

# Global Call from Doctors and Health Professionals to Decriminalise Abortion

**This statement has 838 signatories from 44 countries. It has been signed by:**

- 92 Gynaecologists and Obstetricians
- 43 Psychologists and Psychiatrists
- 31 University Professors and Medical Students
- 25 Paediatricians

*\*For a full list of signatories please see below.*

**This statement calls for governments around the world to decriminalise abortion in order to uphold the rights to life, health, and bodily autonomy of women and girls.**

Laws which ban or severely restrict abortion have a substantial negative impact on the health care women and girls receive and exact a grave toll on their health and lives.

When abortion is criminalized the results are not safe childbirth and the well-being of families, but rather maternal mortality, morbidity among survivors, hazardous spontaneous miscarriage or clandestine, unsafe abortions. This perpetuates poverty and devastates families. Evidence shows that health outcomes for women and girls are best where they have access to safe legal abortion.

Worldwide, unsafe abortion accounts for 13% of maternal deaths and remains one of the leading causes of maternal mortality. Every year it directly leads to the deaths of 47,000 women and girls and leaves 5 million with lifelong injuries.

The criminalization of abortion prevents healthcare providers from delivering timely, medically indicated care in accordance with their patients' wishes. It impedes and disregards sound medical judgment and can undermine the professional duty of care and confidentiality that doctors bear towards their patients.

We, the undersigned medical health professionals, call for the decriminalization of abortion in order to uphold the rights to life, health and bodily autonomy of women and girls.

ACT 30/2908/2015

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



## List of signatories

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