UN Member States¹

Subject: Ensuring Women and Girls’ Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights² in the Post-2015 Agenda

On May 28, the International Day of Action for Women’s Health,³ women’s rights defenders mobilized worldwide for the fullest inclusion of women’s⁴ sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. 177 organizations and 290 individuals endorsed the May 28 Call for Action, with the following collective message.

Throughout the Post-2015 and other recent global review processes, violence against women has rightly received due attention from governments and UN institutions as “one of the most prevalent forms of human rights violations worldwide,” constraining women’s empowerment and impeding sustainable development.

Yet one form of violence, particularly experienced by women and girls if they are young, unmarried, poor, HIV affected, of diverse sexual orientations or gender identities, living with a disability, or in other vulnerable situations, remains rampant and unaddressed: namely, the institutional violence they experience when they are denied their right to health and are unable to access sexual and reproductive health services. Examples are:

• The denial of the right to access and/or the criminalization of safe abortion services;
• Coerced or forced sterilization;
• Obstetric violence, discrimination and denial of medical care to pregnant women;
• The denial of access to contraceptives and emergency contraception.

¹ Sent individually to 58 Member States who delivered the joint oral statement in support of SRHR at the OWG13 session
² As formulated and agreed to in the Open Working Group Proposal for Sustainable Development Goals.
³ In 1987, women’s rights activists declared May 28 as the International Day of Action for Women’s Health, as a means to speak out on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) issues faced by women and girls all over the world. To learn more about the Day of Action visit may28.org.
⁴While we use the term ‘woman/women’ we do so with a critical reflexivity that recognizes the nuances and right to people's unique sexual and gender identities and expressions. We also recognize that ‘women’ are not a monolithic group and that they have diverse identities that vary due to their social location and the socio-economic, political, and multicultural contexts in which their lives are embedded.
The common root cause of these examples is the denial of women and girls’ right to health, and their right to autonomous decision-making over their bodies and their lives. The result is cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment paramount to torture, as recognized by Human Rights Bodies.\(^5\)

In your ongoing efforts related to the Post-2015 Negotiation processes, we urge you to work towards ensuring a comprehensive and rights-based approach to women and girls’ health in both the formulation and implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda, through:

- Reaffirming sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as human rights, integral to achieving a universally relevant and transformative sustainable development agenda across its social, economic, and environmental dimensions.
- Incorporating the Programme of Action from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD PoA), the Beijing Platform for Action, and the outcome documents of their 20 year review processes into the Post-2015 Agenda.
- Thoroughly integrating human rights into the Post-2015 Agenda – including the Political Declaration, SDGs, Means of Implementation and Follow up Mechanisms – so as to ensure that the human rights and empowerment of women, girls and young people are incorporated as a cross-cutting priority of the post-2015 framework and its monitoring.
- Retaining if not strengthening sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights related targets under both the Health and Gender Equality SDGs, as outlined in the [Open Working Group Proposal for Sustainable Development Goals](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-agenda/
- Ensuring that the Post-2015 development goals and targets include global, regional, and national indicators that are:\(^6\) both quantitative and qualitative, including policy, legal, and structural changes indicators; developed in an inclusive, open, transparent, and ongoing process; both existing and new indicators, as well as comprehensive and not arbitrarily limited in number, in order to better capture information on areas such as SRHR, gender equality, violence and discrimination.
- Prioritizing the systematic and coordinated collection, analysis, and use of data disaggregated by sex, age, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability, location, income and other variables, to effectively monitor progress and ensure accountability.

We cannot talk of sustainable development without respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the human rights of women and girls in all their dimensions, including the right to sexual and reproductive health, and acknowledging the actual needs of all women and girls in all their diversities. **With this letter, we, the undersigned, therefore urge you to support over the remaining Post-2015 processes a**

---


\(^6\) These recommendations are based on the [Women’s Major Group Position on UN Post-2015 Development Agenda Indicators](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-agenda/).
comprehensive approach to women’s health, accounting for the full spectrum of women and girls’ sexual and reproductive health issues, needs, and rights.

