

# BULLETIN

SRHR NEWS FROM CENTRAL  
AND EASTERN EUROPE

02/2024

A close-up portrait of a woman's face, looking slightly to the left. Her face is partially illuminated by a strong red light from the left, while the right side is in shadow against a blue background. She has silver, shimmering body paint or makeup applied in curved patterns around her eyes and on her cheek. She has dark hair pulled back and is wearing a black top.

Burning issue:  
**Join the EU-Wide Initiative  
“My Voice, My Choice” for  
Safe and Accessible Abortion  
Across the EU**

astra  
network

# Table of contents

Join the EU-Wide Initiative “My Voice, My Choice” for Safe and Accessible Abortion Across the EU!	<b>3</b>	Delays and Disparities: Challenges in Accessing Medical Abortion Services in Lithuania	<b>11</b>
Standing in Solidarity: ASTRA Network’s Support for Georgia’s Fight for Democracy and Human Rights	<b>4</b>	Exploring the Challenges and Realities of Women’s Reproductive Rights in Tavush, Armenia	<b>12</b>
Telemedicine medical abortion service in Georgia: an evaluation of a strategy with reduced number of in-Clinic visits	<b>5</b>	Beyond Borders: Uniting For Youth Reproductive Health	<b>12</b>
Advancing Youth Health and Wellbeing: Regional Forum in Gori, Georgia	<b>5</b>	RESOURCES	<b>16</b>
Historic Progress in Polish Abortion Legislation	<b>6</b>	UPCOMING EVENTS	<b>16</b>
New Kazakhstani Law Strengthens Protections for Women and Children	<b>6</b>		
Sarajevo Open Centre Advocates for Improved Abortion Access in the Western Balkans	<b>8</b>		
Report Highlights Systemic Barriers and Urgent Needs in Accessing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Roma Refugee Women and Girls in Hungary	<b>8</b>		
Parliament of Romania has adopted the law for the ratification of C190	<b>9</b>		
Empowerment through Self Defense in Schools and Universities in Romania	<b>10</b>		



# BURNING ISSUE

## Join the EU-Wide Initiative “My Voice, My Choice” for Safe and Accessible Abortion Across the EU!

More than 20 million women across the EU face barriers to accessing safe abortion care. This isn't just about a medical procedure—it's about women being able to make decisions about their own bodies and futures.

In countries like Poland and Malta, almost complete bans on abortion leave women in dangerous situations. In Austria and Germany, where abortion is legal but not free, financial barriers remain. And in Croatia and Italy, despite legality, accessibility is a significant challenge. These obstacles not only endanger women's health but also inflict economic and mental strain on families, particularly those on the margins of society.

That's why partner organizations across the EU launched The European Citizens'

Initiative “My Voice, My Choice”. The aim of the initiative is to ensure access to abortion for all individuals living in the European Union. Thanks to the project, they will be able to access this service in other member states where access is restricted, other than those in which they reside. The European Union will cover the costs through a special financial mechanism that supports health-care systems in EU countries.

Source: <https://www.myvoice-mychoice.org>

# **Standing in Solidarity: ASTRA Network's Support for Georgia's Fight for Democracy and Human Rights**

**Dear Georgian friends, partners, and colleagues,**

In these challenging times, ASTRA Network stands firmly by your side, unwavering in our solidarity and support. Your noble fight for civic freedoms and human rights resonates deeply with us, and we are inspired by your unwavering commitment to uphold these fundamental values.

The recent re-introduction of the draft law on Transparency of Foreign Influence is not just a legislative move; it's a direct assault on the very fabric of democracy. We vehemently denounce any attempts to stifle the voices of your people and curtail their rights.

As advocates for democracy and human rights, we understand the importance of standing united against forces that seek to undermine them. The concept of foreign influence, often wielded as a tool to propagate conspiracy theories and perpetrate human rights abuses, must be met with resolute opposition.

