



Annual Report 2015

The workplan for 2014-15 was based on the workplan and theory of change framework agreed in the Campaign's Advisory Group meeting in Lisbon, March 2014.

– Text in blue is from the workplan/framework; text in black is what was accomplished in 2015.

1. An increase in Campaign membership and activities in support of the right to safe abortion

– **Activity:** membership drive through listserves and at conferences, and by asking existing members to suggest new members. Cleaned and updated the members database. Increased membership through the newsletter and email invitations to join to a range of groups and during participation in conferences. Made plans to start a membership drive in January 2016 and began to create a database of groups to invite.

– **Activity:** putting members in touch with each other to encourage national coalition-building and action. This is part of ASAP's regular work in Asia and CLACAI's work in Latin America, which by mutual agreement we leave to them. With the aim of forming a regional network in Europe, we invited groups in Western and Eastern Europe to a meeting in November 2015 at the EuroNGOs conference. Several people have expressed interest in taking up the task of coordinating this and taking it forward in 2016, but funding applied for was not granted and the interested person went elsewhere for work. Began a conversation with the Ipas Campaign Advisory Group member about working together to promote networking in Africa, which we agreed we would take up in 2016.

2. An increase in members' capacity for advocacy of the right to safe abortion, particularly young members

– **Activity:** advocacy training/capacity-building for advocates, organised by Campaign member groups and individuals with the relevant expertise. This could be a regionally-based activity, bringing together representatives from active members in each region for intensive training, followed by long-distance, in-country support to their groups. It was agreed with ASAP and CLACAI that given the small staff of the International Coordination, this is and should be a regional activity. ASAP in particular holds regular youth institutes and activities, and the Campaign newsletter promotes and carries reports of these.

3. Information dissemination and sharing through expanded use of the newsletter, social media and the website

The Campaign newsletter is now published 3 times per week covering law and policy at national and international level, including the work of human rights bodies, a wide range of research and publications on abortion, abortion service delivery, safe abortion methods, and comments and analysis of issues. We have greatly improved the content, format, quality and outreach of the newsletter as a source of news on abortion from around the world and we are increasingly providing information on the work and activities of the Campaign's members.

– **Activity:** promotion of evidence-based guidance on abortion in relation to service provision, as regards both methods and service delivery models, especially to policymakers. Ongoing via newsletter, social media, and soon also the website.

– **Activity: highlighting the activities of Campaign members as models for research, advocacy, service delivery and action.** Ongoing via newsletter and increasing this via social media in 2016.

– **Activity: increase the outreach of and response to solidarity requests.** Solidarity requests are coming in on average once a month. They are disseminated via the newsletter and social media. Responses from our members have increased compared to 2014, and we are also writing letters from the Campaign, e.g. to heads of government and health and justice ministers. Solidarity requests in 2015 – Spain <http://conta.cc/1NNVclj> and <http://conta.cc/1NNW4fp> ; Chile <http://conta.cc/1Ma1zDg> and <http://conta.cc/1Ma1ZcH> ; El Salvador Amnesty petition <http://conta.cc/1Ma2Aey> ; Paraguay <http://conta.cc/1NNUB9h> and <http://conta.cc/1NNUieO> (both also circulated in Spanish) and <http://conta.cc/1NNx4FD> ; Northern Ireland <http://conta.cc/1NN1Qyc> ; Uruguay <http://conta.cc/1NMRFd4> ; Poland <http://conta.cc/1NMR9M8> ; Uganda <http://conta.cc/1NMPcPR> ; Brazil <http://conta.cc/1NMOyC0> ; Nauru/Australia <http://conta.cc/1Slsb5V>.

– **Activity: develop a social media strategy and expand social media work.** Ongoing expansion of Facebook and Twitter outreach has been steady since March 2015 when a full time person was employed by Promsex for this task and for administrative support, including sending out newsletters and maintaining the membership list. Data was collected on outreach quarterly for 2015. We developed a basic website in the second half of 2015, but it was inadequate for our longer-term purposes and although we have kept it up to date, we stopped working with the consultant involved in October 2015. A more experienced consultant was engaged in January 2016 to re-work the website as a news and knowledge platform and to promote the work of our members (to be launched in mid-May 2016).

