

CALL FOR ACTION!



September 28

RESIST AND PERSIST: OUR BODIES, OUR ABORTIONS, OUR RIGHTS!

Fighting rollbacks and restrictions on abortion via collective & individual action

#IRESISTWEPERSIST

International Safe Abortion Day

WHY DO WE FIGHT FOR ACCESS TO SAFE & LEGAL ABORTION?

Ensuring universal access to safe abortion is a fundamental **human right**, which intersects with and is integral to realizing social, economic and reproductive justice. When individuals are able to access safe abortion, along with comprehensive sexuality education and a range of contraceptives, the social good outcomes are numerous - including plummeting maternal mortality and morbidity, and significantly reduced rates of STIs and teenage pregnancy.⁽¹⁾ Other positive ripple effects include an increase in women and girls' ability to continue education; increased gender equity and women's empowerment; and reduced intergenerational transfers of poverty, among many other integral benefits.⁽²⁾

WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE WORLD STAGE?

We have been witnessing a number of alarming rollbacks regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) including;

- The reinstatement and expansion of the Global Gag Rule: ⁽³⁾
- Funding cuts to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): ⁽⁴⁾
- And new law proposals in a number of countries such as Poland and El Salvador, attempting to ban abortions ⁽⁵⁾ or criminalize "suspicious" ⁽⁶⁾ miscarriages.

Even in countries where abortion is legal or decriminalized, we are seeing on-going or renewed attempts to uphold obstructive barriers, restricting abortion access. These include mandatory waiting periods, parental/marital consent requirements, prohibitive costs, and limited services in rural and remote areas.^[7] disproportionately affecting lower-income groups who are unable to afford private healthcare services, or travel to better-served areas.

IT'S ABOUT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS

These rollbacks, on top of already existing restrictions, pose very real threats to our communities. They exacerbate existing challenges to realizing SRHR, undermine progress, and violate human rights, among them the right to life, bodily integrity, health, information, and autonomy in reproductive decision-making.

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Those who stand to be the most affected are women, girls and communities who are already made vulnerable by intersecting forms of oppression, related to their race, nationality, sexual orientation and gender identities, class, income, ethnicity, disability, and/or immigration status, among other identity markers. Moreover, the recent rollbacks on SRHR are interrelated with other conservative, neoliberal and neo-imperial trends worldwide concerning immigration,(8) indigenous sovereignty,(9) communities of colour,(10) the environment,(11) and other social justice issues.

WHY WE MUST CONTINUE TO FIGHT!

The landscape for ensuring SRHR, particularly access to abortion, has never been easy. There have always been challenges, including those stemming from systemic and structural barriers such as economic inequalities, restrictive abortion laws, patriarchal norms, gender stereotypes, stigma and religious fundamentalisms, among others.

Fully dismantling these barriers, particularly from a reproductive justice approach (12), will take time and on-going collaborative efforts at both individual and collective levels. It will also take collaboration across social movements, in order to address deeper systemic issues (13). This on-going work is central to transforming current inequities, and ensuring that all people have the social, political, and economic power and resources to exercise full autonomy over their bodies, gender, and sexualities.

And while there have always been threats to fully realizing SRHR, still, there have also been and continue to be amazing and powerful forms of collective resistance, fuelled by brave individuals and local organizations opposing injustices in a myriad of ways.

THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN!

In light of the current context, it is all the more imperative that we tap into both past and present forms of ongoing collective resistance, reminding ourselves of important achievements, and the power of collective organizing and mobilizing, propelled by local and individual actions. Our aim this year is to thus highlight, promote, and support the many different ways activists are currently challenging the status quo and resisting in diverse contexts. These seemingly small actions add up, make waves and contribute to collective movements. **WHEN I RESIST, WE PERSIST** In turn, collective mobilization also feeds and sustains individual mobilization, through motivating and inspiring individuals, activists, and allies to continue our important abortion advocacy. **WHEN WE RESIST, I PERSIST**

The power of our collective movements, moreover, stems from our ability to stay focused, energized, reflective and motivated, for which taking care of ourselves and each other is essential. In this sense, and in this volatile and challenging global context, collective and individual self-care and holistic security are not just personal but political strategies, integral to the preservation, sustainability and resilience of our movements.(14)

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If anything, the current global context is a reminder of the “long-game,” vigilant, and intersectional nature of fighting for SRHR, and of ensuring transformative social change. As such, for this year’s September 28, we at WGNRR invite our members, partners, and allies worldwide to join us in resisting at individual and collective levels, and persisting in our fight towards ensuring universal access to safe and legal abortion!

