



CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN WOMEN'S NETWORK FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

CEE Bulletin on Sexual and Reproductive Rights
No 11 (114) 2012

Table of contents:

- Burning Issue
- Regional Updates
- Global Updates
- Upcoming Events
- Publications & Resources

BURNING ISSUE

Poland: Pro-Choice Victory in the European Court for Human Rights! European Court of Human Rights announced its judgement in the case P. and S. V. Poland. Federation for Women and Family Planning, the Polish member of ASTRA Network, and its lawyers have been involved in the case from very beginning. It is a case of a teenage girl who was pregnant as a result of rape in 2008. Despite the fact that there was a relevant document issued by the prosecutor, she had been denied legal abortion in several hospitals. As a result, she had to undergo the procedure in a hospital located 500 kilometers from her place of residence. Besides that, her rights to confidentiality of medical information was breached, which resulted in severe harassment by anti-choice activists. The girl was also separated from her mother and placed in a juvenile shelter. The Court determined violation of Article 8. (rights to respect for private and family life) as regards the determination of access to lawful abortion for both the girl and her mother and as regards the disclosure of the applicants' personal data; Article 5§1 (right to liberty and security) in respect of the girl, and a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) of the European Convention on Human Rights in respect of the girl.

The court held that Poland was to pay applicants EUR 45, 000 in respect of non-pecuniary damage and EUR 16,000 to both applicants in respect of costs and expenses.

To read the judgment go to: <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/sites/fra-press/pages/search.aspx?i=003-4140612-4882633>

Source: Federation for Women and Family Planning at www.federa.org.p

REGIONAL UPDATES

Poland: Polish Parliament Debates Reproductive Rights Bills. In October Polish Parliament considered two draft bills regarding changing current law regulating access to abortion. The first of the draft bills aiming at liberalizing abortion, introducing comprehensive sexual education and

guaranteeing access to subsidized contraception was rejected after the first reading. The second bill, drafted by ultra conservative right wing party Solidary Poland stipulated banning altogether abortions performed based on fetal malformation. This bill was sent to the parliamentary commission and rejected by the Parliament only after two weeks of consideration by the parliamentarians. The debate echoed a split between two fractions within the ruling party, conservative Civic Platform. The traditionally pro-choice, opposition Democratic Left Alliance announced proposing new bill also calling for liberalization of the existing Act on Family Planning that remains one of the most restrictive in Europe.

Source: Federation for Women and Family Planning at www.federa.org.pl

Latvia: Recent anti-choice activities. Between August and October 2012 several attempts aimed at reopening the public debate over abortion. The campaign began in August with the opening of anti-choice website and a consultation phone-line. It became well publicized with the inauguration early September of an art installation in one of the major streets at the heart of Riga old town displaying 27 sculptures of toddlers symbolizing the 27 abortions that take place each day in Latvia. A specific aim of the campaign is also to introduce in the law on sexual and reproductive health the principle that "the child is protected from the day of conception", and to make pre-abortion consultation systematic. This campaign ended on October 16 with an official conference on the "Protection of the Right to life" held at the Latvian Parliament; a special attention has been given to the San José Articles by the Secretary of State to Justice and various speakers. This conference was organised by MP Imants Parādnieks, President of the Commission on Demography of the Parliament, and Natālija Magazēina, representative of Latvian Lawyer's Association.

Pro-choice victory in the Council of Europe. Back in July 2012, a number of anti-choice MPs headed by Chair of the EPP- European People's Party (most powerful and largest centre-right block at PACE) tabled a Motion for a Resolution entitled "Combating eugenics and discrimination against people with disabilities". The objective of the resolution was to prevent women from accessing information and taking decisions about their pregnancies. This draft was blocked by the main decision taking body of PACE, its Bureau, describing it as fundamental infringement of women's freedom to make a conscious, responsible choice. The letter of protest against this motion "No to a disguised attempt to jeopardise women's rights" was signed by over 100 Members of Parliament, meaning nearly 1/3 of the Assembly. The letter was launched by Socialists, supported by Liberals, European Left, European Democrats (UK conservatives) and even progressive EPP Members. That means that the motion will not be referred to a Committee for a report and not considered for a Resolution.

Source: European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development at <http://www.iefpd.org>

UE: New Commissioner for Health. After Health Commissioner Dalli's resignation, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso suggested that he will be replaced by the current foreign affairs minister Tonio Borg. The candidate will meet deputies from the EP Committee for Health in the beginning of November. Borg is known within Malta for his ultra-conservative stance on social issues and his close ties with the Catholic Church. He has campaigned in favour of inserting the abortion ban currently in Malta's criminal code into the country's constitution, so that it cannot be annulled by a court. In 2009, he was vocal in his objection to a plan by the Labour Party to recognise same-sex couples in the country's laws on rented accommodation. Most controversially, Borg is the architect of Malta's much-criticised system of detention for illegal immigrants. He was also in charge of a notorious expatriation case in 2002 when Eritrean asylum-seekers were expelled and later allegedly subjected to torture in Eritrea.

Source: <http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/meps-prepare-to-grill-tonio-borg/75481.aspx>

GLOBAL UPDATES

Celebrating the first International Day of the Girl Child. The 11 October 2012 will mark the first International Day of the Girl Child, as voted by the 66th session of the UN General Assembly. The initiative has received the formal patronage of the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, and the European Week of Action for Girls (08-12 October 2012) was celebrated to mark the first International Day of the Girl Child.

