

28 September: Statements, Activities, Tweets

1st report, 3 October 2018

WORKING GROUP ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN LAW AND PRACTICE



States must act now to allow safe, legal abortions for women and girls, say UN rights experts in a statement to mark International Safe Abortion Day

GENEVA (27 September 2018) – States across the world should act now to decriminalise abortion and make every effort to ensure women and girls have the right to take their own decisions about pregnancy, say a group of UN human rights experts*.

“An estimated 225 million women worldwide are deprived of access to modern contraception, often leading to unplanned pregnancies. For girls, issues arising from pregnancy and childbirth are some of the most common causes of death in developing countries, with those under 15 five times more at risk,” the experts said in on 28 September.

“...Maternal mortality violates the rights to life, health, equality and freedom from being discriminated against.

“Issues around access to safe, legal abortion are at the very core of a woman’s fundamental right to equality, privacy and physical and mental health and these are preconditions for the enjoyment of other rights and freedoms. We hope that important steps taken in some countries to reclaim women’s reproductive rights through referendums, legislative and judicial action, can be followed in others.”

“Too many women are physically and verbally mistreated or simply denied emergency medical care after abortions. This amounts to another means of punishment which violates international law and, in many instances, national laws and policies. Governments have a duty to ensure that women and girls who have abortions are treated humanely and without judgement or assumption of violating laws, in particular in cases of miscarriages...

“Concerns about unsafe abortion must be addressed through public health, relevant medical malpractice and civil laws. It is therefore crucial that countries demonstrate their commitment to eliminating discrimination against women in their legislation and to advancing women’s and adolescents’ sexual and reproductive rights, in accordance with international human rights standards.”

[FULL STATEMENT](#) by Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice: current chair Ms Ivana Radačić (Croatia), Ms Alda Facio (Costa Rica), Ms Meskerem Geset Techane (Ethiopia), Ms Melissa Upreti (Nepal/USA) and Ms Elizabeth Broderick (Australia); Mr. Dainius Pūras, Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; Ms Dubravka Šimonović, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, 27 September 2018.

SWEDEN UN



Sweden UN: Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in NY says:

SOURCE: <https://twitter.com/SwedenUN/status/1045693052902420481/photo/1>

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH COALITION

STATEMENT: Normalizing Abortion

by Françoise Girard

On September 28, activists around the world will mark International Safe Abortion Day... The message is simple: no woman anywhere should have to tolerate restrictions that too often lead to injury or death.

Last month in Buenos Aires, Elizabeth, a 34-year-old mother of two, died after inserting parsley into her cervix in a desperate attempt to [induce an abortion](#). Days earlier, Argentina's Senate had [narrowly defeated legislation](#) that would have legalized abortion in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy. If that bill had passed, Elizabeth might be alive today. Instead, she is a grim statistic: one of more than 40 Argentinian women who will die this year from botched abortions.

On September 28, activists around the world will mark[have] an opportunity to mourn those who have died because of oppressive anti-abortion laws. But this day is also about spreading a message on behalf of Elizabeth and other women like her: Abortion, while in many countries a political wedge issue, is simply a fact of life... Simply put, there is no medical reason why any woman should have to risk her life to end an unwanted pregnancy.

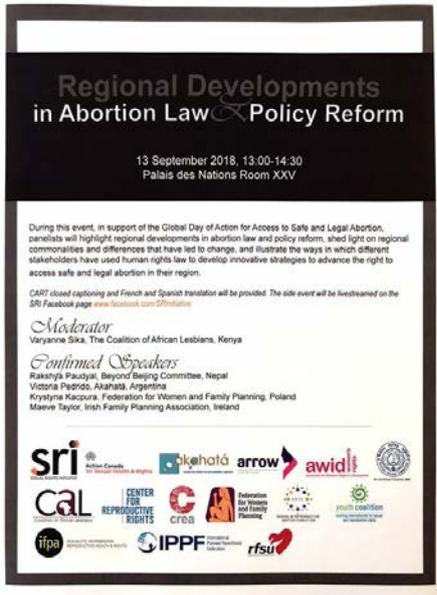
...Rights activists around the world are demanding changes to national abortion laws, and since 2000, [more than 30 countries](#) have liberalized their approach... In Argentina, hope remains high. Opinion polls show strong [support for abortion rights](#), and the bill that could have saved Elizabeth's life failed by only seven votes.

Still, the fight is far from over... Abortion is part of women's lives. It is time for governments to listen to the millions of women who are demanding [reproductive justice and bodily autonomy](#). Laws must recognize and guarantee a woman's right to sexual and reproductive care. Services must be made financially and medically accessible. And women everywhere – regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation – must have access to safe abortion services.

Elizabeth never had these opportunities, and millions of women around the world are in the same position. Unless and until that changes, every one of them is a potential tragedy.

[FULL TEXT](#), 25 September 2018

SEXUAL RIGHTS INITIATIVE



Regional Developments in Abortion Law & Policy Reform

Thank you for your support of the joint CSO statement on the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion. Over two hundred civil society organisations from all around the world supported the statement. The links to the final statement with the names of all the signatories are below.

