



**International Campaign for
Women's Right to Safe Abortion
and
28 September 2012
Day of Action**

Marge Berer
Editor, Reproductive Health Matters

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# Why we need an international campaign

- Abortion is still in the criminal law of almost every country in the world. It has been decriminalised in only one country (Canada, 1988). It is completely illegal in 5 countries; highly legally restricted in countries where 40% of women in the world live. Or it may be legal on paper but refused in practice, or unsafe or inaccessible due to high fees.
- Very few countries outside the developed world allow abortion for socioeconomic and family planning reasons, or at the woman's request. Even where it is on request, it is usually only in the first trimester.
- Abortion is still associated with stigma, fear, isolation, rejection, violence, murder, clinic closures, prosecution & imprisonment.

## In Europe in particular...

- Abortion is still illegal in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Poland and Malta.
- Recent threats to restrict existing laws have been made in Spain, Great Britain, Italy, Portugal, Ukraine, Moldova, Hungary, Romania, and Switzerland, and actually carried out in Russia and Turkey.
- Women having abortions and abortion providers have been criminally investigated in Great Britain, Netherlands and Spain, put on trial in Spain, and threatened with prison in Britain in recent years.
- Women seeking second trimester abortions, especially over 20-22 weeks, still having to travel to 1 - 3 countries before finding an abortion.
- The anti-abortion movement is making a major comeback, fuelled by the Vatican, rightwing US groups and others.

## So we started an international campaign!

- ▶ In 2011, the Post-Abortion Consortium USA invited ICMA to consider broadening the consortium to become a global safe abortion network. What should that mean? Did anyone else feel the need for this? We consulted colleagues and supporters attending three regional conferences in late 2011, in Mexico, Indonesia, and Senegal. Most said: **What we really need is a campaign.**
- ▶ We brought together 26 people from Argentina, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Puerto Rico, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Kenya, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland, UK, Romania, Russia, Moldova, and USA, working at national, regional or international level, in April 2012. We agreed to launch a campaign. ICMA was elected to act as 1st coordinator, we announced it on 28 May, and sent out an invitation to endorse the campaign to everyone we knew around the world.

# International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion

## Aims + objectives

- To build an international campaign to promote universal access to safe, legal abortion as a women's health & human rights issue.
- To make the impact of unsafe and illegal abortion on women's lives visible.
- To increase public awareness of women's need for safe abortion, in order to increase public understanding and support.
- To commit ourselves to the protection of women having abortions and health professionals providing safe abortions, including in legally restricted settings.

## Guiding principles

- No woman should be obliged to continue an unwanted pregnancy.
- Abortion should not be restricted, prohibited or criminalised.

## Invitation to endorse

- There are many organizations working worldwide to improve women's access to safe abortion services – through advocacy, law and policy reform, capacity building, service delivery, training, information sharing and networking. Almost everyone we talked to felt there is a growing need to link together... combine our efforts... and challenge the growing threat posed by conservative political and religious forces, who are seeking to turn the clock back, block efforts to improve laws and provide services, and exclude abortion from maternal mortality and family planning initiatives.
- This campaign aspires to become such a movement, and to become larger than the sum of its parts by uniting us across borders and constituencies. Involvement in the campaign is open to all civil society and other groups/ organizations/ networks/ individuals who endorse its aims, objectives and guiding principles and who support women's right to safe abortion. = **620 groups/individuals in 91 countries since April 2012.**

## Focus of the campaign

- To build capacity to advocate for the right to safe abortion at national level, because change can only happen on the ground in countries.
- To motivate and support regional networking, organised by national and regional advocates, to plan and coordinate joint activities, to collaborate in existing initiatives and to create new initiatives.
- To act together to promote the legitimacy of the right to safe abortion in all relevant international forums.

## 2012 actions

- Organise national events and actions on the right to safe abortion for **28 September, International Day of Action for the Decriminalization of Abortion**.
- **Respond to national solidarity requests, and**
- **Collaborate to convene regional networking meetings in 2012 or 2013** to plan appropriate and feasible action for the coming years, develop plans for capacity building for advocacy, and start to build a democratic movement, working from national level up, to campaign for universal access to safe abortion.





# **1st regional meeting**

**Strengthening access to safe abortion in  
Latin America and the Caribbean**

**CLACAI**

**(Latin American Consortium against Unsafe Abortion)**

**3rd regional conference**

**August 24-25, 2012**

**Bogotá, Colombia**

This conference had been planned long before the campaign began but it was their first regional conference where a number of other networks in the region attended and talked about working together more in the future.