The May 28 Call for Action has been endorsed by 177 undersigned organizations and 290 individuals worldwide. For more information about the May 28 Campaign, please visit may28.org.

(List of endorsing organizations)

Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada
ACISJF
ACO Positive Women, Ukraine
Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights
Action de Solidarité des Femmes pour la Femme et l'Enfant, ASOFFE, Burundi
Advocacy, Research, Training and Services (ARTS) Foundation, Pakistan
African Network for Medical Abortion, Kenya
Ageing Nepal
AIDOS - Italina Association for Women in Development, Italy
Aids Accountability, South Africa
AIDS Accountability International
Alay Sa Bayan NS Foundation, USA
Amnesty International
Asia AnA-Society for Feminist Analyses, Romania
Asia Pacific Alliance for SRHR, Thailand
Asia Pacific Asia Safe Abortion Partnership
Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Malaysia
Asociación Civil Mujeres Unidas por la Salud (MUSAS), Valenzuela
Asociación Civil de Planificación Familiar, Venezuela
Asociacion de Estudiantes de Psicología Inter Fajardo, Puerto Rico
Asociación Humanos con Recursos, Spain
Assocació de Planificació Familiar de Catalunya i Balears, Spain
Association for Family Well-Being / Desirable Births (ABEF-ND), Democratic Republic of Congo
Association HERA XXI, Georgia
ASTRA Network
ASTRA Youth
AWID
Balance Promoción para el Desarrollo y Juventud AC, Mexico
Balanced Stewardship Development Association, Nigeria
Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)
Banteay Srei, Cambodia
Baskent University, Woman-Child Health and FP Research and Implementation Center, Turkey
Beyond Beijing Committee, Nepal
Bishkek Feminist Initiatives, Kyrgyzstan
British Pregnancy Advisory Service, UK
CAFRA Curacao
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Central America Women's Network, UK
CEHURD Uganda
Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP), Vietnam
Center for Reproductive Rights, USA
Center for Women Policy Studies, USA
Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University, The Netherlands
Centre for the Right to Health, Nigeria
Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (CYECE), Malawi
Centro Mujeres Maulinas, Chile
Channel Foundation, USA
CHOICE Netherlands
CIDHAL A.C. Comunicación, Intercambio y Desarrollo Humano en América Latina, Mexico
CINI-Child In Need Institute, India
Citizen News Service (CNS), India
Civil Society for Family Planning in Nigeria
Coalition of Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies (CSBR)
Coast Women In Development, Kenya
Colectivo Feminista Mercedes Olivera y Bustamante, A.C.
Comité de Género de Amnistía Internacional Sección de Puerto Rico
Community Association of Women and Children with Disabilities (CAWCD), Uganda
Community Development Services (CDS), Sri Lanka
CRAED/centre de recherches pour aider les enfants demunis, Haiti
CREA South Asia
dacasa/Nephak ddeser - Red por los derechos sexuales y reproductivos en México
Development of Peoples Foundation, Philippines
Ensemble pour la Promotion de la Femme et de la Famille, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Equality and Human Rights Action Centre – ACTEDO, Romania
Equidad de Género, Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia - México
Faith Hope Love, Ukraine
Federación de Planificación Familiar Estatal, Spain
Federation for Women and Family Planning, Poland
Federation Of Reproductive Health Associations, Malaysia (FRHAM)
FFA, France
Fondo de Aborto para la Justicia Social, Mexico
Fortress of Hope Africa, Kenya
Fundacion Arcoiris por el respeto a la diversidad sexual, Mexico
Fundación Mujer y Futuro, Colombia
Gender and Development Initiative (GENDI), India
Gender and Woman’s Rights Network, DRC
Generation Initiative for Women and Youth Network (GIWYN), Nigeria
