#STEPINTOOURSHOES

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

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION FOR ACCESS TO SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION
2016 report

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executive summary

It is with great pleasure that we present WGNRR's 2016 report on September 28 actions undertaken by members and partners worldwide for the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion!

#StepIntoOurShoes, #Sept28, #Breakthestereotype

This year's report aims to capture the number, range and geographical spread of actions taken during the 2016 #StepIntoOurShoes Campaign, launched in partnership with Love Matters, to provide inspiration for campaigners all over the world to continue fighting for access to safe and legal abortion as a human right and a social good.

The materials created for 2016 were focused on countering abortion stigma and associated gender stereotypes, by challenging the socially constructed ideas of what “type” of individuals would have an abortion. We did this through calling on the global community to “Step Into Our Shoes,” and sharing varied experiences, stories, and storytelling initiatives of those who have had an abortion, and/or are supporters of the right to access safe and legal abortion.

We used shoes in September 28 signature actions as a symbol of agency and diversity, and as part of ongoing efforts to utilize and advance a more positive, “normalizing” framework for our abortion advocacy.

We can successfully report that the number of actions in participating countries and among local, regional, and international NGOs resulted in a total of over 200 actions worldwide. Proof of the widespread impact this year, is the 3 million impressions the campaign had on social media.

The printable materials and testimonial videos jointly launched by WGNRR and our wonderful partner RNW-Love Matters were a new and extremely successful feature of the 2016 campaign. As in past years, the September 28 website (http://www.september28.org/) served as a central platform for collecting information on international actions and joint on-line mobilizations, as well as a materials and resource hub for interested organizations and individuals.

Further down the pages you will find an overview of activities per region, the overwhelmingly positive results of the Photo-Shoe and Shoe-a-thon mobilizations, the social media activities and a quick capture of on-line publications dedicated to Step Into Our Shoes September 28 activities.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of collaboration and working in alliances—the success of the September 28 Day of Action would not have been possible if it weren’t for the global partners and the many groups at national level who organized awareness-raising and campaigning events about the importance of ensuring access to safe and legal abortion.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all members, partners, and allies who mobilized and participated in this year's campaign!

In solidarity, the WGNRR Team.

Diverse Actions, Different Places, One Demand: Access to Safe & Legal Abortion NOW!
Campaign Background

September 28 has been a regional campaign for the decriminalization of abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean for over twenty years before being taken on by SRHR activists all over the world in 2011. WGNRR undertakes September 28 annual campaigning activities in collaboration with its members, partners, and allies around the world, and as a member of the International Campaign for Women’s Right to Safe Abortion.

Members & Partners

This year we had the participation of more than 180 global and regional organizations that work on SRHR and Human Rights.

We want to sincerely thank all of our members and partners worldwide who supported the 2016 Campaign theme "Step Into Our Shoes." Without your help, the campaign wouldn’t have been the great success it was this year.
Campaign in Numbers

- The #StepIntoOurShoes video series jointly generated over **half a million views** in just two weeks, as well as over **4000 likes** and more than **1200 shares**.
- The September 28 twitter rally achieved **3 million impressions** from users all over the globe.
- The call for action was downloaded 400 times in total in the different versions (English, French and Spanish).
- The virtual mural had an all-time high participation with **140 individual submissions** from 32 different countries.

- The September 28 WEBSITE got **70,000 visits** during the month of September!
- Over 30 grassroots organizations led local activities under the Step Into Our Shoes theme!
- Over **180 global and regional** SRHR + HR partners supported the September 28 “Step Into Our Shoes” campaign.
- More than **200 actions** around the globe including both online and offline actions!
Call for Action

This September 28, WGNRR invited members, partners and allies to join us in calling on the global community to #StepIntoOurShoes and #breakthestereotype surrounding abortion; by sharing varied experiences, realities, circumstances, stories, and storytelling initiatives of those of us who have had an abortion, and/or are supporters of the right to access safe and legal abortion. This year, the call for action was downloaded 241 times in English, 146 times in Spanish and 30 times in French from the www.september28.org website.

