



September 28 2013

Global Day of Action for Access to
Safe and Legal Abortion



REPORT

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Why is September 28 Global Day of Action important?

September 28 Day of Action is a point of departure for our petition to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Health.

: DAWN
: Caribbean, Jamaica

In light of the conservative trends in the Norwegian Parliament September 28 is an opportunity to advocate towards the new government for a continuation of a clear Norwegian SRHR profile, internationally as well as nationally.

: FOCUS
: Norway

International day of action to demand access to safe legal abortion is significant in our country as it's an opportunity of revitalize strategies of ensuring that maternal morbidity and mortality resulting from unsafe abortion is reduced by engaging opinion leaders to have services decentralized, providers trained and community engaged in referral and education on abortion related issues.

: KMET
: Kenya

September 28 provides an opportunity to create a space for correction of abortion misconceptions and stigmatization.

**: National Coalition
: for Safe Abortion
Advocacy
Nigeria**

For our organisation, September 28 is also important as it raises awareness about the draconian context in which many women have to deal with unwanted or non-viable pregnancies, and the criminalisation they suffer for having abortions and

**: Central America
: Women's Network (CAWN)
United Kingdom**

The Day of Action will help to provoke a national debate and talk about abortion hence women and girls search for information in the quest to get answers. It will help break the silence around Abortion.

: Fortress of Hope
: Kenya

It is a global movement. It adds the power of change and the will to change. This has influence on both policy makers and women themselves. This event alone has marked a milestone in safe abortion movement as we never had an open public space for the issue. Much is going on after the event in terms of advocacy and community work.

: Women on Web
: Thailand

Introduction



It is our pleasure to present you with the report on the observation of September 28 Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion in 2013.

As you will read more in detail in the Background section the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion is a relatively new day of activism. However, despite of its novelty due to its relevance in practically every corner of the world the Day of Action found global recognition almost instantly amounting to activists from 50 countries marking the day in 2012, and expanding to 60 countries or more counting on-line participation in 2013. Truly, mobilisation for abortion rights on such a scale is unprecedented and we remain hopeful that campaigning around September 28 will only grow in numbers of committed organisations and individuals in the years to come up until the moment when women's rights to choose whether to continue pregnancy or not will be respected and protected all over the world.

This report mainly focuses on the results of the globalization of September 28 campaign beyond its original geographical scope which is Latin America and the Caribbean, while the detailed account of the regional September 28 mobilisation is produced by the coordinators of Campaña 28 de Setiembre Día por la Despenalización del Aborto en América Latina y el Caribe www.28deseptiembre.org.

This report covers the work undertaken by Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) in globalization of September 28 Day of Action, the social media engagement on the Day of Action, the account of September 28 events that took place globally as well as the media coverage of the global mobilisation.

It is never enough to emphasise the importance of collaboration and working in alliances. The success of September 28 Global Day of Action would have not been possible to achieve if not for the coordinated action and a constant flow of communication between several global and regional networks, international organisations and the national leaders. WGNRR works in partnership with International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion, ASTRA Central and Eastern European Network for Women's Sexual and Reproductive Right, Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP), international organisation Ipas and in close consultation with the coordinators of the regional Latin American and Caribbean September 28 campaign towards promotion of the September 28 Day of Action globally.

Background

September 28 is a Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion wherein activists all over the world speak out in defense of the right to safe and legal abortion free of stigma and discrimination. The Day of Action is being promoted regionally and globally independently by several global and regional partner networks and international organisations.

September 28 Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion has its origin in Latin America and the Caribbean where women's groups have been mobilizing around September 28 the last two decades to demand their governments to decriminalise abortion, to provide access to safe and affordable abortion services and to end stigma and discrimination towards women who choose to have an abortion. The original name of the campaign in Latin America and the Caribbean is Campaña 28 de Septiembre por la Despenalización del Aborto, which continues up to this day growing in force and commitment on the part of women's rights activists in the region. The date – September 28 – was chosen in commemoration of the abolition of slavery in Brazil which is now remembered as the day of the “free womb” demanding for safe and legal abortion for all women.

WGNRR has been promoting the 28th of September for nearly twenty years, firstly to encourage support and solidarity for the Latin American Day of Action amongst WGNRR members and allies, and then in 2010 - 2011 led the call to globalize the actions and establish the 28th September as a focus for worldwide solidarity and campaigning on access to safe and legal abortion.

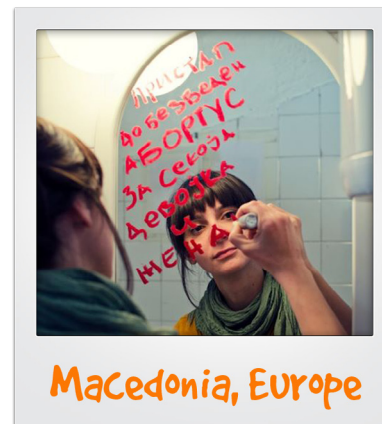
The movement for abortion rights was accelerated in 2012 by the launch of the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion created in an effort to build an international movement to improve laws and services, challenge efforts to turn back the clock, and ensure abortion is included in maternal mortality reduction and initiatives to meet the need for contraception. The campaign enjoyed immediate support and participation by major regional and global SRHR networks, numerous national partners and grassroots activists. WGNRR is one of the original members of the advisory committee.

In 2012, September 28- the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion- received global recognition. It was taken forward collectively by the WGNRR, Latin American Campaign for Decriminalisation of Abortion September 28 and International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion. The collective mobilisation efforts translated into seventy five events marking September 28 Global Day of Action in fifty one countries, nearly thirty of which are outside of Latin America and the Caribbean.

WGNRR maintains the website www.september28.org, develops campaign materials and work with its partners to customize the campaign materials to the local contexts and languages, generates support for urgent solidarity calls in support of access to safe and legal abortion, calls attention to specific issues related to access to safe abortion through its Call for Action. WGNRR regional programme officers work alongside regional networks to generate support in the regions and at national level. They work closely with advocates to jointly develop and adapt messaging and campaign materials and build long term solidarity.

Virtual Mural

The Virtual Mural project became a hit with women's rights activists around the globe delivering 200 contributions from 50 countries including Myanmar, Syria, United Arab Emirates, and Israel/Palestine. Campaign participants were asked to complete the line **"Abortion should be safe and legal in my country BECAUSE"** and subsequently send the line with the picture or by itself to september28.org website. A selection of pictures and lines was creatively assembled in a Virtual Mural, while the rest of the contributions was displayed in a virtual gallery. The contributions to the virtual gallery were pouring on the Day of Action itself as some organisations made picture taking for the virtual mural an integral part of their life events. Besides, several organisations replicated the Mural initiative locally mobilising their communities to speak out for abortion rights.



sept 28 Global Day of Action
ACCESS TO SAFE ABORTION

Abortion should be safe and legal in my country because..

ALL PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE SELF-DETERMINATION AND HIGH-QUALITY HEALTH CARE.
- KATHERINE TURNER, USA (IPAS)

OVER 45,000 WOMEN DIE EACH YEAR FROM SEPTIC INFECTION AND OTHER COMPLICATIONS OF ILLEGAL ABORTIONS. - Nina Lehman, US

there is no better way to start a family than to CHOOSE to become a mother, AND, there is no better way to be good to yourself than to be able to CHOOSE.
- Rosalinda Salazar Snuggs, Founder Texas Democratic Divas, USA

Muchas mujeres no solo arriesgan su vida sino que pueden ser abusadas sexualmente por las personas que predicán los abortos clandestinos.
- Flor, Mexico

LAS MUJERES TENEMOS DERECHO A DECIDIR.
- LAUREN, COSTA RICA

EL ABORTO DEBE SER SEGURO Y LEGAL EN MINAS PARA RESTITUIRLOS DERECHOS A LAS MUJERES - SU DIGNIDAD Y SU CAPACIDAD DE DECIDIR SOBRE SU SEXUALIDAD Y SU CUERPO. - CAMIE, NICARAGUA

Governments who should be in service of the WHOLE of the population, including those who do not have religious beliefs at all, or don't have any other option but to abort. This is about dignity and respect, and much more than this. Much more. - Aline, Brazil

es la unica manera de garantizar los mismos derechos de decision personal a toda la gente. - Valeria, Argentina

AL HACERSE EN CLINICAS CLANDESTINAS PROVOCA EL DAÑO FISICO Y LA MUERTE EN CIENTOS DE MUJERES.
- PAULA, ARGENTINA

the legal grounds are still in the Crimes Act and the decision is made by two doctors.
- Margaret Sparrow, New Zealand

право распоряжаться своим телом - это только моё право! - Алина, Россия

WOMEN ARE NOT A DEVICE FOR REPRODUCTION. - YULIA, RUSSIA

право распоряжаться своим телом - это только моё право! - Алина, Россия

THE RIGHT TO BODILY AUTONOMY IS MY HUMAN RIGHT!

It saved many women's lives and decreased conviction of infanticide cases. - GAESH SHRESTHA, NEPAL

it help in reducing maternal mortality rate to achieve MDG5 and reduce the suicidal case among young women. - Shreejana, Nepal

Safe and Legal Abortion Save Women's Lives
- Sybil, Nigeria

DROITS HUMAINS OUI SONT DROITS DES FEMMES.
- ESPERANCE NTIRAMPEBA, Burundi

Many women are either suffering from complications of back-alley abortions or dying unnecessarily because they cannot access safe abortion in hospitals. - Sylvia, Kenya (IPAS)

IL EST A LA FOIS UN PROBLEME DE DROITS HUMAINS ET DE SANTE PUBLIQUE. - KALULU MAISHA, DRC

Only I can decide what to do with my body. Right to bodily autonomy is a basic HUMAN RIGHT.

LAWYERS DO NOT PREVENT 8,500 WOMEN'S DEATHS HAPPENING ANNUALLY. CLANDESTINE ABORTIONS ARE IN VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. - MARTHA, TANZANIA

Forced motherhood is not "pro-life"
- Shriya, India

because abortion is a woman's right to choose

Abortion should be safe, legal & free in Australia, because women's reproductive rights should not depend on who holds political power

This mural is produced by:
WOMEN'S GLOBAL NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
WGNRR

Our global and regional partners:

Contributing Organisations:

ASTRA YOUTH **SAMSARA** **IPAN** **IPAS** **WOMEN'S ABORTION ACTION CAMPAIGN** **ASTRA** **TALLER SALUD** **IPPF**

Manifesto

The Manifesto “OUR BODIES, OUR FUTURES” which demands governments to recognise and enshrine the rights to safe and legal abortion in the New Development Agenda (NDA) received 376 signatures, out of which 200 signatures are organizational. The Manifesto has been sent to the UN agencies leading on the NDA processes and campaign participants were encouraged to send the Manifesto with the signatures to their government representatives.

The Manifesto "Our Bodies, Our Futures" is a collaborative project among WGNRR, ASTRA network, Latin American and Caribbean September 28 Campaign and ASAP.

The full text of Manifesto can be found in Annex I.