[Statement in English](#) ; [Statement in Spanish](#) ; [Statement in French](#) ; [Statement in Russian](#)

ASTRA NETWORK



ASTRA joins the global mobilisation of activists for the right to access to safe and legal abortion

Today, on **September 28, International Safe Abortion Day**, ASTRA Network stands in solidarity with all women human rights defenders and activists working to ensure abortion rights and demanding that abortion be legal, truly accessible, and safe.

Access to safe abortion is a matter of human rights, social justice and a basic health concern. In countries where abortion is illegal, criminalised or not effectively accessible, women and girls resort to unsafe or clandestine procedures, which can lead to complications and detrimental health consequences. Despite progress across the world, significant challenges in accessing abortion remain, let alone the widespread stigma and discrimination.

Recent developments in Central and Eastern Europe have put reproductive rights of women and girls under severe pressure and once again it has become clear that abortion rights must be fought for, upheld and secured.

In numerous countries of Central and Eastern Europe women's bodies are currently a symbol of national heritage and issue of national dispute in the context of religious and medical ethics, not that of human rights and bodily autonomy.

What all countries of the region have in common, regardless of their legislation, is the stigma surrounding abortion, as well as abortion providers and reproductive rights activists. Existing barriers do not hinder women from terminating their pregnancies every day as there are no laws or punishments that will put an end to abortions, what Poland and Ceausescu's Romania are perfect examples of. Moreover, access to abortion being legal on paper is not enough – it must be truly accessible, especially to those most vulnerable.

Through this statement we join the collective and global voice which aims to break the abortion stigma and start talking about abortion as an experience – besides a right.



ASTRA NETWORK
www.astro.net.pl
Central and Eastern European Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

FULL TEXT: <https://twitter.com/ASTRANetwork/status/1045602495148556290/photo/1>

INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION



New global medical abortion database launched to increase safe abortion access for women

For 28 September, IPPF launched the [Medical Abortion Commodities Database](#), which houses information on the availability of quality misoprostol, mifepristone and co-packaged mifepristone and misoprostol (combipacks) in 89 countries!. The database is a resource for public health professionals seeking information to inform policy and use in reproductive health care programmes, such as public health and service delivery managers, staff involved in safe abortion programmes, donors, policy analysts, clinic service providers and supply chain logisticians. IPPF worked closely with Gynuity Health Projects and Concept Foundation to develop this database.

The database will be updated regularly, including with information on commodities in additional countries. It includes information on registered and available brands of mifepristone, misoprostol and combipacks in each country for which there is sufficient and objective evidence that they are of good quality. It does not provide counselling, clinical assessments, or dosing regimens.

IPPF welcomes feedback, information and updates on the availability of quality medical abortion commodities. please contact info@MedAb.org.

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I Decide What Happens to My Body

On 28 September, IPPF will launch a global campaign on safe abortion called #I Decide what happens to my body. We will be demanding the right to be free from reproductive coercion and to have bodily autonomy. One in four pregnancies around the world will end in an abortion. It could be you, me, your friend, parent or the person you sat next to on the bus. It could be because your health would have suffered, you couldn't afford it, it's the wrong time, it limits opportunities, or because you just don't have the capacity to raise any more children. It could be simply because you don't want to be pregnant. Many others are unable to access abortion services that are affordable, safe and legal. This is a violation of their fundamental human rights. Abortion is an everyday occurrence and an important part of our healthcare... On 26 September, we will launch a stunt in London to visualise that 1 in 4 pregnancies ends in induced abortion. We call on everyone to help break the stigma and #pledgeyourvoice.

SOURCE: E-mail 20 Sept 2018

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Groupement des Femmes Vivant avec Le HIV/SIDA: "Break the stigma of abortion"

On 28 September, we will organise a tour to raise awareness in order to obtain the commitment and support of 240 influential people in favour of facilitating access to safe abortion. After 28 September, we will organise awareness-raising sessions in different social circles, a roadshow with the works of activists, and a conference/debate on the subject of "Break the stigma of abortion" for 80 community, policy and other opinion leaders, including women activists, youth leaders, civil society, service providers, researchers, journalists, midwives, parents' associations, sex education teachers, health management teams, lawyers and jurists, doctors, youth and girls' parliaments, village elders, and faith leaders. At the heart of these celebrations, we will raise awareness of the commitment of the DRC to the implementation of the Maputo Protocol, when this binding legal instrument was finally published in the legal gazette, superseding the national law on abortion (Article 215 of the Constitution) and endorsing the way towards the decriminalisation of abortion, policy revision and development of clear guidelines for comprehensive abortion care. We are happy to be counted among you. In solidarity, the VFG-HIV team.

BROCHURE (en français): [BROCHURE #GFV-VIH SAAF IPPF, 28SEPTEMBRE2018.pdf](#)

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SOS Femme, Enfant en Catastrophe (SOSFEC)

For 28 September, SOSFEC in the DRC celebrated successfully on stigma and trauma to people who have had an unsafe abortion. Women said they sought abortion, because they were victims of sexual violence perpetrated by militias, armed gangs and rebels in this eastern part of the country. Many still

have unwanted pregnancies, but custom, religion and legislation do not give them not access to a safe abortion and especially with pills. They are stigmatised everywhere, and they are themselves traumatised, asking what they did for this to happen to them. So we share the history of their unmet needs. We in SOSFEC explain to women that they have the right to have an abortion if that is their decision.

