse of Power in Science offer counselling?

Our counselling services are aimed at people who are/were working at research institutions in science, technology and administration and who are/were affected by abuse of power. Persons of any status group can contact us.

There is no clear definition of the phenomenon of abuse of power in science. MaWi is aware that this field contains many grey areas and possibilities of interpretation. We are therefore committed to power-critical scientific structures in a broad sense. On our website, we offer various resources that enable an approach to the phenomenon. We do not understand the material offered as an ultimate definition or description of the phenomenon of abuse of power in science.

Guidance on various areas of abuse of power in science can be found in the annual reports of the Ombudsman for Science, available here: <https://ombudsman-fuer-die-wissenschaft.de/2030/jahresberichte-des-ombudsman/?lang=en>. The reports contain, among other things, a thematic breakdown of the requests and procedures to the panel within a year, as well as a breakdown by discipline and frequency. We regularly publish anonymised case studies on our website, which can also be used for personal orientation, available here: <https://www.netzwerk-mawi.de/en/case-examples>.

4. Who is involved in counselling at the Network against Abuse of Power in Science?

You can view all members active in counselling here: <https://www.netzwerk-mawi.de/en/network-members>. All counselling work is carried out by the members on a voluntary basis. Members bring different skills and expertise to general counselling in the

area of abuse of power in science. All consulting members agree to actively address any biases and to withdraw from consulting if necessary. We strive to continuously improve our individual counselling competencies in order to ensure the quality of our counselling and to sustainably develop our counselling activities. In this context, we strive to offer regular supervision to the counselling members. In supervision, situations from counselling sessions can be discussed anonymously among the counselling members under certain circumstances.

5. Principles of our counselling & process of counselling

MaWi cannot offer legal, psychological, or journalistic advice. In individual cases, however, further referrals to relevant expertise can be made.

Our commitment is biased towards those who are affected by abuse of power in science. Against this background, you can expect impartiality from us with regard to your individual counselling request. Therefore, at the beginning of our counselling sessions, we are particularly concerned with developing a common understanding and evaluation of the incidents experienced. We offer assistance in your individual counselling concern. For this, your willingness to cooperate with our counselling members is indispensable. Please be on time at appointments or cancel appointments timely.

Counselling sessions can achieve very different results; concrete first steps cannot always be worked out. They can also serve as a personal relief by offering a neutral and confidential 'sounding board' or to interpret and classify what has been experienced, and thus provide an occasion for reflection on further steps that may need to be taken.

We treat all information provided to us as strictly confidential, including your consultation request. We observe the legal requirements of data protection. We only provide counselling in tandems in order to ensure the quality of our counselling and to bring in different perspectives on your counselling concerns. The counselling tandems only document counselling sessions with your consent and anonymously. We do not communicate any information given to us to third parties. We only involve other network members in your counselling with your consent.

You can contact us about this at any time at kontakt@netzwerk-mawi.de.

Our counselling sessions are arranged individually according to the time capacities of the counselling members and usually last no longer than 60 minutes. The counselling sessions usually take place via video conference. If you wish, another person of your trust can take part in the counselling. However, we would like to ask you to inform us about this in advance. The consultations usually proceed as follows:

- Brief introduction of the participants
- Clarification of the expectations of the counselling session
- Description and analysis of the situation
- Addressing your concerns
- Conclusion of the counselling session with clarification of the further procedure

6. How to make an appointment for counselling?

We only make counselling appointments after a request via our mailbox: kontakt@netzwerk-mawi.de or, if you would like to communicate in encrypted form, you can use the contact option mentioned below. With your request, you do not have to provide us with any details about your specific counselling concern or your institution. However, if you wish, you can send us a brief description of your concern; this will make it easier for us to find network members with suitable expertise. We strongly recommend that this communication is done from private devices and email accounts. You can convey to us with your request if you wish to exclude certain advisory members of MaWi from the consultation. This may be the case, for example, if advisory members come from the same university or institute and you therefore have concerns about your anonymity.

The mailbox is currently managed by Sophia Hohmann, who forwards your request anonymously to the advisory network members. Only the counselling members have access to the mailbox, which can be accessed here: <https://www.netzwerk-mawi.de/en/network-members>. A network member of the counselling tandem will then contact you to arrange an individual appointment. Please note that our resources are limited and it may take some time before we can offer you a counselling appointment.

If you wish to communicate with us in encrypted form, you can contact us at jana.lasser@tugraz.at using the following PGP public key:
<http://keyserver2.pgp.com/vkd/DownloadKey.event?keyid=0xEBEA89BA4CF0AFEA>