Gestos, Brazil
Global Doctors for Choice, USA
Global Forest Coalition, Colombia
Global Media Foundation, Ghana
Grameena Vikas Samithi, India
Hampshire College (PopDev), USA
Hidden Pockets, India
Hollaback! Bahamas
Hope for Future Generations, Ghana
Hope foundation for social entrepreneurship – Hofose, Tanzania
Human Rights in Childbirth, USA
ICRH, Belgium
Indonesian Plan Parenthood Association
Initiative Volontaire pour le Bien être Social, Burundi
Institut Perempuan (Women's Institute)-Indonesia
Integrated Women and Children's Development Activities (IWCDA) Uganda
Interfaith Partnership for the Promotion of Responsible Parenthood, Inc., Philippines
International Alliance of Women, Germany
International Community of Women Living with HIV
International HIV/AIDS Alliance
International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region
Ipas USA
Ipas Africa Alliance, Kenya
Ipas, Brazil
IPPF/WHR Youth Network
Jazzin’ Magazine, Puerto Rico
JCW+, Jamaica
Juntos por la Vida - Red Vivo Positivo, Chile
Kenya Association for Maternal & Neonatal health - KAMANEH
Kenya Female Advisory Organization
Khpal Kore Organization, Pakistan
Kiev branch of All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV, Ukraine
Kirenet (Kisuri Resource Network), Kenya
Kirovograd oblast branch CO (All-Ukrainian League Legalife)
Kuña Roga, Paraguay
MANERELA+, Malawi
Migrant News Lanka, Sri Lanka
MOPAJEF (Mouvement Panafricain de la Jeunesse Féminine pour Iqa paix), Côte d'Ivoire
Mother Of Hope Cameroon
Mujeres De La Red De Temuco, Chile
Mujeres Por Sus Derechos, Chile
NACASA Nigeria
Naripokkho, Bangladesh
Nationwide Organization of Visually-Impaired Empowered Ladies, Philippines
NGO Gender Group, Myanmar
Nimechanuka, Kenya
NP E.V.A., Russia
Organización de Mujeres Tierra Viva, Guatemala
Organización Internacional de Apoyo Integral a la Mujer, A.C., Mexico
Oslo Coalition, Norway
P&D Factor, Portugal
Padefeco /NGO, DRC
Participatory Human Rights Advancement Society, Bangladesh
Pax Romana IMCS Asia Pacific, Indonesia
Peace Foundation, Pakistan
Pillar for Mentors and Heros, Sierra Leone
PLAFAM, Venezuela
Planned Parenthood Global Positive Change for Cambodia
Promoción Y Desarrollo De La Mujer – PRODEMU, Peru
Public Fund Legal Perspective, Kyrgyzstan
PWN-USA
Raíces Maternales Rede Feto Timor-Leste
Reproductive Health Service Training and Education Program (RHSTEP), Bangladesh
Reproductive Health Association of Kelantan Resource Center for women and Girls
Revolución de las rosas Costa Rica
RHAC, Cambodia
Rose Revolution Global
SAHAYOG, India
Samsara, Indonesia
Sangkalpa Trust, India
SEEDS, India
SERES, Portugal
Sex og Politikk - the Norwegian association for sexual and reproductive health and rights, Norway
SFBLSP, Mozambique
SFBLSP Burundi
ShirkatGah Women Resources Centre, Pakistan
Sonke Gender Justice Network, South Africa
South Sudan Women General Association
Sumy Local Crisis Center, Ukraine
Tarshi, India
The Family Planning and Sexual Health Association of Lithuania
The Well Project
Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH), Kenya
University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan
USC Uvira Relief Team, Burundi
Vision In Action Cameroon
WeLiterate, Zimbabwe
WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform
Women Deliver USA
Women Initiative for Leadership Strategy and Innovation in Africa (Women Africa)
Women Living under Muslim Laws (WLUML)
Women on Farms Project, South Africa
Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights
Women's Rights Center, Armenia
World YWCA
Young Women's Leadership Institute (YWLI), Kenya
Youth Changers Kenya
Youth Coalition Global Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
Youth Friendly Clinic, Ukraine
Youth Intercommunity Network, Kenya
Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO) Malawi