Your resilience in the face of adversity is nothing short of awe-inspiring. Your steadfastness serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us all of the enduring power of the human spirit.

As part of the ASTRA Network, we are committed to supporting you in every possible way. Your struggle is our shared cause, and together, we will overcome the challenges ahead. Stay strong, Georgia – we are with you every step of the way.

**In solidarity,  
ASTRA Network Members**

## Telemedicine medical abortion service in Georgia: an evaluation of a strategy with reduced number of in-Clinic visits

The acceptability of a medical abortion service that offers: a telemedicine visit (in place of an in-person visit) during a mandatory waiting period, and at-home follow-up with the use of multi-level pregnancy tests (MLPT).

Participants were screened for eligibility in clinic, and during the waiting period, received a telephone call to confirm desire to proceed with the service. Participants were mailed a study package containing mifepristone, misoprostol, two multi-level pregnancy tests, and instructions for their use. Follow-up consultation took place by phone to evaluate abortion completeness.

One-hundred twenty-two participants were enrolled in the study, and 120 chose to proceed with the abortion after the waiting period and were sent a study package. One participant was lost to follow up. The majority of participants did not experience problems receiving the study package (94.1%, n = 112), took mifepristone (100%, n = 119), misoprostol (99.2%, n = 118), and MLPTs (99.1%, n = 116) as instructed, and forwent additional clinic visits (91.6%, n = 109). All participants were satisfied with the service. Most participants had a complete abortion without a procedure (95.8%, n = 114).

The adapted telemedicine medical abortion service was feasible and satis-

factory to participants and has the potential to make medical abortion more patient-centered where waiting periods are mandated.

Source: The European Journal of Contraception & Reproductive Health Care 2024

## Advancing Youth Health and Wellbeing: Regional Forum in Gori, Georgia

In April 2024, Gori Municipality played host to a significant event aimed at bolstering youth health and wellbeing. Organized by the association HERA XXI and supported by the municipality's mayor's office alongside the international network YSAFE, the Regional Youth Forum convened to address critical imperatives outlined in Georgia's State Youth Strategy (2023-2026).

With a primary focus on enhancing youth health and wellbeing, particularly in sexual and reproductive health, the forum provided a platform for robust dialogue and networking opportunities. Stakeholders from various sectors, including youth, civil society actors, NGOs, policymakers, and others, came together to identify and tackle the multifaceted challenges faced by young individuals.

The outcomes of the forum are expected to have significant policy implications, serving as foundational material for advocacy documents aimed at raising awareness and garnering support

for youth-centric issues. Furthermore, the insights gained from the forum discussions will be instrumental in crafting recommendations tailored to address the identified needs and challenges.

Key advocacy topics included sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender rights, freedom of identity, and mental health challenges among youth. The forum emphasized the importance of proactive youth engagement in effecting positive change within their communities, highlighting the need for collaboration with local authorities and governance structures.

Notably, the forum ensured representation from all four municipalities of Shida Kartli, reflecting a commitment to inclusivity and diversity in youth discourse. This event underscores Georgia's dedication to promoting the health and wellbeing of its youth population.

Source: [HERA XXI](#)

## Historic Progress in Polish Abortion Legislation

On April 12, 2024, Poland witnessed a historic milestone as a parliamentary committee voted to advance legislation that could reshape the nation's stance on abortion. After intense debates and advocacy efforts, bills concerning the legalization and decriminalization of abortion will progress to the next stage of legislative scrutiny for the first time since 1996.

The Federation for Women and Family Planning played a pivotal role in this achievement, engaging with parliamentary groups and advocating tirelessly for enhanced legal provisions. With over three decades of experience supporting Polish women's access to abortion, the Federation stands ready to continue the fight for safe, accessible abortion services.

While today's progress is cause for celebration, the journey toward full realization of women's rights remains challenging. The Federation pledges to oppose any attempts to undermine their cause and will advocate for abortion to be legal, safe, and accessible within Poland's healthcare system.

