



## The Airlie Declaration on Safe Legal Abortion

Issued by participants in the World Leaders Consultation on Uniting for Safe Legal Abortion, convened at Airlie Center, Warrenton, VA, March 24-25, 2014, whose names appear below.

We believe in a world where every woman and girl has the right to make decisions about her body, her health and her future. True gender equality cannot be achieved without access to safe, legal abortion.

Yet this vision is still far from reality, due in part to continued restrictions on safe, legal abortion in much of the world. Criminalizing abortion does not eliminate abortion; it puts women's lives and health at risk. The consequences are dire:

- In the last two decades, roughly 1 million women and girls have died and more than 100 million have suffered injuries—many of them lifelong—due to complications from unsafe abortion.
- Close to half of those who die from unsafe abortion are younger than 25.
- Many women and girls are forced to carry pregnancies to term against their will.
- Women and health-care professionals are subject to heavy penalties, including imprisonment, for seeking or providing abortion.
- Punitive and stigmatizing attitudes persist, exacerbated by some religious groups that exert undue pressure on governments to restrict women's reproductive rights.
- Access to safe abortion is unequal, with young, poor and marginalized women exposed to the greatest risks.
- Health systems spend inordinate amounts each year to manage wholly preventable injuries, and economies suffer from diminished economic participation by women and girls.

### These intolerable conditions violate women's fundamental human rights.

We welcome important evidence of progress as indicated by liberalization of laws and policies in a number of countries; increased policy and financial support at global, regional, and national levels; increased use of effective contraceptive methods; improved technologies for safe abortion; and declining deaths and injuries in most countries. However, we must build on this progress and accelerate our efforts as we define our priorities for the next two decades.

### We therefore call on governments and policymakers to:

- **Repeal laws that criminalize abortion and remove barriers on women's and girls' access to safe abortion services.**
- **Release all women and girls and health-care professionals who are incarcerated as a result of punitive abortion laws.**
- **Make safe, legal abortion universally available, accessible and affordable for all women and girls.**
- **Invest in effective preventive measures** including comprehensive sexuality education, elimination of gender discrimination and sexual violence, and full access to all modern contraceptive methods.
- **Ensure that government and donor priorities for the post-2015 global development framework incorporate safe, legal and accessible abortion** as an integral component of gender equality and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights.

As leaders in global health, human rights, government and policymaking from diverse countries and cultures, **we pledge individually and collectively to mobilize our knowledge, resources and networks toward achieving these goals.** We call on the global community to join us in holding governments, global institutions and donors accountable for respecting women's rights to make choices when faced with unwanted pregnancies, and to fulfill their obligations to women.

## We are united in saving women's lives through access to safe legal abortion.

**Elizabeth Maguire**, USA,  
President and CEO, Ipas

**Nafis Sadik**, Pakistan/USA, Former  
Executive Director, United Nations  
Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Musimbi Kanyoro**, Kenya, President  
and CEO, Global Fund for Women

**Ivens Reis Reyner**, Brazil, Youth Coalition  
for Sexual and Reproductive Rights

**Lilián Abracinskas**, Uruguay, Executive  
Director, Mujer y Salud en Uruguay (MYSU)

**John Paul Bagala**, Uganda, President,  
Federation of African Medical  
Students' Associations (FAMSA)

**Rt. Hon. Henry Chimunthu Banda**,  
Malawi, Speaker of Parliament

**Carmen Barroso**, Brazil/USA,  
Regional Director, International  
Planned Parenthood Federation

**Tamara Braam**, South Africa, Sexual  
and Reproductive Rights Consultant

**Amb. Dr. Eunice Brookman-  
Amisshah**, Ghana/Kenya, Ipas  
Vice President for Africa

**Luisa Cabal**, USA, VP of Programs,  
Center for Reproductive Rights

**Susan Cohen**, USA, Acting VP for  
Public Policy, Guttmacher Institute

**Rodica Comendant**, Moldova,  
Reproductive Health Training Center  
and Coordinator, International  
Consortium on Medical Abortion

