



# 28 September International Day of Action

research  
services  
information  
choice

law policy  
law  
health

autonomy  
dignity  
health

**International Campaign  
for Women's Right  
to Safe Abortion**

equity  
access  
justice

rights:  
respect  
protect  
fulfil

medicines  
technology  
resources



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is our pleasure to present the report on September 28 mobilizations for women’s right to safe abortion around the world in 2014.

This year’s report aims to capture the number, range and geographical spread of events conducted during the 2014 Campaign and to provide a record, but most importantly to provide inspiration, for campaigners all over the world. The activities that took place in 2014 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 progressive laws and services that recognize safe abortion as a public health necessity and a fundamental human right.

Drawing on the previous years’ successes this year, we again witnessed a wide and growing range of mobilizations, including rallies, marches, street theatre, discussion fora, art installations and a social media thunderstorm throughout the month of September, peaking towards September 28. More than 100 events were reported in 65 countries around the globe. The social media outreach counted in millions of on-line users participating in on-line discussions with the hashtags #Sept28, #AbortionStigma and #AbortoLegal. Some activities were carried out by established reproductive rights groups, while other organizations and networks addressed the issue of unsafe abortion publicly for the first time.

We also believe the number of activities in the participating countries and among the international NGOs involved in the Campaign has grown, and their impact is greater. We have seen more reports of these activities, and more reports of publicly important speeches being made, reported in national newspaper articles and in the visual media too.

The September 28 website <http://www.september28.org/> served as a central platform for collecting information on international actions and joint on-line mobilizations. The International Campaign listserve and website [www.safeabortionwomensright.org](http://www.safeabortionwomensright.org) continuously promoted global action and posted descriptions of all the activities, and visual materials such as posters, reported to them as well as solidarity petitions.

In this report we summarize the entire spectrum of activities and to give proper credit for the collaborative spirit of the organizers and participants. The report is meant for all Campaign participants as a means to find back reflections on their activities as well as an invitation for future collaboration. Further down the pages you will find an overview of activities per country, Virtual Mural mobilization and social media report and quick capture of on-line publications dedicated to September 28 activities.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of collaboration and working in alliances, the ethos that underpins the existence and purpose of the International



Campaign as an umbrella. The success of the September 28 Day of Action would not have been possible but for the many groups at national level who organized events aimed at showing the importance for women of safe abortion, and the coordinated action and communication between the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion, Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) and Latin American & Caribbean Campaña 28 de Septiembre with the members of the September 28 Working Group, the International Campaign Advisory Group, and numerous international partners.

As a reflection towards the next year's campaign, we see the importance of expanding our alliances to increase awareness about September 28 Day of Action and to ensure an even bigger impact in the public, health and public policy spheres.

**MARGE BERER**  
Coordinator  
International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion

**DANIELA DRAGHICI**  
Former Coordinator  
International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion

**IRINA OTMAKHOVA**  
Campaigns Officer  
Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)

**NATHALIE MORÁN**  
Coordinator  
Campaña 28 de Septiembre de Latin America & the Caribbean



## BACKGROUND

28 September, the International Day of Action for Decriminalization of Abortion, was launched in Latin America and the Caribbean in 1988 by a regional network of activist groups, who have been organizing activities in support of safe abortion in that region ever since. The original name of the campaign in Latin America and the Caribbean is Campaña 28 de Septiembre por la Despenalización del Aborto, which continues growing in force and commitment on the part of women's rights activists in the region. The September 28 International Day for Safe Abortion has spread and unified the spirit of grassroots activism for safe abortion—and now engages advocates from around the world in a call for all governments to fulfill and protect women's right to safe abortion.

In 2010, the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR), which has more than 1,000 members around the world, was asked by the coordinators of the September 28 campaign in Latin America and the Caribbean to globalize 28 September as a Day of Action. After the soft launch of September 28 Global Day of Action in 2011 in a number of countries and having received feedback from the grassroots activists on the relevance of the campaign in their local contexts, WGNRR suggested to change the name of the day to the Global Day of Action for Safe and Legal Abortion.

In 2012, the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion was initiated, and in two years has been endorsed by 384 international,

regional and national organizations and 938 individuals from around the world. The Campaign's first major activity in 2012 was to promote global action for 28 September, in conjunction with the Latin American & Caribbean 28 Septiembre Campaign and WGNRR. In 2012 and again in 2013, activities were organized in more than 60 countries by regional and international NGOs and networks across six global regions.

In 2014 we joined efforts and together in promoting the 28 September Day of Action. The Advisory Group and the September 28 Campaign Working Group decided on a common text to explain the various campaigns and transitions, to be used by all campaign partners.

*"The September 28 Global Day of Action forms part of the campaign activities undertaken by the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion, that aims to build an international movement to promote universal access to safe, legal abortion as a women's health and human rights issue. As part of the International Campaign Advisory Group, WGNRR leads the coordination of September 28 annual campaigning activities, conducted by Campaign and WGNRR members, as well as allies around the world. September 28 has been a regional campaign for decriminalization of abortion in Latin America and Caribbean for nearly twenty years before being taken on by SRHR activists all over the world as a Global Day of Action in 2011."*



## WHY IS SEPTEMBER 28 IMPORTANT?

We asked the campaign participants why September 28th is important for them and women in the countries where they live and this is what they said:

“September 28 offers a platform to engage various stakeholders - the government, policy makers, public and CSOs to come together to support women’s right to choice.” - Young Women’s Leadership Institute, Kenya

“It is always important to raise awareness about abortion rights. Although Sweden is a country with liberal legislation, opponents exist, we just had national elections and the Swedish Democrats (the only party in Sweden that is against the abortion legislation) got 13 % of the votes, and now has an important role in the Swedish Parliament.” - RFSU, Sweden

Because there is a lot of unique pro-choice and activist energy, and it is very empowering to have a concrete date to focus on. The fight for legal and safe abortion is an ongoing, universal and fundamental issue, and there will always be need for it.  
- Women Help Women, Netherlands

“Most the women in Ghana are ignorant about the abortion law. Celebrating the day is very important in order to raise public awareness about safe abortion and where they can get access.”  
- Global Media Foundation, Ghana

Abortion is only legal in case of rape, death threat for the pregnant woman and anencephaly. However many women still die as a consequence of unsafe/illegal abortion and because of the difficulty to access public legal abortion services.  
- Católicaespelo Direito de Decidir, Brasil

Abortion is legal but access is hampered by lack of information, procedure costs and stigma.  
- Taller Salud, Puerto Rico

Mobilization around September 28 is important in my country because it amplifies women’s voices and gives them the leverage to demand for a change in behavior/ attitude towards abortion from both the government and the general public. It creates a momentum for the activist and Women’s Rights Defenders to demand for liberalization of abortion laws in Nigeria.  
- Generation Initiative For Women and Youth Network(GIWYN), Nigeria

Many cases of unsafe abortion are happening here and many women and girls do not know or are not aware about this, so this mobilization will create awareness among the women and girls to save their lives! - Community Life Bangladesh

## CALLS FOR ACTION

The International Campaign for Women’s Right to Safe Abortion released a Call for Action in July 2014 urging national, regional and international mobilizations listing a number of suggested actions.