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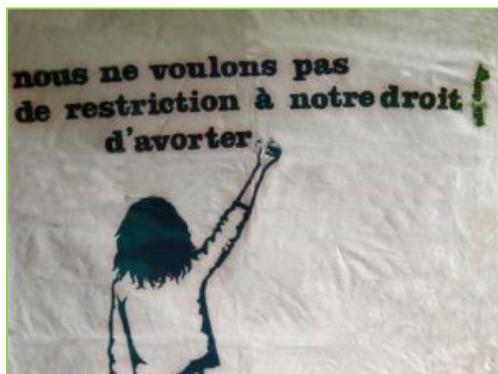
Groupe des Medias l’Avenir: “No woman should suffer or die from an illegal abortion: Let’s take action to save lives!”

For 28 September, the Coalition de Lutte contre les Grossesses Non Désirées, including, among others Pathfinder, ABEF-ND, Afia Mama, CAFCO, Médecins du Monde, and Si Jeunesse Savait – with the technical and financial support of Ipas RDC, Guttmacher, Médecins du Monde France, Pathfinder et Médecins Sans Frontières – organised a conference/debate in Kinshasa under the patronage of the Minister of Gender, Children and Family, Chantal Safou Lopusa, on the above theme: The aim was to assess the current situation of illegal abortion in the DRC, discuss how best to advocate for access to safe abortion, and implement the Maputo Protocol. The audience included high-level government officials, leaders of young women’s groups, university youth, and national women’s organisations, among others. The Ministry of Public Health was represented by the National Programme of Reproductive Health.

Madame la Ministre Chantal Safou Lopusa, in the name of the government, reaffirmed the commitment of the country to save women’s lives, including victims of sexual violence and all other forms of discrimination. There was a great deal of discussion about implementing Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol.

[FULL TEXT](#) (en français), by Bernetel Makambo

FRANCE

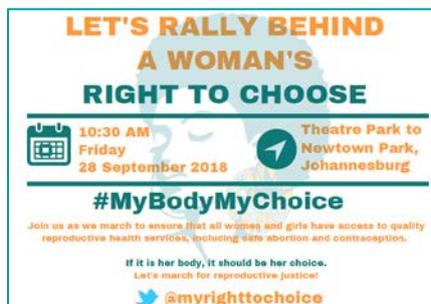


Documentary: «L'avortement : Les croisés contre attaquent»

We will show this documentary on 28 September at 6:30pm. There will be a discussion among activists from a number of countries at 8pm.

DETAILS: [Le planning familial](#)

SOUTH AFRICA



Global Health Strategies launched a campaign #MyBodyMyChoice on 10 September till 31 October to raise the discourse on reproductive justice and abortion as a key sexual and reproductive health and rights issue. It aims to reach women and communities, media, policymakers, providers and other advocates of women's rights, using social and community media channels, to draw attention to the key barriers to access to safe abortion and demand action for the effective implementation of the abortion law. Partners for this campaign include Amnesty International South Africa, Gender Links, Health-e News, Ibis Reproductive Health, Marie Stopes South Africa, Medecins Sans Frontieres, Nalane for Reproductive Justice, Sexual and Reproductive Justice Coalition, Sonke Gender Justice, and Treatment Action Campaign.

On September 28, they hosted a half-day event in Johannesburg to mobilise women and girls, health organisations and experts in the field. The event will include a march, musical performances, speeches by experts and other activities. Updates on Twitter [@myrighttochoice](#)!



Hundreds of people marched from Braamfontein to Newtown to raise awareness of reproductive rights and unsafe abortions in South Africa. A petition that will be handed to the government was also signed by about 200 people, describing why women still seek unsafe abortions in spite of a liberal law – health workers who refuse to provide abortion care, lack of information, poor infrastructure and limited availability of services.

SOURCE: [Sowetan Live](#), 30 September 2018 + PHOTO by Zoë Postman ; E-mails from GHS

FIGO



Improving access to safe abortion: assessments in ten countries for International Safe Abortion Day

To thoroughly understand differing national views on abortion, FIGO and partners at [KIT Royal Tropical Institute](#), undertook comprehensive needs assessments in 10 countries with FIGO national member societies, eight in Africa and two in Latin America. The aim was to develop proposals to strengthen the capacity of each member society to lead safe abortion advocacy efforts and bring change to their countries. The assessments involved literature reviews, online surveys, key informant interviews and workshops in each country. Comprehensive reports were prepared for each country.

Overarching key findings include:

- There is a lack of accurate national data on abortion prevalence and its contribution to maternal mortality.
- Pro-safe abortion actors were strong but not always outspoken or unified, while in some countries opposing actors were very powerful.
- Within national societies of obstetrics and gynaecology, there is a diverse range of opinions on abortion.
- Societies have credibility as technical experts and also on the subject of safe abortion. All societies have individuals who are extensively engaged as advisors on safe abortion, e.g. in the development of national guidelines. This reflects positively on our member societies, who show willingness and strength to be change makers.

