**FORUM:** World Health Assembly

**QUESTION OF:** Reworking the laws of abortion to prioritize woman’s health.

**MAIN SUBMITTER:** The Republic of Rwanda

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Dominion of Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, and The Republic of Mozambique

The World Health Assembly,

*Acknowledging* that according to the World Health Organisation, there are 23 unsafe abortions per 1,000 in countries with restrictions towards abortion and only 2 unsafe abortions per 1,000 where abortion is allowed upon request,

*Learning* that while most of the injuries and fatalities caused by unsafe abortion could be effectively prevented and treated, around 7 million women are admitted to hospitals every year in developing countries due to unsafe abortion,

*Reaffirming* the right of women and girls to control their bodies and make decisions about their reproductive health, including the right to access safe and legal abortion services, without discrimination, coercion, or violence,

*Realizing* the negative impact of unsafe abortion on women's health and life, particularly in developing countries, where access to safe abortion services is often limited, and where laws and policies criminalizing abortion push women to seek unsafe abortions, which can lead to serious health consequences, such as haemorrhage, infection, and death,

*Taking into account* the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3.7, which calls for universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning, information, education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs,

*Recognizing* the importance of engaging with religious and cultural leaders, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders in the development of laws and policies on abortion, to ensure that they are sensitive to local values and beliefs while upholding women's human rights,

1. Asks member states to act in accordance to A/HRC/RES/32/4 to create a socially safe environment for abortions to take place in, through ways such as but not limited to:
	1. passing laws that prevent against discrimination towards abortion, such as but not limited to:
		1. illegalizing the discrimination against those that have undergone an abortion,
		2. passing laws on regarding making it as a health care service, not a “criminal act”, and should be available on request up to twelve weeks of pregnancy and beyond in cases of rape, incest, foetal anomaly, or risk to the woman’s life or health,
		3. providing and training abortion healthcare services and qualified healthcare professionals, in safe and supportive environments, and with full respect of women’s autonomy, dignity, and confidentiality;
	2. strengthening health systems and healthcare providers capacity to deliver high-quality and women-centred abortion services, using methods such as and not limited to:
		1. providing training and support to healthcare providers, including midwives and nurses, on safe abortion techniques, counselling, and referral,
		2. ensuring the availability and accessibility of medical supplies and equipment, such as manual vacuum aspirators, misoprostol, and emergency contraception,
		3. establishing and enforcing standards for abortion care, such as clinical guidelines, quality assurance mechanisms, and monitoring and evaluation systems;

1. Trusts member states to decriminalise abortion, remove any legal consequences and break social stigmas that may have a negative impact on women’s mental health in ways such as but not limited to:
	1. discontinuing any court involvement on cases of abortion in ways but not limited to:
		1. removing any unnecessary fines related to cases of abortion,
		2. removing any criminal punishments related to cases of abortion and releasing anyone already in prison for such issues and completely erasing any criminal records;
	2. making sure that this news is told to the public, with an explanation as to why abortion was legalised, to minimise any opposition while not advertising abortion itself, through ways such as but not limited to:
		1. advertising with Public Service Announcements (PSA), with a focus on autonomy and choice available for women,
		2. commencing social media movements advertising for female body autonomy;

1. Calls upon all nations to reduce the social burden on women regarding pregnancy and abortion, through ways such as but not limited to:
	1. reducing the pressure from peers such as family members or partners, through ways such as but not limited to:
		1. ending the need for formal approval by partners/family members to undergo abortion,
		2. establishing free counselling opportunities near hospitals that offer abortion surgery/treatments;
	2. raising awareness regarding women’s sexual health and well-being, through ways such as but not limited to:
		1. utilising posters, videos, and other forms of media on screens in public areas,
		2. beginning social media movements online,
		3. encouraging events, such as Women’s Day, to be celebrated in malls, stores, schools, and other public spaces;

1. Emphasizes women's access to information related to abortion like accessibility, surgical procedures and support regarding safe abortion services like counselling, by taking the following measures:
	1. conducting comprehensive and evidence-based awareness-raising campaigns and public education programs that promote women's reproductive rights and choices, and address the stigma and misinformation surrounding abortion, including:
		1. providing accurate and up-to-date information about the availability of safe and legal abortion services, as well as their benefits and risks,
		2. disseminating information on women's rights to access safe and legal abortion services, including the legal and regulatory frameworks that govern abortion in each country,
		3. educating the public on the importance of respecting women's choices regarding their reproductive health, and challenging harmful stereotypes and social norms that undermine women's autonomy and agency;
	2. providing counselling and psychosocial support to women seeking abortion services, as well as to their partners and families, including:
		1. offering pre- and post-abortion counselling services to ensure that women receive adequate information and emotional support throughout the process,
		2. providing referrals to relevant health and social services, including mental health services, for women who require additional support,
		3. ensuring that counselling services are accessible, affordable, and culturally appropriate, and that they respect women's privacy and confidentiality;

1. Endorses member states to create an anonymous nationwide and free-of-charge hotline specialized towards abortion-related issues to enhance communication, and to build up the confidence of women who are in need, but hesitant to speak up, through ways such as, but not limited to:
	1. working together with specialists and hospitals to increase the number of options of hospitals available, and to prevent long waiting times to answer the call,
	2. advertising this hotline, along with other hotlines through means such as but not limited to:
		1. including the hotline(free-of-charge) with other awareness posters that may be hung physically on streets and walls, or be posted online through governmental social media accounts,
		2. including the hotline in news programs, or any other form of raising awareness of abortion rights;

1. Urges the need to address the root causes of unsafe abortion, such as lack of access to comprehensive sexuality education, family planning services, and quality maternal healthcare, and to promote women's empowerment and gender equality, including access to education, employment, and political participation;

1. Encourages member states to address the needs of women who require safe abortion services, including those who are unable to access such services in their home country due to legal restrictions or immigration barriers, by taking the following steps, such as:
	1. easing immigration restrictions to allow women to travel to countries where safe abortion is available,
	2. providing financial support to facilitate access to safe abortion services, including:
		1. funding for transportation costs associated with traveling to a country where safe abortion is available,
		2. financial assistance from insurance companies to cover the costs of safe abortion services for those who cannot afford them,
	3. providing social support services to ensure efficient communication, including:
		1. translation services in all languages to facilitate effective communication between women seeking abortion services and healthcare providers,
		2. counselling services to support women before and after accessing safe abortion services,
	4. lessening the financial pressure on women meaning to get an abortion, through ways such as but not limited to:
		1. providing application opportunities through which pregnant women could receive financial assistance for abortion surgery,
		2. granting temporary benefits to unemployed women due to pregnancy,
	5. ceasing the requirement of any unnecessary expenses to perform abortion surgeries or undergo treatment, such as but not limited to:
		1. counselling sessions,
		2. ultrasound imaging.