**International Campaign for A Women's Right to Safe Abortion**

**28 September 2014: A CALL FOR ACTION AND EXAMPLES OF WHAT TO ORGANIZE**

**28 September 2014**

**CALL FOR ACTION**

**Women have a right to safe abortion**

**ORGANIZE LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, REGIONALLY, GLOBALLY**

**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 creating or expanding a regional network, or bring existing networks together, again where 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 a national coalition** bringing together all the groups and organisations working for women's right to safe abortion and work together, if and when appropriate, and meet in order to share information and ideas and news in person.
- If there are women or safe abortion providers in prison or being prosecuted for illegal abortion, **start a public campaign for their release and for an end to all arrests and prosecutions.**
- Start an abortion hotline** to give women accurate information about using medical abortion.

**Hold a public meeting or a meeting for pro-choice advocates and supporters** – the possibilities are endless. For example:

- Invite women who have had abortions to come together to talk about their experiences in an informal and safe setting. Get some of them to write these down (anonymously), or record and transcribe them and create a pamphlet afterwards to share with other women.
- Or invite legal experts to talk about the abortion law and policy and why they are good (or bad) for women.
- Or invite pro-choice doctors who provide abortions to talk about why they are pro-choice and why they decided to do abortions – invite medical students to come and listen to them.
- Or invite pro-choice politicians to talk about whether your parliament is likely to consider progressive abortion law reform and what you and they would need to do to prepare and table a bill.
- Have a meeting to talk about what sort of law reform you would like to see – invite legal experts to explain to you what law reform would involve given your current laws, discuss whether decriminalisation or legalisation is more appropriate.
- Or hold a public tribunal to publicise 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.



# "IMAGINE A WORLD FREE FROM ABORTION STIGMA"

**Create and circulate a petition** calling for abortion law reform – put it on the web, listserve, SMS text messages, Twitter, Facebook. Set up a survey monkey or use a web-based petition service to collect signatures. Hold a press conference to announce the petition and call for signatures publicly. Hand the signed petition in to your country's prime minister, health minister, or appropriate person on or around 28 September.

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

**If they are not approved and available already, start a campaign for government approval of mifepristone and misoprostol as essential medicines**, which are on the World Health Organization's Essential Medicines list, by your national drug regulatory agency and the availability of these drugs in your country at affordable prices.

**Do research on women's experience of unsafe abortions, whether post-abortion care is timely and effective, and/or the type, cost, quality and safety of illegal abortion services** in your city or local area – announce you will start the research on 28 September and when you're done, publicise your findings.

**Do research on obstacles and barriers women experience** in seeking a safe abortion – e.g. demands for a judge's authorisation, individual and institutional 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 even for a serious health indication. Publicise your findings.

**Do a survey of public opinion** about abortion and announce the findings for 28 September. However, get expert help with the survey so that the results are representative and valid and you ask good questions.

**Make one or more videos** – e.g. about your group and what you do; about how to reduce an early abortion with mifepristone (if available) + misoprostol, or misoprostol alone; 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 city or 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 find a safe abortion in a neighbouring country if it isn't available in yours. Put them on your website, YouTube and other video sites.

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

**Empower a web page** with relevant information about abortion in your country, city or local area, about the law, policies, existing services, and/or what women need to know.

**Make a CD room or flash drive** with written information for women and hand them out at various events.

**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.

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

**Create a national or regional listserve** to enable on-going communication between practitioners and individuals where people can share information and get answers to frequently asked questions, and to create a forum for resource sharing, experience sharing and to break down isolation.

**Develop tools for advocacy, including hot sheets, FAQs, and press kits** that can be shared across countries.

**Create how-to or training materials** based on your experience of how to do abortion advocacy or how to run an abortion hotline and share them with others.

**AND SEND DETAILS OF YOUR ACTIVITIES SO WE CAN SHARE THEM WITH EVERYONE IN THE CAMPAIGN VIA THE CAMPAIGN LISTSERVE. Write to: [safe@odhrn.org/2014/09/28](mailto:safe@odhrn.org/2014/09/28)**



## CALL FOR ACTION

Join us this September 28  
in Speaking Out Against  
#AbortionStigma!

Here are 3 easy ways you can get involved:



1. Speak out against #AbortionStigma through the September 28 Virtual Mural 2.0



2. Sign up for the September 28 Thunderclap



3. Endorse the September 28 Manifesto

And for ideas on ways in which you can mobilize and advocate at your local level, check out our **video** compiling September 28 actions in 2013, as well as this year's **TOOLKIT!**

## It's High Time We Lived in a World Free from Abortion Stigma!

This September 28, the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion, the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) in partnership with the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion and La Campaña 28 LAC, [1] are calling on our members, partners and allies all around the world to speak out against abortion stigma.

Abortion – an action undertaken to effectively end a pregnancy – has existed since time immemorial and is a common experience during women's reproductive and sexual lives.

*"Research from the World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that it is likely that the numbers of unsafe abortions will continue to increase unless women's access to safe abortion and contraception – and support to empower women (including their freedom to decide whether and when to have a child) – are put in place and further strengthened."* 2014 Report of the Secretary-General *Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.*

WGNRR in collaborations with September 28 working group under the umbrella of the International Campaign released the international Call for Action for the September 28 campaign focused on addressing abortion stigma as one of the main obstacles limiting the availability and accessibility of comprehensive abortion services.



In Latin America and the Caribbean the Coordinators of the regional September 28 campaign invited activists to join the call for decriminalization of abortion “Abortion as a decision, Access as a response!”

Globally, approximately 44 million pregnancies worldwide end in voluntary termination each year.[2] Yet abortion stigma continues to play a critical role in the social, medical, and legal marginalization of abortion care worldwide,[3]constituting one of the main obstacles towards the availability and accessibility of comprehensive abortion information, care and drugs.

The stigma surrounding abortion is complex and pervasive, as well as produced, reproduced and reinforced at individual, community, institutional, cultural, and legal levels. Entire communities stereotype, ostracize and discriminate against individuals who need and seek abortions, as well as women human rights defenders attempting to help individuals to access this human right. The stigma surrounding abortion thus shames and silences individuals seeking abortion, individuals who have had an abortion, and healthcare providers in this line of work. In some cases, moreover, abortion stigma justifies and upholds restrictive and coercive laws criminalizing abortion, thereby serving as a major contributor to unsafe abortions, and subjecting countless persons to grave human rights violations. The stigma surrounding abortion also intersects with pervasive power relations, patriarchal norms, wrongful gender stereotypes,[4] and privileged identity markers, entailing that safe abortion services are rendered even less accessible for certain groups, among them adolescents, unmarried young women, individuals of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, and other groups living in vulnerable situations. Abortion stigma is so pervasive that it has rendered access to safe and legal abortion virtually untalked about in intergovernmental spaces, as the international community sets out to establish the New Development Agenda which will replace the Millennium Development Goals ending in 2015.

