



CEE Bulletin on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

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BURNING ISSUE

September 28 – International Safe Abortion Day

Resist & Persist: Our Bodies, Our Abortions, Our Rights!

September 28 has been a regional campaign for decriminalization of abortion in Latin America and Caribbean for nearly twenty years before being taken on by SRHR activists all over the world as a Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion in 2011.

Ensuring universal access to safe abortion is a fundamental human right, we cannot view it as only a “women’s issue.” It is a fundamental human right, which intersects with and is integral to realizing social, economic and reproductive justice. When individuals are able to access safe abortion, along with comprehensive sexuality education and a range of contraceptives, the social good outcomes are numerous – including plummeting maternal mortality and morbidity, and significantly reduced rates of STIs and teenage pregnancy. Other positive ripple effects include an increase in women and girls’ ability to continue education; increased gender equity and women’s empowerment; and reduced intergenerational transfers of poverty, among many other integral benefits.

We have been witnessing a number of alarming rollbacks regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Some of the most recent rollbacks include:

-the reinstatement and expansion of the Global Gag Rule

-funding cuts to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

-and new law proposals in a number of countries such as Poland and El Salvador, attempting to ban abortions or criminalize “suspicious” miscarriages. In the entire Central and Eastern European region we are observing a backlash against reproductive right and also rising religious fundamentalism and the rise of right-wing policies.

Even in countries where abortion is legal or decriminalized, we are seeing on-going or renewed attempts to uphold obstructive barriers such as mandatory waiting periods, parental/marital consent requirements, prohibitive costs, and limited services in rural and remote areas. These barriers restrict access to timely and affordable safe abortion services, disproportionately affecting lower-income groups who are unable to afford private healthcare services, or travel to better-serviced areas.

WGNRR, with ASTRA as a partner organization, undertakes September 28 annual campaigning activities in collaboration with its members, partners, and allies around the world, and as a member of the International Campaign for Women’s Right to Safe Abortion

In light of the current context, it is all the more imperative that we tap into both past and present forms of ongoing collective resistance, reminding ourselves of important achievements, and the power of collective organizing and mobilizing, propelled by local and individual actions. Our aim this year is to thus highlight, promote, and support the many different ways activists are currently challenging the status quo and resisting in diverse contexts. These seemingly small actions add up, make waves and contribute to collective movements. When I resist, we persist. In turn, collective mobilization also feeds and sustains individual mobilization, through motivating and inspiring individuals, activists, and allies to continue our important abortion advocacy.

This year, the materials developed for campaigning and advocacy include visual materials, such as comic strips on various cases from the world, such as the Black Protest in Poland that is a great example of mass mobilization and resistance ([click!](#)).

Visit <http://www.september28.org/> for more details and reports from local partners and examples of resistance and follow *#September28 #Sept28 #IResistWePersist #safeabortion* on social media

Safe abortions for all women who need them – not just the rich, say UN experts

Speaking ahead of International Safe Abortion Day, a **group of United Nations human rights experts has called on States across the world to repeal laws that criminalize and unduly restrict abortion** and policies based on outdated stereotypes, to release all women in prison on abortion charges and to counter all stigma against abortion. The experts also called for 28 September to become an official UN day for safe abortion worldwide, to help encourage Governments to decriminalize abortion and provide reproductive health services in a legal, safe and affordable manner. Their full statement is available online [here](#).

REGIONAL UPDATES

Poland undergoes 3rd cycle of the UPR

The 36th Human Rights Council adopted the Universal Periodic Review of Poland and its outcome report on human rights, including the realization (or rather non-realization) of sexual and reproductive rights. Poland received a total of 185 recommendations, of which supported 144 recommendations and noted 31. Additional clarifications were provided on 10 partially supported recommendations.

The human rights record of Poland was examined by the 3rd time by the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review on 9th May 2017.

Read the NGO statements by the [Sexual Rights Initiative](#) and by the [Federation for Women and Family Planning](#).

EuroNGOs 2017 Conference "Re:Frame. Promoting SRHR in a time of growing populism"

The 2017 EuroNGOs Conference took place on September 27-28 in Brussels. This year, the conference focused on how we can protect and promote SRHR in a time of growing fundamentalism and conservatism. Rising support for fundamentalist and conservative movements, echoed through examples such as Brexit in the UK, the rhetoric of Orban in Hungary and Kaczynski in Poland, the success of far-right parties from Germany to Greece, and Trump in the USA, is reshaping the politics of many Western societies. For the SRHR community this global political shift is particularly worrying as populism favours traditional over progressive values and national self-interest over international cooperation and development aid. These changes can have serious implications in terms of political support and financial investment in SRHR and development issues, and also risks undermining the achievement of SDGs and decisions taken at UN level.

