



International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion



28TH SEPTEMBER 2013

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF ABORTION

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

This report was prepared by Daniela Draghici, Ludmila Tulus, and Angela Malaniuc,
with constructive feedback from Marge Berer, Rodica Comendant, ANMA, ASAP, ASTRA Network, EEARC, and WGNRR.

c/o International Consortium for Medical Abortion(ICMA), Coordination Office
at: Reproductive Health Training Centre, 20 Melestiu Str, MD2001 Chisinau , Moldova
e-mail: safeabortionwomensright@icma.md
web: <http://www.safeabortionwomensright.org/>
tumblr: <http://safe-abortion-womens-right.tumblr.com/>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Campaign-for-Womens-Right-to-Safe-Abortion/271270199653809>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SafeAbortion1>

The History

28th September originated in Latin America, and the Caribbean where women's groups have been mobilizing around September 28 the last two decades to demand their governments to decriminalize abortion, to provide access to safe and affordable abortion services and to end stigma and discrimination towards women who choose to have an abortion. The original name of the campaign in Latin America and the Caribbean is Campaña 28 de Septiembre por la Despenalización del Aborto, which continues up to this day growing in force and commitment on the part of women's rights activists in the region. The date – September 28 – was chosen in commemoration of the abolition of slavery in Brazil which is now remembered as the day of the “free womb” demanding for safe and legal abortion for all women. (<http://www.september28.org/herstory/>)

The International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion was launched in April 2012. Its first major activity was to build towards the 28th September, Global Day of Action for the Decriminalisation of Abortion, and to support and promote activities all over the world. Alongside the Latin American and Caribbean 28th Septiembre Campaign and Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) mobilising members and partners world-wide for September 28 Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion, the International Campaign used its own network of supporters to encourage activities in dozens of countries across six continents.

This report aims to capture the number, range and geographical spread of events conducted during the 2013 Campaign and to provide a record, but most importantly to provide inspiration, for campaigners all over the world. The activities that took place in 2013 stimulated and generated support for ongoing campaigns in countries where women are still endangered by unsafe abortion, threatened with criminal punishment, and subject to stigma in the absence of legal abortion or progressive laws that recognise safe abortion as a fundamental human right.

Activities in 2013

Activities ranged from information workshops, to marches, to demonstrations outside government buildings, to public meetings, to drama workshops, to surveys to art exhibitions. Some activities were carried out by established campaigning groups, some saw groups address this issue publicly for the first time, including groups with a focus on equalities or HIV/AIDS, or saw the formation of new groups. Their focus was different in each instance: calling for legislative change, clarification of the law, or demanding that the law be implemented properly, increasing access and improving services. Some activities took place in areas where abortion is routinely debated, others where it is barely spoken of, where simply promoting the event with abortion in the title was in and of itself a step towards destigmatisation of abortion and breaking the taboo that surrounds it.

Regional networks held meetings at key events to plan the actions which were led and mobilised at the regional level. WGNRR was highly active in the Africa, Asia and LAC campaigns. The planning and coordination came through the efforts of members of the campaign organising themselves. They developed their own messages, set up their group pages, planned, and communicated events.

This year, a hefty part of the actions were promoted or carried out via social media channels, such as social media campaigns via Facebook and Twitter, for example the Tweetathon that caught on throughout the world like fire, photo campaigns, online petition signing, Flash mobs, or info graphics. The organizers' creativity overflowed, as their activities spanned a wide range of inventive actions, such as silent marches, candle light vigil, songs and dances, flock songs, forum theatre, radio programmes, even intimate round tables.

However and wherever the activities took place, they were underpinned by the knowledge that safe abortion saves lives and the overarching purpose of ensuring that women have access to safe abortion, wherever they live in the world. It is significant that in many countries where legislative change is a long way off, many of the activities focused on how to make illegal abortion safer – disseminating information about how to access and use misoprostol, and promoting safe abortion hotlines. Others highlighted the availability of services to manage complications of unsafe abortion and called for more of these.

Many of the activities got press coverage in national newspapers – helping to reach a wide audience with the message that safe abortion is a necessity and a right. What is clear from the list of activities and the map of where in the world these took place is that people are no longer prepared to wait for the small incremental changes that their governments may have promised, but seem not to have materialised. Nor will they continue to sit by and watch as their rights are stripped away. They will not be silent as another woman dies, another girl – pregnant as a result of rape – is denied an abortion, or another woman, parent or doctor is imprisoned for breaking punitive anti-abortion laws.

Despite the urgent need for change, and the seriousness with which we are campaigning, it is uplifting to see the creativity, and humour of campaigners shining through. The activities captured in this report were carried out by the organisations who were either in direct contact with the International campaign and/ or participated in the September 28 campaign activities coordinated by Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights.. We are sure there are others and would love to continue hearing from you, so as to document further activities.

The 28th September proved to be a fantastic focal point for campaigners, the International Campaign aims to maintain that energy across the calendar year, building the capacity of groups to campaign in their countries and regions, to build effective coalitions and bring about real change.

Here's where activities took place:

Africa Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tunisia, Uganda

Asia India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand

Australasia New Zealand

Europe Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, France, Georgia, Ireland, Macedonia, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, UK

Latin America & Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay

Middle East Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, Turkey, Turkish Cyprus

North America United States

Global Networks Abortion Rights UK, Africa Regional September 28 Campaign, Asia Safe Abortion Partnership, ASTRA Network, International Consortium for Medical Abortion Regional Networks, Ibis Reproductive Health,

Ipas,

Rights, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Women's Global Network for Reproductive

Women on Waves

ASAP prepared a report on the spread of activities across its member countries, with a particular emphasis on the contribution made by its youth champions:
<http://asap-asia.org/blog/sept-28-2013-giving-the-global-demand-for-safe-abortion-a-voice/>

The Report of 28 September Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion activities was prepared and coordinated by the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR): <http://goo.gl/ZNHig0>

For detailed information: <http://www.wgnrr.org/september-28-global-day-action-access-safe-and-legal-abortion>

The success of this Day of Action would not have been possible without the involvement of ICMA's Regional Networks: African Network for Medical Abortion (ANMA), Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP), Eastern European Alliance for Reproductive Choice (EEARC) and Consorcio Latinoamericano Contra el Aborto Inseguro (CLACAI), and definitely that of its key partners ASTRA Network and WGNRR.

ACTIVITIES – A GLOBAL PICTURE

28 September 2013 Activities Map

○ Red icons indicate the activities in the countries.

○ Blue icons indicate the global activities.

For interactive version, please visit: <http://www.thinglink.com/scene/480689536578355201>



AFRICA

Cameroon

Adele Reproductive Health
Foundation

Event: Make a difference as a
champion in your own commu-
nity: Break the Silence



- Public awareness-raising activities
- Social media (internet, SMS)
- Survey
- Meeting

The survey investigated the reasons for poor implementation and access to accurate contraceptive information and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services in Cameroon, using Q & A to better understand how providers shape and implement policy and how provider-level barriers might be overcome. Their target audience included men and women of reproductive age, community health workers, and policy makers. Adele Reproductive Health Foundation sent out at least 60 emails and SMS messages, held meetings with national stakeholders, who would help submit good questions for the survey, so that the results were representative and valid. At least 100 women were to give their opinion about abortion and its legalization in order to generate evidence to guide policy decision and to overcome barriers in shaping legal abortion provision and implementation in Cameroon.

Kenia

Ipas Africa Alliance, Dandelion Kenya, FLONE Initiatives, FEMNET, FIDA Kenya, Women Students Welfare Association-UoN, Fortress of Hope-Africa, Young Women's Leadership Association, FHOK, Slum Drummers

Events: Dandelion Kenya focused efforts in Nakuru with the following activities:

The Reproductive Health Alliance, ANMA Kenya Chapter, the Population Council, TICAH- Kenya, COVAW, PPFA all got together for an evening of celebration. There were speeches and discussions around videos that had been produced as well as media articles (in Kenyan newspapers) and experiences (of the hot-lines launched in Kenya, progress towards policy influencing and registration drugs and the work with the women's rights movement in the country



Malawi

Centre for Girls and Interaction (CEGI)

Event: Young Women and Girls Forum “Fight for Safe Abortion in Malawi”

Open discussion followed by group presentation. The participants came up with ways on how they could advocate for safe abortion and shared on how to save and improve women’s rights and access to quality healthy life in Malawi.

Mozambique

Rede de Defesa dos Direitos Sexuais e Reprodutivos

- Writing and circulating a petition requesting the decriminalization of abortion and sending it to the competent authorities
- Writing articles about the decriminalization of abortion and publishing articles in the newsletters of the member organizations and newspapers
- TV and radio debates
- Press release
- Member organizations’ leadership meetings

The petition, the TV and the radio debates concentrated on the decriminalization of abortion and informed people of the advantages of decriminalizing abortion in terms of reducing the incidence of unsafe abortion and thus contributing to the reduction of maternal mortality. They also focused on the consequences of unsafe abortion for women, families, the society at large and the public budget. Featured were also the best practices and evidence of countries that had decriminalized abortion and thus reduced maternal mortality. The meeting with the organizations’ leadership purported to reflect on medium and long-term actions aimed at expanding women’s access to safe abortion.



Nigeria

Christian Maternal and Reproductive Health and Rights Action (CMRHRA)

Event: Awareness raising activity for women and girls, community, and policy makers.

Some 200 community members and policy makers discussed issues on unsafe abortion and why it was important to join the campaign for enacting a law that would address it. The key speaker was an experienced midwife/matron and activist. A behavioural change was expected within the targeted audience and policy makers due to the evidence-based information gained. Research was underway on women's experience of unsafe abortion, self induced abortion, delays in receiving care, safety of illegal services. Findings were to be published in dailies and fact sheets.



National Coalition for Safe and Legal Abortion (NACSAA)

- adapt the One Million Rising Dance to declare the Access to Safe and Legal Abortion day open
- forum to discuss Access to Safe and Legal Abortion in Nigeria and its impact on women's lives Attendance included about 50 women and young people (50 % women, 40% young people and 10% men). The Imo state Bill on abortion was the focus of the discussion. Sybil Nmezi was the speaker on the forum, which included a Q&A session. Women and youth attending the event learned about access to safe and legal abortion as their human right. Women and young girls could speak with one voice.

Tunisia

Sfax Youth House Union Debate Club

Event: Public debates on the issue of abortion and women's right.

In recognition of the International Day of Action for Decriminalisation of Abortion initiative "We Youth Tunisia" joined the celebration by organizing public debates on the issue of abortion and women's right not to be prosecuted or harassed.



Tunisia

Group TAWHIDA

Flash mob on women's health rights, focusing on abortion rights in the street in Tunis



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aK24P-4lyX4>



Call to action aimed at activists in Tunisia who believe that women's right to free choice - the right to abortion - is a human right and must be respected, protected and granted.

Uganda

Coalition to stop maternal mortality due to unsafe abortion

Events: launch of an info-graphic on unsafe abortion in Uganda, a panel discussion / talk show on abortion issues, creating a resolution on abortion issues, a candle light vigil.

Part One:

- The launch of an info-graphic on unsafe abortion in Uganda
- A panel discussion /talk show by different stakeholders who had been affected by unsafe abortion, namely a health service provider, a legal expert, a MoH technocrat, a girl or woman who had survived an unsafe abortion, a parent/ family member

Part Two:

- Discussion of a way forward by the participants to result in a resolution
- A candle light vigil to remember all those who lost their lives due to unsafe abortion

Additional resources: UNSAFE ABORTION IN UGANDA:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0NzW1CVub8>

ASIA

India

Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP)

Event: Tweetathon



ASAP's Tweetathon to advocate for the decriminalization of abortion, to improve access to safe abortion, to advance women's rights to make decisions for themselves, to protect women and abortion providers from harassment, and to recognize safe abortion as a still unmet reproductive right. The hashtags #safeabortion and #Sept28 were used.