*In all of these ways and operating at different, intersecting levels, abortion stigma infringes upon peoples’ human rights, among them the right to bodily and psychological integrity, the right to autonomy, the right to health and the right to life free from harm.*

As such, *this September 28 we’re speaking out against #abortionstigma!*

Join us in holding government leaders accountable to their existing commitments on access to safe and legal abortion, and advocating for the inclusion of safe and legal abortion in the Post-2015 Agenda!

**Diverse Actions, Different Places, One Demand:**

**Access to Safe & Legal Abortion NOW!**

[www.september28.org](http://www.september28.org)

**REMEMBER TO SHARE YOUR INITIATIVES WITH US!!!**

**To report your planned or implemented action,  
please go to**

<http://www.september28.org/contact-us/>





# VIRTUAL MURAL 2.0



Drawing on 2013’s success in building a Virtual Mural for Abortion Rights, WGNRR partnered with Inroads to launch the Virtual Mural 2.0 “Imagine a World Free from Abortion Stigma”. The Virtual Mural is a dedicated on-line space where activists are invited to post their thoughts in images, videos or simple lines to express their views and show their support to the cause of combatting abortion stigma in the case of September 28 campaign.

Contributors to the Virtual Mural were invited to imagine a world free from abortion stigma - what could that look like for people who need abortions, for abortion providers and for those who support people having abortions. Campaign participants sent in their videos, pictures and lines with their thoughts on the world free from abortion stigma and these were added to the mural that was located on the September 28th Website.

We received 6 videos, 115 pictures and 48 lines from participants from nearly 50 countries which can be viewed on the Virtual Mural 2.0 page at this website: <http://www.september28.org/world-free-of-abortionstigma/gallery-of-submissions-for-the-world-free-of-abortion-stigma-project>.

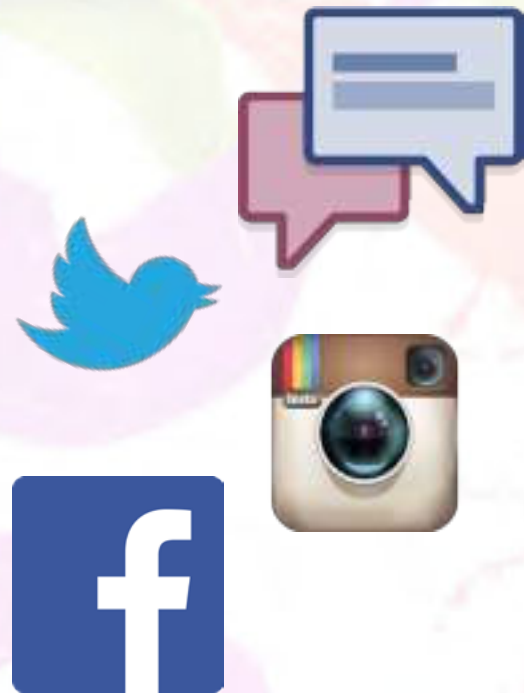


## SOCIAL MEDIA

Campaign participation through social media is one of the main strategies for September 28 Day of Action as the combined outreach through all social media channels literally counts in millions.

The social media mobilization started following the invitation to participate in the Thunderclap, an on-line media platform serving to amplify the message through several social media channels. The total outreach of the message “Governments must speak out against #abortionstigma and include safe and legal abortion in the #post-2015 Agenda!” counted 160,866 people.

During the mobilization month of September and particularly around September 28 the on-line space was abuzz with activities. A number of the international organizations working on reproductive rights conducted on-line discussion and resources sharing through their on-line media channels. Many organizations who reported that after September 28 their social media followers and friends significantly increased if not doubled in some cases in the aftermath of September 28 on-line marathons.



## WEBSITE

### [www.september28.org](http://www.september28.org)

The [www.september28.org](http://www.september28.org) website enjoyed busy traffic during the month of September picking up toward September 28 Global Day of Action reaching 5,283 sessions out of which 3,469 were unique visitors. September 28 website displays updated information on actions around the world, solidarity requests and petition campaigns, as well as a pool of campaigning resources (graphic, video, toolkits).



### <http://www.safeabortionwomensright.org/>

Over the months up to September 2014, the Campaign staff, listserve, website and social media began calling for action, as did those of many of the Campaign's partners and members. The International Campaign website accommodated 167 posts covering the full spectrum of Day of Action related announcements, reported activities and published statements.

After the Global Day of Action the website continues its function as a campaigning resource towards the next year campaign.





# LOCAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS AROUND THE WORLD

## AFRICA

### BURUNDI



#### Solidarité des Femmes Burundaises pour la Lutte contre le Sida et le Paludisme au Burundi

Workshop to report on research on unsafe abortion in four provinces in 2014 and an awareness-raising campaign about its consequences as part of their ongoing work to promote the dignity of women through advocacy for the abolition of unjust laws and the adoption of laws which take account of gender dimensions.

### CAMEROON

#### Cameroon Neighbourhood 7 APEPS-2003

Joint mobilisation of communities of activists and a peaceful rally with banners calling for "Freedom to have a safe abortion and protection of minorities". Around 60 people attended the rally.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



#### Groupede Volontaires pour la Promotion de la Maternité sans Risques en RDC

A meeting with midwives working at the community level to address the issue of abortion stigma and access to safe abortion services. The main message for policymakers was that the right to sexual and reproductive health will not be effective as long as the authorities do not understand that women and girls, who are often victims of sexual violence, have the ultimate decision to keep their pregnancy and have the baby or have an abortion if their pregnancy is unwanted.

#### Observatoire de la Parité (Gender Equality Observatory); Coalition Article 14

Joining with other women's groups, platforms and personalities in South Kivu, DRC, we will set up "Coalition Article 14" which will call for the government to honour its ratification of the Maputo Protocol, specifically Article 14. "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to protect the reproductive rights of women by authorising medical abortion in cases of sexual assault, rape, incest, and where the continued pregnancy endangers the mental and physical health of the mother or the life of the mother or the fetus". We will plan media activities, forums, signature of "actes d'engagement", advocacy campaigns and more.

### GHANA





### Healthy Ghana, Ipas Ghana, Population Council and Ghana Health Service

An awareness campaign via the print media and radio, including an article in a national newspaper which highlighted the dangers of unsafe abortion, and the role of civil society, faith-based organisations, and medical professionals in mitigating the dangers of unsafe abortion. The activists also took part in a panel discussion with reproductive health experts on the breakfast show of a well-known Accra radio station. The discussion drew attention to the International Campaign, highlighted the prevalence and dangers of unsafe abortion as an important cause of maternal mortality in the country, the role of society and women in particular in mitigating these problems, and the need for safe abortion services.

### Integrated Development in Focus – Ghana; Ipas Ghana

Implementation of a project on comprehensive abortion care with 40 trained young people as peer educators living in 20 communities where unsafe abortion is widespread, and bringing in skilled personnel. A number of young girls were referred for services immediately. Outreach continued through the month of October.

### Ipas Ghana

At a sensitization workshop on unsafe abortion for senior editors and journalists in Greater Accra region, the media were asked by the Ipas Country Director Dr Jehu Appiah to lead an information campaign on how women can access services for safe abortion; equipped participants to articulate the legal indications for abortion, the elements of the national reproductive health policy and comprehensive abortion care standards. He strongly believes the situation can change positively if media practitioners dedicate some amount of time, space and platform to educating and informing the public.