It was also printed, disseminated, and widely shared through social media and through our partners' online and offline communications.
These young people from Kenya took part in a social experiment.

**Step Into Our Shoes Video Series**

Together with Love Matters, WGNRR developed 7 videos – with stories from the United States, Northern Ireland, Egypt, Mexico, China, Kenya and India. The videos were shared in different ways in the regions (through youtube, facebook, twitter, newsletters) and resulted in a huge number of comments, likes and shares.

On the platforms of Love Matters and WGNRR, the videos jointly generated over half a million views in just two weeks, as well as over 4000 likes and almost 1200 shares.

**The process**

Young people from the different regions were asked to read a letter with the testimonial of a woman from their same region describing the story of her abortion. The young people would read the testimonial out loud for the camera and reflect on it afterwards. The testimonials were intended to invoke empathy, and have people from the different regions put themselves in the shoes of a women in that position (hence the theme “Step into our shoes” or #stepintoourshoes). At the same time, the videos addressed a range of reasons for seeking an abortion.

Click here to watch the videos!
Step Into Our Shoes Video Series - The Feedback

My attention was drawn to the touching video series Love Matters and Women’s Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) made for the #StepIntoOurShoes campaign. All video’s left me with a sense of disbelief and compassion, and touched me as they highlighted how unique people’s experiences with stigma and abortion can be. - Youth Ambassador SRHR

Regarding abortion, I think personal stories are actually the most important ones to have. They are the most relatable and give people and understanding that yes this person is human too! Take the videos that Women’s Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) did for International Safe Abortion Day for example. People reading the letters women had written often couldn’t believe the stories they were reading - they felt empathy and a better understanding of this person who had had an abortion. (...) in a way one of the best ways to challenge that stigma is to make information around abortion, more relatable and available. - SRHR Activist

It’s your body and you don’t need to give explanations to anyone. Great videos, beautiful campaign. - Young woman, Mexico.

(The campaign is) Such a great idea to open and change hearts and minds! - Facebook user

Click here to watch the videos!
Virtual Mural
The Photo-Shoe!

The 2016 Virtual Mural was the biggest success yet! We received more than 140 individual submissions together with photos and individual phrases from 32 different countries! Many individual users decided to be creative and design their own format for Stepping Into Our Shoes!

Shoe-a-thon
Signature Action!

This year over 30 different grassroots organizations undertook actions in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe, where members showed much enthusiasm in organizing their local community networks of reproductive justice activists for a September 28 artistic installation! They brought shoes to different locations (public parks, plazas, gardens, offices etc). Some of them created the longest line possible with the shoes, as a symbol of the number of people in their community who support access to safe abortion services, while others made a display, with abortion stories or testimonials placed inside them, for passersby to read.
#StepIntoOurShoes in Social Media

The #StepIntoOurShoes hashtag was a huge success worldwide getting more than 3 million impressions!

This year, members and partners were invited to tweet on September 28th, for 2 full hours per timezone, asking people to use the #StepIntoOurShoes and #Sept28 hashtags. The Tweetathon was the biggest since WGNRR started participating in September 28 tweetathons, with 3 times as many impressions and many more retweets and favourites as expected!

The website

The www.september28.org website had busy traffic during the month of September, picking up towards September 28 and reaching 7 times as many views on the September28.org site as expected (a total of 70,000 views).

Top Materials
WGNRR produced posters, videos, banners, a colouring book and social media images in English, Spanish and French for members, partners and individual activists to use and translate to their different languages! WGNRR also created a series of social media images with key themes including Gender Stereotypes, Abortion Stigma, Abortion as a Human Right, Abortion Facts and Country-Specific infographics, to accompany our #StepIntoOurShoes video series.