ASAP invited the world to join in and follow them on Twitter (@asapasia) and tweet! ASAP along with their regional partner WGNRR, local partners, independent activists from Asia and their Youth Champions hosted a Tweetathon for Safe Abortion Rights. The hashtags #Sept28 and #Safeabortion can still be followed. Conversations centered around country laws and barriers to the access of safe abortion including stigma, religion, accessibility and affordability. Tweeters stressed the imperative need to make abortion accessible for all women, including those in marginal groups. ASAP also received live tweets from their Youth Champions and partners, as they conducted events during the course of the day.

Event: Giving The Global Demand for Safe Abortion A Voice

In the one year that has gone by since the very first time September 28 was observed as the Global Day for Safe and Legal Abortion under the International Campaign for Women's Rights to Safe Abortion, ASAP has added to its team 28 vibrant, amazing and enthusiastic youth advocates. Thanks to them and to ASAP's very diligent and dedicated partners across the Asia-Pacific and the Middle-East, September 28, 2013 was a remarkable day.

Here is a brief summary of Sept. 28 activities by some organizations around Asia, and by ASAP's Youth Champions:

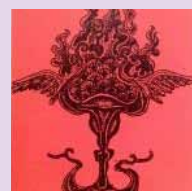
<http://asap-asia.org/blog/sept-28-2013-giving-the-global-demand-for-safe-abortion-a-voice/>



Events across Asia:



India: TTARSHI tweeted their resources on Comprehensive Sexuality Education and their new infographics on Safe Abortion. Youth Champion Shruti Mukerjee was a bundle of energy as she tweeted with ASAP the entire day and shared very informative links! The entire set can be accessed on TARSHI's Facebook Page.



Indonesia: ASAP's partners Samsara tweeted with them all through the day and spent a lot of time protecting the #safeabortion #sept28 Tweetathon from being hijacked by Pro-life tweeters from the USA. Inna Hudaya of Samsara made sure that people who ran into these comments would see the pro-choice perspective by responding to those attacks with her responses. Samsara also shared artwork by Indonesian artists and organized a successful flash-mob, images, and videos!

Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP)

Events across Asia:



Nepal: Youth Champions Shreejana Bhajaracharya, Prabina Sujaku, Smriti Thapa, Shila Sharma, and Luxmi Shresta joined forces to conduct multiple events around Nepal.

Smriti and Shila organized an Advocacy program for future service providers along with the Midwifery Association of Nepal. Shreejana and Prabina were instrumental in bringing about a Radio Programme, and then all of them got together to conduct two flash mobs - one in Baktapur on September 28 and one in Kathmandu on September 29. You can watch a short clip here: <http://goo.gl/RBk2pF>

Pakistan: ASAP's partners Peace Foundation conducted an awareness-raising campaign, while Shirkat Gah staged a Panel on reducing the number of unsafe



abortions in Pakistan. Shirkat Gah was also instrumental in making the Tweetathon a success, with their live tweets from the event, which led to interesting conversations across Asia, as WGNRR, Samsara, and TARSHI chimed in and shared the messages.

Sri Lanka: Youth champions Sarah Soyza and Dakshitha Wickremaratne launched an amazing photo campaign featuring young people from Sri Lanka

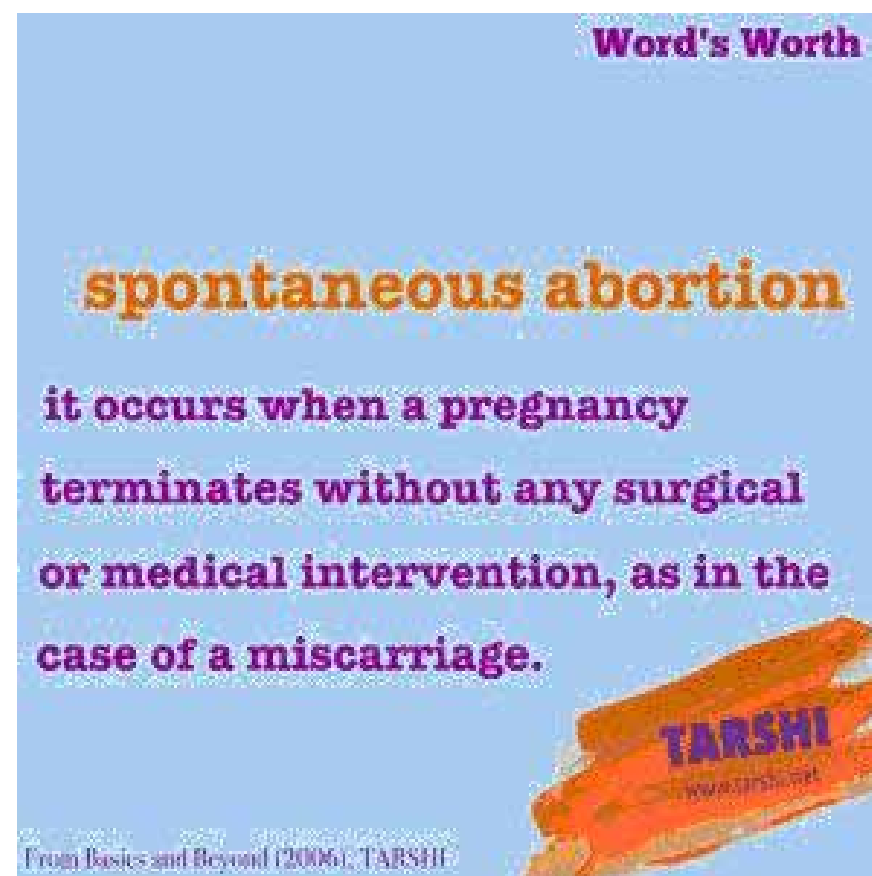


and other Asian countries, sharing their perspective on why they support safe abortion. The campaign called It's Her Right continued well beyond September 28 and its pictures can be accessed on ASAP's FB page.

TARSHI

Event: : Infographics week

ASAP's youth champion Shruti Mukherjee who works for TARSHI Delhi planned an infographics week using TARSHI's Facebook page to promote awareness about the right to safe abortion. Follow them on Facebook for more information.



Indonesia

SAMSARA



Event: Social Media Campaign

Samsara ran a social media campaign in collaboration with local, national, and international partners.

Event: Virtual Mural Campaign

Samsara sent an invitation to their Network (which includes organisations and individuals all over Indonesia) to join in a virtual mural campaign. Organisations or individuals could make a mural photo by completing the following phrase and taking a photo with it: Abortion should be legal in Indonesia because_____". All the photos were collected and used in their visual social media campaign in Indonesia. They also compiled the photos into a virtual mural video and sent it to WGNRR as part of global virtual mural campaign and then uploaded it to YouTube.

Event: Flash Mob "It's My Circle" Campaign

The "It's My Circle" Campaign is a positive campaign to defend women's reproductive rights, especially the right to decide when and whom they will marry and whether and when they will have children. SAMSARA invited everyone in their network who was interested in the campaign to join the flash mob. In the flash mob, they all held hands in a circle and stood absolutely still in a public space. Each participant wore an "It's My Circle" t-shirt or a plain white t-shirt.



Japan

NPO-Center for Education and Support for Women and Space Allies

Event:

Commemoration of the achievements of a doctor who passed away in June and got a lot of credit for the movement of reproductive rights in Japan. The plan was to introduce the September 28th campaign and confirm that participants request the government to decriminalize abortion as part of the event hosted by NPO - Center for Education and Support for Women, Japan and Space Allies

Nepal

Ipas Nepal & Family Planning Association of Nepal

Event: Flash Mob

Ipas, together with the Family Planning Association of Nepal, organized a flash mob

Nepal

CREHPA

Event: CREHPA celebrates Safe Abortion Week (September 26 - October 1, 2013)

Background: September 26, 2013 marked the 11th Anniversary of abortion law reform in Nepal. It was exactly on that day eleven years ago (Sept 26, 2002), the landmark Abortion Bill passed by the Lower House of Parliament in March 2002 received the Royal Assent.

CREHPA organized events in eight districts. Each of the district-based implementing partners had already completed preparatory work that engaged participation of the government agency (district health office), district based safe abortion committee members (formed for that purpose), and health providers and health facilities offering safe abortion care in their respective districts. The event stretched from 3 to 6 days and the main activities were as follows:

- Press-conference with local media regarding the events
- Free Pregnancy Test & Counseling Camps were the joint effort of District Public Offices, Marie Stopes Centers and Family Planning Associations of Nepal district branch offices
- Cultural and competition program (Flock song, dance, easy competition at school level)
- Community education program at VDC level
- Sensitization meeting with community opinion leaders
- Education messages on local newspapers and FM radio



SRHR Coalition Nepal

Events in Katmandu City and Katmandu Valley:

Media Campaign

- Social Media campaign through Facebook and twitter
- Radio programme

Mass campaign

- Distribution of IEC materials/Safe Abortion packet book/call for action

- Forum Theater

Capacity Building and Orientation for young people

- Orientation on safe abortion and SRH issues in colleges

The Baktapur Youth Network in Nepal

Event 1: September 28: Flash Mob - Nepal

A flash mob to promote safe abortion in Nepal on 28 September at Taumadhi Square Bhaktapur and on 29 September at Basantapur Durbar Square Kathmandu. For this first time, a group of youth wearing t-shirt with Safe abortion logo and messages appeared in a location and performed a rehearsed routine which ended by releasing balloons in the air. Our manifesto for September 28 was Our Bodies, Our Future! So, slogans about safe and legal abortion were written in different colors and disseminated among the huge masses of people. Different messages with the slogan and message of safe abortion were displayed during the dance and song activity.

Event 2: Radio Program on Safe Abortion

Link: <http://asap-asia.org/blog/sept-28-2013-radio-program-on-safe-abortion/>

Kumari, A Feminist, a blog by Shreejana Bhajracharya, ASAP Youth Champion from Nepal Bhaktapur Youth Information Forum in coordination with Bhaktapur FM 105.4 Mhz organized a radio talk show for half an hour that morning on the occasion of "Global Day of Action for Access To Safe and Legal Abortion". The guests invited to talk about safe abortion and related services in Nepal were Branch Manager of Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN), Valley branch Mr. Sharad Kumar Aryal, and Youth Champion Ms. Shreejana Bajracharya (the author of this report). The Coordination for the radio talk program was arranged by another Youth Champion, Ms. Prabina Sujakhu.



Pakistan

Shirkat Gah - Women's Resource Center

Event: Panel discussion on "Addressing Unsafe Abortion in Pakistan"

The panel was organized to share advocacy plans and strategies of different organizations and individuals working on the issue of maternal mortality and to determine where efforts could be synergized and also to explore the role of media in highlighting the issue. Each panellist gave a presentation addressing the issue, after which the audience was given a chance to join in the discussion.



Peace Foundation

Event: Awareness raising activities with 40 young people on termination of unwanted pregnancy, family planning, medical abortion, and STDs / STIs.

Workshops were conducted for two days, 28 and 29 September for 30-35 young girls and boys, aged 17- 25 each day, with a separate session for newly married couples. The local media was also invited.

Topics discussed: sexual and reproductive rights, medical abortion, use of contraceptives, consequences of early marriages, and prevention from sexually transmitted diseases. There is a major issue of negative thinking against termination of unwanted pregnancy. Stigma against termination is a huge barrier in Pakistan. The discussion and stories from the field were meant to help remove such kind of stigma associated with abortion. As the organization provides services in medical abortion counselling, participants learned more about the service and will have the opportunity to use it. Young people do not have the chance to discuss about their sexuality due to innumerable reasons. The workshop gave them the opportunity to learn more about sexuality issues, specifically how to avoid unwanted pregnancy.