Videos

In 2013 WGNRR adopted the September 28 promotional video into Spanish and French versions, which were widely shared within the WGNRR network and beyond.

Following September 28 actions WGNRR produced a short video featuring the highlights and capturing the impact of this year campaign activities.



Collaborative Regional Statements

Following a collaborative approach to the regional engagement WGNRR participated in developing regionally focused statements/Calls for Action for September 28 aimed at highlighting the specific realities around access to safe abortion pertaining to each region and at formulating regionally focused demands and suggested actions

September 28 Call for Action – Asia Pacific and Middle East “Women’s organisations in the Asia Pacific and the Middel East speak out on women and young women’s right to safe and legal abortion” jointly drafted by Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP) and WGNRR.

“Every year over 28 million women have unwanted pregnancies in Asia and seek abortions. Safe abortion however remains an unmet need across the region. Because of restrictive laws, stigmatization of abortion and the non-availability of affordable abortion services 9.6 million women are forced to risk their lives by having unsafe abortions.”

See full text of the Asia Pacific Call for Action in Annex III

September 28 Call for Action – Africa “Break the silence and end stigma: Recognise abortion, own it and discuss it now!” jointly drafted by Ipas Africa Office and WGNRR.

“Every African woman has the right to life, bodily integrity, the highest level of reproductive health, privacy, self-determination, dignity, personal liberty, and the right to live free of violence and discrimination. But in Africa abortion is a taboo topic and in the silence surrounding it, misinformation and stigma thrive.”

See full text of the Africa Call for Action in Annex IV

Other regionally focused statements were developed idependently by Central and Eastern European Network for Reproductive Rights ASTRA and by Latin American and Caribbean Septmeber 28 campaign.

The International Campaign for Women’s Right to Safe Abortion issued a report and Call for Action “ABORTION IN THE CRIMINAL LAW: EXPOSING THE ROLE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, THE POLICE, THE COURTS AND IMPRISONMENT INTERNATIONALLY”. The report exposes the role that criminal law, police, courts, prisons and health care providers have on both women’s ability to access safe abortion services and health professionals’ ability to provide such services globally. For more information, please visit: <http://www.september28.org/partners-call-to-action/>



Collaborative Regional Statements



“ABORTION IN THE CRIMINAL LAW: EXPOSING THE ROLE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, THE POLICE, THE COURTS AND IMPRISONMENT INTERNATIONALLY”

Report and Call for Action issued by the [International Campaign for Women’s Right to Safe Abortion](#). The report exposes the role that criminal law, police, courts, prisons and health care providers have on both women’s ability to access safe abortion services and health professionals’ ability to provide such services globally.

The International Campaign calls on abortion rights supporters at country level to whether and how the police, the government and the health, justice and prison sy individual health professionals and their professional associations, are involved i criminal law on abortion – in countries all over the world. A good deal of research been done to uncover existing cases by the Campaign members who contribute this report, many of whom are also actively involved in working for the release of abortion providers from prison and for abortion law reform.

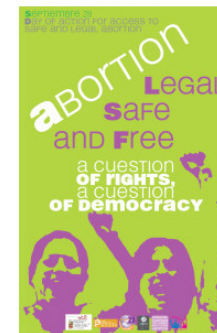
For more information and the fill text of the report, please visit the website of the [Campaign for Women’s Right to Safe Abortion](#)



WOMEN’S ORGANISATIONS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC AND MIDDLE EAST SPEAK OUT ON WOMEN AND YOUNG WOMEN’S RIGHT TO SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION

On the occasion of September 28 Global Day of Action for Safe and Legal Abortion, Women’s Global Network For Reproductive Rights and the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership demand to end the stigmatisation of abortion, the oppression of women’s autonomy and the aggression aimed at advocates for safe abortion.

Every year over **28 million women** have unwanted pregnancies in Asia and seek abortions. Safe abortion however remains an unmet need across the region. Because of restrictive laws, stigmatization of abortion and the non-availability of affordable abortion services **9.6 million women are forced to risk their lives by having unsafe abortions.** Read the [FULL TEXT](#)



SAFE, LEGAL AND FREE ABORTION! A MATTER OF RIGHTS, A MATTER OF DEMOCRACY!

Call for Action for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

En siete países de América Latina y el Caribe (Chile, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haití, Surinam y República Dominicana), el aborto está totalmente prohibido y penalizado. E los otros países de la región, donde la interrupción está permitida bajo algunas circunstancias, las autoridades garantizan su acceso de forma segura, gratuita y li

LAC Call for Action is currently only available in Sp French and Portuguese versions will be made avai

To download the text of the Call for Action in Spanish, click [here](#)



CALL FOR ACTION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE FROM ASTRA NETWORK!

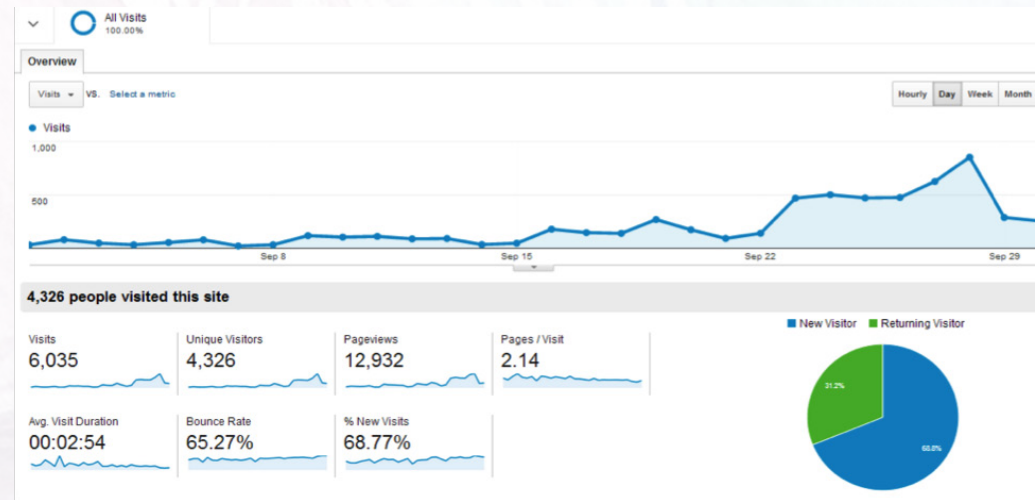
September 28, Global Day of Action NGOs, international organizations, individuals and other stakeholders from all over world mobilize on or around this day and prepare actions that call to end the stigma against abortion and demand for women’s right to control their bodies without putting their lives, health and freedom at risk.

International Campaign for Women’s Right to Safe Abortion provides an opportunity to make our voices heard and unite activists under one goal and one mission. The Central and Eastern European region is currently experiencing further attempts to restrict access to abortion. The recent months have proven that we cannot take what we have for granted and the strong pro-natalist voices are starting to influence more and more countries and their legislation on abortion (Macedonia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia). Read the [FULL TEXT](#)

WGNRR CAMPAIGN WORK

The www.september28.org website enjoyed busy traffic during the month of September picking up toward September 28 Global Day of Action reaching 6036 visits out of which 4326 are 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).

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



Website



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

On occasion of September 28 WGNRR Advocacy and Programme Manager, Vanessa Coria visited Dominican Republic to assist and actively participate in a number of events co-hosted by WGNRR, September 28 Campaign in LAC, Colectiva Mujer y Salud, among other organisations.



The activities included the following:

- Visit to the Embassies of Honduras, Haiti, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Suriname, countries where abortion is totally criminalised (September 30)
- Media and Social Networks Campaign during September 28 using #Sept28 #28SAbortoLegal and #safeabortionnow
- Workshop for young lawyers on “SRHR and the Inter-American System for Human Rights” with a special focus on abortion advocacy strategies facilitated by WGNRR. This workshop was co-hosted by Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women’s Rights- CLADEM, Colectiva Mujer y Salud and Campaña 28 de Septiembre (October 4th)
- Participation in a TV program on September 28 Campaign at Canal 6// Canal del Sol of Dominican Republic (October 8-9)
- Seminar on strategies for the decriminalization of Abortion in LAC. WGNRR presented the legal strategies. (October 14th)
- Participation in the Sept 28 LAC Campaign Assembly (October 14th). During the assembly Colectiva Mujer y Salud (Campaign coordinator) presented a full report on the activities performed by the campaign under their coordination. WGNRR participated in the internal meeting and facilitated the election of the new coordinator. WGNRR will be part of the advisory committee on the LAC Campaign to provide assistance and coordinate actions with the newly elected coordinator - la Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local in El Salvador, which is member of the Agrupación Ciudadana para la Despenalización del Aborto en El Salvador.



PHILIPPINES – Womanhealth Philippines, a long standing member of WGNRR together with the WGNRR Coordination Office held a Roundtable Discussion that provided a space to explore the issue of abortion and post abortion care in the Philippines. Abortion in the Philippines is highly illegal and strictly taboo, the roundtable discussion also tried to confront the stigma and misinformation on abortion. The roundtable discussion was attended by representatives of the leading civil society groups working locally on women’s sexual and reproductive rights as well as community women who shared their firsthand accounts of abortion experience in their communities. The outcomes of experience sharing and the following reflection were thoroughly documented to serve as a basis for the future actions in the direction towards improving access to safe abortion in the Philippines.

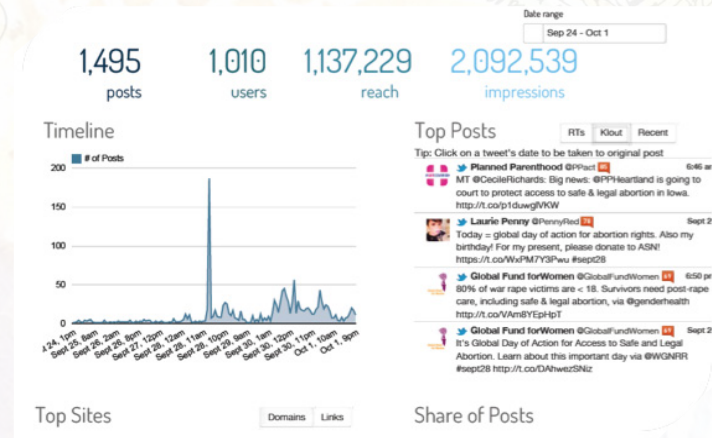
Additionally, the participants suggested the following action points:

- Educational discussion at the community level especially at the urban poor communities in Manila.
- Launch speak outs, more public discourses on abortion, more round table discussions on safe abortion.
- Start acknowledging publicly that abortion is a reality and is part of women’s realities.
- Support the RH Law through the Supreme Court decision which we hope will be positive.
- Be part of a women’s health network and work with other women’s health advocates.
- Start a campaign to push for the decriminalization of abortion.
- Support women with the right to information and the right and safe contacts when they come to us for help with their problems, including abortion.
- Trust women.
- Ensure that post abortion care is implemented at the natural and local levels
- Engage DOH officials/ health professionals
- To increase capacities to do PAC
- Change views of medical providers and social workers on abortion
- Trust incomplete abortion as a clinical rather than a medico-legal.
- Free health care for women with abortion issues.