These were WIDELY shared and reached an audience of over 3 million users!
The most viewed, liked and shared materials from our website were:

1. The videos available in 6 different languages! (more than 500,000 views)
2. The social media images (700 downloads)
3. The SRHR activist colouring book (300 downloads)
4. The Campaign Toolkit (241 downloads)
WGNRR in Action!

Africa
In Burundi, WGNRR’s Africa Programme Officer addressed a crowd of more than a hundred people at a conference focused on the importance of building empathy over judgement when it comes to abortion.

Asia
WGNRR’s Manila Office celebrated the Day of Action jointly with the Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network, PINSAN, who organized a video launch and art installation in a public hospital. They also shared stories of women who have had abortions and led a demonstration in an area where unsafe abortions are often obtained. The Manila staff also joined in the Photo-Shoe Virtual Mural.

Latin America and the Caribbean
In Mexico, WGNRR staff participated in actions led by the National Campaign “Campaña Nacional por el Derecho a Decidir” in el Zócalo, (Mexico City’s main public square) where the WGNRR staff held a “Step Into Our Shoes” installation in the historical center. The event also saw the participation of several other national CSOs that prepared a beautiful artistic display. Not even heavy rain could stop the mobilization of over 100 SRHR activists in Mexico!
Actions around the world

This year we saw more than 200 actions around the world using the "Step Into Our Shoes theme," including offline and online activities!

The following actions were reported by members/partners; were related to the Step Into Our Shoes theme and/or used the StepIntoOurShoes hashtag or materials.

01 Philippines
02 Nepal
03 United States
04 Nigeria
05 Burundi
06 El Salvador
07 Spain
BURUNDI
Solidarité des Femmes Burundaises pour lalutre contre le SIDA et le Paludisme (SFBLSP)
The SFBLSP reported on a survey conducted in four of the country’s provinces, where it was found that the number of unsafe abortions is increasing on an annual basis. In the discussion that followed, it was noted that Burundi has not ratified the Maputo Protocol.

EGYPT
Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights and Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESUR)
As part of their September 28 activities, the two organizations produced a joint statement calling on the Egyptian government to liberalize abortion laws as well as a social media campaign.

GHANA
SAVE-Ghana
SAVE-Ghana coordinated radio programs on abortion and also involved story-telling by members of the audience. They also held a grassroots march across Tumu to make a call towards fighting abortion stigma. Focusing on story-telling, the Tumu community center gathered for people to share their stories and challenge others to #StepIntoOurShoes.

KENYA
Fortress of Hope Africa (FOHA)
Fortress of Hope Africa hosted an event in the Mathare Slums where five young women from the community read aloud two abortion stories from other women, kick-starting discussions and speaking up about why abortion should be legal and safe in Kenya. Abortion stigma and the way in which to stop the “otherizing” of abortion conversations in day to day life was also brought up.

TICAH
This year TICAH organized a Twitter Chat. TICAH was also a vital partner in the development of the Step Into Our Shoes Campaign, providing stories for the successful storytelling initiative.
MALAWI
Centre for Social Concern and Development (CESOCODE)
CESOCODE organized various activities to commemorate the day including a solidarity march around Lunzu community, where they hosted a creative space for songs, drama and speeches that carried messages promoting safe abortion. They also shared information about the MAMA Network.

African Youth Safe Abortion Alliance (AYOSA)
AYOSA organized a Kusala Njees! Community Event which was aimed at reducing abortion stigma among young people in the northern region of Malawi.

NIGERIA
Generation for Women and Youth Network (GIWYN) and The National Coalition
The 2 organizations produced a video to kick start the campaign as well as a forum of Reproductive Justice Activists introducing them to this year’s theme, featuring the SRHR Colouring Book so that activists could express themselves, discuss abortion stigma and gender stereotypes.

SOUTH AFRICA
Coalition of African Lesbians (CAL)
This year CAL organized a weeklong conversation on abortion, and how we can shift the tide. Along with other partner organizations, they hosted a global online conversation on various abortion-related issues such as the history of abortion, the legal environment and activism that creates change. They also shared information and created a safe space for deeper dialogue.