As this milestone is commemorated on April 12, 2024, let it be known that the Federation remains steadfast in its commitment to championing the rights of women, ensuring universal access to abortion services in Poland and beyond.

Source: [FEDERA](#)

## New Kazakhstani Law Strengthens Protections for Women and Children

On April 15, 2024, the President of Kazakhstan signed the law "On Introducing Amendments and Additions to Some Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Ensuring the Rights of Women and the Safety of Children," which was discussed for a long time

among the government and society as a whole. It took a long time for the voices of civil society, human rights organizations, and, most importantly, the affected women and children themselves to be heard. Representatives of non-governmental organizations, the National Kurultai under the President, the National Commission on Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy under the President, the National Centre for Human Rights, and the Ombudsman for Children's Rights took part in meetings of the chambers of Parliament.

The main point of this law is the criminalization of domestic violence. One of the primary changes is that beatings and domestic violence, which were previously considered administrative offenses, are now classified as criminal offenses. This means that the perpetrators of these acts will be held criminally liable and subject to stricter penalties. This law also criminalizes, for the first time, sexual violence and assisted suicide against minors under the age of 16.

In addition to increasing liability for any manifestation of violence against women and children, the institution of the family and the safety of minors will be strengthened, and:

- Legal foundations will be established for the functioning of a contact center for family issues and the protection of women's and children's rights;
- The creation and operation of fami-

ly support centers to provide special social services to victims of domestic violence will be enshrined in law;

- Criminal liability has been introduced for inducing and assisting in committing suicide and for propaganda of suicide;
- Sexual molestation of persons under the age of 16 has been criminalized. Penalties for the abduction and unlawful deprivation of liberty of a minor have been substantially increased;
- For the first time, administrative liability has been introduced for bullying (cyberbullying) of a minor;
- The obligation of educational organizations to report immediately to law enforcement authorities on the commission by or against minors of unlawful acts;
- To ensure the safety of children under 16 years of age, a ban on forcibly disembarking them from public transportation in the absence of fare payment has been introduced.

In general, the law provides for amendments and additions to 15 legislative acts, including seven codes and eight laws.

Source: [NGO "Legal Center for Women's Initiatives "Sana Sezim" \(Kazakhstan\)](#)

## Sarajevo Open Centre Advocates for Improved Abortion Access in the Western Balkans

Following the [publication of research and campaigns](#) on regulation, availability, and abortion practices in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo Open Centre (SOC) has continued its efforts to network with civil society organizations (CSOs) and activists across the Western Balkans region.

Through a [series of meetings](#) involving activists from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, and North Macedonia, discussions have centered on strategies to enhance abortion access in their respective countries. Additionally, participants have explored methods to address anti-abortion narratives prevalent in the region.

SOC remains committed to fostering collaboration among CSOs and activists in advocating for reproductive rights and ensuring access to safe and legal abortion across the Western Balkans.

Source: [Sarajevo Open Centre](#)

## Report Highlights Systemic Barriers and Urgent Needs in Accessing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Roma Refugee Women and Girls in Hungary

A comprehensive new report by the EMMA Association, titled „And then we

reached the border: there were a million women!” Experiences of Roma refugee women from Ukraine with sexual and reproductive health care in Hungary- in the light of the EMMA Association’s Humanitarian Programme” examines the critical challenges Roma refugee women and girls face in accessing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

This publication summarizes the results of our qualitative interview research with twenty-one Roma refugee women. In all cases, we interviewed women who had an existing trustful relationship with at least one EMMA field worker. To get a broader picture of the situation of women, we not only focused on SRH issues, but also addressed other questions relevant to refugee women, such as the circumstances of their arrival in the country, the housing difficulties, their livelihoods, their attitude towards womanhood and their plans for the future. In addition to the interviews we conducted, we also relied on our own field experiences to provide a broader picture of the situation and stories of refugee Roma women.