Five takeaways resulted from the conference and can be read [here](#).

See the full conference programme [here](#)

European Union Pledges 500 Million Euros Towards Gender Equality Fund

The European Union and the United Nations kicked off a new, global, multi-year initiative focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls – The Spotlight Initiative. The Spotlight Initiative was announced at a high-level event at the United Nations. The Initiative aims to place the elimination of violence against women at the center of efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The European Union is committing 500 million EUR in funding to the Spotlight Initiative.

The Spotlight Initiative will build on and bolster global efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on gender equality (SDG Goal 5). The Spotlight Initiative will deploy targeted, large-scale investments in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific and the Caribbean to address multiple

forms of violence against women and girls. These regional efforts will include actions to address femicide, trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic exploitation, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, and forms of domestic violence.

Progress under the Millennium Development Goals was uneven: despite an overall reduction, maternal mortality still claims the lives of 800 women and girls each day, with most of these deaths affecting poor and marginalized women in both the global North and South. Robust, transparent, and participatory accountability mechanisms are essential to ensure the protection of all women's and girls from violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, particularly for marginalized groups who face disproportionate barriers and multiple forms of discrimination in enjoying their human rights.

In July 2017, [United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](#) called on states to take measures in “the areas prevention, protection, prosecution, punishment and redress” to accelerate elimination of gender-based violence against women. The Committee also recognized sexual and reproductive rights abuses as gender-based violence and ill treatment.

Source: [CRR](#)

The European Parliament endorsed the accession of the EU to the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence!

The Istanbul Convention is the first legally binding treaty in Europe that criminalises different forms of violence against women including physical and psychological violence, sexual violence, sexual harassment and rape, stalking, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, forced abortion and forced sterilization. MEPs underlined that the denial of sexual and reproductive health and rights services, including safe and legal abortion, is a form of violence against women and girls, says the text. MEPs reiterate that women and girls must have control over their bodies.

[Read the full text of the text adopted](#)

MEPs call for more SRHR support on World Contraception Day

On September 26, the world celebrated the World Contraception Day. As part of the numerous initiatives around the globe, Member of the European Parliament, Seb Dance (S&D, UK), responsible for that institution's position on the implementation of the Agenda 2030 issued a statement. Referring to the reinstated Global Gag Rule, MEP Dance said ‘With or without this decision by Trump, as the world's largest aid donor, the EU has a duty to support global action on sexual and reproductive health and rights. We believe that the EU can and should do more. In a recent resolution passed by the European Parliament on EU action for sustainability looking at the delivery of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, I called for the recognition of sexual reproductive health as a pre-condition for both healthy lives and gender equality’.

Source: [The Parliament Magazine](#)

European Parliament asks for more funds for SRHR

On September 26-27, the Committee on Budgets (BUDG) of the European Parliament voted on its position for the EU's annual budget for 2018. The final list of budgetary amendments included a call for the increase of the budget line dedicated to human development under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) of 12.5 million Euros. This budget line, which in addition includes funds for gender equality, had been originally proposed by the European Commission at the level of approximately 193 million Euros, 40 million Euros more than in 2017. A bigger increase had been suggested at earlier stages of negotiations by the Committee on Development (DEVE) and some political groups, who also more specifically asked for up to 20 million Euros for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The political compromise adopted in the final vote at the BUDG Committee now called for an increase of human development line by 12.5 million Euros.

The adoption of the Parliament's reading is expected on October 25, followed by a 21-days conciliation period with the Council. In addition, as part of the annual budgetary procedure, the DEVE Committee voted on its opinion on the annual budget. In this opinion, DEVE 'considers that an increase in the investment in human development, especially in access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is necessary to help counter the negative impact of the reinstatement of the Global Gag Rule'.

To see list of budgetary amendments, please click [here](#)

To see DEVE opinion on the annual budget, please click [here](#)

To access the draft budget proposed by the European Commission, please click [here](#)

Source: DSW newsletter

From ASTRA Members

No more discussions about "when does the life begin" in Croatia – September 28 celebrations

This year's Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion was marked with a complete twist in the usual discourse on abortion. On Thursday, 28th of September, the Croatian Platform for reproductive rights demanded, loud and clear, not just safe and legal, but widely available and free abortion.