TANZANIA
Defense for Human Rights and Citizen’s Rights and Governance Links Tanzania
Together with national partners, this organization held a dialogue with media groups on September 28 to reflect on “common but different roles of social actors in abortion stigma reduction- building a community of the willing.”

UGANDA
Community Health Rights Network (COHERINET)
This year, COHERINET held a discussion on the challenges faced by young abortion seekers as well as those related to obtaining information on safe abortion. The discussion saw the participation of 250 young people, five teachers and representatives from the Network’s secretariat in Wakiso. Students also gave testimonies of unsafe abortions from their friends that led to two deaths.

Coalition to Stop Maternal Mortality Due to Unsafe Abortion (CSMWUA)
This year the organization held a social media campaign that included a few strategic Op Eds in newspapers and advocacy messages in their own social media platforms. They also participated in a community dialogue in the Kampala slum of Kawala that included testimonies and abortion story telling from teenagers, health workers and others.
Africa

UGANDA
Transgender Equality Uganda
Our partners at TEU organized a shoe-a-thon to advocate for
access to safe and legal abortion
for all in Uganda, including
transgender individuals. They also
submitted a blog post as part of
the storytelling initiative.

ZIMBABWE
SAYWHAT Campaign
This year the SAYWHAT Campaign
joined in September 28 activities
with four different actions: they
hosted social media dialogues on
the Youth Forum under the
SexRightsAfrica website, calling
on young people to post photos
and video messages on the need
to decriminalize abortion; they
published a press statement in the
newspaper in solidarity with the
celebrations.

Images: Members of Generation for Women and Youth Network (GIWYN), Nigeria enjoying their SRHR activist colouring book.
AUSTRALIA
The Greens, NSW Parliament.
Organized a postcard signing event in 9 different locations in our state so MPs can hear directly from the community.

BANGLADESH
Bangladesh Community Life
20 women living in rural areas participated in discussing the importance of the day, disseminating hotline numbers and creating a shoe installation.

INDIA
Voice Your Abortion, Defeat Stigma and Feminism in India
The organizations co-hosted a twitter chat on using storytelling to end abortion stigma.

Indian Institute of Public Health
The organization coordinated a series of events including distributing flyers and displaying posters, creating a video compilation of passer-by reactions to the questions “what are your thoughts on abortion?” which will be edited and shared, a power walk, a screening of abortion-related videos followed by a discussion session as well as a local Shoe-a-thon.

Gramin Punarnirman Sansthan (GPS)
This year GPS organized a discussion on International Safe Abortion Day and released a press note.

INDONESIA
Samsara
The organization organized a series of online events including a live interactive webinar on Facebook entitled “Let’s talk about youth sexuality!” They also participated in the Photo-Shoe.

NEPAL
Center for Research on Environment Health and Population Activities
This year CREHPA in Nepal organized a series of varied activities including a Media Interaction Programme with national partners, with the leadership of the National Women Commission, a candlelight march and a panel discussion.

Institute of Human Rights Communication Nepal
The IHR CN published an article in vernacular national daily on the issue of safe abortion Nepal
Samacharpatra

Beyond Beijing Committee Nepal
BBC organized a series of events this year which saw the participation of the Ministry of Health and its Family Health Division and National Women Commission. The events saw a Reproductive Health Right Working Group and the publishing of a bulletin, a flyer and a candle lit ceremony in memory of women who died due to unsafe abortion. They also had a press meeting and a celebration with the participation of the secretary of the NWC.

At a district level, BBC also organized online activities to encourage women to break the silence on abortion.

Marie Stopes and Sunaulo Parivar Nepal
In collaboration, the two organizations participated in a candlelight vigil in Mandala and sent their submissions for the Photo-Shoe.