**28 September**  
**International Day of Action for**  
**Decriminalisation of Abortion**

исследование  
услуги  
информация  
выбор

автономия  
достоинство  
здоровье

законодательство

**Международная Кампания  
За Право Женщин  
На Безопасный Аборт**

равенство  
доступ  
справедливость

права:  
уважать  
защищать  
осуществлять

препараты  
технология  
ресурсы



research  
services  
information  
choice

autonomy  
dignity  
health

law policy

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

equity  
access  
justice

rights:  
respect  
protect  
fulfil

medicines  
technology  
resources

## International Day of Action

campana **28**  
de setiembre



día por la  
despenalización  
del aborto en  
américa latina  
y el caribe

recherche  
services  
information  
choix

autonomie  
dignité  
santé

politique  
loi

**Campagne Internationale  
pour le Droit des Femmes  
à un Avortement Sûr**

accès  
équité  
technologie

droits :  
respect  
protection  
accomplissement

médicaments  
justice

moyens



investigación  
servicios  
información  
decisión

autonomía  
dignidad  
salud

ley políticas

**Campaña Internacional  
por el Derecho de las Mujeres  
al Aborto Seguro**

equidad  
acceso  
justicia

derechos  
respeto  
protección  
cumplir

medicamentos  
tecnología  
recursos

# Spain, Portugal coalitions + public statements

- Associação ComuniDária
- Associação de Mulheres contra a Violência (AMCV),
- Associação para o Planeamento da Família (APF),
- Comissão de Mulheres da UGT,
- Ilga Portugal,
- Médicos pela Escolha (MPE),
- não te prives - grupo de defesa dos direitos sexuais,
- Panteras Rosa - Frente de Combate à LesBiGay Transfobia,
- Plataforma Portuguesa para os Direitos das Mulheres (PPDM),
- Sociedade Portuguesa de Contraceção (SPDC),
- SOS Racismo,
- União de Mulheres Alternativa e Resposta (UMAR),
- Mulheres Socialistas.

**+ in Spain 200 groups formed a platform/signed joint statement!**

# Peru: Alliance of SRHR organisations

## **Organisers:**

Centro de Mujeres Flora Tristán, Movimiento Manuela Ramos, Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir, PROMSEX, CLADEM-Perú and Demus

## **September 27**

Working towards the right to information on sexual health and abortion

Distribution of information about medical abortion.

## **28 September**

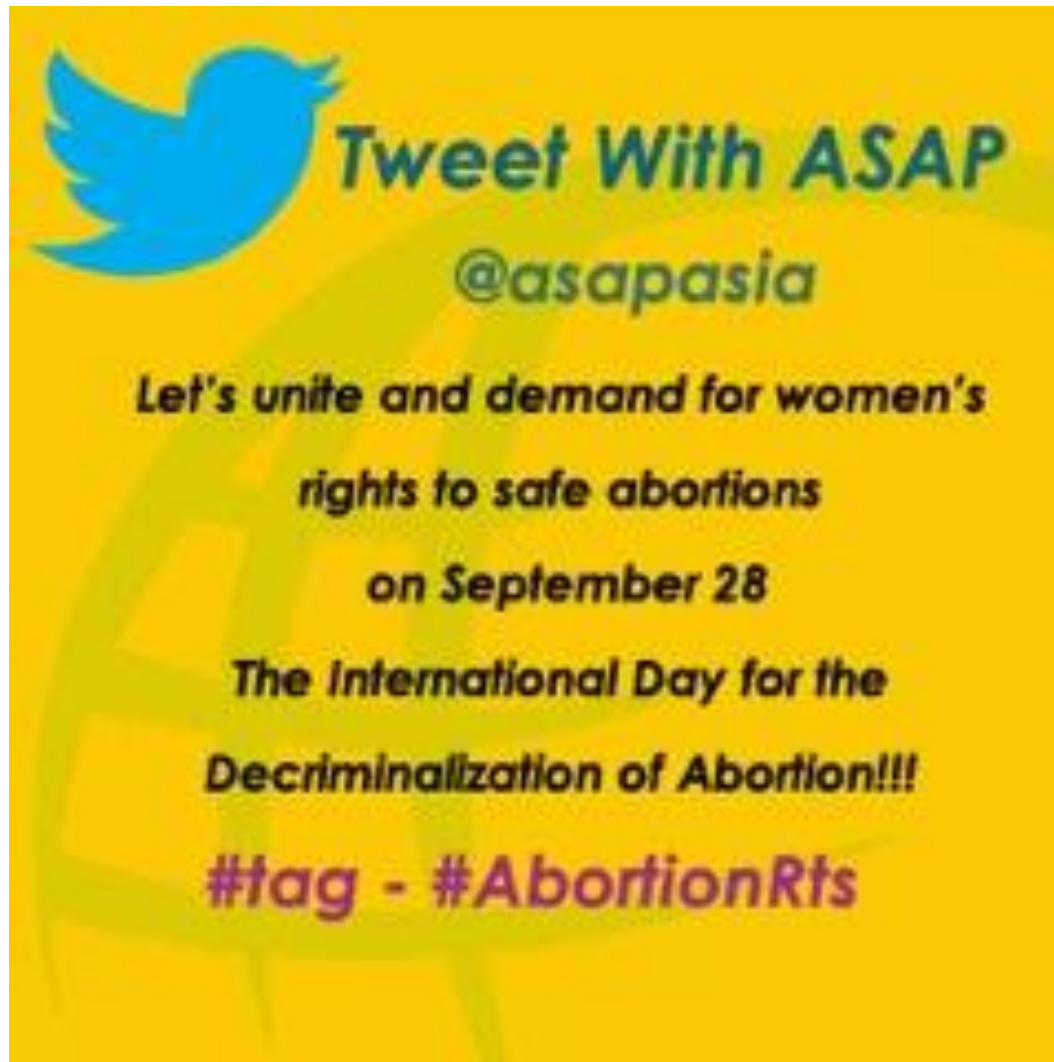
Launch of a Campaign for decriminalisation of abortion on grounds of rape