Reproductive rights do acknowledge the right of a woman to terminate her pregnancy but to plan to become a parent as well. The politicization of reproductive rights means that women have to fight for free and quality public health and education, a sufficient number of public kindergartens and nurseries, safe workplaces and implementations, and development of housing policies that are taking solidarity into account.

The right to abortion cannot be secured by bringing just one legal frame because legal equality does not take into account uneven material preconditions that dictate whether the person will be able to practice that right. Unemployed women, women who have short-term contracts, women from rural areas, women with children without family and community support, women asylum seekers - they do

not have the real choice; often they do lack the money to get the abortion done and often lack any conditions to raise their children.

The fight for reproductive rights that does not seek free and publicly funded abortion is mere a fight for privileged women that do have the sources to practice their rights what so ever.

Photos from protest in Zagreb can be accessed [here](#)

Source: [Udruga PaRiter](#)

September 26th and 28th celebrations in Romania

The Romanian ASTRA Network member Daniela Draghici of the Society for Feminist Analyses AnA organized and coordinated several events on and linked to the World Contraception Day, September 26 and International Safe Abortion Day, September 28, all under the “SEXed Talk” Campaign, in partnership with the Society for Education in Contraception and Sexuality (SECS), Astra Youth member, Youth for Youth Foundation, the Romanian Anti-AIDS Foundation, the Midwives’ Association and the Marie Stopes International Foundation Romania.

Daniela celebrated the World Contraception Day, September 26, at the Romanian Parliament in the company of Deputy Tudor Ciuhodaru, MD, Health Commission member, a well-known promoter and supporter of health education legislation. During our interview, we discussed the current status of sexuality education in schools, or rather lack thereof, the dramatic #1 position Romania holds in the EU in number of teen pregnancies, abortions and abandoned babies, the lack of legislation and governmental strategy regarding reproductive health in general, and policymakers' lack of interest and care to change this status for the better.

On September 28, International Safe Abortion Day and also International Right to Know Day and International Day for the Universal Access to Information, we organized a debate on the hot issue of teen mothers, sexuality education - or lack thereof - in schools & other related topics, as part of the “SEXed Talk” campaign at the Metropolitan Library in Bucharest. We welcomed parents, teachers, medical personnel, NGO representatives, policymakers, and media.

The Youth for Youth volunteer coordinator presented their model of conducting sexuality education classes in high schools. The Midwives’ Association representative made a presentation on "Adolescent Pregnancy and Associated Risks", while Ms. Clotilde Armand, Association for Democracy, running for mayor of Bucharest, advanced potential solutions to involve key medical and non-medical personnel in health education programs in and out of schools.

On September 30th the young volunteers co-organized an outreach activity in the main park during the Bucharest City Festival and distributed lots of information materials, as well as condoms to the many young people present. As a mother, the AnA representative, Daniela, talked to parents about their responsibility in talking to their children about sexuality.

All events organized during the “SEXed Talk” Campaign were recorded for a documentary being shot by a Romanian cinematographer and a German director for the Arte Broadcasting & Media

Production Company, focusing on the cause and impact of lack of sexuality education and adolescent pregnancies in Romania.

Source: Daniela Draghici

Press conference on safe abortion in Armenia

In the frame of the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion, Women's Resource Center Armenia initiated a press conference with local media to raise the issue. Experts including reproductive health and rights expert, lawyer and disability rights expert participated in the press conference. The main topic of concern was the access to safe abortion for different groups of women, including women with disabilities and rural women. During the press conference, the experts raised the issue that many women in Armenia do not have access to safe abortion. Also, mandatory waiting period created new challenges for most marginalized women.

Women's Resource Center Armenia initiated a working group which joins different experts working in the field of reproductive health. The main goal of the working group to raise different issues concerning reproductive health and rights concerning different groups of women.

Source: [Women's Resource Center](#)

Gender Alternatives works with young people and women survivors of sexual violence to develop an online simulation game for prevention of online sexual violence and harassment

At the end of August 2017, Gender Alternatives conducted a second expert meeting for creation of an online simulation game for prevention of sexual violence and harassment against young people. The event is part of a sequence of meetings involving women survivors and experts who work in the field of prevention of gender-based violence. In separate workshops, the GAF team worked with young peers to draft the narrative of the game. Such parallel meetings are held in other 5 countries, part of the CONVEY Project - Counteracting sexual violence and harassment: Engaging Youth in schools in digital education on gender stereotyping.