These are the excellent reports:

- Benin - [French](#) and [English](#)
- [Cameroon](#)
- Ivory Coast - [French](#) and [English](#)
- [Kenya](#)
- Mali - [French](#) and [English](#)
- Mozambique - [Portuguese](#) and [English](#)
- Panama - [Spanish](#) and [English](#)
- Peru - [Spanish](#) and [English](#)
- [Uganda](#)
- [Zambia](#)

SEE: FIGO's [Safe Abortion Initiative](#) ; [PHOTO](#)

CATHOLICS FOR CHOICE



Catholics for Choice has made a film [Why Trust Women](#) to coincide with International Safe Abortion Day. Religion is often pitted against individual freedoms –including a woman’s right to make ethical choices over her body. So it’s enormously important that we engage in a conversation about the values that underpin a pro-choice position. What are the theological traditions of Catholicism and other faiths that revere individual conscience? What does it mean for doctors and society writ large to believe that women can be trusted to make informed, ethical decisions? Why should women have autonomy over decisions that impact the rest of their lives? We hope this film will serve as an educational tool for advocates, students, doctors, policymakers and others to fortify their ability to defend a pro-choice position from a place of authority and moral clarity. See also our [TOOLKIT](#) with social media posts for International Safe Abortion Day (9/28) and the Hyde Anniversary in the United States (9/30).

E-mail: 27 September 2018

ARROW



The [ARROW for Change Bulletin](#), in conjunction with International Safe Abortion Day, is on “The Right to Choose”, in line with this year's theme: “Normalising abortion: it’s part of our lives”. It highlights various perspectives and voices from the ground on the right to safe abortion and analyses the discourse on abortion as an issue of rights, and bodily autonomy of women, from countries like Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Poland, Ireland and others.

[The right to safe abortion is a fundamental human right which needs to be fought for](#), Statement by Sivananthi Thanenthiran

PERSONAL STATEMENT



Candlelit vigil for a child victim of a gang rape, Delhi, India 2012. Photo: Ramesh Lalwani/Flickr. CC BY-SA 2.0. Some rights reserved.

**Dear reader,
Put yourself in the position of a child raped and denied an abortion**

by Esperanza Meraki, 28 September 2018

I am a 14-year-old aspiring human rights activist in South Africa and this is why I believe in women's and girls' right to safe abortion in cases of rape.

Abortion is a very complicated topic, as there is no black or white; there is an infinite amount of shades of grey in between. Many people across the world are anti-abortion. Some believe that abortion is murder and women should not be given that choice, but I believe this is problematic and unfair because there are many cases when a woman should have the right to terminate a fetus...

FULL TEXT: [Open Democracy](#), 28 September 2018

RESURJ

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Organizaciones de mujeres y feministas siguieron el debate con gran atención y llamaron la atención sobre la necesidad de la discusión abierta y sincera en Paraguay. Poder hablar de una realidad que compromete la vida, la salud y la autonomía de las mujeres es indispensable para vivir en una sociedad democrática. Tomar medidas en un contexto donde cada día dos niñas entre 10 y 14 años dan a luz como consecuencia de abuso sexual es también una gran deuda de la democracia con las niñas y las mujeres.

**MIRTA MORAGAS,
PARAGUAY**

resurj UN Women

Reflections on Our Countries, 28 September, Resurj Special Edition

In this special edition of our monthly publication, we are pleased to share a collection of 12 reflections from RESURJ members, accomplices, and friends looking at current trends, news, progress, and challenges related to abortion in our countries. We are especially pleased to platform reflections from our accomplices in Latin America, the [Vecinas Feministas por la Justicia Sexual y Reproductiva en America Latina y Caribe](#), sharing key moments in advocacy for abortion rights in the region over the past few years. Other reports come from Rwanda, India,

Mexico, Egypt, Sri Lanka, UK, Ireland, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Brazil, and Ecuador. Topics covered include, advocacy, lack of access to SRH services for young people, stigma, stories and reflections on the realities of seeking an abortion, the need for positive stories, recent parliamentary debates and a public hearing.

PHOTO: @VeciFeministas, 27 September 2018

KATSWE SISTAHOOD



International Safe Abortion Day Commemorations

Katswe Sistahood is a movement of young, dynamic women fighting for the full attainment of sexual and reproductive health and rights by all young women in Zimbabwe. It is a platform that enables young women to mobilise, organise and articulate their needs and aspirations in respect of SRH education, services and legal protection, and to communicate these to policy makers and implementers. For 28 September, Katswe Sistahood hosted an outdoor documentary screening of a video featuring young women telling their stories and various experts speaking to what needs to be done to reduce the rate of unsafe abortions in Zimbabwe.

E-mail from Katswe Sistahood, 25 September 2018 ; [VIDEO](#)

BRAZIL

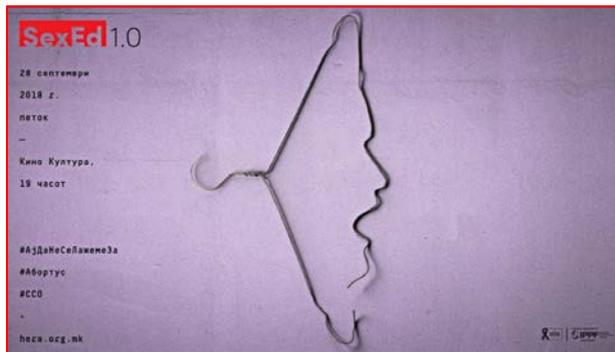


Cabide (Hanger)

[VIDEO](#) by Emilie Beffara

I am an anthropologist, sociologist and journalist, I started research on abortion in Brazil two years ago. Using the framework of an ethnographic documentary with a poetic glance, this work proposes to understand the current questions around abortion and woman's position in contemporary Brazilian society. The title of the documentary is the word for "hanger", symbolising unsafe abortion.

