

More 28 September Reports

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16 October 2018

PAKISTAN



Free Medical Camp for Women, Peace Foundation Pakistan – [VIDEO](#)

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## NIGERIA



### Generation Initiative for Women and Youth Network (GIWYN)

Generation Initiative for Women and Youth Network and the National Coalition for Reproductive Justice have organized events and activities on 28 September to commemorate the International Safe Abortion Day in Lagos, Edo and Imo states in Nigeria. We adapted the International Safe Abortion Day concept note and [published](#) it. We organized awareness-raising events in the three states, reaching 1,500 people. The National Coalition for Reproductive Rights recorded eight organizations in attendance. Women reported that they realized it is time to for all women to stand together to defend women's health rights in all its forms, and became aware that women have the right to control their own fertility as a part of their health. They also realized that abortion is as important as other issues of women's health, and that discussing abortion will help in breaking the stigma and social barriers associated with it.

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## NORWAY



### **Access to safe abortion – rights, values and justice**

On International Safe Abortion Day, Sex og Politikk co-hosted a conference in Oslo together with Norad, Seksualpolitisk Nettverk for Ungdom, Norwegian Women's Public Health Association, Kilden Gender Research, Amatheia and Oslo Metropolitan University. The conference addressed some of the progress and challenges remaining for women's access to safe abortion. State Secretary to the Minister of Children and Equality, Tom Erlend Skaug, and the Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence at the Parliament both underlined the importance of continued Norwegian support to safe abortion... This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Norwegian Abortion Law. What are young peoples' experiences and attitudes in Norway today? This was discussed by a youth panel, showing that issues of sexuality, gender and health need more attention.

SOURCE: [EuroNGOs](#) ; [ORIGINAL REPORT](#) (in Norwegian)

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### **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**



### **We women who are sex workers and without spouses...**

We women who are free sex workers and without spouses are often victims of sexual assault and forced pregnancies. Dishonest customers get rid of the condom during sex; in addition, many of us are ignorant and exploited by clients who opt for the "report without a condom" and then we have to cope with the result, which is forced pregnancy and maternity. Most of us have unsafe abortions, resulting in serious morbidity and complications, even death – with the only alternative being

infanticide or forced abandonment of babies, because we cannot take care of them. We are prosecuted by the justice system and imprisoned ...

Indeed, although in the DRC abortion is killing, abortion is practised in both public and private health facilities, where services are offered in an “informal way” to those who can pay. We marginalized women cannot access these services, in a context where even contraceptive provision is limited to women who are accompanied by their husbands.

In addition, the National Protocol of Holistic Care for Survivors of Sexual Violence includes emergency contraception in the post-exposure prophylaxis kit (PEP) for victims within 72 hours after sexual assault. However, the social stigma, the guilt laid on us by the medical staff often does not allow us to access these pills within those deadlines. However, we believe that if emergency contraception is permitted to protect the victim who presents within 72 hours after rape, to protect against forced pregnancy, then medical abortion pills would simply be a safer alternative for comprehensive protection and holistic care.

Existing sex education and behaviour change communication programmes are narrowly addressing sexual and reproductive rights issues, including the right to abortion. Unable to support the costs of unplanned and unwanted births, and the health, psychosocial and economic consequences (maternal deaths, unwanted and abandoned children), some of us rely on untrained, informal medical practitioners for abortion, with all the risks involved. Very few victims of incomplete, unsafe abortions present to the hospital in time for post-abortion care; silenced for fear of prosecution, they are afraid they will be stigmatized and made to feel guilty by society and the medical profession, and that they will not be able to pay the fees imposed by doctors.

It is against this background that the Group of Women Living with HIV (GFV-HIV) organized awareness-raising events to secure the commitment and support of 240 influential advocates for access to safe abortion and reduction of abortion stigma. We have also organized numerous other activities, see our report in French.

[FULL REPORT](#) (en français)

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## UGANDA



### Community dialogue on normalizing abortion

Criminalizing abortion does not reduce the number of abortions; all it does is push abortion underground and rates of unsafe abortion increase. In fact, the lowest abortion rates in the world are in regions with some of the most liberal legal frameworks for the provision of abortion services. In

Uganda, abortion is illegal and women suffer as a consequence of restrictive laws. Each woman who seeks an abortion does so under a unique set of circumstances. To commemorate International Safe Abortion Day, TURGET Uganda organized a community dialogue on abortion under the theme “Normalizing abortion: it’s part of our lives”. The purpose of the dialogue was to create awareness that while most women who have abortions are mothers, and most others go on to have children later, they have the right to decide whether and when to have children, or not to have children at all.

The dialogue targeted 60 women from Katogo Zone Bwayise 3, Kawempe Division – Kampala Capital City Authority and was conducted by TURGET Uganda staff. In attendance were Ms Rebecca Namayanja, Secretary for Women Affairs at Local Council, and Ms Grace Kabayaga, Executive Director, Empowered at Dusk Women’s Association, who provided experience sharing on abortion, its effects and main causes.

[FULL REPORT](#)

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**POLAND: GREAT PHOTO**



**Warsaw, 28 Sept 2018 demonstration.**

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