The discussions focused on two plots which reveal the stories of young people who became victims of sexual violence. These storylines are developed beforehand by the youth peer groups, organized in the project countries. The task of the expert group was to see whether the stories reflect realistically the sexual violence problem and to what extent the plots break gender stereotypes.

The aims of the meetings are to create an online game that can unveil the factors linked to gender stereotypes and gender roles contributing to sexual violence and sexual harassment. The CONVEY team also will present awareness-raising videos (one per country) to be included in the online game and to be used as part of an advocacy campaign.

The project is co-funded by the Rights, Equality & Citizenship Programme of the European Union and it's being implemented by organisations in 6 EU countries: CESIE (IT), The Smile of the Child (GR),

Hope for Children (CY), Sexual Violence Centre Cork (IE), Gender Alternatives (BG), Westminster City Council (UK).

Source: [Gender Alternatives](#)

The first training on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Crises in Moldova

The Reproductive Health Training Center from Moldova (RHTC) with the support of Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection and UNFPA Moldova organized the first training in Chisinau titled as “Training on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Crises” between September 20-21, 2017. At this training participated 25 participants- representatives from national, rayon public health centers, and reproductive health cabinets from the Republic of Moldova.

The main aim of the training was to improve the knowledge and capacities of participants in delivering MISP for SRH, implementing GBViE actions and managing data and to design the activities that should be implemented in case of humanitarian crisis in order to reduce mothers and new-borns’ mortality rate, sexually transmitted diseases and sexual violence. In addition, one of the goal of the training was to know how work the system and if Moldova is ready to deliver MISP for SRH in case of humanitarian crises. Despite the fact that Moldova national legislation and policies contain provisions regarding the health sector for exceptional situations in case of public health emergencies and disasters, unfortunately, Moldova does not have a health coordination body in charge of emergency prevention and response in the health sector and a leadership structure in the SSR during the crisis.

The training was facilitate by the international expert Galina Chirkina from Kirgizstan and two national experts. The participants listened the experts’ presentations on the topics of sexual and reproductive health, sexual violence, gender based violence, mothers and new-borns’ health during and after crises. During the training, the national experts presented the MISP readiness assessment narrative report and the MISP National Action plan. Participants had discussed the action plan and gave recommendations.

The action plan and the MISP readiness assessment narrative report, which contains conclusions and recommendations, will be presented to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection. We think and hope that the report, the action plan and the recommendations from participants during the training will be heard by the local authorities and the necessaire actions will be taken.

Source: [The Reproductive Health Training Center](#)

Media and UNSCR 1325 Training Workshop in Armenia

During this reporting period Society without Violence NGO in cooperation with Global Network of Women Peace-builders (GNWP) has been carried out Media and UNSCR 1325 Training Workshop implementation for media practitioners from printed media, radio and television, as well as social

media. The training was aimed to introduce WPS resolutions to the participants, highlight the importance of its implementation and discuss the mechanisms of media coverage on this topic. 16 participants had a chance to participate in this workshop.

Source: [Society Without Violence](#)

Combating Human Rights Violations against LGBT people in the South Caucasus and Russia

SWV has carried out around 8 in-depth interviews with gynecologists, endocrinologists and urologists in health care centers of Yerevan and Syunik region aiming to find out discrimination cases against LB women and trans people in healthcare centers, as well as clarify the reasons for the discrimination and find supporters among the doctors who might be trustful partners for the further cooperation.

Source: [Society Without Violence](#)

Solidarity Network for LGBTI in Armenia and Georgia: Wrap up stakeholder meeting

The EU-funded action Solidarity Network for LGBTI in Armenia and Georgia has been implemented since 2015 by the Public Information and Need of Knowledge (PINK) and SWV in Armenia. The aim of the wrap-up event (September 28) is to share the achievements of the project and the lobbying activities carried out within its frames with a wider audience and discuss future prospects aiming to promote LGBTI rights protection in Armenia.

Source: [Society Without Violence](#)

GLOBAL UPDATES

Thousands march in Dublin calling for end to Ireland's abortion ban

Campaigners took part in the March for Choice in the capital's city centre, chanting: "Hey, hey Leo, the eighth amendment has got to go" and carrying banners which read: "Keep your rosaries off my ovaries" and "Parent by choice for choice". This year's march, the sixth in a series of annual events, was more significant than ever given the [recent confirmation there will be a referendum on abortion next year](#). The government recently set a potential timescale of early summer 2018 for a referendum on the eighth amendment, the section of Ireland's constitution imposing tight legal restrictions on terminations.