Full information on the European Week of Action for Girls is available at <http://www.plan-eu.org/newsroom/girls/>

High Level Panel Meeting and Civil Society Engagement in London, 1 & 2 November 2012. The High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP) is holding its second meeting in London on 1 November. The meeting will be focused on poverty at the individual and household level, through the themes of human development, and jobs and livelihoods. Back-to-back with this meeting on 2 November the Beyond 2015 campaign and other partners are coordinating global civil society engagement with the HLP with two events: a roundtable with limited participation (30 organizations) and a civil society dialogue (200 organizations). One of the objectives of the HLP meeting is to provide an opportunity for civil society perspectives and expertise on the post-2015 agenda by providing a space for global civil society to engage with the process to create the post-MDG framework.

More: <http://ngosbeyond2014.org/articles/2012/10/27/high-level-panel-meeting-and-civil-society-engagement-in-lon.html>

2012' 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign. The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. Participants chose the dates November 25- International Day Against Violence Against Women- and December 10- International Human Rights Day- in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights. This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. The organizers of the annual campaign, the Center for Women's Global Leadership, are pleased to announce that the 2012' 16 Days Campaign continued with the global theme: From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women.

More: <http://saynotoviolence.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Global Youth Forum, 4th-6th December 2012. 43% of the world's population is currently under 25. The number of young people is rising fastest in those parts of the world with the lowest economic growth. The ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Youth Forum aims to address these questions and represents the peak of efforts by UN agencies, young people and civil society to translate the participatory aspirations of the 1994 ICPD into a sustainable youth advocacy network. Specifically, it seeks to tackle emerging issues and priorities for young people globally and ensure that these issues are central to the outcomes of the ICPD review process.

More: <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/about/view/13-icpd-global-youth-forum>

Lanuch of the State of World Population Report. This year's report is entitled By Choice, Not by Chance: Family Planning, Human Rights and Development will be launched on November 14th.

More: www.unfpa.org

PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

Implementing health financing reform: Lessons from countries in transition. This book reviews the background to health financing systems and reform in post-communist countries, starting with the legacy of the systems in the USSR and central and eastern Europe before 1990 and the consequences (particularly fiscal) of the transition for their organization and performance. Using in-depth country case experiences, chapters focus on how policies were implemented to change the mechanisms for revenue collection, pooling of funds, purchasing of services and the policy on benefit entitlements.

More: http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/120164/E94240.pdf

Training Resource Package for Family Planning (TRP). The Training Resource Package for Family Planning (TRP) is a comprehensive set of materials designed to support up-to-date training on family planning and reproductive health. The TRP was developed using evidence-based technical information from World Health Organization (WHO) publications: Family Planning: A Global Handbook for Providers; the latest WHO Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use; *and* Selected Practice Recommendations for Contraceptive Use. The TRP contains curriculum components and tools needed to design, implement, and evaluate training. It provides organizations with the essential resource for family planning (FP) and reproductive health trainers, supervisors, and program managers. The materials are appropriate for pre-service and in-service training and applicable in both the public and private sectors.

More: <http://www.fptraining.org/about>

ASTRA Bulletin subscription

In order to subscribe or renew your subscription for ASTRA Network Bulletin go to: www.astra.org.pl

@@@ @@@ @@@

All issues of ASTRA Bulletin are available on: www.astra.org.pl. To unsubscribe please mail to: info@astra.org.pl. Please refer your friends willing to subscribe to ASTRA bulletin to: info@astra.org.pl

ASTRA members: ASTRA coordination and secretariat: Albania - Albanian Family Planning Association, Armenia - Women's Rights Center, Armenia – Society Without Violence, Azerbaijan - Center “Women and Modern World”, Belarus - Women's Independent Democratic Movement of Belarus, Bulgaria - Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association, Bulgaria- Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, Gender Education, Research and Technologies, Bulgaria - Demetra Association, Bulgaria- Gender Alternatives Foundation, Croatia - B.a.b.e. (Be Active, Be Emancipated), CESI - Center for Education and Counseling of Woman, Women's Centre for Sexuality and the Prevention, Research, and Combating of Sexual Violence - Women's Room, Georgia - Women's Center , Georgia – Hera XXI, Kazakhstan - The Legal Center for Women's Initiatives "Sana Sezim", Lithuania - Family Planning and Sexual Health Association, Latvia - Latvia's Association for Family Planning And Sexual Health, Macedonia - Sheltar Centar, Moldova

- Reproductive Health Service Center, Poland Federation for Women and Family Planning, Romania- ECPI -Euroregional Center for Public Initiatives; Romania-Asociatia pentru Libertate si Egalitate de Gen - A.L.E.G., Romania -The East European Institute of Reproductive Health, AnA: Society for Feminist Analysis, Russia - Institute of State and Law, Russian Academy of Sciences, ANO "Women's Health", Novogorod Gender Center, Slovakia - Pro – choice, Ukraine - Women Health and Family Planning, Charitable SALUS Foundation.

Editorial Committee: Katarzyna Pabijanek, Martyna Zimniewska

Supported by: the Sigrid Rausing Trust Foundation and the International Women's Health Coalition
ASTRA Network Bulletin on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 11/2012