4. Increased visibility & public awareness of the negative impact of unsafe abortion & women's right to safe abortion

– **Activity: continued use of the newsletter for this purpose.** The newsletter and social media served this purpose as intended. With three newsletters per week, a total of 156 newsletters were published and disseminated in 2015. As regards creating awareness of unsafe abortion and its impact, newsletters covered, for example, trials and imprisonment of women and abortion providers, anti-abortion harassment at abortion clinics and efforts to create a buffer zone around clinics to stop this, we reviewed a film from Nicaragua about the difficulties for hospital doctors who want to help women with unwanted pregnancies and miscarriages given the legal restrictions on abortion, analysed growing anti-abortion extremism, covered Pope Francis' comments on abortion.

– **Activity: invite Campaign members to contribute to reports such as the Trials and Imprisonment report and promote the reports of others on priority topics under the Campaigns aims and goals.** Six priority topics were agreed for 28 September 2015 and materials from members were used to develop these themes through the Campaign newsletter:

- Disseminate information on safe abortion for women and adolescent girls;
- Call for training for safe abortion provision;
- Campaign for safe abortion methods to be available and accessible;
- Call for prevention of sexual abuse of girls aged 8 to 14 and access to abortion for involuntary pregnancy among them;
- Campaign for an end to trials and imprisonment of women who have abortions and safe abortion providers;
- Campaign for displaced, migrant, and refugee women and girls to have a right to safe abortion.

Two to three newsletters were prepared on each theme, reports of groups such as the Women's Refugee Commission and IWAG were included in newsletters. Newsletters since then are giving continuing attention to these issues. Plans in 2016 are to update and expand the Campaign's 2013 Trials and Imprisonment Report, which motivated research especially in Latin America. Plans are also in place to call for new interdisciplinary research and discussion papers to publish in at least one journal supplement in late 2016/17 on the main themes of the 2017 Tribunal (holding governments to account for illegal, unsafe abortion) and Conference (decriminalisation of abortion and transforming service delivery based on providing medical abortion pills).

– **Activity: An international tribunal in which countries are called to account for unsafe abortion deaths and poor abortion laws and services and countries with excellent laws and services are highlighted as models. Again, Campaign members with relevant expertise to form a planning group to develop this as a major international event.** Work on this initiative has begun as well as on an international conference. A small planning group for the tribunal has been set up. The main work on this will begin in 2016.

– **Additional activity – work with UN human rights bodies on promoting the right to safe abortion:** We made a good contact with the UN Working Group on discrimination against women in law and practice to discuss the tribunal and mutual aims and support for each others' work. We have published several reports of statements they have made and country-based meetings they have held with national governments (also those of other UN human rights bodies). We began working together with them in January 2016 to support presidential assent the Sierra Leone Safe Abortion Act, which was passed by the national parliament at the end of 2015.

5. Increased attention to addressing women's right to safe abortion in key international, regional and national decision-making spaces.

– **Activity: Ensure a Campaign (staff) member attends important regional and international conferences as a Campaign representative, with Campaign materials to distribute, to recruit Campaign members, and will seek to present the Campaign and promote its aims and activities in a session appropriate to the Conference.** During 2015 Marge Berer attended conferences and gave presentations on global abortion issues and the Campaign in North America (Gynuity, New York), Latin America (Population Council, Mexico and Promsex, Peru) and North Africa (Institute for Tropical Medicine Belgium, Morocco). Campaign Advisory Group members Suchitra Dalvie and SP Choong attended conferences in Asia, Lisa Hallgarten and Daniela Draghici attended EuroNGOs in Norway where they held a small meeting about starting a regional European network, Krystyna Kacpura attended the International Conference on Family Planning where she led a panel in the name of the Campaign. We wrote and disseminated a leaflet about the Campaign's members, aims and objectives in English/French/Spanish for distribution at all these conferences.