Philippines

WomanHealth Philippines and WGNRR

Event: Roundtable discussion

An intimate Roundtable Discussion on Woman and Abortion to break the silence on this topic with a select group of women and young women to share stories, feelings and insights with honesty, in an open, non-judgmental environment. The aim of the roundtable discussion was to provide a space to explore the issue of abortion and post abortion care, and to confront abortion stigma and misinformation.



Thailand

Women on Web Thailand, Tamtang group and independent rights activists

Event: Access to Safe Abortion Campaign in Bangkok

The Campaign aimed to actively and positively communicate with and empower young women who had had an abortion and people who loved and cared for them, but were unsure of how to support them, e.g. families and friends; also, too create a public space for women who had had an abortion to voice out their stories and to include their voices in mass media reports. The campaign targeted media, NGO allies, grassroots community leaders, policy makers, and youth.

Key messages of the campaign:

- I have had abortion.
- My daughter has had abortion.
- My sister has had abortion.
- My friend has had abortion.
- **Abortion: There are many sides of the women's stories.**

The intended meaning of the messages was to create awareness that there is a large number of women who had experienced abortion at least once in their lives (1 out of 10). These simple, but powerful messages aimed to empower women by dissolving the sense of alienation and encourage family and friends to support each other.

AUSTRALASIA

New Zealand

Various Pro-Choice groups (Auckland Pro-Choice People, Pro-Choice Highway, ALRANZ)

Event: It's a pro-choice stitch up!

A patchwork quilt which celebrated NZ's pro-choice movement. The main focus of this event held at Aro Valley Community Centre meeting room in Wellington was to begin creating the embroidered fabric hexagons. The organizers, who imagined the action to be a low-key, supportive and creative form of alternative protest, asked interested participants to bring along a gold coin donation if they could, which would go to ALRANZ and the continuing campaign to decriminalise abortion in Aotearoa New Zealand. Other koha was also appreciated, such as snacks or extra crafting supplies to share.

<http://goo.gl/zBhcpO>



Event: : Pro-Choice Picnic! By various pro-choice groups

Pro-Choice Picnic, Albert Park: a stall with baked goods for sale to discuss the current status of abortion in New Zealand law and how participants could help reform it. Participants were asked to bring picnic blankets, food, and non-alcoholic drinks.

<http://goo.gl/M75eA2>

EUROPE

Armenia

Pan-Armenian Family Health Association

Event: video “Life-story on self-induced abortion”

On September 28 Pan-Armenian Family Health Association disseminated its video “Life-story on self-induced abortion” based on a shared story of a 19-year-old Armenian woman who experienced complications of self-induced abortion. The video is produced by the “Vernissage” film making studio with involvement of staff of the “For Family and Health” Pan-Armenian Association and St.Mary’s Family Health Centre in Yerevan: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_dmjXWE7Ey4

Women’s Rights Center in Armenia

Event: : Social media campaign

WRC decided to use its official Facebook profile to show support to women seeking safe and legal abortion services. The focus of the campaign was to determine whether women in Armenia were well aware of the medical abortion method or not and to encourage women to use this method and do it exclusively under the supervision of doctors and to provide support to women seeking safe and legal abortion services.

The results are shown in the chart below. However, as it was interesting to follow what would be the results of the voting furthermore, WRC decided to prolong the voting for a week until the 4th of October. As you can see from the chart, the voting results for September 28 considerably differ from the voting results of the preceding days.

Source: http://www.wrcorg.am/en/news/n_341.htm

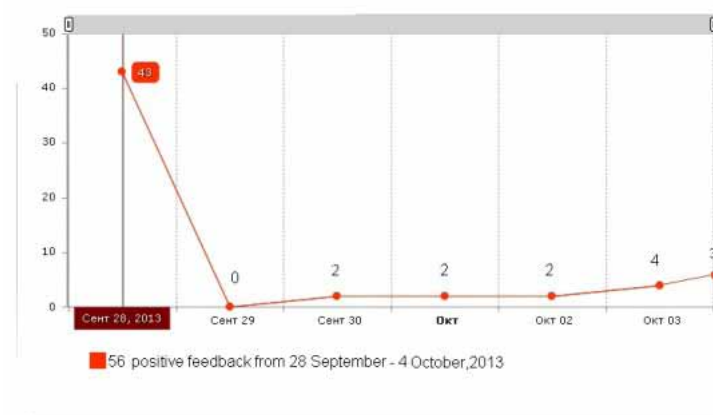
Azerbaijan

Center Women and Modern World

Event: Capacity Building on selective abortions among youth through promotion of safe abortion in Shamakhi City

About 50 persons took part in the awareness-raising activity of young people in Shirvan region villages that aimed to support behavior change and behavior development through adequate knowledge, critical thinking, and attitudes about the issue of selective abortion, skills to solve problems, make informed choices, and protect themselves from harm.

Women's Rights Center
The Global Day of Action for the Decriminalization of Abortion,
September 28



Belgium

Centre d'Action Laïque - Plateforme Abortionright

Event: Right for abortion

- press conference
- memorandum mailed to Belgian politicians and the Europeans based in Brussels
- street demonstration was staged in the streets of Brussels with stickers and information leaflets

Link to website: www.abortionright.eu

**DROIT À
L'AVORTEMENT
EN BELGIQUE**

Etat des lieux 2013

France

Le Planning Familial, Médecins du Monde and Equilibres & Populations

Event: Conference

“Accès à la contraception, grossesses non prévues et avortements à risque: état des lieux dans le pays du Sud - Paris, France” held at Parliament and attended by some 150 civil society representatives, observing Contraception Day and 28 September. On that occasion, the minister of women's rights, Najat Vallaud-Berkacem, stressed that France would carry on the struggle for sexual and reproductive rights at international level. The three hosting organizations encouraged the minister to focus efforts on the issue of access to contraception and safe and legal abortion. They also called for increased funding to programs in favour of access to contraception and medical abortion, along with reinforced diplomatic efforts of France in preparation for the UN Cairo+20 conference. Link to website: www.abortionright.eu



France

Le Planning Familial (MFPF)

Event: Raising awareness, conference at Parliament, radio broadcast

From September 23 to September 28: information and awareness raising campaign through the Planning Familial website and social media, targeting general public and the media on the situation regarding abortion around the world with specific focus on:

The September 28 campaign in Latin America and the Caribbean

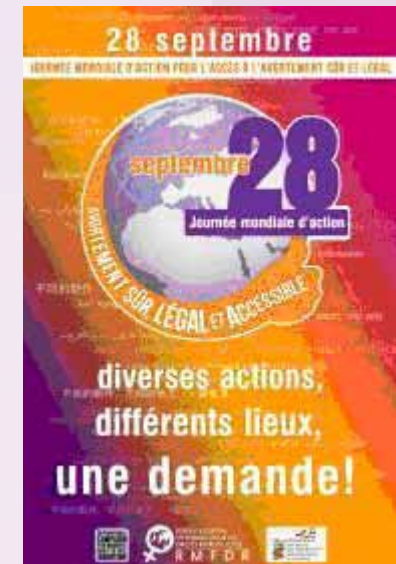
The position of French NGOs on abortion in the context of ICPD +20

September 25: organisation of a conference at the Parliament (National Assembly) on "Access to contraception, unplanned pregnancies and unsafe abortions: situation in Southern countries". This conference was organised by the French Family Planning Movement, Medecins du Monde and Equilibres et Populations. The French Minister of women's rights was one of the speakers, along with MP Catherine Coutelle, President of the Women's Rights Delegation to the National Assembly.

September 27: Radio France International. The broadcast called "Priorité santé" was dedicated to the issue of abortion in Francophone Africa. The French Family Planning Movement was one of the speakers on this radio broadcast, along with representatives of Medecins du Monde France, Family Planning Associations of Burkina Faso (ABBEF) and Cameroon (Camnafaw), IPPF Africa Region and a representative of a women's organisation from Haiti (SOFA). The objective of this initiative was to raise awareness of public opinion in Francophone African countries on the issue of unsafe abortion in the region and to promote the right to abortion for all women.



The new attack against abortion rights in Poland



The September 28 Manifesto "Our Bodies, Our Future!"

Osez le féminisme

Event: Launch an international petition Campaign "My Body Is Mine"

An international petition for universal legalization of safe and accessible abortion for all women! Sexual and reproductive rights are inalienable and universal. Among them, the right to abortion is essential for all girls and women on the planet. We demand that the United Nations recognize the right to abortion as a universal and inalienable right.

More information about the campaign: <http://mybodycampaign.org>

By the end of 2013 nearly 7,000 activists signed the petition.



Georgia

Health Education Rights Alternative (HERA) XXI

Event: Using social media to announce 28th September

Association HERA XXI peer educators actively used social media to announce 28th of September, translated materials and information into local language and distributed articles through their social network, in order to make them accessible. Also, they conducted Information, Education, and Communication outreach activities in universities dedicated to 26th of September, World Contraception Day.



Women's Center

Event: : Build Critical Thinking among Youth through Promotion of Safe Abortion

Awareness-raising meeting with large group of ethnic minority: about 60 peer educators and university teachers, doctors, youth took part in Kvemo-Kartly region and villages in the activity aimed to support behavior change and behavior development through adequate knowledge, critical thinking, attitudes and skills to solve problems, make informed choices, and protect themselves from harm as they transition through adolescence into adulthood.

Publication: brochure on safe abortion in two languages: Georgian, Azeri. The publication on safe abortion was expected to have effect on improving quality of youth life through developing behaviors that promote lifelong health and wellness and help them navigate a safe passage to adulthood, through youth volunteer involvement, peer-to-peer educators distributing information in high schools and universities.

Ireland

Doctors for Choice

Event: Annual Conference “Being a Pro-Choice Doctor in Ireland” at National Women’s Council

Association HERA XXI peer educators actively used social media to announce 28th of September, translated materials and information into local language and distributed articles through their social network, in order to make them accessible. Also, they conducted Information, Education, and Communication outreach activities in universities dedicated to 26th of September, World Contraception Day.

Doctors for Choice Ireland
Annual Conference
Saturday 28th September 2013
10:30 am - 3:30 pm
National Women's Council of Ireland
4th Floor 2/3 Parnell Square East Dublin 1

'Being a Pro-Choice Doctor in Ireland'
All doctors and members of Doctors for Choice are welcome to attend.
Pre-registration is essential. Please email doctorsforchoice@gmail.com to confirm attendance

Programme

10:30 Registration	1:00 Lunch
11:00 Introduction and reflection on the past year Where to now for Doctors for Choice? Dr. Mary Foyler	2:00 The Moral Case for Reproductive Choice Jon O'Brien, Catholics for Choice Ann Furedt, BPAS interactive session
11:20 Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill Practicalities of the new legislation and what doctors need to know Professor Veronica O'Keefe Dr. Mark Murphy	3:00 Concluding Remarks Dr. Mary Foyler
12:00 Medical Issues and Abortion Clear Pregnancy Management, Abortion Aftercare Early Medical Abortion and Post-Abortion Emotional Response Dr. Rich Lyne BPAS, Dr. Peadar O'Grady Dr. Ross Kelly, Dr. Ciara Flynn	3:30 Close