MACEDONIA



SexEd event

Inspired by the concept of TEDex motivational speeches, and on the occasion of 28 September International Safe Abortion Day, HERA is organizing its first [SEXed](#) – an educationally-inspirational event on sexuality and sexual rights. National and international speakers will talk about abortion rights and comprehensive sexuality education.

SEXed Agenda

Lina, HERA Youth (Macedonia) – *CAHOOT Sexuality Education*

Daniela Draghici, advocacy trainer and activist for women's rights (Romania) – *How could I still be pregnant after an abortion? A personal story from my communist past in Romania*

Doortje Braeken, CSE expert (Netherlands) – *CSE: What They Don't Tell You?*

Neil Datta, Executive Director, European Parliamentary Forum on Population & Development (Belgium) – *The Ultra-Conservative Counter-offensive explained*

Catherine Forde, lawyer, Irish Family Planning Association (Ireland) – *From 33 to 66 and why it took 35*

Snezhana Matovska, parent (Macedonia) – *Every question deserves an answer*

Mirjana Najchevska, university professor and human rights activist (Macedonia) – *Imposing pregnancy and birth is torture*

Viktor Damjanovski, CSE peer educator (Macedonia) – *Questions that children don't ask at home*

A video of the complete event will be posted on [HERA YouTube](#) ; [PHOTO](#)

IRELAND

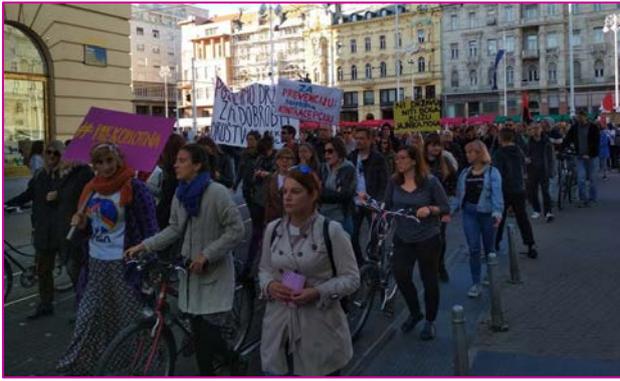


Abortion Rights Campaign hosts 7th annual March for Choice

The march which took place in Dublin highlighted the fact that "nothing has changed" since the Constitutional amendment on abortion was repealed in May. In the 128 days since that vote, more than 1,500 Irish women have had to travel abroad to get a termination or accessed the abortion pill illegally online. Two thousand people took part in the march, calling for the swift implementation of abortion services in Ireland. There was celebratory tone as demonstrators made their way through Dublin's main thoroughfares on 29 September. It was the first march since the referendum. Student groups, women's and abortion activist groups, and political parties including Sinn Féin, Green Party, Labour Party, People Before Profit, and Social Democrats were among those who carried banners. Many sported badges and t-shirts with the slogan "Free, Safe, Legal".

SOURCES: [St Helens Star](#), by Press Association, 29 September 2018 ; [Irish Times](#), by Colm Keena, 29 September 2018 ; [Irish Times](#), by Kitty Holland, 28 September 2018 ; [Joe.ie](#), by Kate Demolder, 24 September 2018

CROATIA

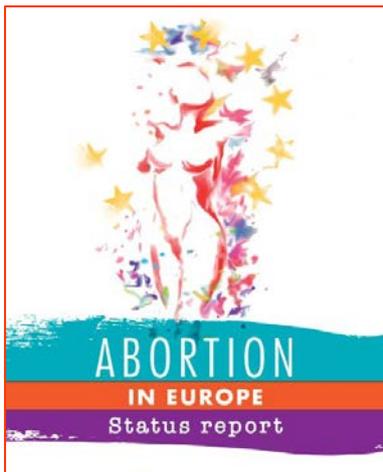


Loudly about abortion!

Hundreds of abortion rights activists and supporters marched through the centre of Zagreb on 29 September, calling for abortion rights to be upheld. With the motto “Loudly about Abortion!”, the rally began in the Square of the Victims of Fascism, where demonstrators called for abortion to be provided free under the state healthcare system and for an end to the social stigma surrounding it.

SOURCE: [Balkan Insight](#) + PHOTO by Anja Vladislavljovic, BIRN Zagreb, 29 September 2018

EUROPEAN HUMANIST FEDERATION



Abortion in Europe: Status Report for 28 September

Access to abortion in Europe appears to be a vested right. In reality, however, it is nothing of the kind. Attacks by anti-choice groups, both open and insidious, are increasing. Shaming of women remains the rule. Barriers to women’s sexual and reproductive autonomy are a manifestation of institutionalised sexism, and must be fought as features of injustice and inequality. Beyond ideological barriers, the economic crisis and austerity politics have created new obstacles such as the closure of abortion clinics, increasing waiting times, and limited resources being dedicated to information campaigns. In Malta, Northern Ireland and Gibraltar, women risk prison sentences, respectively 4 years, 20 years and life imprisonment! In Poland, abortion is authorised only in very limited cases. In Malta, Northern Ireland and Gibraltar, they risk prison sentences, respectively 4 years, 20 years and life imprisonment! In Poland, abortion is authorized only in the very limited cases. This is why the European Humanist Federation joined up with its Belgian member organisation, Centre d’Action Laïque and the AbortionRight platform to create a status report comparing legislation across the European Union as well as Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