– **Activity: Encourage national training of primary care doctors, midwives and nurses and training for pharmacy workers to be aware of and provide first trimester MVA and medical abortion at primary level.** This was taken up by promoting existing training courses and manuals through the Campaign newsletter.

– **Activity: Take overall responsibility for promoting national and international action for 28 September and introduce issues related to the right to safe abortion for other international days and events.** We organised promotion of 28 September starting in May 2015 along with Campaign Advisory Group members, especially WGNRR among their members and ASAP in Asia. We circulated a call for action monthly between May and September 2015. We developed 2-3 newsletters each on each of the themes listed above. We made a proposal to the Campaign Advisory Group to change the name of the day to International Safe Abortion Day from 2015 and seek to have it accepted as an

official UN Day in 2016. This was agreed. Posters were created for other International Days in 2015 linking abortion issues to the topics of those days (cancer, social justice, zero discrimination, women, poetry, health, maternal health, midwives, women's health, population, youth, literacy, peace, teachers, girl child, human rights).

Staffing and consultants

It was agreed not to attempt to build a large staff to carry out Campaign activities, but to concentrate on acting as an umbrella and promoting activities at regional and especially national level, where change must happen.

In fact, the Campaign was run and managed almost entirely on a voluntary basis up to May 2015. The coordinator up to the end of 2014, Daniela Draghici from Romania, was paid only 1.5 days per week until December 2014, with part-time paid administrative support from the Reproductive Health Training Centre in Moldova, which severely limited how much could be accomplished.

There was a gap of four months in which attempts to move the Campaign's management to a group in Mexico did not succeed. Marge Berer, who retired as editor of Reproductive Health Matters at the end of April 2015, took over as full-time Campaign coordinator in May 2015. She has been working on a voluntary basis since then, and until the end of December 2015, with full-time support from a young assistant (paid), Fabiola Bustamante, based at Promsex in Peru.

The work rapidly expanded during the second half of 2015 as the Campaign became better known, new members joined, collection and dissemination of news about abortion greatly increased, and all the work described above was developed. Plans to increase the staffing of the Campaign were laid in December 2015 when the Peruvian assistant gave notice that she would leave at the end of the year to go back to school.

It was decided to hire a part-time social media person, a part-time press person, an administrator to be responsible for the website and membership management and do research related to trials and imprisonment, and a new website consultant to create a better website. These jobs were advertised in late 2015 and filled in January 2016 with four young women living in London.

Staffing and consultants in 2015

Campaign coordinator to April 2015 – Daniela Draghici, Romania; from May 2015 – Marge Berer, UK
Fundraising consultant – Eva Maaten, Philippines
Social media, newsletter and membership list coordinator – Fabiola Bustamante, Promsex, Peru
Design consultant for Campaign logos, slogans, and leaflets, Boldface, London
Website consultant – Simon Belt, Simply Better IT, UK

Campaign Chairing Committee

Beverly Winikoff, Gynuity Health Projects, USA
Kinga Jelinska, Women Help Women, Netherlands
Susana Chavez, CLACAI and Promsex, Peru
George Hale, Finance Manager, Promsex, Peru

Associated Regional Network Coordinators

Susana Chavez, Latin American Campaign against Unsafe Abortion
Suchitra Dalvie, Asia Safe Abortion Partnership

International Advisory Group

Charlotte Hord, Ipas; Rebecca Brown, Center for Reproductive Rights, USA; Gulalai Ismail, Aware Girls, Pakistan; Ellen Israel, Pathfinder International, USA; Viviana Bohórquez Monsalve, La Mesa por la Vida y la Salud de las Mujeres, Colombia; Jon O'Brien, Catholics for Choice, USA; Kathy Mulville, Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, Philippines; Sim-Poey Choong, Reproductive

Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia; Duarte Vilar, Association for Family Planning, Portugal; Emma Bowa, African Network for Medical Abortion, Kenya; Mariana Romero, CEDES Argentina; Krystyna Kacpura, Federation for Women & Family Planning, Poland; Manuelle Hurwitz, International Planned Parenthood Federation, UK; Daniel Grossman, ANSIRH UCSF, USA; Rodica Comendant, Reproductive Health Training Centre, Moldova