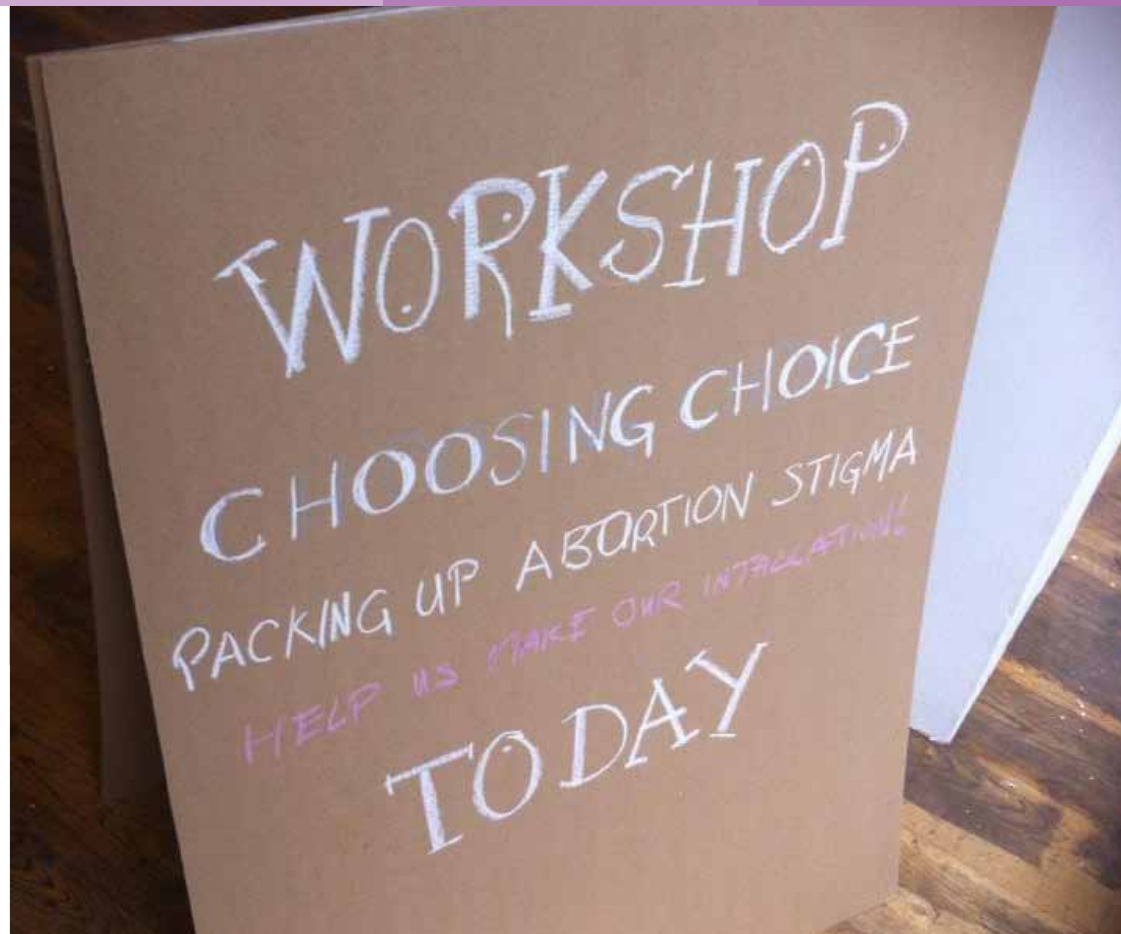
*CPD Points Available

Doctors for Choice is an alliance of independent professionals and students advocating for comprehensive health services in Ireland, including the provision of safe and legal abortion for women who choose it.
Email: doctorsforchoice@gmail.com Website: www.doctorsforchoice.com Twitter: [@doctors4choice](https://twitter.com/doctors4choice) Facebook: Doctors for Choice Ireland

Abortion Rights Campaign

Event: Choosing Choice: Packing up Stigma Exhibition in Dublin

featured photographic works from 'Against the Tide' by Rose Comiskey (Ireland), 'When They Hold Their Hands Out Like Scales' by Emma Campbell (Northern Ireland) and digitised print works from 'Good Women Have Abortions' by Heather Ault (USA) with curatorial support by Jennette Donnelly. The public was invited to contribute to a 'Case Studies' drop-in mixed-media workshop, a collection of cases packed with their stories, artefacts and representations.



Event: Get Involved - March for Choice 2013 Activities

Various events took place marking the March for Choice:

Social media coverage: live tweeting and sharing photos and videos of the March and other Choosing

Choice weekend events.

DUBLIN:

- Flyering
- Placard Making
- Music
- Participatory Arts: to contribute to the Choosing Choice: Packing Up Stigma Workshop
- Exhibition: Choosing Choice: Packing Up Stigma 26th thru 29th September
- Photo call: for Press Conference
- Skaters For Choice
- After Party: Dublin Nights for Choice hosted a March for Choice After Party

CORK:

- Cork public meeting: after the x-case legislation - where now in the struggle for women's right to choose

GALWAY:

- Film Screening: Abortion Democracy
- Placard-making workshop



Event: "No More Shame"

an online video project that brought personal experiences of abortion into the public domain with videos of well-known actors retelling anonymous abortion stories. The project led by Laura Kinsella, a researcher and activist media producer, and Liz Dunphy, journalist and filmmaker, aimed to break the silence of the 12 women who leave Ireland daily to terminate pregnancies.

Alliancefor Choice, Belfast

Event: September 28 Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion

Protest march in support of women's access to safe and affordable abortion services



Macedonia

HERA – Health Education and Research Association

Event: The new abortion law in Macedonia – restrictions and derogations

- 27th September - roundtable with CSOs and health professionals to discuss possible effects of the legislative restrictions to abortion and the next legal actions to challenge the law at the Constitutional Court.

- 28th September - press statement regarding the importance of access of safe and legal abortion and the possible consequences of the new abortion law in Macedonia.

Background: As of June 2013 the Parliament of Republic of Macedonia has approved a new Abortion Bill which severely restricts access of women to freely decide to terminate pregnancy, compared to very-liberal legislation framework from the previous law. The new law is restrictive and now access to abortion is limited, this includes:

- Submission of a written request by the woman to terminate the pregnancy,
- Requesting written consent for the intervention by the woman,
- Mandatory pre-abortion counselling,
- Providing a waiting period of 3 days for counselling, prior to performing the intervention,
- Submission of a certificate from a specialist gynaecologist, including ultrasonography, to confirm the gestational age.



Association for
Emancipation,
Solidarity and Equality
of Women of RM-ESE



Event: Macedonia Anti-abortion law and campaign by government

September 28th activities meant to reveal the amount of Government spending for the Governmental Campaign for so-called "Explanation of consequences from abortion" - that directly violates the reproductive rights of women, and to compare to the funds that Government needs to allocate for providing state-funded contraception. With the latest video, broadcast on the national TV stations in Macedonia at http://youtu.be/M8_RQxb-Blk the Government has shown its real face and its final aim

Moldova

Reproductive Health Training Center

Event: A poster with the message: The Decision is Mine! shared via social media



Norway

FOKUS - Forum for Women and Development

Event: : **Breakfast meeting** meeting organized in Oslo on September 27 together with Chr. Michelsen Institute FOKUS to mark the Global Day of Action for access to safe and legal abortion, with screening of the campaign video followed by a panel discussion with contributions by Eleonora Zielińska, Professor of Law in the Department of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw, Berit Austveg, Norwegian Physician and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Reproductive Health Matters, and Charles Ngwena, Professor of Law at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria.

FOKUS CMI CHR. MICHELSEN INSTITUTE

Rettigheter under press

I forbindelse med den internasjonale aksjonsdagen for avkriminalisering av abort inviterer vi til

Frokostmøte fredag 27. september 2013
8.00 - 9.30, FOKUS, Storgt. 11, 4. etg

Vi vil utfordre ny politisk ledelse til å tydeliggjøre hvordan de vil fremme kvinners seksuelle og reproduktive rettigheter på den internasjonale arenaen.

Charles Ngwena, professor ved Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria og deltaker i forskningsprosjektet Sexual and Reproductive Rights Lawfare, gir et globalt overblikk.

Poland

Federation for Women and Family Planning – Polish ASTRA Network member serving as Secretariat

- press conference (September 24) on the first reading in the Polish Parliament (25th of September) of the anti-choice civic bill which aimed to ban all abortions in case of fetal malformation
- open letters sent to Polish Parliamentarians
- training for left-wing parties in order to provide those MPs with pro-choice arguments
- meeting in Warsaw to discuss strategy in regards to the reading and plan public gathering and demonstration in front of the Polish Sejm on the day of the reading
- demonstration in front of the Polish Sejm by the Federation with feminist, pro-choice movement allies
- activists reached out to politicians directly, presenting arguments for maintaining the present legislation
- ASTRA Network drafted letter of support for Polish pro-choice activists and organizations and sent it out to the international SRHR community for support



Background: The anti-choice civic bill which aims to ban all abortions in case of fetal malformation was the subject of first reading in the Polish Parliament on 25th of September. The civic bill collected over 400,000 signatures of support and was proposed by the “Stop Abortion” initiative. Two years ago the bill banning abortion in all cases was passed in the first reading and was only rejected in the second with a small majority of votes. The restrictive law had many supporters in the conservative wing of the ruling party, the Civic Platform. The current law allows abortion in three cases only; in case of rape/incest, in case of a threat to the woman’s health and in cases of fetal malformation. According to official numbers from the Ministry of Health there were 669 abortions and none resulting from rape or any other crime in year 2011. This figure, in a country of over 38 million inhabitants, illustrates how difficult it is to access a legal abortion in practice. The Polish Government constantly ignores the harmful effects of current legislation.

Portugal

Association for Family Planning, Portugal

pro-choice coalition prepared a declaration approaching both the national situation and the situation worldwide, emphasizing the inclusion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, with a focus on abortion rights, strongly linked to matters of gender equality and human dignity.



Romania

Association for Gender Equality and Liberty (A.L.E.G.)

Event: Gender Equality Festival “Breaking Prejudices”

Screening of documentary “Nascuti la comanda. Decretii” (Born to Order. Children of the Decree), telling the unveiled story of children born after the decree banning abortion in Romania, with heart-wrenching testimonials by women and medical personnel, followed by a debate with young people on Romanian politicians’ recent pressures for increased birth rates in the context of the ICPD processes. Link to documentary: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgZJ-IV8Et0>

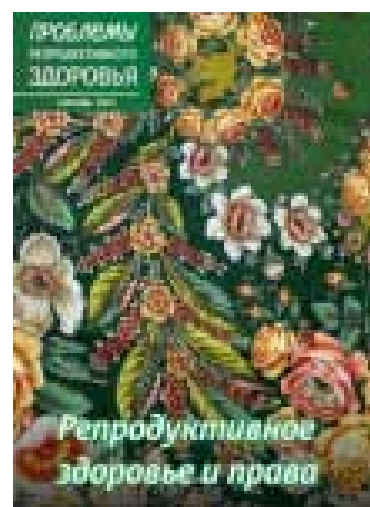


Russian Federation

The Russian Association for Population and Development (RAPD)

Event: Gender Equality Festival “Breaking Prejudices”

1. Participation in TV program devoted to abortion rights “The right to vote” on TVC Federal channel
2. New edition of Journal Reproductive Health Matters (Russian edition), devoted to reproductive rights, issued on 28 September. Flyers distributed during All-Russian Congress “Mother and child” for specialists in RH. The magazine is available on the website www.ranir.ru
3. Radio program on Silver rain radio station on the issue of abortion rights
4. Publication of International Day of Action for Decriminalization of Abortion information on all web-resources of RAPD and its networks



Spain

Campanya apel Dret a l'Avortament

Event: Mobilisation in defence of access to safe, legal and free abortion in front of Delegació de Govern a Barcelona

Messages: #SOSdretalpropicos. JODECIDEIXO, JO DESOBEEIXO

In Catalan: Dissabte 28 de Setembre Concentracions en defensa de l'avortament lliure i gratuït a les Delegacions de Govern (Lleida, Girona, Tarragona, Ses Illes, País Valencià) i seus del PP de tot el territori; 18h Manifestació davant la Delegació de Govern a Barcelona

<http://sosdretalpropicos.blogspot.com.es/>

la Despenalització de l'Avortament

#SOSdretalpropicos
JO DECIDEIXO
JO DESOBEEIXO

DESOSBEIEM LES VOSTRES
LLEIS PATRIARCALS!
AVORTAMENT LLIURE I GRATUÏT!