In my mind, this is going to be a long and hard battle. I am a woman and I went through adolescence and even had my own share of skeletons in the closet. But knowing how this country is being run, how religion plays an important part in the thoughts of Filipinos is one big obstacle in the issue of abortion. How can the majority of nameless, faceless women who have come face to face with the decision to terminate a pregnancy tell their story if the country criminalizes abortion?

–Local SRHR Advocate

WGNRR CAMPAIGN WORK



SOCIAL MEDIA

While some activists were taking on the streets in rallies, marches and flashmobs in their thousands, the netizens joined the September 28 tweetathon in millions. WGNRR spearheaded the #sept28 tweetathon, the main goal of which was to raise awareness on the Global Day of Action and on the abortion issue.

The call for volunteers released by WGNRR received interests from a number of organisations and individuals to participate such as Samsara, ASTRA, and ASAP among others. Academics and students also volunteered for the tweetathon. Facts about abortion, solidarity messages, updates on various mobilisations around the world were shared on twitter and Facebook. We've been retweeted not only by members of the media such as Rappler, but also by global organisations and research institutes on reproductive justice.

Apart from the WGNRR tweetathon, a number of organisations also launched their own tweet campaign using the hash tags #safeabortion and #sept28 which significantly increased the reach of the online campaign. According to twitter analytics applications such as Keyhole, the hash tags reached more than a million audience through instagram, facebook and twitter from September 24 to October 1, while the Spanish hash tags #28SAbortoLegal and #abortolegal reached 2.6 million. The initial target was to tweet from different parts of the globe on September 28, from 9 am to 9pm. However, the tweets continued even days after the September 28.

Social Media

Facebook page for Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR). The page features a cover photo with the text "WOMEN'S GLOBAL NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS Advancing and Defending Women's SRHR for 30 Years! WGNRR". The page has 4,172 likes and 78 talking about this. The page is categorized as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). The page content includes a post from September 23, 2013, titled "Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) shared H.E.R.A.'s photo." and a post from September 23, 2013, titled "Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) shared a link." The page also features a sidebar with sponsored posts, including "SMAC Thanksgiving DaySale" and "Party with Red Ribbon".

GLOBAL MOBILISATION

In 2013 September 28 Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion was observed in 40 countries outside Latin American and the Caribbean. Counting the continent where the campaign originated the total number of countries will exceed 60. In total around 100 organisations organised and participated in more than 200 events worldwide with the outreach estimated in tens of thousands people, while the social media engagement propelled by dozens of participating organisations counted with the outreach of three and a half million people.

In comparison with the first ever global observation of September 28 in 2012 the number of countries participating in the campaign increased by 10 new countries among which are Tunisia, Mozambique, Jamaica, France, Moldova, Ghana, Thailand, Azerbaijan, Norway and Sweden.

September 28 commemorative activities included: flashmobs (Tunisia, Indonesia, Nepal), community outreach programmes (Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, Pakistan), round table discussions with policy makers (Pakistan, Norway, Mozambique), radio programmes (Nepal, Ghana, Mozambique, Russia, USA), street art and theatre performances (Thailand, Nepal), press-conferences (Poland, Turkey, Macedonia), street rallies and marches (Ireland, Spain, Chile, USA), informal gatherings (New Zealand), publication launches (Russia), social media campaigns (in all 60 countries).

**For a total list of events reported to WGNRR through September 28 website, WGNRR network and social media, see ANNEX IV.*

AFRICA

Ghana

Sustainable Aid through Voluntary Establishment - Ghana (SAVE-GHANA) held a radio discussion on a local radio station that covers five (5) administrative districts and reaches about 85,000 listeners in English language and in the local language on abortion as a right.

The program brought together a medical professional, a female abortion activist and a resource person from the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) as discussants on the radio program. The discussions centered on abortion as a reproductive and human right, the implications of continuously criminalizing abortion, the circumstances under which criminalizing abortion constitutes a violation of the rights of the woman, where and how to access comprehensive abortion care and the need to de-stigmatize abortion among others. Part of the airtime was devoted to phone-ins during which the phone lines of the radio station were opened to general public for all categories of listeners to call in and ask questions or make contributions or suggestions.

Kenya

KMET participated on 28th September on day of action and conducted community forum in rural parts of Siaya County in Kenya. The forum was attended by 300 people and comprised men, women, youths and community leaders.

Much discussion was focused on the legal provision of safe abortion care services. The community was still uncertain whether safe abortion care services are legally to be provided in Kenya. Health officials had to clarify by quoting the constitution of

Kenya article 26(4) which states that: **"Abortion is not permitted unless, in the opinion of a trained health professional, there is need for emergency treatment, or the life or health of the mother is in danger, or if permitted by any other written law"**.

Another point of interest revolved around the cost of the procedure. Safe abortion cost was an emerging issue which affected most vulnerable group's especially young people and women in the rural setting who were not able to afford cost of safe abortion. They pointed out that delivery was much cheaper as compared to safe abortion care.

The discussions also touched upon abortion stigma to women who access abortion care services and providers who offered services was certainly affecting access to safe abortion care hence this pushed women and young people to resort to unsafe abortion methods.

The meeting resulted in drafting strategies aimed at facilitating access to safe abortion care services and this included:

1. Conduct community advocacy meetings and conducting values clarification and attitude transformation sessions to community members with support from community health providers to have open discussions on abortion hence increase knowledge to women, men and young people.
2. Capacity building to health professionals especially by conducting values clarification and attitude transformation to reduce stigma at facility level.
3. Conduct community mobilization to sensitize community members to increase access to safe abortion care services



My daughter is alive today only because of the quick referral service I has access to as a health worker. Community health workers should be educated to be able to refer women who require timely post-abortion care.

- Community Health Worker, Kenya

GLOBAL MOBILISATION

Mozambique

Rede de Defesa dos Direitos Sexuais e Reprodutivos participated in radio and TV shows around September 28 to talk about the abortion situation and the need to decriminalize abortion in Mozambique.

The most important event for September 28 campaign was the advocacy meeting that took place on Monday, 30 September, to which various stakeholders such as MPs, Government officials and representative of NGOs were invited. The event was well attended by CSOs and among other dignitaries - the Head of the Parliament Committee on Gender, Social Affairs and Environment; Dr. Pascoal Mocumbi, a former Prime-Minister of Mozambique and also a former Minister of Health and who was responsible for passing a Gentlemen's agreement allowing safe abortion services to be provided in public hospital. The meeting was also attended by senior personnel of the women and youth league of the ruling party FRELIMO and the main opposition party RENAMO.

During the event presentations were made about the magnitude and consequences of unsafe abortion, about the campaign and about the work of our coalition. Other things that happened during the event was the collection of the first signatures for petition that was written to the President of the Parliament requesting the urgent approval of the penal Code Review Bill that will decriminalize abortion in certain circumstances.

Finally the organisers produced a ribbon for the occasion of the campaign that everyone was wearing in the day of the meeting.



Featured Events

This is my first time of seeing someone talking about legalization of abortion in public, I am interested, I want to be educated more on safe and legal Abortion.

– Participant, Nigeria

Nigeria

National Coalition for Safe and Legal Abortion (NACSAA) held an event titled "Strengthening Women and Young People on Access to Safe and Legal Abortion" on September 27-28, 2013. The first day was focused on adapting a One Million Rising Dance to announce the activities for the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion.

On the second day NACSAA held a forum to discuss on abortion situation in Nigeria and its implication to women's lives. The new law allowing abortion in a number of circumstances in Imo state was thoroughly discussed.

The event provided a platform for both young people and adults to interact and talk about safe and legal abortion; it provided a safe space to have a clarifying discussion on the provisions of the Abortion Bill in Imo State and gave participants an opportunity to voice out and take their stand. The group became aware that Nigerian women are not alone in the struggle for Access to safe and Legal Abortion and other Reproductive Rights' issues and that they are supported by international organisations.



ASIA PACIFIC

Nepal

Bhaktapur Youth Information Center and Youth Champions of ASAP surprised the public at the Kathmandu city squares with the dynamic dance flashmob "My Body, My Rights: young women in Nepal has right to informed choice and access to safe and legal abortion"

Aside of the public appearance the young activists participated in the talk show Also on the local radio in Bhaktapur: Bhaktapur FM 105.4 Mhz. The invited guests were FPAN branch manager Mr. Sharad Kumar Aryal and one of the youth from Bhaktapur Youth Information Forum.

"This is not the promote of abortion service. It is an advocacy for every woman accessing safe and legal abortion"

– Mr. Aryal on a radio program, Nepal



Featured Events

Pakistan

On the 28th of September 2013, which is The Global Day of Action for Safe Abortion; Shirkat Gah organized an event, which included a panel discussion moderated by journalist Imran Shirvanee where key panelist along with the participants discussed exercising safe and legal abortion in Pakistan. The panel discussion was held with the support of the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR), and was attended by several organizations namely; YELL, Peace Foundation, Aahung, National Committee of Maternal and Neonatal Health (NCMNH), community partners from Sindh and Balochistan, along with the members of the National Media Alliance and members of the Pakistan Reproductive Health Network from Karachi and Lahore.

The discussion was rich in content and insights. Among the topics discussed were the realities of rural women and their obstacles of accessing safe abortion services; negligence of the state at providing adequate midwifery training as well as take necessary steps in implementing post-abortion care protocols; access to Misoprostol as a life-saving drug among others. The panel received an overwhelming response from the participants; the media representatives, community partners/individuals and the various organizations present at the event. Each had significant recommendations and suggestions, which included insights on the sex selective abortions and the ways to deal with the mostly negative attitude of the service providers towards women who resorted to abortion.

The outcomes of the event include: solidarity pledge from grassroots organizations to continue work to prevent unsafe abortion; engagement with like-minded journalists for the first time at a large scale to upscale advocacy efforts; taking the message to the urban and rural youth.



New Zealand

Various pro-choice groups (Auckland Pro-Choice People, Pro-Choice Highways, ARLANZ and more) gathered in Wellington and Auckland for informal, laid back and yet assertively pro-choice events such as a Pro-Choice Stitch Up and a Pro-Choice picnic. The main focus of the Pro-Choice Stitch Up event was to begin creating embroidered fabric hexagons to contribute to a patchwork quilt which celebrates NZ's pro-choice movement. At the Pro-Choice Picnic was marked by a stall with baked goods for sale, the Pro-Choice Highway stall making an appearance, and general fun times with quite a few awesome people. The discussions focused on the current status of abortion in New Zealand law and strategies for reform.



GLOBAL MOBILISATION



Thailand

Women on Web Thai Helpdesk together with independent women's rights activists chose a strategic location to draw public attention to the issue of unsafe abortion in the country. Bangkok Art and Cultural Center (BACC) is situated right in the middle of commute at Siam Square Intersection and across MBK shopping center while being a semi-governmental center which hosts modern art and cultural events. September 28 activities such as movies screenings and discussions and interpretative dance were held both indoors and outdoors of the BACC.

