Networking to reduce the burden of unsafe abortion: The International Campaign for Women’s Right to Safe Abortion

Rodica Comendant, Moldova
Marge Berer, UK

c/o International Consortium for Medical Abortion

safeabortionwomensright@icma.md

Campaign Coordinating Team,
c/o International Consortium for Medical Abortion
at: Reproductive Health Training Centre, 20 Melestiu Str, Chisinau, Moldova
Rodica Comendant, in Chisinau, e-mail: comendantrodica73@gmail.com
• The number of deaths from unsafe abortion has fallen to 47,000 per year in 2008.
• In 2008, of the 43.8 million induced abortions globally, 21.6 million were unsafe, 98% of them in developing countries. (Sedgh et al, Lancet 2012)
• 5 million of those 21.6 million women each year had to be hospitalised for treatment of complications of unsafe abortion, (Singh et al, Lancet 2007)
• The number of unsafe abortions among total abortions has increased by about two million since 2003, mainly due to the increasing numbers of women entering reproductive age in developing countries, and without an accompanying decline in unsafe abortions of any significance. (Shah, RHM May 2012)
More than 40% (8.7 million) of the 21.2 million unsafe abortions in developing countries in 2008 were in young women aged 15–24 years.

Of these, 3.2 million were adolescents aged 15–19 years, and 5.5 million were aged 20–24 years. (Shah, RHM May 2012)
International Consortium for Medical Abortion

Who we are / Structure / Activities / Vision
ICMA’s mission and objectives

• Advocate for medical abortion in the context of safe abortion worldwide

• Advocate for the incorporation of medical abortion into public health systems and innovative mechanisms to make medical abortion available, accessible and affordable

• Advocate for laws, policies and regulations which make the provision of safe abortion possible
Affiliated to ICMA regional networks

March 2006
March 2008
June 2008
March 2009
ICMA’s regional networks

- Members of the Regional Networks are country based activists, doctors, researchers, lawyers, demographers and other key stakeholders are involved in country level work to improve access to safe abortion for women.
• A logical continuation of the networking at the global, regional and country levels
• A necessity to unify the efforts to respond to growing anti-choice opposition
• A wish expressed by several international, regional abortion organization, including the four ICMA affiliated regional networks
International Campaign for Women’s Right to Safe Abortion

Aims

• To build an international campaign to promote universal access to safe, legal abortion as a women’s health and human rights issue.

Objectives

• To promote the legitimacy of the right to safe abortion in all forums addressing women’s health and rights, including those reviewing the MDGs, ICPD, Beijing, the UN Secretary-General’s initiative for women’s and children’s health, and initiatives on safe motherhood and family planning.

• To make the impact of unsafe and illegal abortion on women’s lives visible.

• To commit ourselves to the protection of women having abortions and health professionals providing safe abortions, including in legally restricted settings.
1. No woman should be obliged to continue an unwanted pregnancy.
2. Abortion should not be restricted, prohibited or criminalised.
3. No woman’s health or life should be placed at risk because safe abortion services are not available to her.
4. Women’s human rights should be respected, protected and fulfilled
Achievements

After only a few months the International Campaign was endorsed by more than 620 groups and individuals all over the world.

https://internationalcampaignendorsement.crowdmap.com/main
We have created a listserve, for the Campaign (closed list, members only) and in 3 months we have sent more than 200 news, requests for solidarity, calls for action, ideas on what to organize for the 28 of September and campaign actions from previous years.

In the last month we disseminated more than 100 newsletters received from all over the world, NGOs, Global agencies, Campaigns, Movements, with planned activities for 28 September in different countries advocating for women’s access to safe and legal abortion!
Asia Safe Abortion Partnership

FUTURE PLANS:

• Strengthening capacity of ASAP as a network by recruiting more staff and ensuring training and ongoing mentoring for existing staff and membership.

• ASAP will strengthen its current communication strategy and expand its presence on social networking platforms

• ASAP will organize training and orientation programs for doctors and nurses from our member countries to have a gender sensitive and rights oriented approach to safe abortion while also ensuring technical updates based on the latest WHO guidance.

• ASAP will work on setting up and manage hotlines to give women information on Misoprostol.
Consorcio Latinoamericano contra el Aborto Inseguro

FUTURE PLANS

• Subregional workshops with public sector providers on abortion care
• Improving access to legal abortion for fetal malformations in Latin America
• Support for local initiatives in Latin America
• Update of abortion situation analysis in Latin America
African Network for Medical Abortion

ANMA’s key activities for the next three years:

• Strengthening of Staff and Structures
• Capacity Building of MA actors on the continent
• Strengthening national and regional networks on the continent
• Specific activities linked to the International Campaign for Women’s Right to Safe Abortion: trainings on updated WHO safe abortion guidance, etc.
FUTURE PLANS

• Develop a bank of resources for the Alliance, e.g. templates for petitions, letters to parliamentarians, ministries, etc. – as ”emergency advocacy tools” in EN and RU

• Encourage member countries to conduct public media advocacy events at local level and provide tools

• Integrate advocacy component in workshops & conferences with medical community. EEARC will use country level and regional meetings to bring together stakeholders for initiating dialogue on safe abortion issues

• Electronic advocacy campaigning on September 28 (annually) to observe the Global Campaign
The International Campaign has become a great step towards better collaboration and complementarity of all the efforts made.
To endorse and get involved in the campaign, please sign via the survey monkey at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CHH62F5
Please also follow us on

https://twitter.com/SafeAbortion1

and

http://safe-abortion-womens-right.tumblr.com