28 DE SETEMBRE MANIFESTACIÓ
18h DAVANT LA DELEGACIÓ
DEL GOVERN A BARCELONA

CAMPANYA PEL DRET A L'AVORTAMENT @SOSdretalpropicos sosdretalpropicos.blogspot.com

Plataforma por la Defensa
de los Derechos Sexuales y
Reproductivos NOSOTRAS
DECIDIMOS

Event: Protest march in Madrid
& every province in Spain

- Text reading of the bill of sexual and reproductive rights, Spanish law of reproductive rights
- Testimonials collection in a book that to be sent to the UN
- Recording of a video called: "9 seconds for sexual and reproductive rights"
- Party at Patio Maravillas for Women's Rights

<http://goo.gl/3if4Qt>



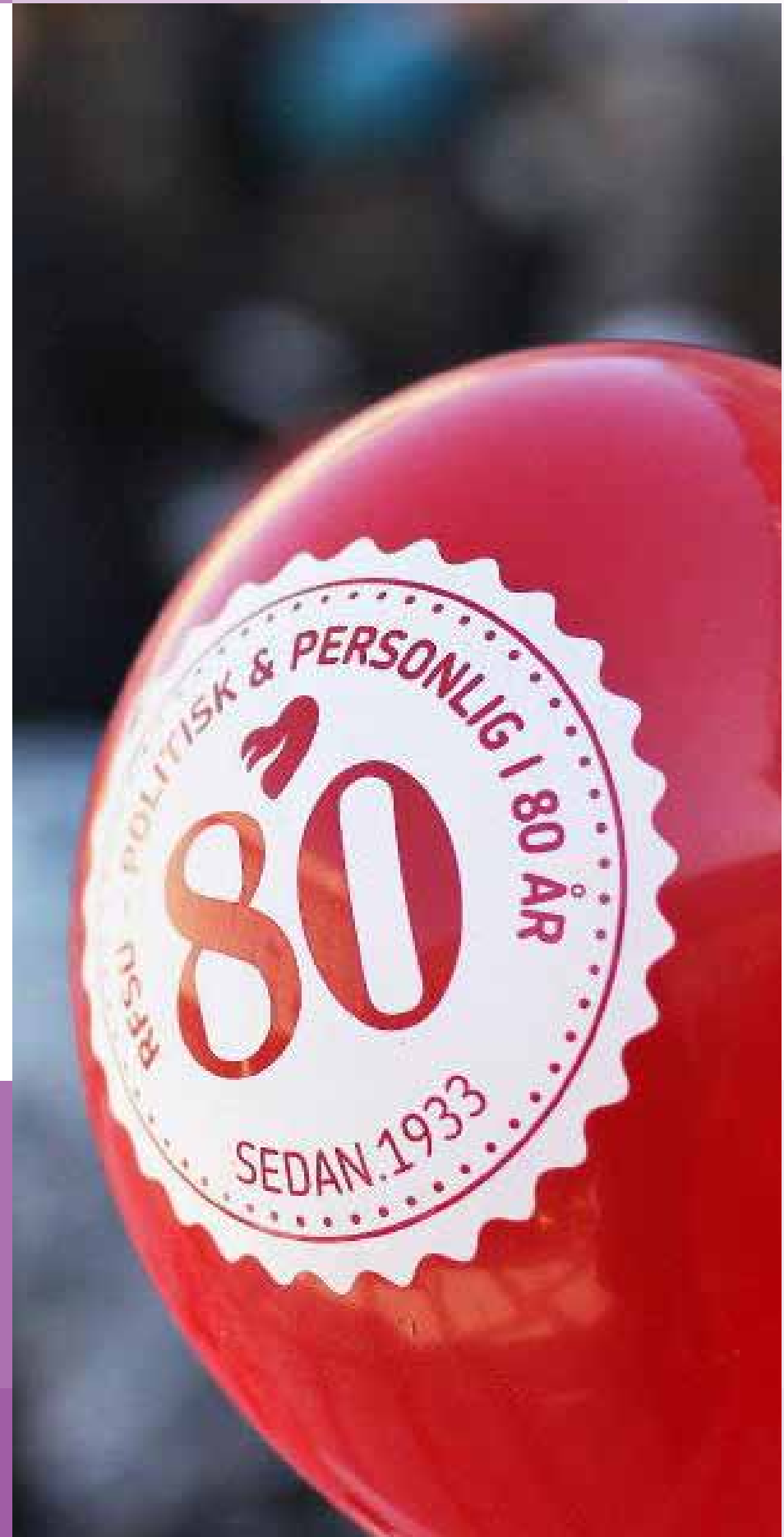
Sweden

Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU)

Event: Campaign focusing on the Swedish Abortion Law and protecting the right to abortion as a human right

- Flyer with background and arguments for the right to abortion and myths about abortion
- Distribution of flyers to Swedish Parliamentarians to raise awareness of importance of taking action nationally, as well as globally
- Social media campaign, inviting women's rights activists and spokespersons for reproductive rights to share the arguments and myths in their internet-based social forums
- Involvement of RFSU's local branches to share the flyers, participate in the Tweeathon, and spread the word about the day

Impact: The flyers had a Facebook reach of around 50,000 and we had 350 re-tweets of the tweets resulting in an approximate Twitter reach of 27,000. Media reach: 3 articles in the national papers, plus an opinion piece in a regional paper signed by the All Parliamentarian Party Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.



Switzerland

Center for Reproductive Rights & Sexual Rights Initiative

Event: Initiative during the 24th session of the UN Human Rights Council to discuss the status of women's human rights

Sexual Rights Initiative organized an event during the 24th session of the UN Human Rights Council to discuss the status of women's human rights, specifically women's right to access safe and legal abortion, including through the decriminalization of abortion. Being one of the first events on the topic at the Council, it represents a groundbreaking moment in its history. Widely attended by over 30 representatives from Member States – making up half of the audience, UN agencies, civil society, women human rights defenders and academics, they assessed the human rights implications of the criminalization of abortion and explored strategies to strengthen government accountability and responsibility in respecting, protecting and guaranteeing women's reproductive and human rights.

<http://goo.gl/NHDaUA>



Ukraine

Women Health & Family Planning Charitable Foundation

Event: Responding to Restrictions on Abortion Practices & Political Threats

- open letters to President and MPs
- signatures from Ukrainian NGOs and activists via Internet portal
- involvement of medical community authorities (MoH, Regional Health Departments)
- press packages with targeted messages and fact-sheets
- press conference for representatives of key national and regional media outlets
- national round table in partnership with women MPs
- permanent media monitoring
- involvement of youth organizations and HIV/AIDS organizations

United Kingdom

Professor Colin Francome

Event: Poll on abortion

Interviewing was over the weekend 14th and 15th September, using the recognised pollsters GFK/NOP. The following question was asked: 'Do you think that women should or should not have the right to choose an abortion in the first three months of pregnancy'. The sample was of Britain (not including Northern Ireland) and there were nearly a thousand replies. The results showed that almost four out of five (77%) agreed and 11% disagreed. A further 11% refused or did not know. This should send a strong message to Parliament that decriminalisation in the early months of pregnancy would be popular amongst the electorate.

Peter Greenhouse, Elizabeth Prochaska, Goretta Horgan, Marge Berer

Event: Panel - The consequences of criminal law on abortion: UK and internationally, London

- Investigation of abortion providers (sex selection and form filling), England – Peter Greenhouse, NHS Sexual Health Consultant
- Court cases in Scotland (conscientious objection) and England (Sarah Catt) – Elizabeth Prochaska, Barrister, Matrix Chambers
- New abortion guidelines, Northern Ireland – Goretta Horgan, Northern Ireland Alliance for Choice
- Investigation, prosecution and imprisonment of women and abortion providers internationally – Marge Berer, Editor, Reproductive Health Matters



International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion

Abortion in the criminal law:

exposing the role of health professionals, the police, the courts and imprisonment internationally



Central America Women's Network (CAWN)

Event: "Not even to save a woman's life", documentary screening & panel discussion

'Life at any price' is a documentary about the impact of the law in El Salvador that bans abortion in all circumstances, including rape, fetal abnormality, and even when a mother's life is at risk. Experts on reproductive rights from Amnesty International and International Planned Parenthood Federation joined a panel discussion and Q&A session after the screening.



LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Argentina

Amnesty International Argentina and CEDES (Center for the Study of State and Society)

Event: “Aborto en Argentina: El Congreso debe dar el Debate”

Amnesty International Argentina and CEDES (Center for the Study of State and Society) released a video on decriminalization of abortion in Argentina and Latin America.

Youtube: <http://goo.gl/K3IBX7>

Vimeo: <http://vimeo.com/75579576>

Despenalizar el aborto en Argentina y en el resto de América Latina es un compromiso con la vida y un imperativo de derechos humanos. La penalización no disminuye los abortos pero afecta la salud, la vida y dignidad de las mujeres. El reconocimiento del derecho a decidir nos hará una sociedad más libre e igualitaria. El Congreso debe dar el debate.

Paola García Rey
Coordinadora del Área
de Protección y Promoción de DDHH
Amnistía Internacional Argentina
Cerrito 1050 6° Piso
C1010AAV Buenos Aires
Tel: +54 11 4811-6469
www.amnistia.org.ar



Asociación argentina de sexología y educación sexual, Corriente Política y Social La Colectiva, Médicos del Mundo, Socorro Rosa, Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir, and many other women’s organizations

Event: National Campaign for Legal, Safe and Free Abortion Rights in Argentina

Countless varied activities, including radio shows, press conferences, outdoor awareness-raising activities with the contribution of local artists, presentations on importance of observing women’s right to abortion, medical abortion, street marches, book presentation – all conducted and observed according to a very precise agenda well prepared in advance.



The National Campaign for the Right to Legal and Safe Abortion

Event: “A Green Hug to the National Congress”

The National Campaign for the Right to Legal and Safe Abortion organized a “A Green Hug to the National Congress” demanding legislators to discuss the law project that had been submitted by the Campaign.

<http://www.derechoalaborto.com.ar/> / <http://abortolegalseguroygratis.blogspot.com/>



Brazil

El Frente Nacional contra la Criminalización de las Mujeres y por la Legalización del Aborto

National day with discussions, roundtables, street demonstrations and various activities against the Nascituro Statute, which was being proposed by religious fundamentalists and political leaders. Católicas pelo Direito de Decidir Brasil prepared and organised a series of “memes”- images released through social media with slogans against the statute.



Chile

School of Public Health at the University of Chile and feminist organizations Feministas por el Aborto Seguro, Red Multiversos, Marcha Mundial de Mujeres-Chile, la Articulación Feminista por la Libertad de Decidir, Núcleo de Género Julieta Kirkwood, Línea Aborto Chile, CUDS

Event: Seminario por el Aborto Libre, Legal, Seguro y Gratuito in Santiago

The seminar brought together feminist organizations and the School of Public Health, University of Chile to discuss strategies to promote access to safe abortion and decriminalization of abortion in Chile. Presenters included Dr. Anibal Fuandes from Brasil and Dr. Cristina Grela from Uruguay, as well as activists from Chile, Argentina and Uruguay.



La Articulación Feminista por la Libertad de Decidir (AFLD)

Event: Participation in the Seminar on Free, Safe and Legal Abortion, organizing workshop, publish materials

La Articulación Feminista por la Libertad de Decidir (AFLD), the focal point for the campaign, focused its efforts in 3 main areas:

- Participation in the Seminar on Free, Safe and Legal Abortion.

A human rights issue, Tribute to Tegalda Monreal. This international event was organised by the University of Chile through the School of Public Health, with the participation of different faculties, civil society organisations and health professionals.

