



## DECLARATION OF THE LATIN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE: PREVENTION AND ATTENTION OF THE ABORTION INSEGURO

The Latin American Consortium Against Unsafe Abortion convened the First Latin American Conference titled "Prevention and Treatment of Unsafe Abortion" in Lima, Peru, the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2009. An extensive group of health care providers, researchers, representatives of Ministries of Health, lawyers and activists defending the reproductive rights of women, including women's access to safe and legal abortion, participated in the conference.

The conference included an update on unsafe abortion in Latin America and a valuable exchange of experiences from an interdisciplinary perspective. This contributed to an alarming assessment that, despite significant advances in some countries such as Colombia and Mexico, the efforts of fundamentalists led by the Catholic Church hierarchy continue to have a profound impact in the region, including in Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, for example.

Unsafe abortion is a reality that affects the lives and health of women in the region: 11% of maternal mortality is associated with the practice of unsafe abortion (WHO 2007). And a large number of women, especially those who are young, poor and otherwise marginalized, suffer severe health effects related to complications of unsafe abortion.

Similarly, the high prevalence of complications from unsafe abortion constitutes an excessive budgetary burden to public health systems, draining funds that could be used to prevent and treat other problems vital to women's health.

Given this situation, those in attendance at this meeting declare the importance of demanding that governments:

- 1) Guarantee a secular State as the fundamental basis of democracy
- 2) Fulfill legal commitments and obligations based on the signing of human rights agreements and treaties that are binding for national governments
- 3) Fulfill the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), which established that regardless of the legal situation in every country, women with unwanted pregnancies have the right to humane and technically competent care
- 4) Guarantee women's access to all modern technologies and essential medicines recommended by the World Health Organization in all sexual and reproductive health services, including legal termination of pregnancy





- 5) Increase the availability of and access to objective and accurate information about the full range of contraceptive methods, including emergency contraception, as well as post-abortion care, making the safest procedures such as manual vacuum aspiration (MVA) within reach of women at all levels of the health care system
- 6) Fulfill the recommendations of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) in relation to the incorporation of misoprostol for obstetric use in national health systems, due to its contribution to the reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality.
- 7) Ensure and monitor that the existing laws, norms and guidelines that allow for the termination of pregnancy for a range of legal indications are implemented
- 8) Assign necessary resources to strengthen and expand services for legal termination of pregnancy for the permitted indications.
- 9) In the case of legislative changes that limit access to safe abortion services, demand the revision of these laws to allow for saving and respecting the lives and health of women

The participants of this conference wish to recognize:

1. The strong commitment demonstrated by health care professionals who have been leaders of initiatives consistent with their duty to respect and guarantee people's sexual and reproductive rights; in addition, we make a call to the rest of the community of health care professionals to assume their responsibility and join these initiatives
2. The efforts of the scientific community, which has played a fundamental role in the collection of evidence to support positive legal changes; and to urge those professionals to continue developing efforts to fill the information gap necessary to advance these changes
3. The commitment of activists to the defense of women's human rights, whose contribution to the monitoring of public policy has been essential to ensuring that more women have access to information about their right to reproductive freedom.

Similarly, we make a call to civil society to take responsibility for informing themselves and demanding respect for their human rights, in particular their sexual and reproductive rights.

Finally we make a call to the international community to mobilize to demand justice under the law in order to curb fundamentalist activities of those who, while calling themselves "pro-life," promote violence to the point of assassinating Dr. George Tiller, a dedicated American doctor who saved the lives of many women.





This conference allowed activists, health care providers, researchers, lawyers and representatives of Ministries of Health invited by the Latin American Consortium Against Unsafe Abortion, CLACAI, to reaffirm our commitment to the life and health of women in Latin America.

Lima, Peru, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Latin American Consortium Against  
Unsafe Abortion CLACAI

Sexual and Reproductive Rights  
Committee FLASOG

**Organizations that adhere to this Declaration:**

Argentina

Mujeres al Oeste  
Centro de Estudios Estado y Sociedad

Bolivia

Fundación ESAR Bolivia  
Ipas Bolivia  
Wiñay, Bolivia  
Universidad Mayor de San Andrés

Brasil

Centro Integrado de Salud Amaury de Medeiros, Brasil  
Comisión de Ciudadanía y Reproducción (CCR)  
Federación Brasileña de Ginecología y Obstetricia, FREBRASGO, Brasil  
UNIFES P

Colombia

Fundación Oriéntame  
Fundación ESAR

Costa Rica

Asociación Demográfica Costarricense  
Asociación de Ginecología y Obstetricia  
Asociación Mujeres en Solidaridad  
Casa Ames  
Colectiva por el Derecho a Decidir

Ecuador

Family Care International  
Fundación Desafío



International Consortium  
for Medical Abortion



Fundación ESAR  
Fundación de Mujeres Luna Creciente, Ecuador  
Hospital Gineco Obstétrico Isidro Ayora

#### Estados Unidos

Community Health Care, USA  
Gynuity Health Project  
Ibis Reproductive Health  
International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere  
International Women's Health Coalition  
Ipas  
Planned Parenthood

#### Guatemala

Asociación Apóyame, Guatemala  
Asociación Civil de Mujeres Apóyame, Guatemala  
Asociación de Mujeres en Solidaridad AMES  
Asociación de Mujeres Médicas  
CEIBA  
Centro de Investigación Epidemiológica en Salud Sexual y Reproductiva  
Manos Abiertas

#### México

Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir  
Centro de Atención Integral a la Pareja  
Fundación ESAR  
Fundación Mexicana para la Planeación Familiar  
Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida  
Ipas México  
Population Council, México

#### Nicaragua

AMNLDE  
Casa de la Mujer Mercedes Rosales  
PROFAMILIA

#### Perú

Asociación Familia Sana, Cajamarca Perú  
Asociación Mujer Sana  
Asociación Peruana Mujer y Familia  
Asociación Promoción y Desarrollo de la Mujer  
Ayni Desarrollo



International Consortium  
for Medical Abortion



Centro de Atención en Salud Vermell  
Centro Ideas  
Centro de la Mujer Peruana “Flora Tristán”  
Centro de Promoción la Mujer “Micaela Bastidas”  
Centro de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos PROMSEX  
Colegio de Obstetras de Piura  
Colegio Regional de Obstetras XII-Tacna, Perú  
Coordinación Nacional de Obstetras del Sector Privado e Independiente  
Foro Regional por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos  
Foro Salud Macro Región Sur  
Foro Salud Regional de Piura  
Foro Salud Ucayali  
Fundación ESA  
Humanidad Libre  
Instituto de Paternidad Responsable  
Medisol  
Movimiento Manuela Ramos  
Pathfinder International  
Sociedad Peruana de Obstetricia y Ginecología, filial Arequipa,  
Surbumi, Foro Salud la Libertad

República Dominicana  
Colectiva Mujer y Salud

Reino Unido  
Reproductive Health Matters  
Options

Uruguay  
Iniciativas Sanitarias  
RUDA  
Cotidiano Mujer

Venezuela  
PLAFAM

Organismos Regionales

Federación Latinoamericana de Sociedades de Obstetricia y  
Ginecología  
Ipas Centroamérica  
Red Latinoamericana de Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir



International Consortium  
for Medical Abortion



Red Legal Constitucionarias de Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos  
Red de Salud Latinoamericana

Otras Instituciones

Asociación de Mujer y Salud  
PIAFAM



International Consortium  
for Medical Abortion