## KENYA



### WGNRR Alliance Kenya; Reproductive Health Alliance/Ipas Africa Alliance

Launch of 16 days of action for sexual and reproductive health and rights from 13 to 28 September, launched through a cocktail breakfast and press briefing. Included advertisements in the media of various events held nationally and at county and district level, street demonstrations, a grand city march in Nairobi and other peaceful marches and pop mobs. Distribution of informational materials at these events. Motivation of university-based activities entitled "Rock the Purple: Amplify for RH".

### Young Women's Leadership Institute

A tweetathon with sample tweets on the realities lived by women undergoing unsafe abortion and the importance of taking steps towards legalisation of abortion, circulated amongst their members and partners.

### African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET); Nimechanuka

Freeze Mob (a public action wherein participants stop moving amidst a crowd), the first ever freeze mob in Africa. Some 400-500 Kenyan youth from all walks of life took part.

### Coast Women In Development (CWID)

A community dialogue between health workers, policy makers, community health workers, representatives of civil society organisations and faith-based organisations and community leaders.

## MALAWI

### Centre for Girls and Interaction (CEGI); African Youth Safe Abortion Alliance (AYOSA) Malawi Chapter

Youth orientation meetings in three regions and a National Youth Forum on 28 September.

## MOZAMBIQUE



### Coalition for the Defense of Sexual and Reproductive Rights (includes: Women in Law in Southern Africa; Pathfinder International; Mozambican Association of Midwives; Mozambican Organization for Obstetricians and Gynecologists; Forum Mulher; N'weti; Mozambican Association of Women Lawyers; Mozambican Association for Family Development); Coalition Association of Mozambique; Women, Law and Development; Ipas; Mozambican Network of Organizations Against AIDS

In an atmosphere of joy, the Coalition organized a public event to celebrate the recently reformed Penal Code, which included fewer restrictions on abortion. The meeting paid tribute to the pioneers of the movement for the decriminalization of abortion in Mozambique. Dr. Mocumbi, former Prime Minister and Minister of Health, prominent Mozambican obstetrician-gynaecologist; Dr. Fernanda Machungo; Dr. Antonio Bugalho; and Dr. Nafissa Osman, President of the Professional Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. These doctors were recognized for their dedication and courage in combatting unsafe abortion, a major public health problem in Mozambique and one of the main causes of maternal mortality, particularly among adolescents and young girls.



The new law allows safe abortion in cases of risk to the physical or mental health of the woman, fetal anomalies, and on request up to 12 weeks of pregnancy with the consent of the woman. Abortions can be carried out by doctors or accredited health providers in official health facilities or officially authorized centres.

The event was accompanied by a press release with relevant information for national, provincial and community level media, including facts about abortion in the country and the reasons for the campaign for decriminalization of abortion.

Launch and dissemination of two short videos and informational materials on the new legal context of the law and an advocacy toolkit focusing on abortion.

In the process of expanding the Coalition to the provinces, Inhambane province will mark the date with an event to officially launch the Coalition in that province.



## NIGERIA



### Generation Initiative For Women and Youth Network (GI-WYN); National Coalition for Safe Abortion

GIWYN and Allies were excited to launch Ms Rosy Hotline publicly with a march with a disco van and band and a banner about the hotline, and handing out fliers, stickers, and promotional materials, including buttons, aprons and t-shirts in Lagos. The launch involved the National Coalition for Safe Abortion member organizations and individuals.

The Ms Rosy Hotline launch took place on 28 September; it will provide safe, reliable and scientific information on medical abortion.

A forum was organised to discuss how to prevent abortion stigma and unsafe abortion and how to support the reproductive and sexual rights of women and young girls through access to information. About 100 participants attended the forum, including politicians, traditional community leaders, doctors, lawyers, and members of the public

### Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC)

Training for pharmacists in Ovia-North East Local Government Area of Edo State, and also aimed at building capacity of mid-level providers to equip them to cope with cases of medical abortion and post-abortion care in Nigeria.

### #Choice4Life

Youths demand access to safe and legal abortion for victims of rape:

- That the Senate pass the Violence against Persons Prohibition Bill without further delay.
- That the National Assembly make laws to allow women in Nigeria to make informed choices, including safe and legal abortion in cases of unwanted pregnancies arising from rape, incest or where continuing the pregnancy threatens the health of the woman.
- That Government of Nigeria institute comprehensive sexuality education for adolescents and improve access to contraceptives for Nigerian women; these would help to prevent unwanted pregnancies arising from consensual sexual relationships.

A forum on how to prevent abortion stigma and unsafe abortion, in which speaker Prof. O.A. Ladipo, FRCOG, OON President/CEO, said Nigeria should learn from some developed countries who have liberalised their law. For example in the UK, no induced abortion-related death has been reported since 1972, while in Netherlands the liberal law on induced abortion is associated with low rates of abortion because of comprehensive and universal sex education in schools and access to family planning for adolescent and adult males and females. "There is wisdom in liberalising the Nigerian abortion law and also make available the technology, both medical and surgical, to ensure that women have access to safe abortion services without sacrificing their lives prematurely or having their fertility compromised."



## SENEGAL

### Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)

Letter to the Minister of Justice calling on the Senegalese government to honour its international commitments and bring its legislation in line with recognised women's rights, including the right to have an abortion in conformity with the Maputo Protocol.

### Association of Female Doctors; Senegalese Lawyers Association

Demand that women be allowed access to medically safe abortions in certain cases, such as rape or under-age pregnancies. "Secret" abortions are now one of the leading causes of maternal death in Senegal and forced pregnancies have led to an increase in infanticide. Sixty percent of illegal abortions in Senegal are done on women between 19 and 25 years old. Experts here say many women and girls, who may be unmarried or have been raped, feel they have no other solution.



# ASIA

## ASIA REGION

### Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP)

Throughout the month of September ASAP promoted participation in the Day of Action among the regional network of activists and its Youth Champions. Social media engagement culminated with the #Sept28 tweetathon.

Additionally ASAP published an interview on abortion stigma with Leila Hessini of Ipas, an activist with over 20 years of advocacy, grant-making and organizing experience. "Abortion stigma is used to control women, and it's a way to punish women who deviate from social norms for what a woman should be. Stigma is perpetuated through a social process that involves labeling, stereotyping, separating and discriminating against women who have abortions and anyone associated with pregnancy termination."

## BANGLADESH



## TANZANIA

### Women's Promotion Center (WPC); Tanzania Safe Abortion Advocacy Project; Tanzania Coalition to Address Maternal Mortality due to Unsafe Abortion (CAMMAC)

A forum in Mwanza, where representatives from civil society organisations came together to discuss strategies to reduce maternal deaths due to unsafe abortion and its complications in Tanzania.

## UGANDA

### Community Network for Reproductive Health Rights (CNRHR)

CNRHR held a memorial day for women who passed away because of unsafe abortion in Uganda. It started with a peaceful public march, with participants dressed in African mourning clothes, holding candles, and key messages on the toll of unsafe abortion in Uganda. The march proceeded to a gathering in a public place, where a big candle was lit and participants observed a minute of silence in remembrance of all the Ugandan women who have died.