The amendment, which was voted into the constitution by referendum in 1983, affords equal rights to unborn babies and pregnant women and gives fetuses the right to life by law. Terminations are only permitted when the life of the mother is at risk, and the maximum penalty for having an illegal abortion in [Ireland](#) is 14 years in prison. Thousands of Irish women travel to the British mainland each year to have a legal termination.

Source: [The Guardian](#)

36th session of the Human Rights Council

The 36th session of the HRC in Geneva took place from 11 to 29 September.

Among the many debates and resolutions the Universal Periodic Review outcomes, including civil society statements, of Brazil, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Netherlands, Poland and South Africa will take place.

In support of the September 28 Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion, Sexual Rights Initiative, Center for Reproductive Rights and Ipas have developed a joint statement on abortion rights that was delivered under Item 8 of the General Debate on September 25th. The statement has been endorsed by 285 organisations from around the world. [See the Joint Statement on Access to Safe and Legal Abortion Globally here.](#)

Two interesting side events took place during the session. One by the Sexual Rights Initiative: We Persist – Using human rights law and standards to advance the right to access safe and legal abortion on September 26 and one by the Center for Reproductive Rights: Realizing Women and Girls’ Sexual and Reproductive Rights amid backlash on September 14, 2017 that included a representative of ASTRA Network.

Sexual Rights Initiative also delivered a series of oral statements on the ongoing debate and the UPR outcomes, see full list [here](#). Click [here](#) for a SRI summary of the session.

[List of reports of the 36th session of the Human Rights Council](#)

YOUTH

Presentation of the European Contraception Atlas at the Georgian Parliament

On 27 September, the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) and Association HERA XXI with the support of the Healthcare and Social Issues Committee organized “The presentation of European Contraception Atlas” at the Parliament of Georgia.

During the meeting a representative of the European Parliamentary Forum presented the European Contraception Atlas which is based on the assessment of 45 countries and was formulated as a guide for European countries on the accessibility to modern methods of contraception. Field experts from academic and medical institutions have also presented their visions regarding sustaining health by accessing contraception.

The goal of the meeting was the support of the accessibility to new methods of contraception. Awareness of contraception and reproductive health will let avoid abortions and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Georgia faces a high number of abortions and sexually transmitted diseases as it is difficult for women living in rural areas, the youth and other vulnerable groups to access family planning services, due to financial challenges when there is lack of free choice and alternatives.

Source: [HERA XXI](#)

International Day of Contraception in Macedonia

On the occasion of the 26th October International Day of Contraception the youth group of H.E.R.A. organized a panel discussion entitled "Youth demand - access to sexual and reproductive health services". Representatives from institutions, non-governmental sector, young volunteers from H.E.R.A., the executive director of H.E.R.A., doctors, and citizens participated in the event.

According to the organizers, young people must have control over their sexual and reproductive lives, so the goal is to raise awareness among the youth about the use of contraception and family planning, to about their rights and responsibility for their health. For the last ten years, the statistics have said that circa 60 per cent of the Macedonian population does not use any contraception, and modern contraceptives are generally inaccessible, expensive and not so much used. However, it would take less than \$ 100,000 a year to respond to the contraception needs of all young people in Macedonia.

Source: [H.E.R.A. Macedonia](#)

Ponton's first day of school street action in Warsaw

On 1 September the Ponton Group held a street action "I flee from FLE" (FLE - Family Life Education) in front of the central metro station in Polish capital city. The purpose of the action was to make the public aware of what is included in the new core curriculum of the Family Life Education school subject and to stimulate discussion about what should actually be in it. Thanks to the feedback from young people, the action was a huge success. The group received a lot of comments, the media uproar unleashed, and during the street action youngsters supported us with their suggestions for slogans and topics that should be talked about in school sex education. The majority of these slogans were the expression of young people of school age. The volunteers of Ponton say they greatly appreciate such engagement, that also lets them know what the society, and especially the young people expect from such lessons, and to what the government closes its eyes and ears.