**Barbara Crane**, USA, Ipas Executive VP  
for Technical Leadership and Advocacy

**Hon. Arzu Rana Deuba**, Nepal,  
Member of Parliament

**Oley Dibba-Wadda**, The Gambia/  
Senegal, Executive Director,  
Femmes Africa Solidarité

**Cecilia Espinoza**, Nicaragua, Ipas Advisor  
for Latin America, Youth and Global Policy

**Beatriz Galli**, Brazil, Ipas Senior Advisor  
for Regional Policy and National  
Rapporteur on the Human Right to Sexual  
and Reproductive Health, Dhesca Brasil

**Alexandra Garita**, Mexico, Executive  
Coordinator, Realizing Sexual and  
Reproductive Justice (RESURJ)

**Françoise Girard**, USA, President,  
International Women's Health Coalition

**Jessica González-Rojas**, USA,  
Executive Director, National Latina  
Institute for Reproductive Health

**Anuradha Gupta**, India, Additional  
Secretary and National Health  
Mission Director, Ministry of  
Health and Family Welfare

**Leila Hessini**, USA, Ipas  
Community Access Director,

**Jennifer Daw Holloway**, USA,  
Ipas Communications Manager

**Michael Holscher**, UK, Senior VP and  
Director of International Programs,  
Marie Stopes International

**Charlotte Hord Smith**, USA,  
Ipas Policy Director

**Inna Hudaya**, Indonesia, Founder  
and Director, Samsara

**Manuelle Hurwitz**, UK, Senior  
Advisor, Abortion, International  
Planned Parenthood Federation

**Rev. Dr. Kapyka Kaoma**, USA/  
Zambia, Rector of Christ Church,  
Hyde Park, Massachusetts

**Kenneth Keng**, Philippines,  
Reproductive Health Advocacy  
Director, Filipino Freethinkers

**Saba Kidanemariam**, Ethiopia,  
Ipas Country Director

**Anu Kumar**, USA, Ipas Executive VP  
for Development, Communications  
and Community Access

**Ana Labandera**, Uruguay, Executive  
Director, Iniciativas Sanitarias

**Elly Leemhuis-de Regt**, The  
Netherlands, Senior Advisor for  
Sexual and Reproductive Health and  
Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Hon. Nana Oye Lithur**, Ghana, Minister of  
Gender, Children, and Social Protection

**Commissioner Soyata Maiga**, Mali,  
Special Rapporteur for the Rights  
of Women, African Commission  
on Human and Peoples' Rights

**Vinoj Manning**, India, Ipas  
Country Director

**Camille Matson**, USA, Global  
Fund for Women

**Tewodros Melesse**, UK, Director-  
General, International Planned  
Parenthood Federation

**Joško Miše**, Croatia, President,  
International Federation of Medical  
Students' Associations

**Kathy Mulville**, Executive  
Director, Women's Global Network  
for Reproductive Rights

**Hang Thi Bich Nguyen**, Vietnam, Marie  
Stopes International Country Director

**Annelise Nininger-Finch**, Ipas  
Policy Associate and Founder,  
Carolina Abortion Fund

**Hon. António Niquice**, Mozambique,  
Member of Parliament

**Nancy Northup**, USA, President and  
CEO, Center for Reproductive Rights

**Jon O'Brien**, President,  
Catholics for Choice

**Sandeep Prasad**, Canada, Executive  
Director, Action Canada for Population  
and Development and Member,  
High Level Task Force for ICPD

**Tharinda Puth**, Canada,  
Human Rights Consultant

**Mónica Roa**, Colombia/Spain, Vice  
President for Strategy and External  
Relations, Women's Link Worldwide

**Dorothy Shaw**, Canada, Past  
President, International Federation of  
Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)

**Hauwa Shekarau**, Nigeria, President,  
International Federation of Women  
Lawyers (FIDA)-Nigeria

**Nozer Sheriar**, India, Secretary  
General, Federation of Obstetric  
and Gynaecological Societies of  
India and Ipas Board Member

**Kirsten Sherk**, USA, Ipas Senior  
Advisor for Media Strategies

**Chrispine Sibande**, Malawi,  
Ipas Senior Policy Advisor

**Ann Starrs**, USA, President,  
Family Care International

**Regina Tamés**, Mexico, Executive  
Director, Grupo de Información en  
Reproducción Elegida (GIRE)

**Jamila Taylor**, USA, Ipas  
Senior Policy Advisor

**Anna Tenuta**, USA, Global  
Fund for Women