

The Importance of the Hippocratic Oath and the Physician's Oath From the Declaration of Geneva. Re: Religious beliefs should be treated as any other personal choice

Today while religious groups seek shelter from those who would persecute them for practicing their faith; just as others seek protection from persecution from those who have different racial, creed, color, sex and sexual orientation; it is comforting to note that one group of people – PHYSICIANS - have been following an Oath established long ago, which already addresses these personal choices and calls upon those taking that Oath to place our responsibilities to our patients above all else.

Both the Hippocratic Oath to which one swears to "remain free of all intentional injustice" and the modern version; The Physicians Oath from The Declaration of Geneva – developed following the atrocities of Nazi Germany - which more specifically states:

"I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race, party politics or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient;"

reflects standards laid out for those of us in Medicine and Healthcare, which exceeds that seen in much of society.

When the question is asked, should religious beliefs be treated as any other personal choice, we can only ask – How could a Physician or Healthcare provider answer anything other than in the affirmative?!

Competing interests: No competing interests

21 February 2020

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BMJ 2020;368:m526.