Source: [The Ponton Group](#)

The Ponton Group held a discussion panel "Education v. Sexualization" during the annual nationwide Congress of Women

On September 9th, the Ponton Group of Sex Educators organized a panel on the sexualization of the youth during the IX Congress of Women in Poznan, Poland. The aim of the discussion was to consider the issue of how to promote a positive sexual development of children and adolescents. During the event the panelists tried to answer the following questions:

- what is sexualization and how its mechanism work?
- to what extent does gender determine the impact of this phenomenon on a young person;
- does the problem affect young children already in kindergartens?
- what kind of impact on the psychological and sexual development of teenagers can have the constant compulsion of sexy appearance and behavior?

- how do stereotypes intensify the phenomenon of sexualization?
- what does sexualization have in common with sexual violence?

The discussion was moderated by the Ponton Group's coordinator who's also an educator and trainer. The panelists included representatives of Ponton, the MamyGłos Foundation and EduKABE The Creative Solutions Foundation.

The organization of this panel was possible thanks to the financial support of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Warsaw.

Source: [The Ponton Group](#)

PUBLICATIONS

New study by WHO and Guttmacher Institute on International Safe Abortion Day

On International Safe Abortion Day, the World Health Organization and the Guttmacher Institute issued a new study on 'Global, regional, and sub-regional classification of abortions by safety, 2010–14'. The study concludes that 25 million unsafe abortions (45% of all abortions) occurred worldwide every year between 2010 and 2014; from these, 97%, occurred in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. For the first time, it includes sub-classifications within the unsafe abortion category as less safe or least safe. The distinction allows for a more nuanced understanding of the different circumstances of abortions among women who are unable to access safe abortions from a trained provider.

To access information on the study click [here](#)

International Safe Abortion Day Watchdog

To mark September 28, the Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion, Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights launched the [2017 International Safe Abortion Day Watchdog](#).

The Watchdog is authored, edited, and designed entirely by young people. In it, you will find photographs, essays, research, infographics, artwork, and poetry from all around the world, including: Pakistan, the Philippines, Venezuela, Ecuador, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Colombia, Turkey, Canada, Egypt, and Chile.

[Access the Watchdog here](#)

Publication about the Black Protest in Poland

We are happy to present a brand new publication about the Black Protest in Poland – a set of essays written by participants of the movement that happened one year ago. The essays are personal, intimate and honest testimonies that can bring you closer to the reality of Poland and women’s struggle for reproductive rights in all their aspects.

Access the publication [here](#) and learn more by clicking [here](#).

WGNRR & IPAS GLOBAL Launch “Resist & Persist: A Short Booklet on Global Abortion Advocacy Achievements”

[WGNRR](#) & [IPAS GLOBAL](#) worked with partners from the different regions and volunteer illustrators in the creation and design of comic strips that ultimately formed a Booklet. The goal of this project is to provide an accessible, user-friendly tool for individuals, activists and allies to:

- Learn about the diverse ways and strategies that groups, organizations and individuals have been using around the world in their fight towards access to safe and legal abortion.
- Draw inspiration & motivation from the diverse strategies used in the different challenging contexts.
- Discuss & strategize in focus groups/ discussion groups/community events how the different strategies can be adapted and replicated in their local contexts.

[Access the booklet here](#)

ASTRA Network Members: Albania - Albanian Family Planning Association; Armenia - Society Without Violence; Armenia - Women's Resource Center; Armenia - Women's Rights Center; 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; Bulgaria - Gender Education, Research and Technologies; Bulgaria - Demetra Association; Bulgaria - Gender Alternatives Foundation; Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo Open Center; Croatia - B.a.b.e.; Croatia – CESI; Croatia - Women's Room; Georgia – HERA XXI; Georgia – Real People, Real Vision; Georgia - Women's Center; Hungary – PATENT; 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 - Association for emancipation, solidarity and equality of women; Macedonia – H.E.R.A.; Macedonia – Shelter Center; Moldova – Family Planning Association; Moldova - Reproductive Health Training Center; Poland - Federation for Women and Family Planning; Romania - A.L.E.G.; Romania - AnA: Society for Feminist Analysis; Romania - Euroregional Center for Public Initiatives; Romania - The East European Institute of Reproductive Health; Russia - Novogorod Gender Center; Russia – Russian Association for Population and Development; Slovakia – Pro Choice; Tajikistan – Gender and Development; Ukraine - Women Health and Family Planning; Ukraine - Charitable SALUS Foundation; Uzbekistan - Future Generation

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Supported by the [Sigrid Rausing Trust](#)

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