### National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda (NUWODU)

Safe abortion advocacy community event, with the participation of partner organizations, including media outlets – approximately 50 people attended.

## BANGLADESH

### Reproductive Health Services Training and Education Program (RHSTEP)

RHSTEP distributed a specially designed poster to organisations working on sexual and reproductive health and rights in Bangladesh and 31 of RHSTEP's Reproductive Health Centres across the country, leading up to 28 September as part of an advocacy initiative under the project "Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health for Youth and Adolescents". This was to create awareness of 28 September and safe abortion services.

### Bangladesh Assembly of Youth Advocates (BAYA)

Social media campaign in which 20 young men aged 15-28, the majority international students, shared their thoughts on "Why do you think women need access to safe abortion?" BAYA's campaign was motivated by the thought that it is common to see women campaigning for abortion rights. However, for a change, BAYA organized this campaign only for young men to speak up on women's rights and abortion, keeping in mind UN's #HeforShe Campaign and in hopes that access to safe abortion won't only be a women's issue in the future.  
[www.facebook.com/bayaofficial](http://www.facebook.com/bayaofficial)

### Community Life Bangladesh

Awareness-raising activities, i.e. a discussion meeting on access to safe and legal menstrual regulation throughout the country, by providing accurate and scientific information through Naribandhob, a women's helpline.

## INDIA

### Kractivism ☒ Bridge the Gap Bring the Change

"The stigma that surrounds abortion and women human rights defenders who work for it—women, providers, pharmacists and advocates in our respective countries—contributes to abortion's social, medical and legal marginalization. Entire communities stereotype, ostracize and discriminate against women who need and seek abortions, as well as women human rights defenders attempting to help women to access this right."

## INDONESIA

### Samsara

Flashmob in front of Sasono Hinggil, a tourist attraction known for traditional art performances and the symbol of feudalism and conservatism, Yogyakarta. Each participant wore a designed T-shirt and danced in a circle. The T-shirt had slogans on it about why abortion should be legal and safe. Each movement of the dance was a symbol of the messages that we wanted to convey:





## INDONESIA

a more open society; celebration of women's lives; united for the rights of women; end women's rights violations; safe and legal abortion means victory for women bodies autonomy; support and respect women's human rights.

Tweetathon: 145 tweets were developed, we tweeted every 5 minutes for 15 hours. The tweets were bilingual, in Bahasa Indonesian and English. Messages: Abortion and human rights, Abortion stigma, "Think about it" awareness videos produced by Ipas, Government Regulation (PP) No. 61 of 2014 on Reproductive Health, ASAP statement "Abortion is not a crime".

Virtual Mural, Poster, Sticker and Stencil Art

Viral video: a short movie about criminalization that leads women into unsafe abortion.

Interview with ABC News: Samsara contributed to a feature made by ABC News on the new regulation of providing safe abortion services for the rape victim.

**Indonesia Planned Parenthood Association (IPPA), Jogjakarta Chapter (member of One Vision Alliance and Jogjakarta Women's Network)**

We celebrated World Sexual Health Day on 4 September and 28 September Day of Action by organizing a series of discussion forums on sexual and reproductive health and rights with speakers from the Ministry of Health, National Police Department, doctors and children's rights activists, women living with HIV, activists on sexual violence and other gender-based violence, LGBT activists and local government institutions that work to protect women and children.

## KYRGYZTAN

**Reproductive Health Alliance Kyrgyzstan**

We held meetings with the Ministry of Health, local government bodies, and other civil society organisations to discuss and address issues in access to safe abortion services in their respective regions.

## MALAYSIA

**Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM)**

Speaking Out on Unintended Pregnancies and Abortion: The stories in this book were written by eight women who participated in a two-day RRAAM workshop in December 2010 titled "Communicating Women's Stories of Abortion and Access to Abortion Services". They agreed to be storytellers, as they believed this would help people to understand women's need for abortion and the difficulty of some women in finding a doctor and an affordable service.



## NEPAL

**Action Works Nepal (AWON)**

Local song competition carrying the message of safe abortion and reproductive health rights, which took place in Lamra village of Jumla, Nepal. Street drama for raising awareness of safe abortion was performed in Sunnigaun village of Jumla, Nepal.

**Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) Nepal**

A press release highlighting that it is women's right to have a safe, legal abortion and that stigmatising women practising abortion is a violation of women's rights. A district-level interaction programme with concerned stakeholders and media was also organised to sensitise local government and media on the issues of safe abortion.

**Bhaktapur Youth Information Forum**

The screening of a documentary entitled "News Room Bahira" on abortion. This video talks about an unsafe abortion that happened many years ago in Accham, a rural area in Nepal. A woman named Sushila lost her life due to an unsafe abortion. The news was broadcast on a national TV channel. Later, the news reader carried out an investigation and discovered many barriers for women trying to access abortion services. After the screening, the youth participants in the forum discussed how abortion is still being stigmatised in Nepal.

**Youth Action Nepal**

A range of activities including college campaign, spot chatting, forum theatre, radio show and more. A college campaign (involving interaction with students), spot chatting, forum theatre, a radio show, badge and flyer distribution, and advocacy campaign (a letter to the Family Health Division and Ministry of Health and Population, and a policy drafting committee, dissemination of a 28 September call for action, and a Safe Abortion Passport distribution.

**Family Planning Association of Nepal**

We held clinic open days, providing abortion services and other sexual and reproductive health services free of charge to all clients.

## PAKISTAN



**Peace Foundation**

Information dissemination meeting with young people on safe medical abortion and stigma associated with abortion. On 28 September, short text messages were sent out to 4,500 young people, as well as local and national elected representatives and public officials, regarding women's right to safe abortion.





# EUROPE

## PHILIPPINES

### Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGN-RR)

Over 20 local experts on women's rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and reproductive rights advocacy gathered in Manila to discuss the current state of abortion in the Philippines, after the passage of the Reproductive Health Law. The invitation-only event also discussed the review of the Revised Penal Code, where local groups submitted a petition addressed to the Department of Justice to reinstate justified abortion in the draft Criminal Code. In spite of the petition, the new draft Code penalises abortion up to 10 years; the offenders can be the woman herself or any accessory; and an attempt to commit abortion is also a crime.

The group strategized on actions to call for the Philippine Congress to examine the harmful impact of the total criminal ban on abortion and agreed to reconvene to plan for a dialogue with the Department of Justice.

## SRI LANKA

### ASAP Youth Champions – Sri Lanka

The ASAP youth champions in Sri Lanka created a video with real life stories from women who have undergone an unsafe abortion in Sri Lanka. This video will be used as an advocacy tool to call for changes in the restrictive abortion law in Sri Lanka.