NEW ZEALAND
ALRANZ Abortion Rights Aotearoa
ALRANZ organized its first screening of Dawn Porter’s documentary Trapped, where abortion laws and the way they affect patients and clinics in different states of the U.S. are examined.
Asia

PAKISTAN
Aitemad Research & Development Organization
Seminar on 28 Sep Global Abortion Day at Khairpur Pakistan they invited scouts, media, women organizations and students from the Khairpur District Pakistan

SRI LANKA
Asia Safe Abortion Partnership Youth Champions
This year, ASAP Youth Champions created a video where stigma and barriers to abortion access in Asia are highlighted. The video also underscores the need to have a more positive narrative around abortion. Watch it here. This was also part of the month long film festival running up to September 28.

THAILAND
Thai Choices Network and Pro-Voice Campaign

Thai Choices held the 41st Network Meeting and 3rd Pro-Voice Campaign where topics including the right to safe and legal abortion and the myths around abortion were discussed. The event saw the participation of several CSOs including Women Help Women, Women’s Health Advocacy Foundation, Triamudomsuksa Pattanakarn Nonthaburi School, Women on Web and many others. Following the event, there was poetry readings and a candle light march.
ARGENTINA
Centro de Estudios de Estado y Sociedad (CEDES)
This year CEDES organized an event where they disseminated videos and presentations from Encuentro LAC de Prestadores Públicos de Abortos Seguros y Legales in Buenos Aires and shared the press release written by Enredarse para Garantizar Derechos.

FINAS DO ABORTO
This year, the organization held a demonstration in Rio de Janeiro where they carried tombs with the names of women who have died from unsafe abortions complications and placed them in a public square, they also created a shoe-installation alongside the tombs.

BRAZIL
MenEngage Alliance
MenEngage Alliance joined in the campaign through their country-network in Brazil, who also recently launched their campaign “Homes a favor de legalização do aborto/Men in favour of the legalization of abortion”. They also participated in the Photo-Shoe.

#PrecisamosFalarSobreAborto24h!
A group of young female bloggers organized an event entitled “Virada Feminista On Line” or “Feminist Online Marathon” which over the span of 24 hours shared a series of livestreams on Facebook using the hashtag.

BOLIVIA
Campaña 28 de Septiembre y Pacto Nacional por la Despenalización del Aborto Bolivia
Together, these two groups organized a series of activities including an activist’s assembly, a mobilization at a public square and an open debate with national and international experts and activists. They also actively participated in the Photo-shoe.

ALLIANZA POR LA SOLIDARIDAD
Through its #SinRiesgo campaign—which aims to destigmatize abortion in society, Alianza por la Solidaridad launched an initiative on Facebook to encourage people to change their Facebook profile picture in support of safe abortion.

CHILE
Sesegen FECH, Feministas en Lucha
In Santiago the two organizations co-held a demonstration and a march in Valparaíso. There was also a series of actions in Temuco. Nationally, there was also various activities organized by a number of feminist groups who met in several Chilean cities in favor of safe and free abortion services. There was also a screening of the documentary “Libre aborto Chile” in various cities of the country. The documentary follows the seven-year history of the hotline and its accomplishments.

Coordinadora Autónoma contra la Violencia, Campaña Yo Decido
This year, the organization participated through public action in coordination with other feminist organizations in Chile and participated in the sharing of information around the country. They also submitted numbers of participations for the Photo-Shoe.

Diverse Actions, Different Places, One Demand:
Access to Safe & Legal Abortion NOW!
Latin America & the Caribbean

COLOMBIA
La Mesa por la Vida y la Salud de las Mujeres
In honour of the peace being signed, the organization carried banners on the street which carried slogans in favor of safe and legal abortion services and placed them in main public transport stations. Some of these slogans read: “Yes to Peace, No to Violence, it starts with our bodies.”

ECUADOR
Radio Berta Cáceres
This year the radio station, alongside the Instituto de Género and Tecnología de América LatinaT y el Caribe organized a programme which included feminists, activists, researchers, lesbians and transgender people from Ecuador, Colombia, Perú, Chile, Spain and México.