FULL REPORT: in [English](#) ; [French](#)

LONDON, UK



Festival of Choice is back

This year, feminist and human rights organisations and collectives are joining efforts to organise the 5th Festival of Choice in London with celebrations, debates and activism in defence of reproductive rights over the next month, packed with activities to reclaim our bodily autonomy and join the pledge for reproductive justice for all:

28 September: Launch of guide on abortion and its criminalisation in Latin America, by Margarita Rebolledo + Ni Una Menos UK + Chile, followed by Q+A and open discussion.

7 October: Festival of Choice at Human Rights Action Centre, Amnesty International Programme will include a roundtable about the situation of campaigns in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, the cases of Poland, Argentina and Ireland, calls for decriminalisation now, [European Abortion Access Project](#), a speakers' corner with speakers from Reproductive Justice and Prison, and the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion, Launch of Worldwide Women's Reproductive Rights Reading Group, screening, music and poetry!

13 October: Abortion stories: a community-building workshop for people who have experienced abortion to share their experiences in an intimate, small group. This will then manifest into activities of drawing, painting, collaging or writing. The outcomes will be made into a DIY hand-bound fanzine.

LETTER TO SAVITA



Emma Watson: a letter to Savita Halappanavar

Emma Watson is an actor and activist, who launched the 'HeForShe' campaign at the United Nations in 2014. For 28 September, she wrote a letter in honour of Savita Halappanavar, whose death following a septic miscarriage in 2012 was a catalyst for Ireland's 2018 referendum. An inquiry showed that there had been 13 opportunities to save Savita's life over the seven days she was under medical supervision, and that she would not have died if she had been able to abort the 17-week-old non-viable fetus.

*Dear Dr Savita Halappanavar,
You didn't want to become the face of a movement; you wanted a procedure that would have saved your life. When news of your death broke in 2012, the urgent call to action from Irish activists reverberated around the world – repeal the Eighth Amendment of the Irish Constitution. Time and again, when our local and global communities collectively mourn a tragic death due to social injustice, we pay tribute, mobilize and proclaim: rest in power. A promise to the departed and a rallying call to society, we chant: never again. But it is rare that justice truly prevails for those whose deaths come to symbolize structural inequality. Rarer still is a historic feminist victory that emboldens the fight for reproductive justice everywhere...*

SOURCE: [Net-a-Porter](#), 29 September 2018

SOUTH KOREA



Repeal Article 269!

On 29 September at noon, commemorating International Safe Action Day, the coalition Joint Action for Reproductive Justice put on a performance with 269 people, forming the number 269, to show our demand to repeal Article 269 of the Criminal Code which criminalises abortion in Seoul. We also published a press release. After the performance, the participants recited a declaration with our demands. It was awesome, and the participants were very enthusiastic. We shouted these demands:

- Repeal 269! It's unconstitutional!
- Approve abortion pills!
- Revise the Mother and Child Health Law totally!
- Guarantee sexual rights and sexual education!
- Guarantee diverse families
- Guarantee parenting environment
- Guarantee safe and legal abortion for everyone
- End stigma!
- Leave no one behind

Joint Action for Reproductive Justice includes the Association of Korean Doctors for Health Rights , Center for Health and Social Change, E-LOOM Action for Anti-Prostitution and Human Rights, Femidangdang, Femimonsters, Flaming Feminist Action, Korean Green Party, Korea Sexual Violence Relief Center, Korean Women's Association United, Korea Women's Hot Line, Minjung Party, Network for Glocal Activism, People's Solidarity for Social Progress, Sarangbang Group for Human Rights,

Sexual and Reproductive Rights Forum, Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party, Student March, TACTEENNAEIL, Women's Council of Association of Physicians for Humanism, Women with Disabilities Empathy, Womenlink.

E-mail, 27 September 2018

INDIA



Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon and Abortion Stories Video

We are all aware of the large reach and popularity of Wikipedia. However, what most people don't know is that, according to a [study](#) conducted in 2011, only 9% of the editors at Wikipedia were women. And the percentage for India is even lower, just 3%. Wikipedia recognises the [systemic gender bias](#) that is created because of factors such as these and thus enables its diverse range of users to edit and create Wikipedia pages, with reliable and authentic sources. Feminism in India conducts [monthly Wikipedia edit-a-thons](#) with different organisations exploring various facets of gender in India, thus increasing content on women and marginalized communities on Wikipedia as well as training women to create and edit Wikipedia pages and hence increasing the number of women editors.

For 28 September, Feminism in India and the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership joined hands to organise a Wikipedia Edit-a-thon at *91springboard's* New Delhi office in Jhandewalan, to increase the representation of abortion-related pages of India and Asia-Pacific, as well as to teach a new skill of creating and editing articles on Wikipedia to the youth. Accordingly, we created a list of abortion activists, organisations working on abortion and abortion law and rights in various countries in Asia and looked at their representation on Wikipedia. A lot of the names on the list did not have any Wikipedia pages, while the ones that did had very basic and limited information (stub pages).

