



# **Society's responsibility to provide safe abortion care**

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## Globally, abortion is a fact of life

Regions/sub regions	No of abortions (millions)		Abortion rate (per 1,000 women 15-44)	
	1995	2003	1995	2003
<b>World</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Developed countries</b>	10.0	6.6	39	26
Excluding E Europe	3.8	3.5	20	19
<b>Developing countries</b>	35.5	35	34	29
Excluding China	24.9	26.4	33	30
<b>Africa</b>	5.0	5.6	33	29
<b>Asia</b>	26.8	25.9	33	29
<b>Europe</b>	7.7	4.3	48	28
<b>Latin America</b>	4.2	4.1	37	31
<b>North America</b>	1.5	1.5	22	21
<b>Oceania</b>	0.1	0.1	21	17



## Why so many abortions?

## Unintended pregnancy

More than a third of, approximately, 205 million pregnancies each year are unintended

- Developed countries  
23 million pregnancies, 40% unintended, 28% end in induced abortion
- Developing countries  
182 million pregnancies, >1/3<sup>rd</sup> unintended, 19% end in induced abortion (8% safe and 11% unsafe)



## Unsafe abortion

### WHO definition of 'unsafe abortion'

“a procedure for terminating an unintended pregnancy carried out either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment that does not conform to minimal medical standards or both.”



## Unsafe abortion

- 48% of all abortions are unsafe
- 18% of abortions in developed countries are unsafe
- 55% of abortions in undeveloped countries are unsafe
- More than 95% of abortions in Africa and Latin America are performed in unsafe circumstances

## Consequences of unsafe abortion worldwide

- Number of women hospitalised each year for treatment of abortion-related complications **5 million**
- Number of maternal deaths each year attributable to abortion-related complications **67,000 (13%)**
- Number of children who lose their mothers from abortion-related deaths **220,000**



“No woman should anywhere have to face death or disability for want of a safe abortion. Is there anyone who would disagree with the right of a woman not to die in pregnancy? Anybody? No.”

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for International Development





**Why can't unintended pregnancies be prevented?**

## Contraception not always available or acceptable

- Averagely fertile woman must use some form of effective contraception
  - for 20 years to limit family size to 2 children
  - for 16 years to limit family size to 4 children
- More than 100 million married women in developing countries have an unmet need for contraception



**But even when contraception is available,  
accessible and acceptable – **it doesn't always work!****



## % women with unintended pregnancy in first year of contraceptive use

	Perfect use	Typical use
Spermicide	18%	29%
Diaphragm + spermicide	6%	16%
Male condom	2%	15%
Pill	0.3%	8%
Depo-Provera	0.3%	3%
Implanon	0.05%	0.05%
Mirena	0.2%	0.2%
Copper IUD	0.6%	0.8%

source: James Trussell  
*Contraceptive Technology* 2007



**Safe abortion is not just about health but about the very fabric of society**

## **Society expects women to participate in public life**





**Society expects us to plan our families**

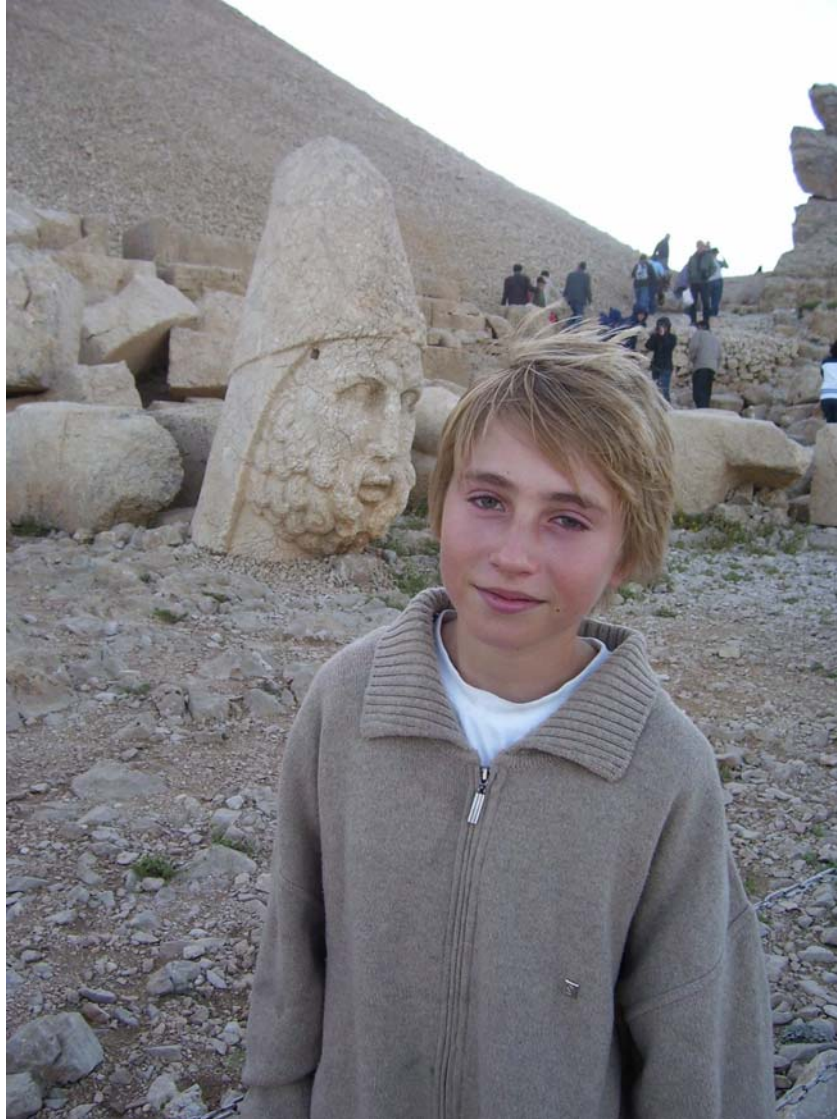
## Society values bodily autonomy





## **Society accepts sex is for more than procreation**







THE **PROBLEM** IS NOT ABORTION  
ABORTION IS THE POSSIBLE **SOLUTION**



**Thank you**

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