Issues around the feminist approach to abortion, the patriarchy around abortion and the challenges feminists face in fighting for free, voluntary and safe abortion were discussed.

Colectiva Salud Mujeres
This year, the organization contributed to September 28 activities through a series of different actions. They created a newsletter and a video rapping in demand of the recognition of abortion as an issue of social justice.

Acciones Feministas
Using the hashtag #NiMuertasNiPresas the organization held a street demonstration where they demanded States to be secular. They also used the stepintourshoes hashtag.

Radialistas Apasionadas y Apasionados
The organisation coordinated a Twitter Rally calling on the right of women to decide the number of children they want to have and their right to have an abortion.

FRIDA Fund
To commemorate the day, the organization shared images on social media using the #StepIntoOurShoes hashtag, showcasing their support for women’s empowerment and decision-making rights.

EL SALVADOR
Alianza por la Salud y Vida de las Mujeres
Civil society organizations commemorated the event in El Salvador asking for a change of legislation towards the legalization of abortion for situations where the mother’s life is in danger. The Alianza por la Salud y Vida de las Mujeres hosted three events for this. The first involved a march in a central square and the second was a movie screening and debate where the film “Yo Decidí” was discussed. Lastly, they also held an interview in a local channel with local activists.
Latin America & the Caribbean

La Agrupación Ciudadana por la Despenalización del Aborto Together with Alianza por la Salud y Vida de las Mujeres, this organization coordinated a forum where the consequences of the law which completely penalizes abortion were discussed and brought to the fore. The forum saw the participation of Human Rights and Public Health experts.

GUATEMALA
Nómada
With the aim of moving society towards a progressive, more transparent and ethical position, Nómada uses journalistic research to put uncomfortable and difficult issues on the table. This year they produced an open survey in support of the decriminalisation of abortion in cases of rape and supported the stepintoourshoes hashtag.

HONDURAS
Somos Muchas
This year the organization hosted an event where they discussed

a proposal for the decriminalisation of abortion on three ground in the New Penal Code, accompanied by music and poetry readings. They also participated in a protest outside the national Congress in Tegucigalpa and hosted a forum in Choluteca to talk about the decriminalisation of abortion in the region.

MEXICO
Under the Campaña Nacional por el Derecho a Decidir, various CSOs organized a Political and Cultural Mobilization for the Decriminalization of abortion in the historic centre using the Step Into Our Shoes theme.

Colectiva Bloody y Projects Colectiva ByP hosted a focus group with partners and members to share information on Safe at home medical abortion accompaniments. They also shared fundraising strategies for misoprostol kits, and planned more trainings on Safe at home medical abortion accompaniment.

NICARAGUA
Punto Focal – Campaña 28 de Septiembre por la despenalización del Aborto en América Latina This Punto Focal organized a political action calling on the National Assembly and legislators to revise the criminalization of abortion so as to recognize its effects on the health and lives of women. Punto Focal also denounced the State violence against abortion seekers. They also sent numerous submissions to the Photo-Shoe.

PERU
Consortio Latinoamericano contra el Aborto Inseguro (CLACAI)

CLACAI produced a regional tune about the importance of letting women decide about their bodies and have a legal and safe abortion if they so wish. The video clip is entitled “Poder Elegir” or “To Be Able to Choose”.
Latin America & the Caribbean

CLEDAM, Demus–Estudio para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer, Centro de la Mujer Flora Tristán, Movimiento Manuela Ramos, Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir Peru
This year the organizations participated in the Public Hearing for Women, organized by Congress where a draft law that decriminalises abortion in cases of rape was presented.

Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir Peru
This year, with the theme of “Written on the Body: politization of trans women of San Juan de Lurigancho” the organization initiated a feminist forum called #CafeFeminista.

URUGUAY
Mujer y Salud en Uruguay (MYSU)
This year MYSU was involved in organising the 9th National Day of Action for Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Montevideo where more than 70 organisations and networks and over 250 people took part. As an open space, they allow for safe and diverse interactions for people to find out more about the different work of activist groups and to discuss the challenges around achieving SRHR. They also organized a tweetathon and participated in the Step Into Our Shoes photo-shoe.