- An international workshop to redefine the action strategies toward free, safe and legal abortion in Chile

- Social communication strategy on abortion

- Information materials display

- Booklet “Historical evolution of abortion in Chile”, written by T. Montreal, the first woman who researched abortion in Chile in the last century

- Stickers in public places in Santiago



Colombia

Event: maximizing Twitter, postcard campaign and a statement, a forum, TV program



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVL5nwdBbk>

Organisations in Colombia maximized Twitter to spread awareness on abortion and mobile billboards to target two areas with heavy traffic of people. There was also a postcard campaign and a statement, a forum in Congress that argued in favor of decriminalisation of abortion and a special program on the abortion campaign on the public channel of Bogota and the station of the National University of Colombia.

Dominican Republic

Colectiva Mujer y Salud



Event: Campaña 28 de setiembre – Latin American and Caribbean region

Two slogans:

- *Legal and safe abortion: a matter of human rights, a matter of democracy*
- *Illegal abortion: state violence*

Meeting of all the national focal points of the regional campaign on the 12th of August in Montevideo. They agreed to the following position statement:

Documento de posición de redes y organizaciones de la sociedad civil sobre el acceso igualitario al aborto legal, seguro y gratuito.

The focal points of Mesoamerica participated in the CLACAI regional conference of Mesoamerica in Honduras on 19-20 September, organizing a sub-regional meeting.



Colectiva Mujer y Salud, Campaña 28 de setiembre

Event: 28 SEPTEMBER: CALL TO ACTION LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN



Colectiva Mujer y Salud

Event: 28th May - 28th September: victims of maternal mortality in Dominican Republic



The display in the photo was put together by the Colectiva Mujer y Salud in front of the Dominican Republic Congress on the 28th of May (the International Day of Action on Women's Health). The silhouettes represent victims of maternal mortality. The writing is "because I remember Esperancita", Esperancita is a sixteen-year-old girl who died in August 2012 an agonizing death because she was not provided the treatment she needed to save her life due to her pregnancy. "Esperancita died amid a national debate about the right to an abortion in August, 2012, due to the failure to provide her with appropriate treatment for acute leukemia. She was diagnosed with it when she was seven weeks pregnant and because abortion is completely banned in the Dominican Republic she was not able to have a therapeutic abortion, nor the treatment she needed. The circumstances around the girl's death were marked by lack of information, degrading treatment, and the hospital's repeated refusals to appropriately treat the intensely painful symptoms that she suffered before her death, on the basis that any treatment would affect embryonic development".

WGNRR and Collective Mujer y Salud

On the occasion of September 28, WGNRR continued working more closely with September 28 LAC Campaign, sharing strategies, information, materials and resources.

Events:

- Visit to the Embassies of those countries where abortion is totally criminalised (September 30th)
- Media and Social Networks Campaign
- Workshop for young lawyers for the defence of sexual and reproductive rights and abortion advocacy strategies facilitated by WGNRR. The workshop was co-hosted by Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defence of Women's Rights- CLADEM (October 4th)
- Seminar on strategies for the decriminalization of Abortion in LAC. WGNRR presented the legal strategies (October 14th)
- Participation in the Sept 28 LAC Campaign Assembly (October 14th) Celebrations reports and highlights from all over the world

El Salvador

Colectiva Lésbica Feminista Desclosetadas (Las Dignas, Colectiva Feminista, Las Melidas, Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir, ACJ, Agrupación ciudadana por la despenalización del aborto, Las Desclosetadas, Amorales Teatro, Colectiva Ixchel e Iglesias Unidas por la Igualdad)

Events:

- Press conference outside women's prison because there are around 25 to 30 cases of women wrongly convicted to 30 years in prison for manslaughter or aggravated sentences, not abortion. The action was meant to draw attention to the sentences imposed outside the real context of women, which are practically carried to the prison hospital.
- Forum-discussion "For life and liberty of women" with the participation of representatives from different sectors of the social movement, health professionals and a representation of Churches to expose: Why abortion is a health issue
- Plantón freedom to Xiomara: court judgment in Usulután - process initially intended to condemn abortion and murder
- Caravan for freedom and life of women - departure: Presidential House - arrival: Legislative Assembly

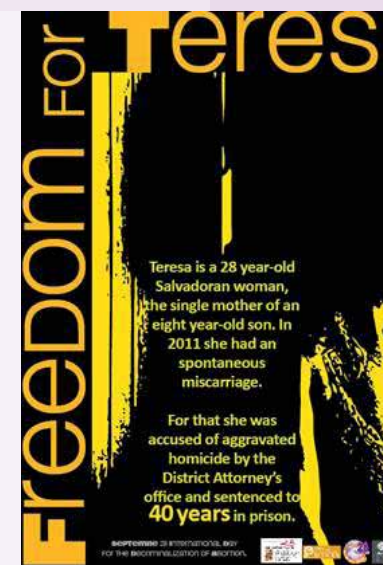


La Campaña 28 de Septiembre

Event: Petition for release of women: Libertad para Teresa/ Freedom for Teresa, El Salvador

International mobilisation for the release of young Salvadoran Teresa, mother of an 8-year-old, who in 2011 had a spontaneous loss of pregnancy. Prosecutors charged her with aggravated homicide:

<http://goo.gl/2t7kEz>



Honduras

Event: Displaying placards in 3 major cities on abortion issues

Placards with the message: "Illegal Abortion is State Violence" were displayed on September 28 in three major cities and the event was preceded by a discussion on the abortion situation in the country on September 27, the information of which was also distributed through social networks.

Jamaica

Caribbean DAWN and Quality of Citizenship Jamaica

Event: Stand in support of Jamaican women's reproductive health and rights

Caribbean DAWN and Quality of Citizenship Jamaica organised a stand in support of Jamaican women's reproductive health and rights that are currently denied under the Jamaican laws. WOMEN – DECIDE. SOCIETY – RESPECTS. STATE – GUARANTEES. RELIGIONS DO NOT INTERVENE.

Background: Under Jamaican Law, section 72 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1864, a woman in a hospital bed recovering from a self-induced abortion can potentially be handcuffed to her bed as a suspected felon for procuring an abortion. Upon conviction, she may be subjected to a life sentence with hard labour. By now enshrining fetal rights in the Jamaican constitution, women's lives, and health are now subordinated to the protection of the FETUS. Anti-abortion laws have never prevented abortion; they have only made it unsafe for women.



Mexico

Catholics for Choice

Event 1: International Seminar

Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir organized, in collaboration with the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City (Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Distrito Federal (CDHDF), the National Alliance for the Right to Decide (Alianza Nacional por el Derecho a Decidir (ANDAR) and the 28 of September Campaign, the International Seminar "The right to decide for women in restrictive environments, prospects and challenges". It was organized on September 25 at the Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Distrito Federal (CDHDF).



Event 2: Caravan for the decriminalisation of abortion

Organised by DDESER in Mexico. The caravan was a journey through the history of the region specific to abortion and the current situation in the 31 states of the federal district of Mexico.

Nicaragua

Grupo estrategico por la despenalizacion del aborto terapeutico (GEDAT)

Event: Cifras de violencia sexual y embarazos producto de violación 2006-2013, en Nicaragua



Event: public mobilization, radio broadcast, forums, workshops

The main activities to commemorate September 28 in Nicaragua:

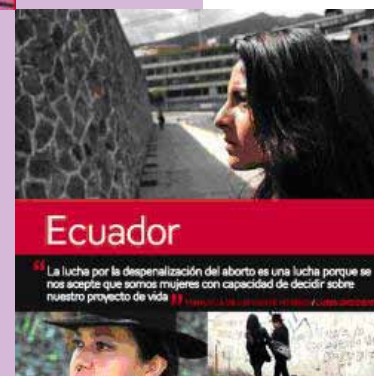
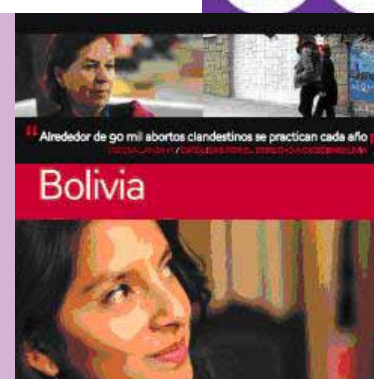
- Public Mobilisation to emphasise our right to decide, to accuse the State of Nicaragua of violating women's human rights and to highlight the institutional violence that prevails in our country.
- Radio Network for the Right to Decide will broadcast through WAVE program which uses approximately 40 local radio stations across the country.
- Member organizations of the national campaign conducted forums, workshops and talks on Free Choice as a human right for women, activities to protest the state's claim to reform Law 779, Law against Violence against women, which aims to reform several articles, including adding back the figure of the MEDIATION that is prohibited for any offense built in this law.

Peru

PROMSEX, Peru

Event: Michaela: A Vision of the Struggle for the Legalization of Abortion in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador:

<http://goo.gl/UkpLGP>



Puerto Rico

Taller Salud, Inc.

Event: Video, forum, speak on radio

- Creation and distribution of a short video in which men speak up about the right to safe and legal abortion
- Open discussion forum at the University of Puerto Rico
- Webcam broadcast on bonitaradio.net, in which Taller Salud's Youth Peer health Educators speak about the right to abortion
- Taller Salud's campaign on teleSUR tv: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZabKl9yL6U>

Event: virtual campaign in which men speak about the right to safe and legal abortion:

<http://goo.gl/T4GkEZ>

Women's Movement from Puerto Rico, PROFAMILIA

Event: Forum on abortion at the University of Puerto Rico

- Women's Movement from Puerto Rico: forum on abortion at the University of Puerto Rico
- PROFAMILIA: conference on abortion and stigma
- Taller Salud: posters on abortion, designed and produced at local level
- Regional and WGNRR Call to Action: shared through social networks



Uruguay

POSITION PAPER OF NETWORKS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS ON THE EQUAL ACCESS TO LEGAL, SAFE AND FREE ABORTION (DOCUMENTO DE POSICIÓN DE REDES Y ORGANIZACIONES DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL SOBRE EL ACCESO IGUALITARIO AL ABORTO LEGAL, SEGURO Y GRATUITO MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, AGOSTO 2013

campana **28**
de setiembre
día por la
despenalización
del aborto en
américa latina
y el caribe



MIDDLE EAST

Palestine

Palestinian Family Planning & Protection Association (PFPPA)

- awareness session in Ramallah with a guest speaker to emphasize safe and unsafe abortion
- workshop for religious leaders with the cooperation with the (Awqaf) Muslim brotherhood in Bethlehem
- university symposium in Bethlehem with guest speaker on abortion
- four theatrical performances at schools to give awareness on abortion
- medical campaign day in Ramallah where all treatment and medication were for free for all participants
- meeting for the coalition “protect women of the unsafe abortion” to meet with the minister of health regarding abortion-related services
- radio spots on the danger of unsafe abortion and for access for abortion-related services
- produced and distributed new IEC materials (poster and brochure)



Turkey

Women on Web, Turkey

Women on Web activists organized an event in Istanbul for different women's groups, platforms and NGOs. The aim was to discuss recent regulations on abortion and provide more information about medical abortion. The participants were invited for a lecture on body politics and medical abortion. A manifesto of reproductive rights was announced and the participants were encouraged to contribute to it.