The event received close attention by the media and was highlighted in prime time by two major TV channels.

Women on Web Thai Helpdesk activists carried a powerful message to the public: "I have had abortion. My daughter has had abortion. My sister has had abortion. My friend has had abortion." ... (and so on) "Abortion: There are many sides of the women's stories"

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

Organisers of the event share the following highlights:

- Community leaders/mobilizers approached us after the event saying that they were highly motivated and would start up community forum and outreach on this topic right away.
- One participant came out as woman who had abortion in the evaluation form. She said the event empowered her and released her from the guilt and shame society imposed on her.
- A group of young activists from the North of Thailand started up a plan to work on access to safe abortion in their communities on the following day.
- One comment from evaluation: "I never looked at abortion from women's point of view. I've learned something new today."
- News reporter from 'Women to Women' TV program asked to interview women who had abortion right away. The news was broadcast without negative tone against the women. It showed the other side of the story from the women. This shows that this piece of information is still lacking and it is in the interest of society, just waiting for us to speak up.



Featured Events

"I was surprised and happy to see that many women didn't know much about abortion process but they were curious to learn about it."

– Hazal, Turkey

Turkey

Women on Web Turkey brought together participants in a seminar on abortion which included introduction to the medical abortion and debate on the recent political statements regarding women's bodies. The seminar was followed by the press conference. The meeting aimed at gathering different women groups working in different spheres – civil society and medical profession. For the next year the organisers plan to bring the campaigns from indoors to the outdoors to create more public awareness.



EUROPE

Belgium

Centre d'Action Laïque printed the campaign materials and brought September 28 Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion to the attention of participants of the medical seminar held on September 26 World Contraception Day in Erasmus – Université Libre de Brussels. As part of the campaign activities Centre d'Action Laïque sent a letter to the Belgian politicians with the Center's Memorandum for Belgium and Europe with a special mentioning of September 28 Global Day of Action. On September 28 the Center distributed campaign information on the streets of Brussels as a way to reach out to the public on the issue of access to safe and legal abortion.



Ireland

The art exhibition "Choosing Choice: Packing Up Stigma" featured photographic works from 'Against the Tide' by Rose Comiskey (Ireland), 'When They Hold Their Hands Out Like Scales' by Emma Campbell (Northern Ireland) and digitised print works from 'Good Women Have Abortions' by Heather Ault (USA) with curatorial support by Jennette Donnelly. The public was invited to contribute to the 'Choosing Choice: Packing Up Stigma' Exhibition in a drop-in mixed-media workshop. 'Case Studies' was a community installation that the public is invited to add to. An anonymised collection of cases packed with their stories, artefacts and representations confronted the stigma and silence associated with abortion experiences, particularly for those who have had to travel abroad due to the restrictions placed on access to abortion services on the island of Ireland.

Ireland's second annual March for Choice (#March4choice) took place in Dublin on September 28th.

"The march is a place for activists, as rabble rousers, as change makers – to enjoy each other's company, to remind the world that Ireland is Pro-Choice and to remind the country that we will be here to work, speak and share until Ireland has free, safe, and legal abortion! Abortion Rights Campaign, Ireland."

Doctors for Choice held a public event titled "Being a Pro-Choice Doctor in Ireland" at the National Women's Council in Ireland attended by the medical professionals and civil society representatives.



GLOBAL MOBILISATION



Norway

FOCUS convened participants from media, women's organizations, academia, Norad and other NGOs during breakfast meeting for September 28 Global Day of Action.

The screening of the campaign video was followed by a panel discussion with contributions by Eleonora Zielińska, Professor of Law in the Department of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw, Berit Austveg, Norwegian Physician and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Reproductive Health Matters, presently on a consultancy contract with Norad on SRHR, and Charles Ngwena, Professor of Law at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria.

One of the objectives of the meeting was to urge the newly elected (conservative) Norwegian government to take a clear stand on the issue of access to safe and legal abortion domestically as well as internationally.

Macedonia

In the light of the recently passed law restricting access to abortion in Macedonia and the government sponsored campaign to further stigmatize women resorting to voluntary interruption of pregnancy HERA organised a roundtable discussion to discuss possible effects of the legislative restrictions to abortion and the next legal actions to challenge the law at the Constitutional Court.

As of June 2013 the Parliament of Republic of Macedonia has approved a new Abortion Bill which severely restrict access of women to freely decide to terminate pregnancy compared to very-liberal legislation framework from the previous law. The new law introduces irrelevant and non-scientific administrative provisions for women seeking for abortion such as written request for abortion, mandatory pre-abortion counselling, 3-day waiting period as well as austere fines for the medical personnel. In the last two years HERA is involved to fight abortion stigma mainly using social media channels and working with women in rural areas.



Poland

In the heat of the debates on the anti-choice civil bill aimed to ban all abortions in case of fetal malformation subject to the first reading on September 25, 2013 Federation for Women and Family Planning which also serves as ASTRA network secretariat organised a press-conference on September 24 2013 during which the September 28 Global Day of Action for Safe and Legal Abortion and the International Campaign were brought into spotlight. Federation also sent open letters to Polish Parliamentarians and participated in a short training for left-wing parties in order to provide those MPs with pro-choice arguments.

The press conference formed part of the larger mobilisation by the feminist and pro-choice movement and allies to develop strategies in regards to the bill reading which included a public gathering and demonstration in front of the Polish Sejm on the day of the reading. Additionally, activists reached out to politicians directly, presenting arguments for maintaining the present legislation.

Featured Events

Spain

Spanish platform for Sexual and Reproductive Rights NOSOTRAS DECIMOS (We Decide) coordinated pretest marches in every province of Spain. The protest marches were comprised of various activities including text reading of the bill for sexual and reproductive rights, Spanish law of reproductive rights and other texts. As part of September 28 mobilisations the Platform Nosotras Decidimos produced a powerful advocacy video titled "9 seconds for sexual and reproductive rights"

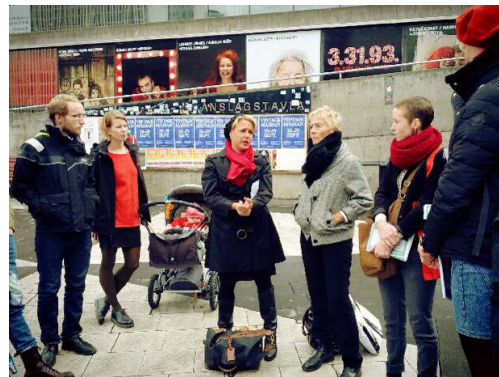


GLOBAL MOBILISATION

Sweden

Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU) conducted a small scale campaign primarily focused on the Swedish Abortion Lay and the major importance of protecting the right to abortion as a human right. The campaign is organised as a counter-movement to the growing anti-choice opposition with the objective to bring out positive arguments for the right to abortion and kill some myths for awareness raising.

RFSU developed a flyer with the background and arguments for the right to abortion and myths about abortion; delivered the flyers to Swedish Parliamentarians to raise awareness of the Global Day of Action and the importance of taking action, nationally as well as globally; promoted the campaign on the social media, inviting women's rights activists and spokespersons for reproductive rights among others to share the arguments and myths in their internet-based social forums, and involved RFSU's local branches to share the flyers and spread the word about the day.



Featured Events

United Kingdom

Central America Women's Network (CAWN) brought together women's rights activists in a documentary screening and panel discussion event focused on the grave violation of women's reproductive freedom in El Salvador.

The documentary screened was 'El Salvador: Life at any price', produced just before the case of Beatriz had global repercussion. It examines the injustice and lack of humanity that El Salvador's legislation on abortion shows towards women. El Salvador bans abortion in all circumstances, including rape, foetal abnormality, and even when a mother's life is at risk.

In the discussion panel, both Vicky Knox and Esther Major talked about the violation of human rights and the violence and neglect that Salvadoran women face both from the authorities and from society as a result of the stigmatization of and ban on abortion; Anne Quesney showed the parallels with this situation in Northern Ireland and Ireland. This fuelled an interesting discussion between the audience and the panel on not only the violation of fundamental rights that women suffer for these laws, but the lack of reproductive education, access to family planning services, the issue of abortion in Ireland and how even in countries where abortion is available there are constant threats to this services and to change abortion laws.



NORTH AMERICA

USA

National Network for Abortion Funds (NNAF) went beyond just one day of action for access to safe and legal abortion and dedicated the entire month of September for the activism.

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

The Abortion Access Month was kicked off with some real talk from NNAF board members Eesha Pandit and Verónica Bayetti Flores: "Mind the Gap: September is Abortion Access Month."

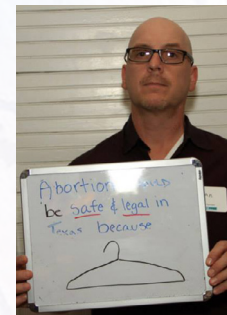
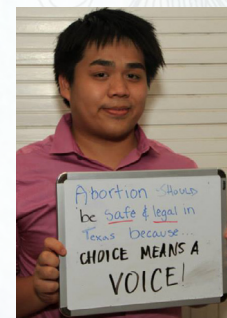
The last weekend of September culminated with the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion on September 28th and, on September 30th, reflections on the anniversary of the Hyde Amendment which as of 37 years last September has banned all coverage of abortion in the federal Medicaid program.

The Lilith Fund for Reproductive Equity held the Tenth Annual Reproductive Equity Award ceremony on September 25, 2013 in Austin, Texas. The Lilith Fund continues to operate in the environment of reproductive inequity by helping more Texans in need of abortion access. Last year, the Lilith Fund gave away more than \$87,000 to 1,214 hotline callers.

This year's event honored Reps. Dawnna Dukes, Jessica Farrar, and Mary González, organizer Brittany Yelverton of Planned Parenthood Greater Texas, social media star Jessica Luther, and reproductive rights journalist Andrea Grimes and other courageous Texans who stood for reproductive rights this legislative session.

"It seems like every year we see more and more attacks on Texans' reproductive rights and our ability to plan our own families. The laws passed this year will go down as some of the most restrictive and unjust in Texas history."

– The Lilith Fund for Reproductive Equity



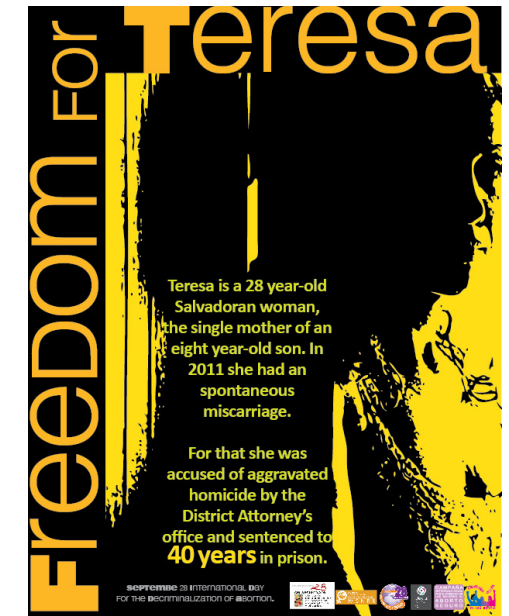
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

September 28 events in Latin America and the Caribbean are coordinated by the regional campaign September 28 Day of Action for Decriminalisation of Abortion. The national focal points of the regional campaign have been reporting their activities directly to the campaign coordinator Colectiva Mujer y Salud, based in Dominican Republic. Colectiva Mujer y Salud has been the regional campaign coordinator from 2010 till 2013 during which the September 28 campaign found a global recognition. In 2013 the campaign coordinator's role was passed to la Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local, which forms part of the Agrupación Ciudadana para la Despenalización del Aborto en El Salvador.