PUERTO RICO
Colectiva de Acompañamiento Por Decisión
This year the collective created a video in Support of the campaign entitled “The Defense of the Power of Our Bodies Cannot be Controlled.” The video contains information about the abortion law in Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti and Greater Antilles and ends with various singers singing the song of the title.
North America

UNITED STATES
Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR)
This year CRR held a series of different activities including social media updates highlighting harsh abortion laws around the world, creating infographics, sharing a link to a call to action where people could sign the petition as well as PINSAN’s Philippines event coverage. CRR also co-sponsored the side event at the 33rd Human Rights Council in Geneva and participated in our Twitter Rally.

MenEngage Alliance
As part of their activism, MenEngage Alliance supports women’s rights to safe and legal abortion, an issue which also represent one of the five core-issues in their SRHR platform. MenEngage believe that men’s lives are also affected by abortion, yet men rarely speak up. This year they joined in through photo-shoe submissions, local Shoe-A-Thons and in the Tweet-a-thon.

IPAS: Abortion is Not A Crime
IPAS participated this year with a series of online activities including updates to their Abortion is Not a Crime webpage, a photo story and other social media events. They also coordinated with a series of different agencies to blog and tweet about events. Altogether, the focus this year was on the barriers to access, with a particular emphasis on stigma. IPAS’s director of community access Leila Hessini also made a statement on how we must destigmatize, decriminalize and democratize abortion. Lastly, IPAS, in collaboration with IPPF/WHR Youth Network published a series of blogs related to the realities of abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean, promoting empathy over judgment.

University Students, Texas
Coordinated by an SRHR activist, a group of students organized to meet and color the SRHR colouring book, make a few posters and read through some abortion stories to challenge abortion stigma and stereotypes.

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health
This year a group of students organized a large display of women’s abortion stories in a popular atrium where students and faculty could read and interact in a respectful way. In addition, to honor the 47,000 women and girls who die preventable deaths each year due to unsafe abortion, we made the analogy that this is equal to 113 Boeing 747 airplanes full of women and girls crashing every year, and printed and hung up 113 airplanes around the atrium to bring this number to scale.

Catholics for Choice
To commemorate this year’s campaign, Catholics for Choice joined CSOs around the world in calling or the repeal of all laws criminalizing abortion care. They also continued efforts in their Abortion in Good Faith campaign where they share stories of Catholics across the country who want accessible reproductive health care choices for everyone.

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North America

CANADA
Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
To mark this year’s campaign, the organization launched a newsletter entitled “Young People Choose: International Safe Abortion Day Watchdog”. It is a unique piece of artivism that features young people’s voices from around the world.
Europe

BELGIUM
International Planned Parenthood Federation Europe (IPPF)
During their annual September 28 events, this year IPPF organized the screening of the documentary “Vessel” in Brussels, followed by a question and answer session and a reception. The documentary follows the story of a sea captain navigating through loopholes in international law to provide abortions on the high seas.

CROATIA
Udruga Parter
This year our Croatian partners organized a huge contribution to our Photo-Shoe submissions—creating up to 25 different ones, and translating all of the Step Into Our Shoes campaign materials for their national networks.

IRELAND
Reproductive Rights against Oppression, Sexism and Austerity (ROSA)
Organized a series of events including a Rally in the county of Cork with the Step Into Our Shoes theme.

ENGLAND
Festival of Choice
In London, the Festival of Choice was commemorated with the support of various national NGOs and university societies including the Abortion Support Network.

Amnesty International UK, Feminist Fightback, Imperial College Feminist Society and many others. They congregated to organize panels, workshops, debates, films, performances, exhibitions, quizzes, music shows, dance expos and more.