### Key Findings:

1. Systemic Discrimination: Roma refugee women and girls encounter widespread discrimination within healthcare systems, leading to significant disparities in SRHR services.
2. Economic Barriers: Lack of financial resources is a major obstacle preventing access to necessary health services.
3. Lack of Information: There is a sub-



stantial information gap regarding the legal and financial framework of SRHR services among the health care providers as well as Roma refugees, exacerbating health inequalities.

4. Lack of Respectful Care: Healthcare services often lack women-centered and trauma-informed support skills, which discourages vulnerable populations from seeking care. At EMMA, we work in a spirit of equality and respect for human dignity. The women we support not only receive help, but also experience a connection where they are valued, and their unique situation and needs are taken into account. Our activities are not focused solely on meeting needs, but on building a relationship where women feel truly supported and accepted, through respect for individual dignity and values.

“I feel like she’s just like us. She doesn’t see herself as different, that she’s Hungarian or whatever, and we’re different or something. I don’t notice. She’s so compassionate” – Éva about her field worker.

The full report is accessible [here](#).

Source: [EMMA Association](#)

## Parliament of Romania has adopted the law for the ratification of C190

The Romanian Parliament adopted on Tuesday, 5 March 2024, the law for Ro-

mania’s ratification of the International Labour Organisation Convention on the Elimination of Violence and Harassment at Work (C190). This is the first convention to set international legal standards for preventing and combating violence and harassment in the world of work – standards that will now be applied in Romania.

In 2021, A.L.E.G. initiated the national campaign “Employers for Respect” for the ratification of C190. The gaps in the legal framework on harassment in the world of work and the poor implementation of the law are documented in this policy-brief published by A.L.E.G.

The ratification of C190 sets in motion a mechanism whereby the legal framework will be improved and its implementation monitored by the International Labour Organisation, thus complementing civil society’s efforts to get authorities and employers to prevent and combat harassment in the world of work.

The provisions of C190 apply to all categories of workers, including trainees, people whose employment contracts have ended and jobseekers. They apply to workers in both formal and informal economies. C190 is a strong tool to combat gender-based violence in the workplace, to address the impact of domestic violence in the world of work and to support labour inspectors, prosecutors and police officers in addressing cases of harassment.

Over the past year, A.L.E.G. has documented the impact of violence and harassment in the workplace, including on migrant workers. C190 calls for special attention to be paid to this category of workers who are at increased risk of harassment.

“This moment crowns two and a half years of collective and sustained work, in which we analysed laws, their gaps and their implementation, came up with solutions and asked the Government and Parliament, together with more than 40 NGOs and trade unions, to ratify the ILO Convention and put an end to violence and harassment in the world of work. The provisions of the Convention are legally binding and ratification sends a strong message that harassment in the world of work is unacceptable, punishable and will no longer be tolerated. We urge the Government to continue to work together with civil society organisations in the process of implementing the Convention and to enforce it. Notably, this does not stop at legislative reform but must include adequate training of all officers and institutions whose mandates include addressing harassment in the world of work,” said Georgiana Epure, President of the A.L.E.G..

The next step is for the President to promulgate the law and for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to submit the instrument of ratification to the ILO, at which point Romania will have to align its legislative framework, public policies and institutional practices with C190 standards. Our recommendations and those

of over 40 allied organisations in this endeavour can be found here. To date, 38 countries around the world have ratified C190.”

The information can also be found on A.L.E.G.’s website: <https://aleg-romania.eu/en/the-parliament-has-adopted-the-law-for-the-ratification-of-c190/>

Source: [A.L.E.G. Romania](#)

## **Empowerment through Self Defense in Schools and Universities in Romania**

ASTRA Network advisory board member Daniela Draghici broke the ice in Romania and taught a first Empowerment through Self Defense workshop at the Romanian-Finnish High School in Bucharest, as part of the Transdisciplinary Week.