Activities:

- Screening of Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights' (WGNRR) short-film for 28th of September (with Turkish subtitles) and the discussion on the importance of legal abortion
- Lecture on body politics and recent regulations regarding abortion and Miso-prostol ban
- Practical lecture on medical abortion
- Social media campaign inviting women's rights activists and spokespersons to introduce medical abortion
- Formulation of the Women's Rights Manifesto and announcing it to the media and public

Antalya Women's Counseling Center and Solidarity Association

Event: Women occupied one of the tram wagons and carried the banner

<https://www.facebook.com/events/514118035339577/>



NORTH AMERICA

USA

Catholics for Choice

The Awesome Power of Choice

An online initiative collecting the stories of prochoice people around the world. "Why I Am Prochoice" already features the personal testimonies of dozens of people. The exercise was so fruitful it made us want to know more, and so we open up the discussion to our readers. Why are you prochoice? Go to Why I Am Prochoice and click the link to share your story. <http://goo.gl/OEx7Lm>



Videos:

- "Secret History of Sex, Choice, and Catholics" features interviews with leading experts in the fields of theology, philosophy and ethics who examine Catholic traditions, teachings and beliefs on the following key issues: abortion and contraception, HIV and AIDS, Sex and Sexuality, New Reproductive Health Technologies, and Religion and Public Policy. <http://vimeo.com/51689325>
- Campaign on the Holy See's Status at the UN. Catholics for Choice launched a new video as part of its campaign challenging the status of the Holy See at the United Nations. The Holy See likes to claim the moral high ground on human rights, but since it arrived at the UN without the benefit of a popular vote it has used its unique power to block consensus on many treaties related to reproductive and human rights. The video can be found at: <http://vimeo.com/74665308>

Additional resources:

- Statement on Later Abortion <http://goo.gl/V52xLQ>
- What It Means to Be Prochoice: London Declaration of Prochoice Principles <http://goo.gl/uEF4ZN>
- The Truth About Catholics and Abortion <http://goo.gl/FgB7kO>
- Steps Forward and Back: Legal Abortion Access in Latin America <http://goo.gl/5NdMCT>
- Trying to Turn Back the Clock on Abortion Rights in Spain <http://goo.gl/fMz44l>
- In Good Conscience: Conscience Clauses and Reproductive Rights in Europe-Why Decides? <http://goo.gl/eXDsem>
- De Buena Fe <http://goo.gl/q686rF>
- In Good Conscience: Respecting the Beliefs of Healthcare Providers and the Needs of Patients <http://goo.gl/UMmC0A>

National Network of Abortion Funds

Event: Abortion Access Month 2013

Throughout September stories and actions from the network of abortion funds and allies were posted, sharing ways to get involved, to help spark conversations, and to amplify the voices of the people most affected by bans on abortion funding and other abortion restrictions.

Abortion Access Month was kicked off with some real talk from NNAF board members Eesha Pandit and Verónica Bayetti Flores: "Mind the Gap: September is Abortion Access Month": <http://goo.gl/qormNh>

The last weekend of September culminated with the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion on September 28th and, on September 30th, reflections on the anniversary of the Hyde Amendment which as of 37 years in September 2013 had banned all coverage of abortion in the federal Medicaid program.

Scheduled events and significant dates:

- September 18: "If You Care About Criminal Justice, You Should Care About Reproductive Justice." Webinar hosted by National Women's Law Center
- September 21: Screening of the film *After Tiller* in NYC, followed by a Q&A moderated by members of the New York Abortion Access Fund (NYAAF) with the filmmakers, Martha Shane and Lana Wilson
- September 25: 10th Annual Lilith Fund Reproductive Equity Awards
- September 28: Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion
- September 28: Tweetchat with Ipas
- September 28: Dance Party for Abortion Access!
- September 30: The Hyde Amendment passed on this day in 1976, 37 years ago

One Hundred Professors of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Event: A statement on abortion by 100 professors of obstetrics and gynecology: 40 years later



Contraception 88 (2013) 568-576

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2013.07.003>

In this Journal in 1972, 100 leaders in obstetrics and gynecology published a compelling statement that recognized the legalization of abortion in several states and anticipated the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v Wade*. They projected the numbers of legal abortions that likely would be required by women in the United States and described the role of the teaching hospital in meeting that responsibility. They wrote to express

their concern for women's health in a new legal and medical era of reproductive control and to define the responsibilities of academic obstetrician - gynecologists. Forty years later, 100 professors examine the statement of their predecessors in light of medical advances and legal changes and suggest a further course of action for obstetrician gynecologists. The article is signed by 100 US doctors, two of whom had also signed the original statement.

Medical Students for Choice



Event: International campaign

Medical Students for Choice's chapters participated in the campaign in coalition with community partners all over the world! They published a summary of the @Ipas twitter chat on safe and legal abortion issues here:

<http://goo.gl/uAcJCh>

GLOBAL NETWORKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Abortion Rights UK



Abortion Rights, based in London but working across the UK, ran two social media campaigns for September 28:

1. A two week (14-28th) quiz on legality, access etc.; the first correct answer to tweet questions won a prize

2. An “I’m pro-choice because...” campaign whereby people were asked to print and complete the template posted, write their own sign or simply tweet/FB their reason for being pro-choice

The Africa Regional September 28th Campaign is gaining momentum!!

A group of representatives from the Africa region met at Women Deliver in Kuala Lumpur on May 29, 2013 to discuss plans for the 28th September Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion.

The meeting was attended by over 25 people from several countries, including **Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Zambia, Senegal, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Malawi.**

The following are notes from the African Regional Advocates Planning meeting for the International Campaign for Women’s Right to Safe Abortion that took place at Women Deliver on May 30, 2013.

Overall theme: “Breaking the Silence on Abortion”. Sub-themes included:

- Decriminalization – for both providers and the women
- Creating a forum for speaking out on abortion rights
- Bringing religious leaders on board regarding human rights; creating opportunities for faith-based leaders to step back and allow women their rights
- Finding champions within parliament and working with them
- Working with young women
- Addressing stigma head on with all of these efforts (breaking the silence!)
- Focusing on the message “Abortion is health care, not a crime”
- Information sharing: Ipas offered to help set up a Facebook page. The networks coordinated and shared information on activities and established a small working group. Nondo Ejano, the WGNRR African Program Officer, initiated actions. Sylvia Wamugi from Ipas Africa Alliance became co-regional coordinator.
- Resources: there were no new resources for actions but much could be done on the ground with what everyone had already. Ipas and WGNRR agreed to offer technical assistance on data, background policy papers, educational materials that could be tailored for different settings, etc.
- Communication: it was suggested that there be regular Skype calls among regional and global advisory groups to coordinate activities globally, leading up to September 28th.



Asia Safe Abortion Partnership

Event: The Global Tweetathon



Prochoice advocates worldwide united for the International Day of Action For Safe And Legal Abortion on September 28 to occupy social media and join ASAP's Tweetathon to advocate for the decriminalization of abortion, to improve access to safe abortion, to advance women's rights to make decisions for themselves, to protect women and abortion providers from harassment, and to recognize safe abortion as a still unmet reproductive right. The hashtags #safeabortion and #Sept28 were used. ASAP invited the world to join in and follow them on Twitter ([@asapasia](https://twitter.com/asapasia)) and tweet! ASAP were joined in that effort by regional partner Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR). ASAP website (<http://asap-asia.org/>) and the WGNRR website (<http://www.september28.org/>) were referred to for useful information on safe medical abortion, resources on the law, country profiles, and for campaign material.

ASAP tweeted from 5 a.m. IST to 10 p.m. IST, when the conversation was taken over by their International Partners in Europe, the U.K. and the U.S. They were joined by tweeters across Asia and most notably from **Australia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Iran, Lebanon and Cyprus, and Mongolia.** They had some trouble from Pro-life tweeters, but it was handled very effectively by the partners, particularly by Samsara. ASAP brought a more detailed account of the Tweetathon and would like to thank everyone who joined them to share information from their countries and to support women's rights to safe abortion.

For easier reference, ASAP wrote down a few tweets to simply use to support them!

1. Unsafe abortion is a reality. Every year 47,000 women die of unsafe abortion worldwide. Demand #safeabortion now. #Sept28
2. Unsafe abortion contributes to high rates of maternal deaths. #SafeAbortion saves lives #Sept28
3. Restrictive laws don't reduce abortions. They increase unsafe abortions.

Repeal these laws now. #Sept28 #safeabortion

4. No more deaths from unsafe abortion. We demand #SafeAbortion Now. #Sept28

5. Support women's autonomy and their right to #SafeAbortion #Sept28

6. No contraceptive is 100% effective. Women with unwanted pregnancies need #SafeAbortion. #Sept28

7. Family Planning Policies are incomplete without legal #safeabortion for all women who need them. #Sept28

8. Let's put an end to shaming. Don't ask women why they need an abortion. Make it safe instead. #Sept28 #safeabortion

9. Women must have the right to choose if and when they want to be mothers. Support #safeabortion #Sept28

10. No more stigma. Stop the harassment of women who need abortions and abortion providers. #Sept28 #safeabortion

And from WGNRR:

- Maternal morbidity and mortality will NOT be reduced w/o ensuring access to safe, legal, accessible and high quality abortion services #sept28
- Government must provide the right to safe and legal abortion! #sept28
- Should women who've had an abortion be jailed? Decriminalise abortion! #sept28
- Unsafe abortion is a leading cause of maternal mortality. #safeabortion now! #sept28
- Access to safe and legal abortion is a HUMAN RIGHT. #sept28
- Criminalising abortion will not stop it, but will force women to seek unsafe underground services. #safe and #legal #abortion now. #sept28

Link:<http://asap-asia.org/blog/occupy-social-mediathis-sept-28-to-support-womens-right-to-safe-abortion/>

#MedicalAbortion hotlines are a great help to women living under restrictive laws:@shrutijnu @samsar4 #Indonesia pic.twitter.com/t1qxbuV9U

- ASAP (@asapasia) September 28, 2013



ASTRA Network

Event: Call for Action in Central and Eastern Europe 28 September 2013

ASTRA Network Secretariat launched the Call for Action in CEEurope:

<http://goo.gl/mJO99x>

“International Campaign for Women’s Right to Safe Abortion provides an opportunity to make our voices heard and unite activists under one goal and one mission. The Central and Eastern European region is currently experiencing further attempts to restrict access to abortion. The recent months have proven that we cannot take what we have for granted and the strong pro-natalist voices are starting to influence more and more countries and their legislation on abortion (Macedonia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia). The CEE region has long been silent and time has come to make ourselves visible and heard. This call to action is aimed at ALL activists from Central and Eastern Europe region, as well Central Asia, the Balkans, the Caucasus, who believe that women’s right to free choice - the right to abortion - is a human right and must be observed, protected and granted. (...)” This year, the ASTRA Network gathered a lot of interest from its members, who supported the Campaign very strongly and efficiently.



ICMA: International Campaign for Women’s Right to Safe Abortion

Call for Action: 28 September - International Day of Action for Decriminalization of Abortion



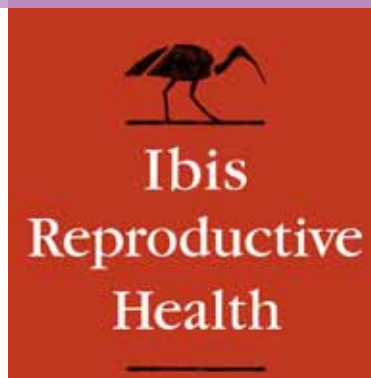
Report “Abortion in the criminal law: exposing the role of health professionals, the police, the courts and imprisonment internationally”

You can download the report “Abortion in the criminal law: exposing the role of health professionals, the police, the courts and imprisonment internationally” at:

<http://goo.gl/9BWytJ>

Ibis Reproductive Health

In honor of the campaign, Ibis encouraged reading about their recent work in support of this effort, as well as to follow the hashtags #Sept28 and #safeabortion on Twitter and Facebook to join the discussion.



A recent in-depth article by the Texas Tribune (<http://goo.gl/9mwte1>) showed the lack of evidence behind legal measures further restricting access to abortion. Ibis had been researching restrictions on abortion in the state since 2011, in conjunction with Austin's Texas Public Policy Evaluation Project.

Vice President for Research Dan Grossman testifies before Iowa Board of Medicine (<http://goo.gl/nxbJd9>) on telemedicine abortion, citing Ibis research demonstrating that telemedicine is safe, effective and acceptable to women, and could improve access to medical abortion, especially for women living in remote areas, as well as reduce second trimester abortion.