FRANCE
Le Planning Familial
In support of September 28 activities, the organization coordinated an awareness-raising campaign against illegal abortion entitled: “This is not a coat hanger”.

MACEDONIA
Health Education and Research Association (HERA)
This year, HERA organized a public debate and concert to commemorate International Safe Abortion Day. The debate saw the attendance of 180 people and was the first time since the introduction of the new abortion law in 2013, that a public debate was held. HERA also shared information on their platforms, collated a video, and participated in the September 28 Twitter Rally.

NETHERLANDS
Women Help Women
In collaboration with various activists, organizations and researchers around the world, Women Help Women collected statements from women around the globe on the reasons why they risk imprisonment.

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Europe

Rutgers International: for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
This year, Rutgers commemorated September 28 through a series of activities. Firstly, the participated in online activities, sharing their shoe-athon photos. They also participated in a civil society debate on abortion that was broadcast live and shared the event’s report on their website, and they also wrote two op-eds on contraceptives and free choice.

NORTHERN IRELAND
Alliance for Choice Belfast
As well as participating in the Dublin March for Choice, the organization also made a short film and held a workshop entitled “So you want to talk about abortion?” for activists and those interested in challenging the anti-choice narrative.

NORWAY
Sex og Politikk Together with FOKUS and the youth organization SNU, Sex og Politikk hosted a meeting in Oslo which opened with a speech by the State Secretary of Norway. Her intervention was followed by a panel.

The Women’s Front and FOKUS: Forum for Women and Development
In Bergen library, the two organizations co-held an organized discussion around free choice in Norway, whilst also premiering the film by Thera Mjaaland “Choice and Consequences” which was made in Ethiopia. Having organized a series of other activities around the country, they also screened the documentary “Vessel” in Oslo.

RUSSIA
Russian Association for Population and Development
This year, RAPD organized a roundtable discussion entitled “28 September – World Day of Action for Safe and Legal Abortion” which was conducted during the All-Russian Forum “Mother and Child” in Moscow.

SPAIN
Asociación de Clínicas Acreditadas para la IVE (ACAI)
This year, ACAI called on the Spanish health authorities to maintain the quality of the health care delivery of induced abortion in Spain, as well as the freedom of choice on abortion methods for women.

SWEDEN
Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU)
This year, the September 28 campaign was commemorated with a series of activities on Twitter including tweeting, re-tweeting and participating in the Step Into Our Shoes Twitter Chat.

EASTERN EUROPE
ASTRA Central and Eastern European Women’s Network for Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Health supported the Step Into Our Shoes theme and sent individual as well as collective submissions of the photo-shoe.

YouAct
YouAct Europe actively participated in the Step Into Our Shoes photo-shoe as well as in the online mobilization during September 28.
INTERNET PUBLICATIONS

On the eve of September 28 we had a number of online news articles, publications and blogs that used the Step into Our Shoes theme, and/or discussed the topic of the right to safe abortion and the impact of gender stereotypes on abortion stigma:

1. Destigmatizing and Decriminalizing Abortion: That’s Our Collective Work
Leila Hessini - WGNRR former Board Member


2. "The experience is difficult: Step Into Our shoes"

http://ipasorg.tumblr.com/post/150820627563/the-experience-is-difficult-step-into-our-shoes?
utm_source=network&utm_medium= social&utm_content=read&utm_campaign=Sept28

3. "Time to open an honest dialogue"

http://ipasorg.tumblr.com/post/150821397903/its-time-to-open-an-honest-dialogue?
utm_source=network&utm_medium= social&utm_content=read&utm_campaign=Sept28

4. How about stepping into our shoes. By Bonita Sharma Youthcann


5. Backstreet abortion, a reality in Burundi


ANNEX
THANKS FOR JOINING THE 2016 STEP INTO OUR SHOES MOBILIZATIONS!

TOGETHER WE CAN ENSURE THAT ACCESS TO SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION IS RECOGNIZED AS A SOCIAL GOOD AND A HUMAN RIGHT IN ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD!

www.september28.org