30 ninth graders aged 15-16 joined the workshop, along with their homeroom teachers. They were hyperactive and enjoyed the 2-hour session, as it allowed them to blow off some steam and interact in a new co-ed manner.

They assessed the workshop as useful, important, interesting, enjoyable, and would recommend it to younger students, in secondary school, but also to their mothers.

Due to the diminishing number of Ukrainian refugees in Bucharest and therefore

the lower number of requests for Empowerment through Self Defense workshops that can be provided, Daniela is planning to diversify the audience and also train Romanian school and university students, based on the success of the workshop at the Romanian–Finnish High School. The next workshop is scheduled for May 10 at Gheorghe Șincai National College, to be followed on May 13 by an ESD workshop for the students of the National University of Physical Education and Sport. Moreover, she has agreed with the Mozaik LGBTQI+ association to offer ESD to their community, as they are frequently targeted and bullied.

The workshops are organized in partnership with ANAIS Association and with support from UNICEF Romania.

Source: Submission by Daniela Draghici

## **Delays and Disparities: Challenges in Accessing Medical Abortion Services in Lithuania**

Medical abortion is permitted in Lithuania as of 1 January 2023, by the Order of the Minister of Health.

Medication for medical abortion was registered in December 2022. The supply of medicines took a long time, and only in September 2023 the necessary medicines to terminate pregnancies have appeared in pharmacies. Women were not able to obtain medical abor-

tions since gynaecologists had no information for a considerable amount of time. Certain physicians wrote what are known as nominal prescriptions for women because they were unaware that the medications were already available and could be prescribed. This meant a greater time delay.

In April 2024, the Family Planning and Sexual Health Association conducted a survey of Vilnius City Municipality polyclinics on the provision of medical abortion services in Vilnius City polyclinics. It turned out that only 2 Vilnius City polyclinics provided this service. Doctors of one large polyclinic refused to provide the termination of pregnancy service, there are 7 gynaecologists working there.

Upon examination of the Vilnius city polyclinics; websites, it was evident that only one polyclinic had supplied details regarding the medical abortion service offered to patients.

The Family Planning and Sexual Health Association appealed to Vilnius City Mayor to ensure medical abortion services for Vilnius residents.

Source: [Šeimos planavimo ir seksualinės sveikatos asociacija \(Family Planning and Sexual Health Association\)](#)

## Exploring the Challenges and Realities of Women’s Reproductive Rights in Tavush, Armenia

In the Tavush region, a meeting convened by the Women’s Resource Center NGO brought together a diverse group of women from Dilijan, Ijevan, and neighboring villages, including two women displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023. This gathering underscored the multifaceted struggles women face in securing reproductive autonomy amidst broader socio-economic and geopolitical contexts.

The dialogue centered on three primary themes: women’s employment rights, perceptions of security, and the often-overlooked domain of sexual and reproductive rights. Within this framework, participants articulated a nuanced portrayal of the obstacles encountered in their daily lives.

A central concern voiced by the attendees was the prohibitive cost of reproductive healthcare services, disproportionately affecting marginalized groups of women. This financial barrier undermines women’s ability to access essential medical care, thereby exacerbating existing disparities in health outcomes.

In the absence of affordable options, women resort to makeshift strategies, navigating a landscape fraught with risks and uncertainties. While modern contraceptives are desired, they remain inaccessible to many, leaving them reliant on traditional methods or limited

choices such as the IUD.

Conversations surrounding contraception inevitably led to discussions on abortion, an issue characterized by stigma and secrecy. Limited access to safe and legal abortion services compels women to seek out clandestine options, exposing them to heightened health risks.

One participant shared a poignant account of being denied medical assistance for an abortion, prompting her to pursue unsafe alternatives out of desperation. Her experience underscores the dire consequences of restricted access to essential reproductive healthcare services.

Despite these challenges, the Women’s Resource Center NGO emerges as a critical support system, offering advocacy and outreach initiatives to empower women and dismantle systemic barriers.