Some highlights of the September 28 campaign in Latin American and the Caribbean

On the occasion of September 28 Global Day of Action the LAC activists spurred the international mobilisation campaign to free Teresa, a young woman from El Salvador, mother of one child of 8 years old, who experienced a spontaneous abortion (miscarriage) in 2011. She was, however, accused of aggravated homicide and sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Countless mobilisations took place in practically every country in Latin America and the Caribbean, the continent with most of the restrictive laws on abortion. Women's rights activists demanded immediate decriminalization of abortion and respect of women's human rights. The mobilisations took numerous forms – marches, rallies, street actions, press conferences, workshops, on-line videos and many others.



GLOBAL MOBILISATION



Peru: activists in red demanding immediate implementation of the comprehensive protocol for therapeutic abortion



Puerto Rico: Video-production by Taller Salud "Men speaking in defense of abortion right"



Bolivia: Red Carpet performance at the gates of the cathedral of San Francisco. 80 women activists laid down to weave the red carpet with their bodies.

Featured Events

The following events featured in this report have been reported directly to WGNRR through www.september28.org website. For more information on all activities that took place in Latin America and the Caribbean, please visit www.28deseptiembre.org

Chile

Movimiento por el Aborto Libre (Movement for Free Abortion) together with the School of Public Health at the University of Chile, co-organised a one day seminar on access to safe, legal and free abortion services which brought together feminist organizations and the School of Public Health, University of Chile, to discuss strategies to promote access to safe abortion and decriminalization of abortion in Chile. Presenters include Dr. Anibal Fuanes from Brasil and Dr. Cristina Grela from Uruguay, as well as activists from Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. The participating organisations included Feministas por el Aborto Seguro, Red Multiversos, Marcha Mundial de Mujeres-Chile, la Articulación Feminista por la Libertad de Decidir, Núcleo de Género Julieta Kirkwood, Línea Aborto Chile, CUDS.

La Articulación Feminista por la Libertad de Decidir (AFLD), the focal point for the regional September 28 campaign participated in the Seminar on Free, Safe and Legal Abortion; convened an international workshop to redefine the action strategies to free, safe and legal abortion in Chile and published a booklet "Historical evolution of abortion in Chile", written by T. Montreal- the first woman who researched abortion in Chile in the last century.

Jamaica

Together Caribbean DAWN and Quality of Citizenship Jamaica organised an action stand in the Emancipation Park in support of Jamaican women's reproductive health and rights that are currently denied under the Jamaican laws. Under Jamaican Law, section 72 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1864, a woman in a hospital bed recovering from a self-induced abortion can potentially be handcuffed to her bed as a suspected felon for procuring an abortion. Upon conviction she may be subjected to a life sentence with hard labour. By now enshrining fetal rights in the Jamaican constitution, women's lives, and health are now subordinated to the protection of the FETUS. The protest stand in the Emancipation Park received support from the public and enjoyed media coverage.



One of the ways to measure campaign's success is by looking at the amount of media reactions the campaign activities managed to generate. It is reassuring to see that journalists around the world took interest in the global mobilisation for abortion rights, which resulted in twenty publications in the on-line newspapers and magazine. Furthermore, the blogosphere counted fourteen mentionings of September 28, while the fellow activist organisations published on the Global Day of Action on thirty different websites.

The references to September 28 reflect a mixture of mentions from the academic field, media, on-line feminist communities, individuals and mostly come from civil society organisations which reflect the diverse set of contexts surrounding access to safe and legal abortion. USA activists call to repeal the Hyde amendment. Australian pro-choice emphasizes the demand to take abortion out of the criminal law. Pro-Choice marchers in Ireland call for Referendum. In the Philippines the mere fact that abortion is discussed on the leading social news network is an unprecedented step forward. A journalist in South Africa looks deeply into the situation where abortion is legal on paper while in fact not accessible to women resulting in the proliferation of quack doctors and lamp post advertising.

The full list of on-line publications and references to September 28 Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion can be found in ANNEX V

Media snapshots

"It's not good enough that a life-saving, evidence-based, rights-protected procedure like abortion is still entangled with criminal law in Australia. It's not good enough that abortion is still not accessible to all women across our country."

From "Our Role In The Fight For Safe Abortion" by Annelise Robert in New Matilda.com

"...this month is Abortion Access Month. September 30th is the 37th anniversary of the Hyde Amendment, and September 28th is the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion. During this month, we encourage you to be motivated to end the deep disparity created by politicians withholding federal funds, and to remember that we are the experts on our own lives."

From "Mind the gap: September is Abortion Access Month" by Veronica Bayetti Flores in Feministing.com

"We don't want people to become complacent," says Sarah Malone of the ARC. "This is very restrictive legislation and only provides abortion to a woman who will literally die if she does not receive one. [...] The only way that laws can be liberalised even further is if people decide that's what they would like. So what they're afraid of is the democratic process in Ireland."

From "Pro-Choice March Today will Call for Abortion Referendum" in TheJournal.ie

"On September 28, advocates mobilized in over 50 countries for the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion. A flash mob in Indonesia, a pro-choice picnic in New Zealand, and a silent march in Kenya are examples of the variety of events organized by sexual and reproductive rights organizations and women's advocacy groups around the world."

From "Advocates around the World Mobilize for Abortion Access" in Ms-Magazine.com



Abortion in Latin America: A Varying Tale of Woe

Argentina Independent Saturday 28th September, 2013

Share/Bookmark Every year, on 28th September, women's groups mobilise for the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion. The movement started in Latin America and the Caribbean in 1990 to demand that their governments decriminalise abortion, provide access to safe and affordable abortion services, and end the stigma



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Advocates Around the World Mobilize for Abortion Access
On September 28, advocates mobilized in over 50 countries for the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion. A flash mob in Indonesia, a pro-choice picnic in New Zealand, and a silent march in Kenya are examples of the variety of events organized by sexual and

ISPEAK

#Sept28: Let's talk about abortion

BY GISELLE TÖNGI-WALTERS

POSTED ON 09/28/2013 9:16 PM | UPDATED 09/28/2013 9:50 PM



I expressed my support for women's reproductive rights when I joined women from a local non-profit organization called Likaan. I had attended the Supreme Court hearing on the Reproductive Health (RH) law recently.

Today, I join thousands of women around the world to boldly support the September 28 Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion. It is a call to action in over 50 countries to end the discrimination against women and girls and the stigma of having had an abortion.

Here in the Philippines alone, women who have had to undergo back alley and unsafe abortions face criminalization. And yet, a number of Filipina women are still resorting to unsafe methods to terminate their pregnancies.

The word itself is a topic people refuse to talk about. I know of many friends who have undergone these tion is not something we can scrutiny.



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Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion

Friday, 27 September 2013, 2:38 pm

Press Release: ALRANZ

27 September 2013

Celebrations across New Zealand mark Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion

The 28th of September marks the annual Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion across the world. In New Zealand, abortion is still a crime under the Crimes Act (1961) and access and availability vary by region. The current law sees two certifying medical professionals acting as gatekeepers to whether or not a pregnant person can choose an abortion.

"Saturday, September 28, was the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion. South Africa has one of the most liberal abortion laws in the world - on paper. Women's health advocates are concerned, however, that less than half the abortion services supposed to be offered by government are operational. Meanwhile, various government officials have expressed worry at the number of abortions undertaken in South Africa annually. REBECCA DAVIS takes a look."

From "Abortion in South Africa: a conspiracy of silence" by Rebecca Davis in Daily Maverick.co.za

"Here in the Philippines alone, women who have had to undergo back alley and unsafe abortions face criminalization. And yet, a number of Filipina women are still resorting to unsafe methods to terminate their pregnancies. The word itself is a topic people refuse to talk about. I know of many friends who have undergone these procedures and are silenced by the stigma surrounding this topic. Abortion is not something we can talk about openly, because of the fear of other people's judgment and scrutiny."

From "#Sept28: Let's talk about abortion" by Giselle Töngi-Walters in Rappler.com

"Every year, on 28th September, women's groups mobilise for the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion. [...]However, 24 years on, and Latin America is still well behind other regions of the world in terms of the legalisation of, and access to, abortion. The region is home to five of only seven countries worldwide in which abortion is absolutely prohibited by law, while only five countries have decriminalised abortion entirely. This has resulted in avoidable maternal deaths, the criminalisation of women trying to procure an abortion, and accentuated emotional torment for women and girls across the region."

From "Abortion in Latin America: A Varying Tale of Woe" by Sam Potheary in ArgentinaIndependent.com

MANIFESTO

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

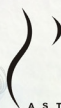
OUR BODIES, OUR FUTURE!

GOVERNMENTS MUST PROVIDE THE RIGHT TO SAFE, LEGAL AND ACCESSIBLE ABORTION. THIS RIGHT MUST BE RECOGNISED NOW AND ENSHRINED WITHIN THE NEW DEVELOPMENT

On September 28 Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion sexual and reproductive rights activists call on the governments around the world to put an end to discrimination of women and girls and demand access to safe and legal abortion services and information as their human right.

While recognising the substantial progress made over the last 20 years of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, including recognition of sexual and reproductive rights as human rights; their inclusion as part of many national, regional and international policy frameworks and the development of public policies allowing better access to sexual and reproductive health in the world, such progress has not been universal and many countries are still failing to meet targets set out in the original ICPD Programme of Action (PoA).

We continue to see a high correlation between poverty, child and maternal mortality and countries that have failed to fully implement the PoA. There is a lack of real commitment to ensure the right of women and girls to decide upon all aspects of their reproductive health, including the right to choose whether to continue or end a pregnancy. All efforts to curb the high rates of maternal mortality (MDG 5) will remain fruitless without addressing unsafe abortion. Unsafe abortion is one of the leading causes of maternal mortality. An estimated 47,000 women die each year due to unsafe abortion, which accounts for an estimated 13% of maternal deaths worldwide. Five million women are hospitalised each year for treatment of abortion-related complications, such as hemorrhage and sepsis. Almost all abortion-related deaths occur in developing countries, with the highest number in Africa followed by Asia and Latin America. Within HIV endemic countries in sub-Saharan Africa, we need to ensure that HIV treatment programmes for example, Preventing Mother-to-Child transmission deliver on focal point two. This point includes the prevention of unintended pregnancies. Women should not be forced into programmes to deliver HIV negative babies, if they do not want to continue with their pregnancies.



