

Warsaw, 8 September 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Members of the Polish Sejm

Esteemed Members of Parliament,

we, the undersigned organizations and individuals, urge you to vote against the citizen's bill amending the Act on Family Planning, protection of the Human Foetus and Conditions of Pregnancy Termination and related Acts, submitted by the Committee "Stop Abortion".

Should the Act on Family Planning be changed, abortion would become illegal in all cases which would in turn result in the violation of women's human rights. **Couples who would find out that their child would be born with a severe illness or genetic defect resulting in enormous pain and suffering, would have to continue the pregnancy.** Even if it became clear during prenatal screening that a child would die immediately after birth or after a few painful months due to a fatal illness, a woman would not have the right to terminate such pregnancy. Those who are pushing for that bill remain silent on physical and emotional suffering of such children and their parents.

It sounds like a bad joke that the Committee claims that the amended Act would "make social relations more human", considering that the **new law would force even very young girls to give birth to children conceived as a result of rape or incest**, risking their own lives and health and facing emotional trauma connected with such an experience.

The bill and related amendments to the Criminal Code which supposedly provide for a possibility of saving a pregnant woman's life and health in rare cases should not be understood as a possibility of obtaining an abortion in such instances. In reality, doctors may be too afraid of criminal sanctions and prison sentences and refuse to perform life-saving abortions, which would lead to a new wave of cases similar to that of Savita Halappanvar in Ireland.

**It is a known fact that restrictive regulations do not eliminate abortions but push them deep underground.** In countries where abortion is banned women die as a result of illegal procedures or suffer due to medical complications. Every year almost 50 000 women worldwide die as a result of abortions performed in unsafe conditions. The suffering extends to their living children and families.

The society pays a high price for the hypocrisy of the so-called „defenders of life” who want to sentence women to death in the name of their ideology and refuse to see women as humans.

Esteemed Members of Parliament, we urge you not to allow for this barbaric law to be adopted.

We ask you to vote against the bill at the upcoming session of the Polish Sejm.

Federation for Women and Family Planning

and

Prof. Monika Płatek

Prof. Wiktor Osiatyński

Amnesty International Poland  
Codziennik Feministyczny  
Demokratyczna Unia Kobiet Gdańsk  
Fundacja Autonomia  
Fundacja Centrum Praw Kobiet  
Fundacja Feminoteka  
Fundacja im. Izabeli Jarugi-Nowackiej  
Fundacja im. Kazimierza Łyszczyńskiego  
Fundacja Lorga  
Fundacja MaMa  
Fundacja na rzecz Równości i Emancypacji STER  
Fundacja na Rzecz Różnorodności Polistrefa  
Fundacja Nowoczesnej Edukacji SPUNK  
Fundacja Pomocy Prawnej ANTERIS  
Fundacja Przestrzeń Kobiet  
Fundacja Rodzić po Ludzku  
Fundacja Równość.info  
Fundacja Strefa Kobiet  
Grupa Edukatorów Seksualnych Ponton  
Grupa Nieformalna Głosy Przeciw Przemocy  
Instytut Spraw Publicznych  
Kampania Przeciw Homofobii  
Koalicja KARAT  
Krytyka Polityczna  
Nieformalna Grupa Łódź Gender, dr Izabela Desperak  
Otwarta Rzeczpospolita - Stowarzyszenie przeciw Antysemityzmowi i Ksenofobii  
Polskie Towarzystwo Prawa Antydyskryminacyjnego  
Porozumienie Kobiet 8 Marca  
Stowarzyszenie Aktywne Kobiety  
Stowarzyszenie Homo Faber  
Stowarzyszenie Inicjatyw Kobięcych

Stowarzyszenie Klub XXI Wieku  
Stowarzyszenie Kobiet Konsola  
Stowarzyszenie Kongres Kobiet  
Stowarzyszenie na Rzecz Kobiet "Victoria"  
Stowarzyszenie na Rzecz Leczenia Niepłodności i Wspierania Adopcji „Nasz Bocian”  
Stowarzyszenie Naukowe Psychologia i Seksuologia LGBT  
Stowarzyszenie Niezależna Inicjatywa Oświatowa (Społeczny Monitor Edukacji)  
Stowarzyszenie Pro Femina  
Stowarzyszenie Pro Humanum  
Stowarzyszenie Projekt: Polska  
Towarzystwo Edukacji Antydyskryminacyjnej  
Trans-Fuzja – Fundacja na Rzecz Osób Transpłciowych