## EUROPE REGION

Rights International Spain; Hungarian Civil Liberties Union; Italian Coalition for Civil and Political Rights; Human Rights Monitoring Institute (Lithuania); Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Romania-the Helsinki Committee (APADOR-CH); Hellenic League for Human Rights; Greek Helsinki Monitor; Bulgarian Helsinki Committee

PETITION to the European Parliament: Please Guarantee Access to Safe and Legal Abortion for Every Woman in the European Union

Launched for 28 September asking the European Parliament to guarantee respect for human rights standards on abortion.

## ALBANIA

### Albanian Centre for Population and Development

Held clinic open days, providing abortion services and other sexual and reproductive health services free of charge to all clients.

## AUSTRIA

### Frauenzentrum Wien; Plattform 20000 Frauen; Red Federica Montseny Vienna

We called the local community of women's rights activists to join a demonstration for abortions rights in front of St Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna. Later on activists joined a feminist film screening covering some of the worldwide mobilisations to defend women's rights taking place in 2014. The film evening was followed by an open discussion.

## BELGIUM

### Centre d'Action Laïque

Collection of signatures for the Abortionrights.eu charter and distribution of materials.

## GEORGIA

### Association HERA XXI

Young volunteers and peer educators prepared a photo session which reflects main problems and barriers to safe abortion in Georgia. The pictures and key campaign messages were shared on social media.



## HUNGARY

### PATENT Association Hungary

We held a press conference and put out a statement on the results of a study we carried out in the first half of 2014 on compulsory abortion counselling. The findings were widely reported in the Hungarian media. This resulted in the issue of compulsory counselling becoming part of the public discussion and reaching a wide audience. PATENT formulated several recommendations, including the need for comprehensive sexuality education and accessible contraception.

## IRELAND

Coalition to Repeal the 8th Amendment, including: Abortion Rights Campaign; Galway Pro Choice; Alliance for Choice (Northern Ireland); Cork Women's Right to Choose; Limerick Pro Choice; National Women's Council; My Body My Rights; Amnesty Ireland

Abortion Rights Campaign's 3rd Annual March for Choice, with 5,000 people taking part. They carried placards with slogans such as "Pregnant with Rage",





## IRELAND

“Girls just wanna have fundamental human rights”, “I’m a woman, not a womb”, “Repeal the Eighth”, “Ulster says ‘No’ to stigma”, and “Get your rosaries off my ovaries”.

March After Party with tea, workshops, food, Speak Outs, Chait for Choice, music, dancing.

A Speak for Choice event was set up with the objective of normalising the topic of abortion and celebrating honest discussion of abortion within a safe environment that privileged sharing, not debate. People were invited to speak out about personal experiences of abortion, or personal experiences of pro-choice activism.

The Pregnant Box: a new series of mini-operas about secrets and judgements, about how and why we conceal our natures from each other, and what the act of judgement does to those we condemn.

An action asking people to write to their TDs (members of parliament) and tell them they support the call for a referendum to repeal the 8th Amendment to the Irish Constitution immediately.

A Trade Union Campaign to Repeal the 8th Amendment was recently established.

Sunday Conversation for Choice: creative use of law and action for bodily autonomy.



## MACEDONIA

### HERA

A student radio show will be dedicated to the Day of Action.

A three-day workshop that will focus on development of strategies for civil society advocacy for preventing further restrictive amendments to the abortion law.

A press conference to promote the new national gender platform that has recently been created, for Poland, Macedonia, Russia and Georgia, with special focus on abortion rights.

The youth group of H.E.R.A. will organize a public debate with civil rights activist regarding the right to safe and legal abortion

Plus there will be on-line actions and distribution of flyers.

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## NETHERLANDS

### Women Help Women

Launch of a new initiative! Women Help Women is a forum for feminist, collaborative activism focused on increasing access to contraception and abortion. We mobilise women to directly help other women. In response to the need of women worldwide who are looking for information and access to products on the Internet, Women Help Women has opened an online service, where women can request oral contraceptive pills, emergency contraception, female and male condoms, and medical abortion.

## POLAND

### Federation for Women and Family Planning

A pro-choice happening on September 28 in the area of Warsaw Old Town. About 150 people standing in a circle/line holding a sheet of white paper with a women’s face printed on it in front of their own faces. The theme of the event is “Women suffer in silence”. During this event, women’s stories about abortion in Poland and abortion stigma were read aloud by two actresses (later turned into a short video) and informational materials (such as a leaflet about abortion and the Polish reality) were handed out. The Federation has joined a wider pro-choice coalition with other NGOs, including the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, the Campaign Against Homophobia, and KARAT Coalition, among others.



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## PORTUGAL

### Rede de Solidariedade com as mulheres do Estado Espanhol Contra a lei Gallardón (Solidarity Network with Spanish women against the Gallardón bill)

Music and showing of the Spanish film “El Tren de la Libertad” in solidarity with Spanish abortion rights advocates.

## ROMANIA

### EuDecid’/I Decide; Romanian Group for Reproductive Rights

An informal group of pro-choice activists marked the Day of Action through photos on the Virtual Mural and a video with the message: “We are speaking out against abortion stigma to pay a tribute to the nearly 10,000 women who died while abortion was banned in communist Romania and to the countless other women whose health and lives were destroyed by this infringement of women’s rights. Silence, stigma and a conservative backlash still surround abortion in Romania and perpetuate reproductive injustice. We advocate for the decriminalization of abortion! Legal, safe and free abortion for all women!”

This message was also conveyed in solidarity with the Irish activists who had been “Speaking with their feet” in the 3rd Annual March for Choice in Dublin.

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## RUSSIA

### Russian Association for Population & Development; Center for Reproductive Rights





## RUSSIA

A two-day seminar in Moscow on reproductive rights and international instruments for lawyers and women's rights activists, in order to build the capacity to engage in legal advocacy and litigation in SRHR among members and supporters of RAPD's Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Participants in the training were partner NGOs, legal networks of lawyers involved in litigation, lawyers from the public administration sphere and public health experts.



## SPAIN

*DecidirNosHaceLibre; Alianzapor la Solidaridad (and numerous groups involved in these coalitions)*

Press conference in Madrid, mobilisation of thousands of people in support of abortion rights across the country following almost a year of mass campaigning to oppose any restrictions on the abortion law in Spain. There were demonstrations for women's right to decide in Sevilla, Madrid, Valladolid, Alicante, Almeria, Bilbao and Galicia.

## SPAIN



Celebrations when the conservative Spanish Government abandoned restrictive abortion law bowing to popular demand!



## SWEDEN

*Riksförbundet för sexuell upplysning (RFSU)*

Events over several months, including a social media campaign that was kicked off with the chronological history of the Swedish Abortion Movement from 1938 to 1975. A week later informational materials on abortion were disseminated during an event that the media, politicians and civil society organisations were invited to attend. During the first week of December, RFSU launched a short movie on women traveling for abortions to Sweden and globally, as told by Swedish celebrities, clinicians and spokespersons on women's rights and abortion rights.

## SWITZERLAND

*Sexual Rights Initiative; Action Canada for Population & Development*

Event with speakers and discussion alongside the 27th session of the UN Human Rights Council, Geneva, on: Abortion Stigma, Criminalization and Restrictive Laws and Policies. This was an opportunity for representatives of States, UN agencies, and NGOs to discuss the socio-political and legal aspects of abortion stigma that hamper women's and adolescent girls' realization of their rights, and the role of the Human Rights Council.