As a member of the **International Consortium for Medical Abortion** and **Latin American Consortium against Unsafe Abortion** (CLACAI in Spanish), Ibis's research on medication abortion also addresses ways to improve access to high quality abortion care in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. In particular, Ibis's work in South Africa helped to make it possible for this service to be introduced in the country's free, public sector clinics.

IPPF



To mark the international day of action the IPPF family undertook a diverse range of actions. From a FlashMob in Nepal to government advocacy in Macedonia to a panel debate in France, IPPF Member Associations drew public attention to the importance of access to safe and legal abortion and addressed the different challenges faced in achieving this goal in their countries.

- IPPF Africa Regional Office Programmes Advisor Dr Chilanga Asmani joined representatives from IPPF Member Associations in Cameroon (CAMNAFAW), Burkina Faso (ABBEF) and France (Le Planning Familial) on Radio France International to discuss abortion in Francophone Africa. The programme was broadcast on Radio France International on 27 September.
- Leading up to and on the day IPPF took to social media to highlight some key facts and figures about abortion and IPPF's online youth movements MYX, using some fun infographics to start a conversation among young people about abortion.
- The IPPF website also hosted a number of interesting articles and blog pieces on a range of abortion issues, including a comment piece that firmly placed the issue of access to safe abortion as critical to successful sustainable development.



Information that uses the language of choice is pro-your rights and pro-your body.

Your sexual rights are human rights.

Don't let anyone make you think differently.

#sept28 #safeabortion

Ipas

Event: Ipas's September 28th Global Day of Action featured activities

Social media campaign

All September Ipas posted infographics, posters and short videos with the "Think About It" call to action on the campaign Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Tumblr accounts, as well as on www.ipas.org. You can now find all September 28 images and videos in one easy to view and download space: www.ipas.org/sept28materials.

Twitter chat

Ipas hosted a Twitter chat on the importance of promoting access to safe, legal abortion for all women - with a special focus on our decriminalization work and guest tweeter Gillian Kane (@GillianKaneBK). Learn more about what was discussed on Facebook event page.



Presentation at University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health

Ipas partnered with UNC's Students United for Reproductive Justice to sponsor a talk by Ipas's Anu Kumar and Katherine Turner on the global public health and human rights challenge of unsafe abortion-and how the September 28 campaign mobilized global advocacy to change this. Ipas had a table with September 28 information at the event. See Facebook events page for more information.



March for abortion rights and LGBTQ rights in the North Carolina Pride Parade

In 2013, September 28th fell on the same day as NC Pride, North Carolina's annual lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered pride festival. That presented the perfect opportunity to highlight the connections between abortion, sexual



orientation, gender identity and all sexual and reproductive rights. Ipas staff, family and friends carried a banner with the slogan "Abortion Rights - LGBTQ Rights - Sexual and Reproductive Justice FOR ALL!" and posters highlighting IPPF's Charter for Sexual and Reproductive Rights and people's own slogans. See photos and more information on our Facebook events page.

Ipas Country Program and Partner events

Many of Ipas' country programs worked with partner agencies to plan and participate in events before and on September 28. A few examples of in-country activities include:

- In Ghana: a live radio discussion on a renowned radio station in Accra and an article in a national newspaper
- In Kenya and across Africa: A manifesto and direct actions to break the silence and end abortion stigma in Africa
- In Mexico: The National Alliance for the Right to Decide and partners organized a university seminar on women's right to choose in restrictive contexts
- In Nepal: An oratory contest among young peer educators on "The Role of Youth in the Prevention of Unsafe Abortion and Reduction of the Maternal Mortality Rate."

Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights



As a global network tasked with globally adopting the originally Latin American and Caribbean campaign for decriminalisation of abortion, WGNRR worked in partnership with regional networks through their regional officers to assist with and contribute in developing the regionally based campaign materials.

Following a collaborative approach to the regional engagement WGNRR participated in developing regionally focused statements/Calls for Action for September 28 aimed at highlighting the specific realities around access to safe abortion pertaining to each region and at formulating regionally focused demands and suggested actions: September 28 Call for Action – Asia Pacific and Middle East “Women’s organisations in the Asia Pacific and the Middle East speak out on women and young women’s right to safe and legal abortion” jointly drafted by Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP) and WGNRR. September 28 Call for Action – Africa “Break the silence and end stigma: Recognise abortion, own it and discuss it now!” jointly drafted by Ipas Africa Office and WGNRR.

Alongside regional partnerships around September 28 mobilisation WGNRR’s work focused on managing september28.org website to reflect the world-wide mobilization for September 28.

As an integral part of the global September 28 mobilisations WGNRR launched an on-line campaign project – Virtual Mural for Abortion Rights

September 28: Join WGNRR’s Virtual Mural for Abortion Rights!



<http://www.september28.org/mural/>

WGNRR invited members, partners and allies to participate in the collaborative September 28 project “Virtual Mural for Abortion Rights”. By joining the virtual mural they could leave a testimonial about their views on why abortion should be safe and legal in their country.

The Virtual Mural project became a hit with women’s rights activists around the globe delivering

200 contributions from 50 countries, including Myanmar, Syria, United Arab Emirates, and Israel/



Palestine. Campaign participants were asked to complete the line “Abortion should be safe and legal in my country BECAUSE ...” and subsequently send the line with the picture or by itself to september28.org website. A selection of pictures and lines was creatively assembled in a Virtual Mural, while the rest of the contributions was displayed in a virtual gallery. The contributions to the virtual gallery were pouring on the Day of Action itself as some organisations made picture taking for the virtual mural an integral part of their life events. In addition, several organisations replicated the Mural initiative locally, mobilising their communities to speak out for abortion rights.

The Virtual Mural project can be viewed on-line:

<http://www.september28.org/mural/virtual-gallery/>

Manifesto

<http://www.september28.org/manifesto/>

For September 28 2013 WGNRR initiated the Manifesto “OUR BODIES, OUR FUTURES” which demands governments to recognise and enshrine the rights to safe and legal abortion in the New Development Agenda (NDA). The Manifesto received 376 signatures, out of which 200 signatures are organizational. The Manifesto has been sent to the UN agencies leading on the NDA processes and campaign participants were encouraged to send the Manifesto with the signatures to their government representatives. The Manifesto “Our Bodies, Our Futures” is a collaborative project among WGNRR, ASTRA Network, Latin American and Caribbean September 28 Campaign and ASAP.



• **Campaign materials** - <http://www.september28.org/visual-resources/>

For this year, WGNRR adjusted to a new colour scheme the campaign materials developed last year. They are available in three languages to be downloaded.

• **Videos** - <http://www.september28.org/>

September 28 promotional video in Spanish and French versions, which were widely shared within the WGNRR network and beyond. Following September 28 actions WGNRR produced a short video featuring the highlights and capturing the impact of this year campaign activities

• **Campaign/Media kit** - <http://www.september28.org/media/>

WGNRR developed a short campaign kit with sample press-release to assist

campaigning organisations attract media attention to their events.

• **Solidarity calls and support to the regional Calls for Action** -

<http://www.september28.org/category/solidarity/> &

<http://www.september28.org/partners-call-to-action/>

Collecting and circulating solidarity calls and regional statements and Calls for Action.

• **Collecting information on the action** -

<http://www.september28.org/actions/>

• **The #Sept28 Tweetathon**

The goal of the Sept28 tweetathon has been to take over Twittersverse on September 28 using the hashtags #sept28 and #safeabortion in order to spread awareness on the situation of women from all over the world in demanding their right to safe and legal abortion. Tips on how to participate were attached, as well as sample tweets.



Women on Web (WoW)

Women on Web (www.womenonweb.org) is an online abortion help

service and an information center about medical abortion working currently in 12 languages. Hundreds of women living in countries with no access to safe abortion contact WoW each day to request support and



information. Women on Web invited thousands of women to join the actions.

28 September 2014
International Day of Action

Decriminalise abortion!

Free women and safe abortion providers from prison!

Women have a right to safe, legal abortion

GOAL: ACTIVITIES IN 75+ COUNTRIES

Here are some suggestions for activities:

Launch a long-term campaign for the decriminalisation of abortion in your country and/or if you are a regional network, then in your region.

Strengthen regional connections by bringing existing networks and groups in your region together so that groups can share information, offer cross-border support and resources, and work together in advocacy campaigns to make the problems women have regarding abortion visible across borders.

Form or expand a national coalition bringing together all the groups and organisations working for women's right to safe abortion and meet in order to share information and activities.

If there are women in prison or being prosecuted for having an illegal abortion, or doctors are being prosecuted, investigated or threatened by the authorities, **start a public campaign for their release and for an end to all such prosecutions.**

Start an abortion hotline to advise women on safe abortion and where to find help. Use posters, stickers or graffiti to tell women there is a hotline they can call for information on abortion and contraception or a clinic they can go to.

Hold a meeting for pro-choice advocates and supporters, e.g.

- Invite women who have had abortions to come together to talk about their experiences in an informal and safe setting. Record and publish them (anonymously).
- Invite legal experts to talk about reforming the abortion law and policy in women's favour.
- Invite pro-choice abortion providers to talk about why they are pro-choice and decided to do abortions – invite medical students to come and listen to them.
- Invite pro-choice politicians to talk about what you and they would need to do to table a bill.

- Hold a public tribunal on the negative consequences of the criminalisation of abortion in your country, including case histories of what has happened to individual women.

Form an expert committee to draft an abortion law reform bill and launch a campaign alongside supporters in your national parliament, women's groups, human rights supporters, health and legal professionals, NGOs and prominent people who support a change in the law.

Create and circulate a petition calling for abortion law reform on the web and social media. Set up a survey monkey or use a web-based petition service to collect signatures. Hold a press conference. Hand the petition in to your country's prime minister on or around 28 September.

Launch a long-term campaign to ensure that abortion services, including medical abortion, are accessible to women who are legally eligible for an abortion in legally restricted settings.

Start a campaign for government approval of mifepristone and misoprostol as essential medicines, on the World Health Organization's list, by your national drug regulatory agency and/or for the availability of these drugs in your country at affordable prices.

Do research on women's experience of unsafe abortion –self-induced abortion, delays in receiving care, whether post-abortion care is saving lives, safety of illegal services– publish your findings.

Do research on obstacles and barriers women experience in seeking a safe abortion - e.g. judicial authorisation, claims of conscientious objection, rejection of a claim of rape, refusal of health insurance coverage for a legal termination, or refusal of a legal termination– publish your findings.

Do a survey of public opinion about abortion with expert help so that the results are valid and you ask good questions – publish your findings.

Make one or more videos, e.g. about your group and what you do; about the law on abortion in your country and how and why you think it should be changed for the better; about existing abortion services in your country; about what women need to know if they have an unwanted pregnancy; about what to do if you have problems after an abortion; about safe abortion methods for both first and second trimester abortion; about where to travel for a safe abortion if it isn't available in your country. Put them on your website, YouTube and other video sites.

Prepare a web page with relevant information about abortion in your country, city or local area, about the law, abortion hotlines, existing services, and/or what women need to know. Or make a CD-rom with the information or put it on a memory stick and hand them out at various events.

Organise a street demonstration, street theatre, flash mob or other action, such as hanging a safe abortion banner from a large public statue.

Organise a tweetathon and use other social media to share your messages and activities.

Create a national or regional listserv to enable ongoing e-communication between pro-choice groups and individuals where people can share information and get answers to frequently asked questions, and as a forum for resource sharing, experience sharing, and to break down isolation.

Create how-to or training materials and develop tools that can be shared across countries based on your experience of how to do abortion advocacy or run an abortion hotline, also fact sheets, FAQs, and press kits.

**SEND US DETAILS OF YOUR ACTIVITIES TO POST ON
THE CAMPAIGN LISTSERVE**

TO: safeabortionwomensright@icma.md

To endorse and join the campaign:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CHH62F5>