A.L.E.G. Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender, Rumunia  
Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights, Kanada  
AnA Society for Feminist Analyses, Rumunia  
Anis - Instituto de Bioética, Brazylia  
Antalya Women's Counseling Center and Solidarity Association, Turcja  
Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)  
Association HERA XXI, Gruzja  
Association of the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family (SPAVO), Cypr  
ASTRA Network – Central and Eastern European Women’s Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights  
ASTRA Youth –Network of Youth Advocates for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Central and Eastern Europe  
Autonomous Women’s Center, Serbia  
Catholics for Choice, USA  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
Centre Women and Modern World, Azerbejdżan  
CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality, Holandia  
Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA), Cypr  
Cyprus Gender Observatory (PIK), Cypr

Cyprus Gender Research Centre (EKIF), Cypr  
Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW), Niemcy  
Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)  
European Women's Lobby Coordination for Turkey, Turcja  
Euroregional Center for Public Initiatives (ECPI), Rumunia  
Family Planning Association of Moldova, Mołdawia  
Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer FEIM, Argentyna  
Global Doctors for Choice  
Global Fund for Women  
Greek Coordination of the European Women's Lobby, Grecja  
H.E.R.A. - Health Education and Research Association, Macedonia  
Hands Across the Divide, Cypr  
Instituto de Liderazgo Simone de Beauvoir, Meksyk  
International Association for the Promotion of Women in Europe (AIPFE), Cypr  
International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion  
Ipas, USA  
Italian Coordination of the European Women's Lobby, Włochy  
Latvijas Sieviesu Organizaciju Sadarbības tikls, Łotwa  
Le Planning Familial, Francja  
Lietuvos moterų lobistinė Organizacija, Litwa  
Marie Stopes International  
Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS), Cypr  
Mujer y Salud en Uruguay (MYSU), Urugwaj  
Nederlandstalige Vrouwenraad, Belgia  
Pari o Dispare, Włochy  
Portuguese Family Planning Association, Portugalia  
PROTOPORIA Women's Movement, Cypr  
Real People Real Vision, Gruzja  
Reproductive Health Access Project, USA  
Safe2choose, Wielka Brytania  
Sciences Economiques et Administration Publiques

Sex og Politikk, Norwegia

Society Without Violence NGO, Armenia

The Abortion Rights Campaign (ARC), Irlandia

The European NGOs for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development (EuroNGOs)

The European Women's Lobby, Belgia

The Family Planning and Sexual Health Association of Lithuania, Litwa

The Hungarian Women's Lobby, Węgry

The International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF)

The Netherlands Council of Women, Holandia

The Serbian Network for European Women's Lobby, Serbia

Union Women Center, Gruzja

Women against Violence Network, Serbia

Women Enabled International, USA

Women Help Women

Women on Waves

Women's Rights Center (WRC), Armenia

Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)

Women's Socialist Movement

YouAct, European Youth Network on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Wielka Brytania

Youth Sexual Awareness For Europe (YSAFE)

Adrienne Germain, President Emerita, International Women's Health Coalition

Ana Rizescu, Coordinator, YouAct

Anne-Marie Rey, abortion-information (USPDA)

Barbara Crane, Executive Vice President, Ipas

Clara Berglund, president of the Swedish Women's Lobby

Daniela Draghici, Independent Advocacy Consultant & Trainer

Dawn Cavanagh, Director, Coalition of African Lesbians

Dr Evert Ketting, International SRHR consultant

Dr Fleur Fisher, Retired medical family planning doctor, Retired Head of Ethics Science and Information Division of the British Medical Association

Dr Martha Rosenberg, médica, psicoanalista, Foro por los Derechos Reproductivos

Edite Kalnina, Member of the Board of the European Women's Lobby

Elvy Svennerstal, Member of the Board of the Swedish Women's Lobby, Member of the Board and Executive Committee of the European Women's Lobby

Emma Ritch, Executive Director, Engender

Gülser Öztunali Kayir(Prof.Dr.), Akdeniz Üniversitesi İ.İ.B.F., Université d'Akdeniz Faculté des

Joyce Arthur, Executive Director, Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada (ARCC)

Leslie R. Wolfe, Ph.D., President, Center for Women Policy Studies

Petru Botnaru, Executive Director NGO "Terra-1530"