

Forum: General Assembly 3

Issue: Enforcing women's self-determination in connection with reproductive rights on a global scale

Student Officer: Josie Riemer

Position: Chair

Table of Contents

- I. Introduction**
- II. Key Terms**
 - A. Abortion**
 - B. Bodily Autonomy**
 - C. Life**
 - D. Pro-Choice**
 - E. Pro-Life**
 - F. Contraception**
- III. General Overview**
 - A. Equality**
 - B. Education**
 - C. Gender**
 - D. Religion**
 - E. Sexual Violence**
- IV. Major Parties Involved**
 - A. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**
 - B. UN Women**
 - C. Amnesty International**
 - D. World Health Organization (WHO)**
 - E. United States of America**
 - F. Netherlands**
 - G. India**
 - H. El Salvador**
- V. Timeline of Key Events**
- VI. Previous & Possible Solutions**
 - A. Repeal Restrictions**
 - B. Contraceptives**
 - C. Family Planning Services**

- VII. Conclusion**
- VIII. Questions to Consider**
- IX. Bibliography & Sources for further research**
- X. Works Cited**

I. Introduction

The UN defines reproductive rights as women having “a right to choose whether or not to reproduce, including the right to decide whether to carry or terminate an unwanted pregnancy and the right to choose their preferred method of family planning and contraception.”¹ Reproductive rights affect women and those who are able to get pregnant worldwide. In many nations however, these rights are not accessible or restricted in some way. One of the most common ways that women exercise their reproductive rights is through termination of pregnancy, or abortion. These procedures are discussed in many nations due to concerns about when the fetus is awarded the right to life and whether or not the pregnant person’s life should be valued over that of the fetus. Many solutions to providing accessible reproductive care and abortions exist and will be evaluated in this report.

II. Definition of Key Terms

A. Abortion

Abortion, or the termination of a pregnancy, is defined as the removal of the fetus from a uterus.² An abortion can either occur naturally, also known as a miscarriage, or be induced through medication or a medical procedure. In high-income nations in which medical abortions are legal nine out of ten occur before 12 weeks of pregnancy.³ The number of abortions performed decreases dramatically after 12 weeks and in most cases late-term abortions, or those performed after 20 weeks gestation, only occur if the pregnant person’s life is in danger. Both medical abortions and miscarriages have been the cause of the restriction of reproductive rights for those who are able to get pregnant.

¹ “Rights to Sexual and Reproductive Health.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/shalev.htm#:~:text=The%20right%20to%20reproductive%20choice,of%20family%20planning%20and%20contraception>.

² “Abortion (Termination of Pregnancy).” *Harvard Health*, 9 Jan. 2019, <https://www.health.harvard.edu/medical-tests-and-procedures/abortion-termination-of-pregnancy-a-to-z>.

³ “Nine out of 10 Abortions Done before 12 Weeks in Many High-Income Countries.” *BMJ*, 9 Apr. 2019, <https://www.bmj.com/company/newsroom/nine-out-of-10-abortions-done-before-12-weeks-in-many-high-income-countries/>.

B. Bodily Autonomy

This term describes the ability to choose what is done with one's body. This includes decisions involving contraception, sexual intercourse, and healthcare. This is a basic human right that is not afforded to everyone around the world equally. It was suggested by a United Nations Public Fund report, that roughly half of all women do not have the right to bodily autonomy.⁴ This right also relates to reproductive health and in nations in which abortions and contraception are banned the right to bodily autonomy is also infringed upon.

C. Life

The largely debated topic of when life begins is one in which there is no consensus among scientists. The beginning of life is important in determining the right to a medical abortion as it must be decided at what point a fetus has the same right to life as the person giving birth. There are two main philosophies as to when life and the right to life begins. The first is that the right to life should be afforded at conception, when the sperm meets the egg. Those who believe this generally do not believe in allowing access to abortions, as it eliminates a human life. Some do however believe that if it saves a pregnant person's life, the fetus can be aborted. The second philosophy is that a fetus should be afforded the right to life at viability, or when the fetus is successfully able to survive outside of the pregnant person. Although there is no consensus on when viability is exactly, it is usually assumed to be around 23 to 24 weeks⁵, which is also around the same time that a fetus is able to begin feeling pain.⁶ Those who believe this, generally wish to afford the right to abortion to all pregnant people before viability and even after viability if it saves the pregnant person's life.

D. Pro-Choice

This is a term that was popularized in the United States and often used on social media. It is widely used to describe those who are in favor of affording pregnant people reproductive rights and bodily autonomy. A

⁴ "What Is Women's 'Bodily Autonomy' and Why Does It Matter?" *World Economic Forum*, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/03/what-is-bodily-autonomy-and-why-does-it-matter-for-women/>.