Access to safe and legal abortion is a HUMAN RIGHT. When governments deny this basic woman's right they endorse and tolerate institutional violence against women.

- Since 1994, when 179 governments signed the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, signaling their commitment to prevent unsafe abortion more than 25 countries worldwide have liberalized their abortion laws. However, seven countries in Latin American and the Caribbean - Chile, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti, Suriname and Dominican Republic - still prohibit access to abortion under all circumstances even to save a woman's life and nearly eighty other countries maintain severely restrictive laws on abortion.

- Most of the counties with severe abortion laws are in the Global South. Even though access to safe and legal abortion was achieved in most of the industrialised countries in Europe and North America during the period of liberal reforms between 1950 and 1985, there is a number of worrying trends and challenges that are representative of the ongoing rise of religious, political, and economic extremisms resulting in imposition of restrictive measures preventing women from accessing accessible and affordable abortion services. Ireland and Poland are the starkest examples of countries which maintain the most restrictive laws in Europe despite numerous pronouncements to revise the legislation by the international human rights bodies, while other countries in the regional such as Macedonia and Lithuania clearly demonstrate the tendency towards access restriction thus leading to the increased stigma and discrimination towards women who choose the procedure.

As a result of the lack of commitment by governments to create progressive legal frameworks to address unsafe abortion and as a result of restricting access to safe abortion because of the pressure by conservative lobbies, women and girls suffer grave **human rights violations**, for example:

- **Maternal mortality and morbidity:** Criminalisation of abortion forces women to carry unwanted pregnancies, even in cases when it is the result of rape, or threat to health and life, which equals to the act of torture, as noted by international human rights bodies. In other cases illegality has pushed women to resort to unsafe services by putting their lives and personal integrity at risk.

- **Injustice:** Women and girls are being regularly stigmatized, criminalized and many have lost their freedom. Such are the cases documented in El Salvador, Brazil and Mexico, where women and adolescent girls have been reported by the service providers who attended to them for either complications of unsafe abortions, spontaneous abortions, premature birth complications, still birth or other obstetric emergencies. After facing a repressive and discriminatory justice system, which violated the presumption of innocence, in some cases, women found themselves given the highest penalties ranging from 20 to 40 years in prison.

- **Stigma and Discrimination:** Young, poor and unmarried women are disproportionately affected by criminalization of abortion. When they terminate pregnancy they do it in high risk situations, which make it an issue of social injustice deeply rooted in discrimination for economic, ethnic, racial, class, immigration status, among others. The stigma that surrounds abortion and women human rights defenders working for it—women, providers, pharmacists and advocates in our respective countries—contributes to abortion's social, medical and legal marginalization. Entire communities separate, stereotype and discriminate against women who need and seek abortions and women human rights defenders attempting to help women to access this service. As a result, networks, women organizations, feminists and advocates of abortion rights have been threaten, harassed, criminalized and assaulted all over the world, just because they have challenged a patriarchal system that suppress women's rights.

MANIFESTO

WOMEN ARE BEING SYSTEMATICALLY DENIED THEIR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS.

CALL TO ACTION

We need to hold governments accountable to their existing commitments, and continue to take action to ensure that national policies effectively guarantee access to safe, legal, affordable, accessible, high quality, youth friendly abortion services, along with information about how to locate and access such services. **It is also vital that this existing commitment on access to safe and legal abortion be included in the outcomes and recommendations of the ICPD, MGD review processes that will inform the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post2014-2015 development agenda.**

THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AGENDA MUST FIRMLY ESTABLISH THE RIGHT TO ACCESS TO SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION

Governments around the world are currently involved in the process of evaluation of achievements under the present global development agenda expressed in eight visionary Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We cannot talk of sustainable development without the respect of human rights of women and girls in all their dimensions.

If one hopes to address the failures of the last 20 years and have a holistic, forward-looking, and relevant development agenda post-2015, we believe Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) must be central to the goals and targets and go beyond a very narrow reflection of SRHR as "maternal healthcare" or "reproductive health" only. Drawing on the existing progressive international documents such as Maputo Plan of Action and the recent ICPD review outcome documents such as Bali Global Youth Forum Declaration, Geneva UNECE meeting Chair summary, and Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, which covers sexual and reproductive rights, comprehensive sexuality education and asks governments to consider reviewing the laws that criminalize abortion, **SRHR should include abortion rights, pleasure, young people, access to contraceptives, sexual orientation and gender identity; particularly for the most vulnerable groups such as women, young people, sex workers, LGBTQI and others.** Human rights must be explicitly referenced, with the understanding that any meaningful efforts towards sustainable development must posit people as the drivers of development rather than passive receivers of aid priorities and programming.



THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!

The undersigned organizations call upon States on the occasion of September 28 Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion to ensure Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Health with an explicit reference to safe and legal abortion become an integral part of the new development framework by committing to:

1. Prioritize the issue of safe and legal abortion in compliance with prior international commitments such as CEDAW, ICESCR, ICPD PoA, Maputo Protocol and international human rights treaties.
2. Decriminalize abortion, remove all legal and implementation barriers to ensure access to safe, comprehensive, free and of high quality procedure for pregnancy termination, free of requirements for marital or parental consent.
3. Immediate release and putting an end to criminalization of young people and women, due to criminalization of abortion, especially in countries where the prohibition is absolute.
4. Provide accurate and scientifically sound information on Access to Safe and Legal Abortion to the entire population, without discrimination and take steps to limit the stigma and misinformation relating to abortion.
5. Remove socio-cultural barriers that reinforce gender stereotypes about motherhood and stigmatize women and girls, preventing them from free and informed decisions about their sexuality and their own bodies.
6. Ensure that HIV programming includes a SRHR lens and gives women choice in treatment options including whether to continue a pregnancy or not.
7. Ensure access to comprehensive sexuality education which is gender sensitive and life-skills based in a manner consistent with evolving capacity of adolescents and young people.
8. Ensure universal access to contraception, including emergency contraception, of high quality and variety, user friendly and appropriate to the needs of girls, adolescents and women, while ensuring their confidentiality.
9. End the harassment, criminalization and aggression aimed at networks, civil society organizations, feminists and advocates of sexual and reproductive rights. Ensure security and integrity for the women's rights defenders threatened by repressive mechanisms of the state or by civil groups which carry hatred and fundamentalism.

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September 28: Call for Action Asia-Pacific and the Middle East

Women's organisations in the Asia Pacific and the Middle East speak out on women and young women's right to safe and legal abortion

On the occasion of September 28 Global Day of Action for Safe and Legal Abortion, Women's Global Network For Reproductive Rights and the Asia Safe Abortion Partnership demand to end the stigmatisation of abortion, the oppression of women's autonomy and the aggression aimed at advocates for safe abortion.

Every year over **28 million women** have unwanted pregnancies in Asia and seek abortions. Safe abortion however remains an unmet need across the region. Because of restrictive laws, stigmatization of abortion and the non-availability of affordable abortion services **9.6 million women are forced to risk their lives by having unsafe abortions.**

Unsafe abortion remains **one of the three main leading causes for maternal death**, and leads to complications that affect millions of women adversely. Recent demographic trends show that the burden of unsafe abortion is borne by a disproportionately large number of adolescents and young adults across Asia.

Working to promote access to safe abortion is therefore a need of the hour, and this access has to be improved by tackling legal and social barriers simultaneously. Stigma against abortion, and myths about safe abortion have worked against the welfare of women, by preventing them from accessing available safe abortion services, and in some places justifying restrictive laws that seek to control women's bodies and fertility. These patriarchal laws and norms have to be rejected; and along with it gender stereotypes that allow women to gain any power in their society only through their roles as mothers.

This is in line with the recommendation made by the Committee on Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to Pakistan and the Philippines when said that "The Committee recommends that the State party review the laws relating to abortion with a view to

removing punitive provisions imposed on women who undergo abortion, providing them with access to quality services for the management of complications arising from unsafe abortion and reducing maternal mortality rates, in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation 24 on women and health and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action."

Across Asia, many networks, civil society organizations, feminists and advocates work to promote safe abortion as a human right. Unfortunately, these people are often targets of harassment both by fundamentalist groups and by the state. It is time to end such aggression and harassment and to create a peaceful environment that will foster conversations on sexual and reproductive rights.

It is also time to take a stance against patriarchal notions that prevent women from making decisions about their bodies and lives, to acknowledge women's right to choose if and when they want to become mothers, and to empower them to reclaim their sexual, reproductive and bodily rights, one of which includes the right to safe abortion.

Our demands:

- Repeal all laws criminalising, penalising and/or restricting women's access to abortion services. Specifically repeal laws restricting young women's access to safe abortion services on grounds of requiring parental or spousal consent.
- Work towards removing socio-cultural barriers that reinforce gender stereotypes about motherhood and stigmatize girls, adolescents and women, preventing them from making free and informed decisions about their sexuality and their own bodies, and empower women to act as agents of change by ensuring a comprehensive sexuality education to all girls and women.
- Ensure access to contraception, including emergency contraception, of high quality and variety, user friendly and appropriate to the needs of girls, adolescents and women, while ensuring their confidentiality.
- End the harassment, criminalization and aggression aimed at networks, civil society organizations, feminists and advocates of sexual and reproductive rights. Ensure security and integrity for the women's rights defenders threatened by repressive mechanisms of the state or by civil groups which carry hatred and fundamentalism.

Slogans:

Diverse Actions, Different Places, One Demand

Safe Abortion Now!

Suggested activities/actions:

- Send a letter to your Ministry of Health asking for the fulfilment of its obligations to ensure access to free or affordable sexual and reproductive health services including safe abortion services and information.
- Occupy social media on September 28 with hash tags #Sept28 #SafeAbortion
- Create safe places for discussions about your experiences: Develop strategies to mobilise and organise locally for access to safe and legal abortion to be affirmed as a human right, and to confront violations you have experienced.
- Hold local forums and public meetings to raise awareness about the urgent need to defend sexual and reproductive rights as universal, indivisible human rights.
- Organise public actions with banners, leaflets, music, dance, photo exhibits and other creative forms of expression to counter abortion stigma and demand for the respect of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

AFRICA CALL FOR ACTION 2013

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION FOR ACCESS TO SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION

BREAK THE SILENCE
END ABORTION STIGMA
Recognize Abortions
Own It & Discuss It Now!

28 September

ABOUT SEPTEMBER 28

September 28 Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion has its origin in Latin America and the Caribbean where women's groups have been mobilizing around September 28 the last two decades to demand their governments to decriminalize abortion, to provide access to safe and affordable abortion services and to end stigma and discrimination towards women who choose to have an abortion. The regional campaign continues to play a crucial role in supporting efforts by country based activists to denounce human rights violation by denying women a life-saving procedure.