We were a group of 7 editors in total. The event began with a discussion on the whys and hows of Wikipedia editing for new-comers and we all watched our latest video, which shows women sharing their abortion stories. After that, each participant chose one or more abortion-related pages absent from Wikipedia, and started digging through the internet looking for interviews, news reports and e-books that mentioned them, to write comprehensive Wikipedia articles on them. By the end of the day, the participants had edited about 10 articles in English.

[VIDEO](#): Women Tell Their Abortion Stories, by Feminism in India, 27 September 2018

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LOVE MATTERS INDIA



The film 'I Am Not Alone' uses a virtual reality medium to narrate the powerful story of Mehak - a young girl, who was not alone, when she made the decision to abort. The short film has been written and produced by Love Matters India and directed by Gayatri Parameswaran from NoWhereMedia.

The film, along with the campaign #IAmNotAlone - kya doge mera saath? is geared towards calling on partners, family members, friends, colleagues, doctors and media to support women when they take a decision to seek abortion and for women to step up and share their abortion experiences, enabling other women to take decision for their bodies, health and lives. The film stays away from the narrative of stigma and shame and charts a new, bold path, calling for conversations around abortion that help generate support for women when they decide what's right for them. The film is a result of many conversations with women who have had abortions, about what they went through and what they would have liked to have happen, to help us understand the needs of women.

Love Matters India partnered with Anti-Social, a chain of pubs/restaurants in New Delhi, to install 360 film-viewing booths with virtual reality headsets. The launch will kickstart with a panel discussion on the topic of safe and legal abortion, followed by the screening of the film. Love Matters has also produced friend, partner and parent video testimonials in support of abortion from real life stories, which will also be aired at the screening, and linguistic advisories for media and health professionals for changing negative conversation on abortions.

SOURCE: [Business Standard](#), 25 September 2018

LA MESA POR LA VIDA Y LA SALUD DE LAS MUJERES



As part of the celebration of our 20th anniversary, coincident with International Safe Abortion Day, La Mesa por la Vida y la Salud de las Mujeres, a pioneer in the defence of women's sexual and reproductive rights in Colombia, launched the project: Mujeres Imparables, 20 años abriendo camino

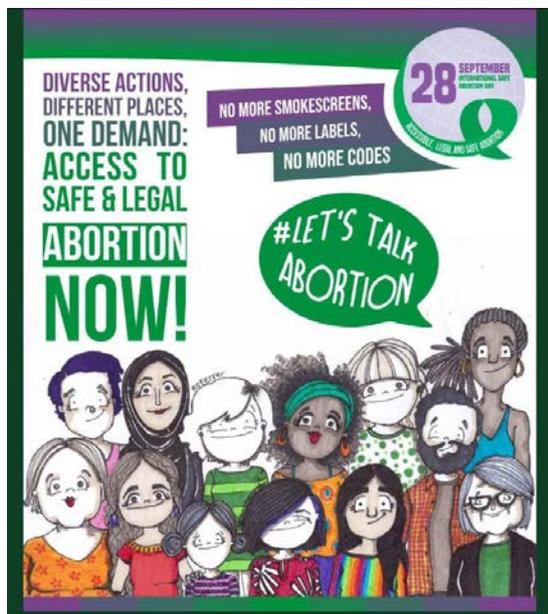
(Unstoppable Women, 20 years leading the way) an initiative that seeks to show the experience of women and men who have had abortions or accompanied others who have had abortions through literature, illustration and urban art. In Colombia, abortion is considered a woman's fundamental right. La Mesa has provided legal counselling to more than 1,100 women who needed access to abortion services. However, women still face great challenges to access abortion in a free, legal, safe and timely manner. For this reason and seeking to share real experiences close to women's lives, *Mujeres Imparables* was created to talk about abortion in other formats.

For this work, La Mesa has many women's stories that were shared with Colombian artists to transform them into works of art. In collaboration with the writers Piedad Bonnett, Ricardo Silva Romero, Gloria Susana Esquivel, Camila Bruges, Juliana Muñoz Toro and Luis Fernando Afanador, part of women's histories became stories. Illustrators also joined La Mesa to reinterpret these stories and draw them into art work, among them: Viviana Pantoja, Gabaa Sánchez Balcázar, Paula Osorio Pineda (Tinta del Río), Ana Jurado (Mugre Diamante), Laura Carolina Castro (Niebla rosa), Laura Burgos and Gisel Gutiérrez. At the same time, the project has been taken into the streets of Bogotá, Medellín, Barranquilla, Ibagué and Pereira, where urban artists have made the cities more vibrant with these stories by painting them.