+ Signature collection

# Peace Foundation, Pakistan

- **500 wall posters** inviting readers to think favourably about reproductive rights of women
- **2500 stickers** with the abortion hotline phone number, set up by Aware Girls with the support of Women on Web, that gives information on how women can self-induce early medical abortion with misoprostol.

# Asia Safe Abortion Partnership





# Rwandese Association for Family Welfare

- ARBEF, an IPPF member, and the Health Development Initiative (with help of CRR), and involvement of ARBEF youth volunteers, prepared:
  - advocacy messages,
  - fact sheets on abortion incidence,
  - details of a new “revised” law allowing abortions following rape, incest and forced marriage,
  - evidence of unsafe abortions in Rwanda, and
  - testimonies of young women in prison for abortion (21 out of 114 women)

to distribute in a meeting of African Parliamentarians and UN agency representatives, hosted by Government of Rwanda and IPPF Africa Region on ICPD, the MDGs and the new development agenda.

# Flashmob against abortion stigma: Australia

- Reproductive Choice Australia organised a **Flashmob against abortion stigma** and launched a national pledge campaign – in which people were asked to swear not to shame women around abortion, or stand silent when others engage in abortion shaming.



## Range of activities

- Public meetings, press conferences, demonstrations, Parliamentary lobbying
- Debates, information days, solidarity actions
- Street theatre, flashmobs, discussion groups,
- Tweetathons, blogs, press statements and interviews
- Reports, book launches, concerts, dance, festivals,
- Radio and TV programmes, films, videos,
- Launch/promote abortion hotlines
- Creating artwork and selling bags/shirts/hats with slogans on them, posters, stickers
- Distributing informative newsletters and leaflets, and
- Holding local and community-based awareness-raising activities.

# 51 countries + regional/international NGOs

- Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, Chile, Uruguay, Haiti
- Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Kenya, Nigeria, Cameroon, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, South Africa
- Nepal, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, Japan
- Lebanon
- **Russia, Poland, Macedonia, Ukraine, Armenia**
- **Spain, Portugal, UK, Ireland, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark**
- Australia, New Zealand
- Canada, United States
- Campaña 28 de Septiembre, CLADEM, CLACAI, Latin American & Caribbean Women's Health Network, EEARC, ASAP, Pathfinder International, European Socialist Party Women, IPPF, Ipas, WGNRR, ICMA (coordination)



<https://internationalcampaignendorsement.crowdmap.com/main>

[\*\*http://safe-abortion-womens-right.tumblr.com/archive\*\*](http://safe-abortion-womens-right.tumblr.com/archive)

[\*\*http://www.zeemaps.com/pub?group=418562&x=52.989809&y=-10.635786&z=16\*\*](http://www.zeemaps.com/pub?group=418562&x=52.989809&y=-10.635786&z=16)



**NI ESTADO, NI RELIGION!**


**LA QUE MANDA EN MI ÚTERO SOY YO!**

@transfeministas

REPRODUCTIVE  
HEALTH  
*matters*



**Sex education to be able to decide,  
Contraception not to need abortion,  
Legal abortion so as not to die!**



**If you have not yet endorsed the campaign, come to the Reproductive Health Matters table in the exhibition hall and take an invitation letter.**