In 2010 Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) globalised the day of action in recognition of the fact that access to safe and legal abortion continues to be denied to women around the world. In 2011 September 28 was marked in ten countries outside of Latin America and the Caribbean by commemorative events and found immediate support in statements issued by the SRHR organisations working internationally.

In 2012 the International Campaign for Women's rights to Safe Abortion was created in an effort to build an international movement to improve laws and services, challenge efforts to turn back the clock, and ensure abortion is included in maternal mortality reduction and initiatives to meet the need for contraception. The campaign enjoyed immediate support and participation by major regional and global SRHR networks, numerous national partners and grassroots activists.

In 2013 a group of abortion advocates and providers from Africa met at Women Deliver Conference in May 2013 decided to establish a regional group to promote and coordinate actions of September 28th Global Day of Action in 2013 focusing on addressing stigma - "breaking the silence"

Every African woman has the right to life, bodily integrity, the highest level of reproductive health, privacy, self-determination, dignity, personal liberty and the right to live free from violence and discrimination. But in Africa, abortion is a taboo topic and in the silence surrounding it, misinformation and stigma thrive. The stigma that surrounds abortion and anyone associated with it—women, providers, pharmacists and advocates in our respective countries—contributes to abortion's social, medical and legal marginalization. Entire communities separate, stereotype and discriminate against women who need abortions and those attempting to help women to access this service. Women are being systematically denied their basic human rights.

Impact of Stigmatization of abortion in Africa?
Paradoxically, stigmatization and restriction of abortion culture, law, and services does not inhibit its practice. It forces, unfortunately, African women to seek unsafe methods risking their health and their lives. When women feel shame about abortion and can't access accurate information, they often delay care or turn to untrained, unsafe providers, increasing the likelihood for complications and injuries, even death:

"A 28-year-old Abigail Agborku from Ghana became pregnant unexpectedly. Already a struggling mother of three, she sought to terminate her pregnancy. But something went wrong. She didn't get the right advice, didn't have adequate access, and didn't know where to turn. She ended up in the hands of a quack, as too many women do, and died soon after".

Violet from D.R.Congo, an 18-year old woman with a disability was raped by members of the militia and found herself pregnant. When she tried to access abortion services the doctor, the last told her that "It's illegal and against my Christian faith to procure an abortion and intimidated her with threats of arrest so she went to a traditional practitioner and took a toxic formula he provided. Violet died in hospital shortly afterward.

...in our tribes everybody grows up knowing that abortion is a no-go area.it's even abnormal to oppose men's decisions on child bearing; it is a man who decides how many children to bear. If he has decided that you have to give birth, even if the pregnancy endangers your life, you have to carry that pregnancy until you die" (A woman from rural Tanzania).

These are not isolated cases. This is the reality of African women. They lose each day to the bias, stigma and discrimination that deny them their right to bodily integrity and self-determination; they lose each day to the laws that deny them their basic human rights. This constitutes a serious economic, public health and social injustice for women.

BREAK THE SILENCE
END ABORTION STIGMA
Recognize Abortions
Own It & Discuss It Now!

Access to safe and legal abortion is a women's human right

Sexual and reproductive rights - including access to safe and legal abortion – are recognized in several international human rights treaties, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) which states, that the right to health includes measures to improve maternal health, sexual and reproductive health services.

The Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) affirms women's right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and that women must have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise those rights.

Most recently, in his interim report presented to the UN General Assembly on 24 October 2011, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, **Anand Grover**, states that "Criminal laws penalizing and restricting induced abortion are the paradigmatic examples of impermissible barriers to the realization of women's right to health and must be eliminated. These laws infringe women's dignity and autonomy by severely restricting decision-making by women in respect of their sexual and reproductive health."

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) explicitly recognizes that the right to health includes access to safe and legal abortion, at a minimum, in certain circumstances (in case 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). It requires State Parties to "ensure that the right to health of women, including sexual and reproductive health is respected and promoted".

Despite the strong international recognition of the right to safe and legal abortion as a human right, any progressive intention meant to alleviate the plight of women meets staunch opposition from conservative forces. Globally and regionally organized and mutually reinforced, the opposition holds to unrealistic ideas towards women's sexuality, ideas that are often inspired by rigid interpretations of the religious texts or by traditionalist patriarchal attitudes towards women.

Regional women's movement

However, what the opposition underestimates is the power of grassroots women's movement. Numerous women-led groups mobilize in defense of sexual and reproductive rights of women in their communities, at local, national, regional and international levels. With a rich variety of skills, expertise, and levels of engagement - and, most importantly, united by shared passion –African women's groups come powerfully forward to break the silence and end stigma surrounding abortion Africa.

However, due to the nature of the work of these courageous individuals who speak out in defense of women's reproductive freedom and help women in need of abortion services, often find their own lives and well-being at risk. Their efforts are shunned, ignored or feared by broader society whilst their advocacy and service provision work is being viewed as offensive to cultural/religious/social norms. This lack of official legitimacy contributes to the stigma, victimization, harassment, attack, violence, discrimination, and even loss of life experienced by these SRR defenders, violating their human rights.

BREAK THE SILENCE AND END SIGMA: Recognize Abortion, Own it and Discuss it NOW!

Time has come for the regional movement for sexual and reproductive rights of all women to stand together and take one clear action:— recognize abortion, own it and discuss it now on September 28 – Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion!

This September 28 Call for Action to Recognize that Abortion is a fact of life: Let's End Stigma surrounding it, and also to show solidarity and support for women offering abortion services and advocating for access to safe and legal abortion in Africa.

Civil Society Organisations:

- **Create safe spaces and times to share experiences:** Create safe forums for "Abortion Speak Out" where members of your communities can give testimonies about the stigmatization, challenges, victories or tragedies, they, their friends or family members have experienced when trying to access abortion services, and/or surviving violation of reproductive rights due to environmental, social, cultural and economic factors. Photo-documentations, audio-recordings and call to actions can be shared with others all over the region and around the world through the Campaign Facebook page.
- **Hold national/community Forums and public meetings** to raise awareness among women's organisations, health professional, government officials and general public about sexual and reproductive rights and justice, including Access to Safe and Legal Abortion services, discuss obligation to uphold these rights under international, regional and national laws, and the importance of ending stigmatization as well as discrimination of those seeking and offering abortion services
- **Organise public actions to raise the profile of your local demands for reproductive justice:** Public demonstrations, banner-drops, information stands, impromptus street theatre, graffiti/photo/ painting exposition and singing/musical troupes can highlight the sexual and reproductive rights setbacks/violators, or alternatively, the change your organization is working towards. Invite/use media to join and provide wider publicity.

Communities:

- **Listen to women's abortion experiences** without judgment, make visible sufferance that women who have been stigmatized in seeking or performing an abortion
- **Speak out when you hear others cast judgment** on a specific woman or on women in general who have abortions
- **Talk to friends and family** about how you are working to create a culture that respects women's decisions.

Governments:

- **Repeal all laws criminalising, penalising and/or restricting** women's access to abortion services. Ensure women who do seek or offer these services are not subjected to judicial persecution, including imprisonment, or to harassment and degrading treatment by state authorities, institutions and non-state actors;
- **Take effective action to sanction state officials and non-state actors** who harass sexual and reproductive rights defenders or curtail their legitimate activities for the defense of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- **Take all necessary and effective measures that guarantee** low-cost, universal, quality access to contraceptives and abortion services—including emergency contraceptive procedures—and ensure young people have equal access to these services, free from all forms of stigmatisation;
- **Ensure that religious institutions and groups do not influence** the state's judicial, policy and programming efforts in relation to reproductive health and rights. Access to Safe and Legal Abortion Services for all must be guaranteed, not subject to constraints imposed by religious authorities.

Make a Stand. Take Action.

Insists that your community Recognize Abortion, Own It and Discuss It Now!

Insists that your government recognize and protect the rights to Access Safe and Legal Abortion Services Now!

ANNEX IV

Reported September 28 activities

List of activities reported to WGNRR and partners

Organisation	Country	Continent	Description
Adele Reproductive Health Foundation	Cameroon	Africa	An awareness raising activity, social media campaign, meetings and in clinic setting survey
SAVE-Ghana	Ghana	Africa	End Abortion Stigma Now, Respect the Dignity of a Woman - Awareness raising activity: Radio Discussion and Phone-in Session
Healthy Ghana, Ipas Ghana, Population Council and Ghana Health Service	Ghana	Africa	Publication in the National Daily Graphic; Radio discussion
Dandilion Kenya and others	Kenya	Africa	Multiple activities in several cities of Kenya
KMET	Kenya	Africa	Community forum in rural parts of Siaya County in Kenya
Centre for Girls and Interaction - Malawi	Malawi	Africa	Young Women and Girls Forum
Rede para a Defesa dos Direitos Sexuais e Reprodutivos	Mozambique	Africa	Stakeholders meetins; participation in radio and TV shows
National Coalition for Safe and Legal Abortion (NACSAA)	Nigeria	Africa	Adoptation of One Million Rising Dance
Christian Maternal and Reproductive Health and Rights Action (CMRHRA)	Nigeria	Africa	Awareness raising activity on the law that will address the issue of unsafe abortion

Organisation	Country	Continent	Description
Women Promotion Center/Pathfinder	Tanzania	Africa	Strategy meeting on access to safe abortion with Pathfinder, Tanzania
Sfax Youth House Union Debate Club	Tunisia	Africa	"WeYouth Tunisia": organizing public debates on the issue of abortion and women's rights to not be prosecuted or harassed.
GROUP TAWHIDA Ben Cheikh	Tunisia	Africa	FLASH MOB on right and access to abortion on the 28 September 2013
Ugandan coalition of CSOs working on abortion and SRHR	Uganda	Africa	A launch of an info-graphic on unsafe abortion in Uganda A panel/talk show discussion by different persons who are stake holder; candle vigil
Women's Abortion Action Campaign	Australia	Asia and Pacific	Special September Newsletter issue
Space Allies	Japan	Asia and Pacific	Discussion of September 28 during the commemorative event of Dr. Sizuko Sasaki, who had fought for women's reproductive rights and built up a centre for survivors of sexual assault.
SAMSARA	Indonesia	Asia and Pacific	Social Media campaign, Virtual Mural, My Circle flashmob
Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP)	India	Asia and Pacific	Tweetathon
SRHR Coalition Nepal	Nepal	Asia and Pacific	1. Social media campaign 2. Mass campaign - (a) Distribution of IEC materials/Safe Abortion packet book/call for action; Forum Theater 3. Capacity Building and Orientation for young people
Youth Champions of ASAP (Ipas Nepal and Family Planning Association)	Nepal	Asia and Pacific	Radio talk show, Flashmob
Various Prochoice Groups	New Zealand	Asia and Pacific	It's a pro-choice stictch up! - Creating embroidered fabric hexagons to contribute to a patchwork quilt which celebrates NZ's pro-choice movement. Pro-Choice picnic Celebration of being pro-choice and discussion of the current status of abortion in New Zealand law and how you can help us reform it.