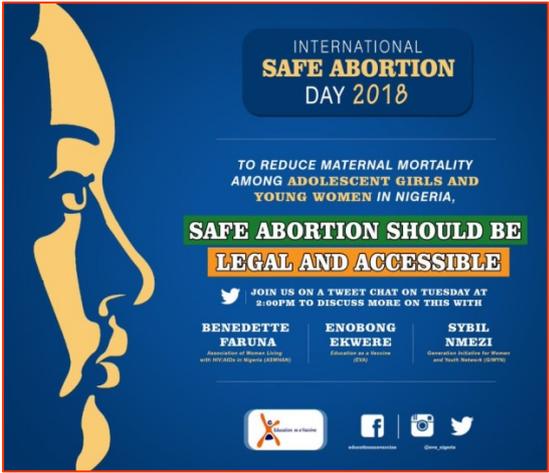
On the webpage www.mujeresimparables.co, you can read the stories, see the art works, send your own stories and ask questions about legal abortion in Colombia. Additionally, La Mesa invites women to raise their voices and share with the world what makes them unstoppable in fighting for their rights, using #MujeresImparables in social networks. Here is a video of our history that includes one of the illustrations: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGhs8yCmmc>.

TWEETS WE SHARED

ARGENTINA



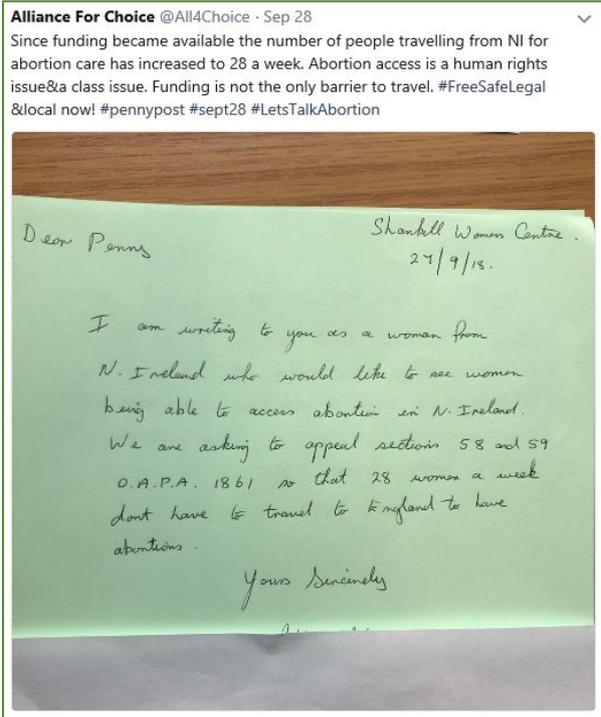
NIGERIA



@EVA_Nigeria

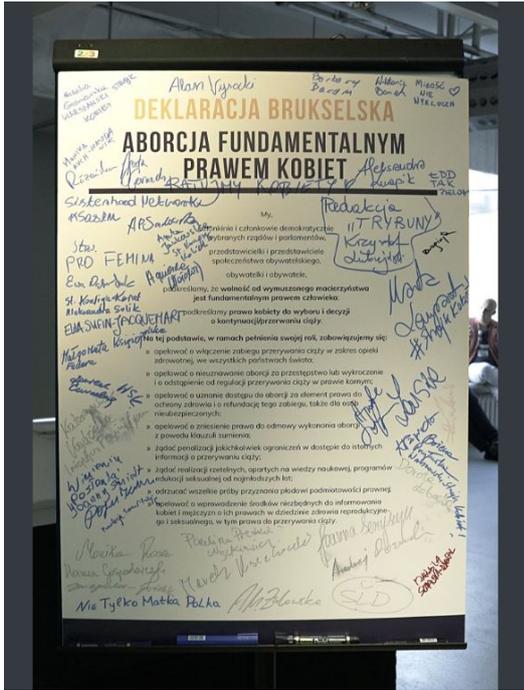
The tweet chat on 2 October will be used to highlight the issues of unsafe abortion in Nigeria, legal barriers, negative beliefs and attitudes, and their implications.

NORTHERN IRELAND



@All4Choice

POLAND



@federapl

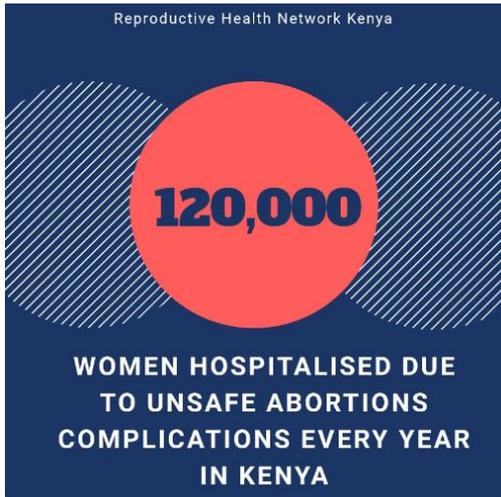
KENYA



Aunty Jane Hotline @YourAuntyJane

Imagine a situation where a 14-seater passenger van is involved in a road accident & half the people on board lose their lives INSTANTLY & DAILY, that is the Kenyan situation on unsafe abortions where 7 lives of women & girls in Kenya are lost daily.

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Reproductive Health Network Kenya @rhorgk

The policy guidelines should be brought back, to fast track the reduction in maternal mortality, and achieve the 5th millennium goal.

NEPAL



@Vis_Im

Amazing discussion organised by the youth for the youth, says @HTUabortion pill, who were there.

INDIA

Normalising Abortion 

It means abortion services are provided as an integral part of sexual and reproductive health care.

#LetsTalkAbortion
#Sept28
#SRHR

Source: International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion 

@tarshingo

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