## UNITED KINGDOM

*Central America Women's Network; 15M Women's Assembly; Hysteria; My Belly is Mine; Speaking of I.M.E.L.D.A.; Amnesty UK*

Festival of Choice. The Festival of Choice aimed to raise awareness of threats to reproductive rights and the plight of women who do not have access to safe and legal abortion. Included five days of activities: film screenings; public meeting with the Al Jazeera documentary *Life at Any Price* and speakers on El Salvador, Europe and USA; "I Choose" Theatre of the Oppressed workshop; films on Spain and Ireland; performance theatre; and flashmob/pro-choice speakout.



## International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

IPPF's Member Associations will organise a range of activities, including community awareness-raising sessions and social media campaigns. Member Associations such as the Family Planning Association of Nepal and the Albanian Centre for Population and Development will be holding 'open day' sessions, providing abortion services and other SRH services free of charge to all clients

IPPF's website will feature special content on abortion, including a guest blog from the Irish Family Planning highlighting the impact of restrictive abortion laws on women in Ireland, as well as the newly released guidance document *Youth and Abortion: Key strategies and promising practices for increasing young women's access to abortion services*.

See also our "Women's voices" series – a set of three short films that tell the stories of three women from Cameroon, India and France who, just like millions of other women, have had an abortion.

<http://safe-abortion-womens-right.tumblr.com/post/98377947357/28-september-activities-international-planned>



# LATIN AMERICA AND CARRIBEAN

## LATIN AMERICA; COLOMBIA

Consortio Latino Americano Contra el Aborto Inseguro (CLACAI); La Mesa por la Vida y la Salud de las Mujeres

DIGNA: an initiative to defend the right to a legal termination when a pregnancy results from rape. Celebrated the day with an online petition for sexual and reproductive rights globally, including for safe, legal abortion in the Latin America region, and calling for reaffirmation of the Montevideo Consensus.

<http://www.safeabortionwomensright.org/28-septemeber-activities-digna-petition-and-video-by-clacai-and-la-mesa-por-la-vida-y-la-salud-de-las-mujeres/> and <http://safe-abortion-womens-right.tumblr.com/post/97729561647/for-28-september-we-reaffirm-the-mon-tevideo>

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## LATIN AMERICA AND CARRIBEAN

Campaña 28 de Septiembre por la Despenalización del Aborto

Newsletter: When abortion is the decision, access is the answer. Decriminalize abortion!

Posters: Unite our voices for the right to decide about our own bodies. Legal abortion so as not to die!

Report: Situation of Abortion in Latin America & the Caribbean



## LATIN AMERICA

Latin American Network of Catholics for the Right to Decide (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Spain)

A letter to Pope Francis appealing for his compassion, stating that motherhood is a choice, not an imposition or a mandatory destination, it requires social, cultural and legal renewal so that we can exercise our right to decide about motherhood, and whether to continue or terminate an unwanted pregnancy, and that Church needs to express greater human sensitivity and a spirit of understanding, comfort and mercy towards the millions of women who have had an abortion. Full text of letter: <http://m.terra.com/noticia?n=5c65f2d08c7c8410VgnVCM5000009ccceb0aRCRD> and <http://safe-abortion-womens-right.tumblr.com/post/99561694662/letter-to-pope-francis-following-september-28th>

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## ARGENTINA

Campaña Nacional por el Derecho al Aborto Legal, Seguro y Gratuito

In Buenos Aires, some 3,000 people marched to the Argentine Congress to urge lawmakers to pass a bill giving women the right to have an abortion, without exception, in the first trimester. A group of activists picketed the National Congress demanding a review of the draft law on Voluntary Pregnancy Termination that had been presented to the government for the fifth time. In three tents set up at the location, there were lectures and discussions throughout the day and a press conference at noon.

## ARGENTINA

The full day of activism ended with good news. Under the pressure from the activists, the Congressional Criminal Justice Commission announced it would debate the abortion bill in the first week of November, a first step towards getting the bill introduced on the floor of the Congress.



Centro de Estudios de Estado y Sociedad (CEDES); Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM)

Re-launch of this website for the Day of Action disseminating technical and legal information on safe abortion, putting forward arguments for the debate on decriminalisation of abortion in Argentina, and calling for access to safe and legal abortion in policies and services.

CEDES; Grupo de Estudios sobre Sexualidades (GES)

Meeting to present the book History of Disobedience: Abortion and Feminism, 2014, by Mabel Belluci, a generous collection of stories and accounts of the struggle for abortion rights in Argentina from the 1970s to the present day.



## BOLIVIA

PanyRosas Bolivia and other activist groups

Dance, theatre, film screenings and more.



## BRAZIL

Petition to the Congress and Ministries of Health and Justice Take the big step: adopt legislation to decriminalize abortion!



Why is this important?

Jandira Magdalena dos Santos Cruz (27 years old) and Elisângela Barbosa (32 years old) have died because they chose to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. In most developed countries, Jandira and Elisângela would have access to a safe abortion, performed by skilled professionals in public health facilities and would be able to exercise to make choices in their reproductive lives and to receive the necessary support to exercise this citizenship right. But in Brazil, they had to resort to clandestinity and undergo unsafe procedure performed in totally inappropriate conditions...

<http://www.safeabortionwomensright.org/28-september-brazil-sign-our-petition-to-the-congress-and-ministers-of-health-and-justice/>

Católicas pelo Direito de Decidir; with Frente Nacional pela Legalização do Aborto e Descriminalização das Mulheres

Working jointly with all the members of the Frente Nacional, participants created memes with a Christian content which had great success on social media. After the campaign, their Facebook following increased to almost 4,000 followers.



## BRAZIL

Sexuality Policy Watch (SPW)

SPW joins forces with other networks and organizations engaged in the Day of Action. We recall that the date is a creation of Latin American feminists who choose September 28th to evoke the Brazilian 1871 Decree of the Free Womb granting freedom to the children born of slave's mothers. In 2014, the Day of Action is particularly significant to Brazil, where two young women named Jandira Magdalena Cruz and Elizângela Barbosa have died, after resorting to clandestine and unsafe abortions in the metropolitan region of Rio de Janeiro. SPW invited people to sign a petition calling for the legalization of abortion in Brazil.

## CHILE

Articulación Feminista por la Libertad de Decidir

We launched a petition urging the government of Chile to start an open debate on access to safe and legal abortion as a fundamental freedom for women, which goes beyond the law reform proposed by Bachelet, which allows abortion only on three grounds: risk to the woman's life and health, rape and fatal fetal anomaly.

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Colectiva Mujer y Salud

Poster campaign with the statements of activists for people to hear what young women think about women's autonomy and the legalization of abortion.

## EL SALVADOR

Agrupación Ciudadana por la Despenalización del Aborto en El Salvador

We have led the campaign for the release of "Las 17" from prison in conjunction with many other groups. In November we visited the embassies of Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Honduras and Haití with letters for the ambassadors calling on them to make changes in their countries' abortion legislation in collaboration with young activists, and this was covered by the media. We also participated in the Encuentro Feminista de América Latina y el Caribe in Perú, where we gave out stickers and were part of the 25 November march with a banner that displayed different activities from the 28 September Campaign from around the world.