Organisation	Country	Continent	Description
Peace Foundation	Pakistan	Asia and Pacific	Awareness raising activities with 40-young peoples on termination of unwanted pregnancy, family planning , medical abortion and STDs and STIs
Shirkat Gah	Pakistan	Asia and Pacific	Panel discussion on “Addressing Unsafe Abortion in Pakistan”
Pirbhat Women Development Society	Pakistan	Asia and Pacific	Dialogue with youngster boys & girls on the safe abortion, family planning issues including reproductive rights on 28th of September in District Qamber-Shahdadkot.
Woman’s Health/ WGNRR	Philippines	Asia and Pacific	Speak Out on abortion experiences of Filipino women
Women on Web Thailand, Tamtang group and independent rights activists	Thailand	Asia and Pacific	Interpretative dances on a city square and abortion related movie screenings
Women on Web Turkey	Turkey	Asia and Pacific	Bringing different women’s groups together including medical professionals and introduction of the medical abortion; march and manifesto at Taksim square
Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP)	Vietnam	Asia and Pacific	Documentary Screening & Panel Discussion (Free event)
Pan-Armenian Family Health Association	Armenia	Europe	Video “Life-story on self-induced abortion” based on shared story of 19 years old Armenian woman who experienced complications of self-induced abortion.
Women’s Rights Center	Armenia	Europe	Mini-campaign using WRC official Facebook profile to show support to women seeking safe and legal abortion services
Center Women and Modern World	Azerbaijan	Europe	Capacity Building selective abortions among Region of Youth through promotion of Safe Abortion
Center d’Action Laique	Belgium	Europe	Street demonstration for the right to safe abortion

Organisation	Country	Continent	Description
Le Planning Familial	France	Europe	Raising awareness information campaign through the Planning Familial website and social media targeting general public and the media on the situation regarding abortion around the world
Campaign My Body is Mine	France	Europe	International petition for universal legalization of safe and accessible abortion for all women! We demand that the United Nations recognize the right to abortion as a universal and inalienable right.
Women’s Center	Georgia	Europe	Building Critical Thinking Among Youth Through Promotion Safe Abortion
Doctors for Choice	Ireland	Europe	Annual conference “Being a Pro-Choice Doctor in Ireland”
Abortion Rights Campaign	Ireland	Europe	Choosing Choice: Packing Up Stigma: Photographic works from ‘Against the Tide’ by Rose Comiskey (Ireland), ‘When They Hold Their Hands Out Like Scales’ by Emma Campbell (Northern Ireland) and digitised print works from ‘Good Women Have Abortions’ by Heather Ault (USA) with curatorial support by Jennette Donnelly. Ireland’s second annual March for Choice (#March4choice)
Padovadonne	Italy	Europe	Awareness raising flashmob
HERA – Health Education and Research Association	Macedonia	Europe	The new abortion law in Macedonia – restrictions and derogations a round-table with CSO and health professionals to discuss possible effects of the legislative restrictions to abortion and the next legal actions to challenge the law at the Constitutional Court
Reproductive Health Training Center	Moldova	Europe	Commemoration of September 28; public outreach
FOKUS - Forum for Women and De-	Norway	Europe	Breakfast meeting in Oslo to mark the Global Day of Action

Organisation	Country	Continent	Description
Federation for Women and Family Planning	Poland	Europe	Press conference; demonstration
Association for Family Planning	Portugal	Europe	Declaration approaching both the national and global situation on abortion.
Association for Gender Equality and Liberty (A.L.E.G.)	Romania	Europe	Gender Equality Festival "Breaking Prejudices", screening of the film "Born to Order. Children of the Decree"
The Russian Association for Population and Development (RAPD)	Russia	Europe	Participation in TV program "The right to vote" on TVC Federal channel; New edition of the Journal Reproductive Health Matters (Russian edition); Radio program on radio station Silver rain on the issue of abortion rights;
MNG (Mulheres Nacionalistas Galegas)	Spain	Europe	Call for Action in gallego
Decidir Nos Hace Libre	Spain	Europe	Protest march in every province in Spain; Party at Patio Maravillas for Women's Rights; Testimonials collection in a book that we will send to the United Nations Organisation.
Campanya pel Dret a l'Avortament	Spain	Europe	18h Manifestació davant la Delegació de Govern a Barcelona
RFSU	Sweden	Europe	Manifestation and a pro-choice walk through town handing out leaflets of the RFSU campaign with myth busting and common facts around abortion statistics nationally and globally
Center for Reproductive Rights & Sexual Rights Initiative	Switzerland	Europe	Side event during the 24th session of the UN Human Rights Council to discuss the realization of women's human rights, specifically women's right to access safe and legal abortion.
Central America Women's Network	UK	Europe	Not even to save a woman's life - Documentary Screening & Panel Discussion (Free event)
Abortion Rights UK	UK	Europe	Two social media campaigns for September 28: 1) quiz on legality 2) "I'm pro-choice because..." campaign

Organisation	Country	Continent	Description
Alliance for Choice, Belfast	UK	Europe	Speak Out event on realities of women choosing abortion in Northern Ireland
Movimiento por el Aborto Libre	Chile	LAC	March commemorating September 28.
Feministas por el Aborto Seguro	Chile	LAC	Seminario por el Aborto Libre, Legal, Seguro y Gratuito
Collectiva Mujer y Salud/WGNRR	Dominican Republic	LAC	Embassy visits; Workshop for young lawyers for the defense of sexual and reproductive rights, and abortion advocacy strategies; - Seminar on strategies for the decriminalization of Abortion in LAC; - Participation in the Sept 28 LAC Campaign Assembly
Caribbean Dawm	Jamaica	LAC	Protest action in Emancipation park
Taller Salud	Puerto Rico	LAC	Virtual campaign in which men speak about the right to safe and legal abortion.
Catholics for Choice	USA	North America	Sharing resources on abortion
Ibis Reproductive Health	USA	North America	Highlighting of recent publications and research on abortion in solidarity with the global day of action
Ipas	USA	North America	Presentation at University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health; March for abortion rights and LGBTQ rights in the North Carolina Pride Parade; social media engagement
IPPF Western	USA	North America	Mobilisation of IPPF members; radio talk on abortion on francophone Africa; social media engagement
Medical Students for Choice	USA	North America	Observing the day; social media
National Network of Abortion Funds	USA	North America	September Abortion Access Month
The Lilith Fund for Reproductive Equity	USA	North America	10th Annual Reproductive Equity Awards conference; Contribution to the Virtual Mural

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Abortion Rights Campaign- <http://www.abortionrightscampaign.ie/event/alliance-for-choice-belfast-september-28-day-global-day-of-action-for-access-to-safe-and-legal-abortion/>

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Women on Web- <http://safe-abortion-womens-right.tumblr.com/post/62496969562/28-september-events-women-on-web>

People's Health Movement- <http://www.phmovement.org/en/node/8033>

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Eurogender- <http://eurogender.eige.europa.eu/multimedia/videos/global-day-access-safe-and-legal-abortion>

Abortion Support Network- <https://www.abortionsupport.org.uk/2013/09/25/asn-september-newsletter-autumn-activism/>

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Sexual Rights Initiative- <http://sexualrightsinitiative.com/category/hrc-24-session/>

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Youth for Choice- <http://edforchoice.tumblr.com/>

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Abortion Clinics UK- <http://www.abortion-clinics.co.uk/28-september-global-day-of-action-for-access-to-safe-and-legal-abortion/>

CAWN- <http://www.cawn.org/html/news.htm>

Workers Solidarity Movement- <http://www.wsm.ie/c/march-choice-2013>

Gillings School of Global Public Health- <http://www2.sph.unc.edu/events/>

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SELFIES

Texas selfies by Lilith Fund <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.648225778535746.1073741827.130128870345442&type=1>

Sri Lanka selfies
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.376586642475156.1073741834.147812548685901&type=1>

Nepal photos
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Photos/ Videos of Sept28

Europe

March For Choice in Ireland http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5R_NOq6JO9o

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<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.515561091859614.1073741832.332330213516037&type=1>

Abortion Rights Campaign March in Ireland <http://www.demotix.com/news/2814590/global-day-action-access-safe-and-legal-abortion#media-2814313>

Alliance for Choice Belfast- <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=419518224816631&set=a.342262559208865.62145.302296453205476&type=1&theater>

Africa

Nigeria/NACSAA- <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.575681222469614.1073741826.446888922015512&type=1>

LAC

El Salvador demonstration (Agrupación Ciudadana por la Despenalización del Aborto El Salvador) <http://www.flickr.com/photos/101491109@N02/sets/72157636016640094/>

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Puerto Rico- September 28 video by Taller Salud: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHjtiFUsDsg&feature=youtu.be>
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Colombia- <https://www.facebook.com/WGNRR/posts/655134067845205>

Peru- https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151694890612514&set=a.171364377513.124429.49402792513&type=1&relevant_count=1&ref=nf

<https://www.facebook.com/AlfombraRojaPeru?ref=stream>

Nicaragua- <http://www.cladem.org/noticias/pronunciamiento.pdf>

?- https://www.facebook.com/colectivodevarones.antipatriarcales/media_set?set=a.574244432613196.1073741834.10000829326487&type=1

Asia

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

Nepal- Flashmob video: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10151893455985280&set=o.147812548685901&type=2&theater>

THAILAND (Safe Abortion Campaign in Thailand)- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijymsh08hWE>

<http://www.mcot.net/site/content?id=5246d119150ba023110001b8#.UkqGEYZkOSo>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10200556844556180&set=a.10200556834795936.1073741844.1610654236&type=1&theater>

New Zealand stitch up- <https://www.facebook.com/events/557695820960422/>

Campaign materials

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=651544154878550&set=a.266349680064668.71482.266006883432281&type=1&theater>

SPANISH (partial)

<http://www.mujeresenred.net/spip.php?article179>

<http://www.abortolegal.com.ar/>

<http://www.rebelion.org/noticia.php?id=174586>

<http://nosotrasdecidimos.org/28-de-diciembre-actos-en-madrid-por-el-acceso-al-aborto-legal-y-seguro/>

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<http://www.diarioprimeralineas.com.ar/columnistas/20712-28-de-septiembre-dia-de-accion-global-por-un-aborto-legal-seguro-y-gratuito.html>

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<http://www.mujeresparalasalud.org/spip.php?article518>

<http://www.psoeibi.com/2013/09/28/28-de-septiembre-dia-de-accion-mundial-por-el-acceso-al-aborto-seguro-y-legal/>

<http://www.escriturasaneconomicas.cl/28-de-septiembre,-d%C3%ADa-del-aborto.php>

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

<http://www.nodo50.org/mujeresred/spip.php?article1334>

<http://www.8300.com.ar/2013/09/27/28-de-septiembre-dia-por-la-despenalizacion-y-legalizacion-del-aborto-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe/>

<http://mareapopular.org/genero/28-de-septiembre-dia-de-lucha-por-el-aborto-legal-en-nuestra-america/>

September 28 is a Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion wherein activists all over the world speak out in defense of the right to safe and legal abortion free of stigma and discrimination.



www.september28.org