In conclusion, the narratives shared by women in Tavush shed light on the complexities of navigating reproductive rights within the region.

Source: WRC Armenia

## Beyond Borders: Uniting For Youth Reproductive Health

On April 12-13, 2024, the 3rd International Conference on “Reproductive Health of Youth and Adolescents” took place in the city of Almaty, Kazakhstan. The conference, witnessed a remarka-

ble gathering of experts from various countries, each contributing their expertise to the discourse on pressing issues in reproductive health.

Namurova Gulidara Aldahischevha, a member of the Kazak Republic government, set the tone for the conference with her thought-provoking keynote address. She underscored the urgent need for comprehensive education initiatives targeting youth, citing Kazakhstan's alarming average age of childbirth at 16.7 years. Her speech resonated with the attendees, making everyone reflect on the broader global context and the imperative for proactive intervention.

The Kazak Family Planning Alliance (KFPA) received well-deserved recognition for their tireless efforts in safeguarding the reproductive health of the nation's youth. Their multifaceted approach, combining advocacy, education, and service provision, has been crucial in addressing the complex challenges faced by adolescents in accessing reproductive healthcare.

The conference program featured different topics, reflecting the complex nature of reproductive health issues. Sessions ranged from discussions on healthy fatherhood from a urology perspective, led by Dr. Nisanbaev Abdola Diusenbecula, to insights into the role of young people in national health programs, presented by Galina Eduardovna Cirkina from Kyrgyzstan. Additionally, Ukabasova-Talishin Muhadesovna provided insights into the impact of modern contraception on the repro-

ductive health of young women, drawing from her extensive clinical experience.

A highlight of the conference was the dedicated segment on Medical Abortion via telemedicine in the Euro Asian region. Dr. Rodica Comendant and Dr. Galina Grebenikova moderated discussions on this pioneering approach, which has emerged as a promising solution to address barriers to access in remote areas.

Dr. Comendant's presented "The experience of Republic of Moldova in offering Medical Abortion via telemedicine". During the COVID-19 pandemic, RHTC conducted a pilot study under unique circumstances. With the total shutdown of elective procedures, accessibility became a significant challenge. Surprisingly, as we began enrolling participants, interest surged, resulting in a fivefold increase in candidates. As a result, we successfully recruited 500 participants. Analysis of the gathered data revealed a success rate of 97%. This achievement validated the efficacy of our method and solidified its acceptance as a viable service delivery approach in our country's medical practice.

The array of subjects continued with contributions from our colleagues across the region. Dr. Dilfuza Kurbanbekova from Uzbekistan, spoke about increasing the level of education of women in protecting their reproductive health, shedding light on new strategies to empower women as agents of their

own health.

Next on the agenda was Dr. Baktigul Bozgorpoeva, representing our partner, the Kyrgyz Family Planning Association from Kyrgyzstan. Dr. Bozgorpoeva presented findings from a recent pilot study focused on enhancing access to medical abortion through telemedicine, a collaborative effort with Grand Challenges Canada. Her research revealed a satisfaction rate of 99% among study participants. Key factors contributing to this high satisfaction included the convenience of remote access, particularly noteworthy as many participants resided more than 45 minutes away from the nearest clinic. Moreover, the assurance of confidentiality provided by telemedicine was very important, allowing women to receive medication without the need for in-person visits—a significant consideration given the sensitive nature of reproductive health in familial contexts in the country.

Dr. Sholan Sharmuldaeva's - "Particularities of medical abortion via telemedicine and post-abortion contraception" spoke about the particularities of medical abortion via telemedicine and post-abortion contraception, offering perspectives on policy and protocol development in Kazakhstan. The recently approved protocol underscored the nation's commitment to advancing reproductive healthcare services in alignment with international best practices.

The conference's reach extended the participants of the venue, with over

2000 online participants engaging in the discussions. The exchange of ideas, coupled with the networking opportunities, reinforced the community's commitment to advancing reproductive health outcomes for youth and adolescents.