Agrupación Ciudadana por la Despenalización del Aborto en El Salvador; Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local; Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional (CE-JIL); WGNRR; Center for Reproductive Rights

A conversation with the participation of Luz Patricia Mejía, Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat on the monitoring of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, known as the Convention of Belém do Pará. Joint event raising awareness of the human rights violations resulting from the complete ban on abortion in the country, and how the consequences of the ban constitute a form of institutional violence against women.



## EL SALVADOR

Agrupación Ciudadanapor la Despenalización del Aborto en El Salvador; La Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local; Amnesty International

A roundtable with human rights defenders to assess the situation of human rights in El Salvador

Campaña 28 de Septiembre El Salvador

Festival for Women's Lives in a San José park.



## HAITI

Initiative for Equitable Development in Haiti (Ideh); Solidarity of Haitian Women (Solidarity FanmAyisyen/Sofa)

Sit-in by some 30 women, mostly young, equipped with placards and dressed in white t-shirts, in front of the Ministry for Women's Affairs and Women's Rights as part of a day's events to inform young women, show that unsafe abortion is a serious public health problem and call for the decriminalisation of abortion.



They chanted "Down with Article 262 of the Criminal Code. The criminal law is not a solution. We want sexuality education to be able to decide." The protesters demanded that the Haitian government should facilitate the process of legalization of abortion, and safe, free services for abortions.

## MEXICO

Fondo Maria

We joined the #TacoOrBeerChallenge through the launch of a comic strip focused on decreasing abortion stigma. Later we participated as speakers in an event organized by the Autonomous University of Veracruz, sharing their experiences in promoting women's right to safe abortion in Mexico.

Redefine Morelos; Caribbean Colectivo Pactos Violeta

A performance illustrating five grounds for legal abortion in the state of Morelos. <https://www.facebook.com/rdfine.morelos>.



## NICARAGUA

Feministas Paiweñas

We organised a march for decriminalisation of abortion in Matagalpa.

El Colectivo Casa De Los Colores León

We participated in a rally for the decriminalisation of therapeutic abortion in Nicaragua.

La Colectiva con Letra F y el Colectivo Panteras Rosas

We developed posters saying "Yoaborte ..." and a video addressing abortion stigma.

Puntos de Encuentro; Flow (Funding Leadership & Opportunities for Women)

Training course for prevention and detection of sexual abuse to strengthen professional leaders in an integrated framework for addressing sexual abuse and prevention strategies, by a doctor of psychology and sexology.





# NORTH AMERICA

## CANADA

### Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada

A national day of action with rallies and events in a number of cities, to bring attention to the lack of abortion services in the provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Several hundred people took part in the mobilisations.



## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Catholics for Choice

Conscience, the flagship magazine of Catholics for Choice, takes on abortion stigma.

Video: “The 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 abortion and other key issues.

Statements on Later Abortion; What It Means to Be Prochoice; The Truth About Catholics and Abortion; Conscience Clauses and Reproductive Rights in Europe-Who Decides?; Respecting the Beliefs of Healthcare Providers and the Needs of Patients

### Ibis Reproductive Health

Social media mobilisation and contributions to the Virtual Mural “The World Free from #AbortionStigma”

### International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region; Ipas; Center for Reproductive Rights

Join launch of petition calling on Samantha Power, US Ambassador to United Nations, to urge world leaders to affirm sexual and reproductive rights - including the right to safe, legal abortion - in the post-2015 development agenda.

## Ipas

Global mobilisation strategy using a range of short videos and infographics, for example:



*Criminal abortion laws hurt women and their families. Helena, who lives in extreme poverty with her young daughter, was raped and became pregnant. When she sought treatment at the hospital for the severe complications of her self-induced abortion, the doctor reported her to police. Because of the stigma surrounding abortion in Bolivia, Helena never told her family what happened; she explained her 8-month absence by saying she was away working in Argentina.*

These were shared on social media throughout the month of September as part of an effort to help the public understand what it really means to make abortion illegal.

Two screenings of “WHAT? FOR WHOM? WHERE?” on criminalisation of abortion in Nicaragua with a follow-up discussion were also held.

Ipas united the call for abortion rights and LGBT rights by marching in the LGBTQ Pride parade in North Carolina, USA.

## Post-Abortion Care (PAC) Consortium

Statement on a World Free of Post-Abortion Care Stigma: “In solidarity with the International Campaign’s vision of a stigma free world, the PAC Consortium’s Community and Stigma Task Force calls for a world where women are able to access stigma-free, safe, and affordable PAC services from professional health providers – regardless of the legal status of abortion in their country – and a world where service providers are able to offer safe, respectful PAC services without facing stigma themselves. Moreover, all governments need to be held accountable to follow through on the international agreements they have committed to and provide PAC to those who need it.”

## Pathfinder International

Dissemination of a tool Abortion Policy Scan for Advocacy that will help organisations and groups advocate for policy changes that increase access to safe, legal abortion around the world.

We worked closely with our African partners in the promotion of the International Campaign and the Day of Action as an integral part of the Campaign by putting groups in touch with each other to strengthen each other in carrying out events.



# PACIFIC

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lilith Fund; NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

A community meet-up in Houston, Texas. Community members wrote thank-you letters to abortion doctors and discussed the advocacy strategy for the next state legislative session. Photos from the gathering were shared on #Sept28, accompanied by a discussion on how abortion stigma affects their community's access to abortion, and how this translates globally.



Population & Development Program, Hampshire College

A panel discussion on "Safe and Legal Access to Abortion is a Human Right" with speakers from Hampshire College faculty, and the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum. The discussion focused on recent Supreme Court cases, anti-abortion legislation in the US that targets immigrants and people of colour, and abortion stigma in Latin America.

## AUSTRALIA

Vocal Majority

A national day of action with rallies and events in a number of cities, to bring attention to the lack of abortion services in the provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Several hundred people took part in the mobilisations.

Vocal Majority is a non-partisan, youth-led grassroots organisation that champions women's rights, especially reproductive and sexual rights, established in 2012. We are dedicated to ensuring that the voice of the majority - the overwhelming majority of women, girls, men and boys who believe in gender equality and reproductive choice - rings loud and clear.

<http://safe-abortion-womens-right.tumblr.com/post/99488361477/vocal-majority>

Multicultural Centre for Women's Health

A video on international students' experiences with accessing sexual and reproductive health services and information, with quotes from the students that describe their personal experiences with unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, difficult access to abortion, and discrimination when it comes to obtaining health insurance that covers abortion.

## NEW ZEALAND

Abortion Law Reform Association of New Zealand (AL-RANZ)

Discussion and launch of My Decision/Kei a au teWhakaunga website, which lists the names of dozens of medical professionals who are said to oppose abortion. ALRANZ says patients, as consumers, have a right to know who does not offer contraception or abortion referrals because of their moral or religious views. Patients are being invited to add to the list - and practitioners are also being invited to add their own names. <http://mydecision.org.nz/>

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