TAKE ACTION!

Click here for more details!

1 JOIN THE CACEROLAZO!



Join the cacerolazo resistance at 1pm in your time zone. let's take out our pots and pans and make noise against the Global Gag Rule!

3 JOIN THE ONLINE RESISTANCE!



Join the twitter rally (10am to 1pm your time zone!)

2 HOST A COMMUNITY EVENT!



Organize/Host a community discussion to talk about rollbacks such as the Global Gag Rule, and their impact on local SRH services.

4 SHARE YOUR RESISTANCE POSTER!



Write in a paper/poster one way in which you resist! Take a photo and use the hashtag **#iresistwepersist** to share on social media or email us directly to sept28global@wgnrr.org Channel your inner artist!

#IresistWepersist

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

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. 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.



International Campaign for Women’s Right to Safe Abortion



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- (1) Guttmacher Institute, 2011 read here: <https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2011/06/unsafe-abortion-missing-link-global-efforts-improve-maternal-health>; <https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2012/10/access-safe-abortion-developing-world-saving-lives-while-advancing-rights>
- (2) Guttmacher Institute and UNFPA (2014), Adding it Up: The Costs and Benefits of Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health 2014, p. 34.
- (3) Fact sheet by CHANGE: Center for Health and Gender Equity find here: http://www.genderhealth.org/files/uploads/change/publications/GGR_Fact_Sheet_UPDATED_March_7_2017.pdf
- (4) How U.S. Funding Cuts to the U.N. Population Fund Will Hurt Women in Guatemala and Beyond, Slate Magazine, 2017, read here: http://www.slate.com/blogs/xx_factor/2017/04/06/how_u_s_funding_cuts_to_the_u_n_population_fund_will_hurt_women_in_guatemala.html
- (5) Polish women go on strike in protest against abortion ban, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/10/03/polish-women-go-on-strike-in-protest-against-abortion-ban/>
- (6) El Salvador: where women are thrown into jail for losing a baby, The Guardian, here <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/dec/17/el-salvador-anti-abortion-law-premature-birth-miscarriage-attempted-murder>
- (7) Amnesty International, "Barriers to Safe and Legal Abortion", 2016. Read here: https://www.amnestyusa.org/files/breifing_barriers_to_safe_and_legal_abortion_in_south_africa_final_003.pdf
- (8) Siddiqui, Gambino & Laughland, "Trump travel ban: new order targeting six Muslim-majority countries signed" <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/mar/06/new-trump-travel-ban-muslim-majority-countries-refugees>. The Guardian, March 6, 2017
- (9) Struggle for Sovereignty - The Rights of Indigenous Communities in Indonesia read more here: <https://ourmaninproject.wordpress.com/2011/09/25/struggle-for-sovereignty-the-rights-of-indigenous-communities-in-indonesia/>
- (10) Charlottesville is America everywhere, AlJazeera, 2017, read here: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2017/08/charlottesville-america-170813071924488.html>
- (11) Au Revoir: Trump Exits the Paris Climate Agreement, The New Yorker, 2017, read here: <http://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/au-revoir-trump-exits-the-paris-climate-accord>
- (12) WGNRR advocates for informed access to safe, affordable and legal abortion for all from the framework of reproductive justice. Reproductive Justice exists when all people have the social, political and economic power and resources to make healthy decisions about their gender, bodies, sexualities and families, both as individuals and as communities. (ACRJ, What is Reproductive Justice?). An integral part of attaining reproductive justice is ensuring governments uphold their obligations to protect women's human rights, and create the enabling conditions needed in order for women to realize these rights (The Pro-Choice Public Education Project, "What is Reproductive Justice?"). <http://strongfamiliesmovement.org/what-is-reproductive-justice>
- (13) Rewire, Want to Win on Abortion? Talk About It as an Issue of Love, Compassion, June 7, 2017 <https://rewire.news/article/2017/06/07/want-win-abortion-talk-issue-love-compassion/>
- (14) Making our movements sustainable: practicing holistic security every day, Deepa Ranganathan and María Diaz Exquerro, June 15 2017, Read full article here <https://www.opendemocracy.net/deepa-ranganathan-mar-d-az-ezquerro/making-our-movements-sustainable-practicing-holistic-security-ev>