However, despite the of progress and collaboration, challenges persist in certain regions. Resistance to innovation from government structures and healthcare professionals underscores the need for continued advocacy and education. It became evident that further efforts and educational initiatives are needed to advance understanding and adoption of progressive approaches in reproductive healthcare. Consideration may be given to implementing financial incentives for medical professionals who are willing to transition away from traditional methods like D&C and embrace the utilization of medical abortion, including its delivery through telemedicine channels. Addressing these barriers will require complex strategies, including targeted incentives for medical professionals embracing progressive approaches to reproductive healthcare delivery.

On the second day of the conference, April 13, Dr. Rodica Comendant took the lead as the main trainer, accompanied by Galina Grebenikova from Kazakhstan as the moderator, for a master class on "Medical Abortion, the latest WHO recommendations." The session offered attendees a chance to hear the latest insights and guidelines

endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO). Throughout the class, participants explored a variety of topics, including a summary of methods for medical abortion, self-management approaches, clinical considerations such as contraindications, and pain management techniques specific to medical abortion. Additionally, the session covered induced medical abortion both at less than 12 weeks of pregnancy and at 12 weeks or more, as well as medical management for missed abortion and intrauterine fetal demise.

The diverse array of topics covered during the conference showcased the complexity of reproductive health issues, from discussions on healthy fatherhood to the role of young people in national health programs. The segment on Medical Abortion via telemedicine in the Euro Asian region shed light on pioneering approaches to addressing barriers to access in remote areas.

Despite the progress made during the conference, challenges persist, particularly in regions where resistance to innovation slows down advancements in reproductive healthcare. However, the commitment and dedication of the participants to overcome these barriers is evident, paving the way for future collaboration and advocacy efforts.

The conference served as a testament to the power of collaboration and collective action in addressing complex global challenges.

## RESOURCES

**1. “Pathways to Change”** by Center for Reproductive Rights is here to empower activists worldwide!

This resource is packed with inspiring case studies and strategies from 13 countries, showcasing how they’ve advanced sexual and reproductive health and rights. From Ireland to Peru, Kenya to the Philippines, these stories offer invaluable insights for advocates everywhere.

Download the publication here: <https://reproductiverights.org/pathways-to-change/>

**2. “Care in Crisis”:** The Center for Reproductive Rights, in collaboration with eight partner organizations, has released a groundbreaking report highlighting the significant barriers faced by refugees from Ukraine in Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. Legal restrictions, high costs, and information gaps are pushing refugees into untenable situations regarding their reproductive healthcare choices.

This report serves as a call to action, urging stakeholders to demand change and ensure every refugee’s right to essential care.

Read the full findings in collaboration with our partners: <https://reproductiverights.org/ukraine-report-care-in-crisis/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**1.** Talking about life skills, more comprehensively: A virtual civil society dialogue for reproductive health education:  
May 20th - 24th, 2024

[Registration](#)

**2.** Geneva Health Forum 2024: Established in 2006, the Geneva Health Forum (GHF) serves as a neutral platform for global health stakeholders, facilitating dialogue and collaboration to address worldwide health challenges: May 27 - 29, 2024

[More information](#)

**3.** Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly: The World Health Assembly, attended by delegations from all WHO Member States, serves as the decision-making body of WHO, focusing on determining policies, appointing the Director-General, supervising financial policies, and reviewing and approving the proposed programme budget annually in Geneva, Switzerland: 27 May - 1 June 2024

[Find out more about the event here](#)



# ASTRA

## Secretariat

### Foundation for Women and Family Planning

Nowolipie 13/15, 00-150 Warsaw, Poland

ph/fax +48 22 635 93 95,

[federa@astra.org.pl](mailto:federa@astra.org.pl)

[astra.org.pl](http://astra.org.pl)



### Follow ASTRA!

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[X](#)

[Linkedin](#)