

# Resolution

## regarding the Expulsion and Persecution of the German Minorities in Central and Eastern Europe as well as Central Asia, adopted on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II

The members of the **Working Group of German Minorities** (AGDM) in the **Federal Union of European Nationalities** (FUEN) jointly commemorate the tragic events of World War II, the end of which marks its 80th anniversary in 2025. This significant date not only reminds us of the horrors of that time but also urges us to preserve and pass on the lessons of history.

As representatives of the German minorities from more than 20 countries in Central and Eastern Europe as well as Central Asia, we recall the profound consequences of World War II, which was initiated by Nazi Germany and brought death, suffering, and loss to millions of people. We remember all victims of this cruel chapter in history.

At the same time, we wish to draw attention to the fate of the historic German minorities, who, after the war, were affected by ethnic cleansing, deportations, and severe human rights violations in Central and Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and the Balkans. More than 14 million people were expelled, and hundreds of thousands perished in internment camps, forced labour, or during the deportations. These crimes against the civilian population must not be forgotten!

The German communities that remained in their homelands also suffered severe injustices and collective blame in the following decades. The regimes that came to power after the end of World War II in the countries where German minorities lived expropriated them, discriminated against them culturally and linguistically, and subjected them to physical violence. Many lost their mother tongue, their livelihoods, and their cultural identity. To this day, the German minorities struggle with the consequences of these injustices.

Commemorating and clearly naming these crimes is not only a duty but also a central contribution to preserving our civilizational values. The present shows that silence about or the lack of condemnation of such crimes can contribute to similar human rights violations being employed again by those in power. Therefore, we urge everyone to learn from the past and take responsibility for a just and peaceful future.

**For this reason, we call upon the successor states of today to take appropriate measures to commemorate the expulsion of the Germans after World War II and the persecution of those who remained in their homelands in a dignified manner, to distance themselves from these crimes, and to publicly condemn them.**

Eighty years after the tragic events of World War II, the following must be clear:

- Human dignity is inviolable and applies regardless of nationality or ethnic affiliation.
- Punishment without individual guilt is an injustice in itself.
- The right to homeland, language, culture, and religion must not be questioned.
- The responsibility for the violation of these rights remains, regardless of political circumstances.
- Human rights and minority rights are inseparably linked.

We appeal to the states where expulsions and persecutions took place after World War II, as well as to the international community, to keep the memory of the victims alive and to ensure the protection of the rights of national and ethnic minorities worldwide.

As the Working Group of German Minorities, we are committed to securing peace and upholding human rights. The protection and promotion of national and ethnic minorities is an active contribution to peace policy!

**An open dialogue, the recognition of historical responsibility, and the sustainable promotion of the rights of national and ethnic minorities are indispensable to preventing conflicts and wars in the future.**

*Adopted in Berlin on March 4, 2025*

*Note: This is a translation of the original German resolution. Given the sensitivity of the topic, the German version shall be considered authoritative.*