⁵ Cha, Ariana Eunjung, and Rachel Roubein. "Fetal Viability Is at the Center of Mississippi Abortion Case. Here's Why." *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 19 Jan. 2022, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/12/01/what-is-viability/>.

⁶ "Fetal Pain." ACOG, <https://www.acog.org/advocacy/facts-are-important/gestational-development-capacity-for-pain>.

common misconception is that those who state they are pro-choice are therefore pro-abortion. Pro-choice is the idea that a pregnant person can choose if they want to carry out the pregnancy and raise a child or if they wish to terminate the pregnancy.

E. Pro-Life

Pro-life is the opposite of the previously defined pro-choice. Those who are pro-life do not believe that pregnant people should not have access to abortions or contraception. There is also a misconception in this term. Pro-life implies that life should be protected at all costs, however, often those who consider themselves to be pro-life are often more concerned about the life of the fetus rather than the mother. In this case affording a fetus the right to life at conception restricts the pregnant person's ability to both survive and exercise their reproductive rights. This term along with pro-choice are polarizing in the discussion of reproductive rights and often pits people against each other.

F. Contraception

Contraception is a way to prevent pregnancy. There are many different types of contraceptives including medicine, devices, and surgeries. Most contraceptives are between 70 and 90 percent effective.⁷ In some nations when anti-abortion and anti-reproductive rights legislation is put into place, bans on contraception often follow close behind.

III. General Overview

A. Equality

In many lower-income regions and less developed countries sexual education is not as comprehensive or does not exist at all. This can in turn lead to higher rates of sexual violence and unplanned pregnancy due to a lack of knowledge about contraceptives and bodily autonomy. In addition, in nations where abortions are restricted or not easily accessible, lower-income pregnant people are more likely to receive unsafe abortions. Unsafe abortions are defined by the WHO as procedures that are either performed by untrained

⁷ *NHS Choices*, NHS, <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/contraception/how-effective-contraception/#:~:text=Contraceptive%20pill&text=than%2099%25%20effective.-,Fewer%20than%201%20in%20100%20women%20will%20get%20pregnant%20in,use%3A%20around%2091%25%20effective.>

individuals or in an environment that does not meet medical standards.⁸ In order to prevent this inequality, nations must make abortions accessible for all and provide sufficient sexual education to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

B. Education

One major issue often linked to unwanted pregnancies is a lack of sexual education. In sub-Saharan Africa two out of three girls “lack the knowledge they need as they enter puberty and begin menstruating”. This in turn leads to the pregnancy rate in East and Southern Africa being placed between 15-25%, one of the highest in the world.⁹ A lack of sexual education can also lead to higher levels of gender-based violence and impede on sustainable development.¹⁰ Although sexual education programs have been proven to benefit young people and give them a greater sense of bodily autonomy, there are many bills and campaigns in many nations to restrict and even ban these programs. Those attempting to restrict sexual education in turn restrict the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ people, usually due to concerns about straying away from “traditional and religious values”.¹¹ A relatively recent example of restricting not only sexual education, but also the rights of specific groups of people occurred in 2019 in Birmingham, UK. There, parents, mostly from religious institutions, protested outside of schools where their children were being taught about same-sex relationships and transgender individuals in their courses.

A quality sexual education involves giving young people skills and knowledge about their own health and empowers them to be able to make informed decisions about their bodies based on their rights. Comprehensive Sexuality Education or CSE provides a quality sexual education to youths and policies implementing this program, or policies that support this program, have been adopted in many nations. CSE is supported by UNESCO which helps to implement sexual education worldwide to protect young people.

⁸ Zafar, Hania, et al. “Low Socioeconomic Status Leading to Unsafe Abortion-Related Complications: A Third-World Country Dilemma.” *Cureus*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, 16 Oct. 2018, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6298628/>.

⁹ “Comprehensive Sexuality Education: For Healthy, Informed and Empowered Learners.” *UNESCO.org*, <https://www.unesco.org/en/health-education/cse>.

¹⁰ “Lack of Access to Sexual, Reproductive Health Education and Rights Results in Harmful Practices, Impedes Sustainable Development, Speakers Tell Population Commission | UN Press.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://press.un.org/en/2023/pop1106.doc.htm>.

¹¹ Council of Europe. “Comprehensive Sexuality Education Protects Children and Helps Build a Safer, Inclusive Society - Commissioner for Human Rights - [Www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int).” *Commissioner for Human Rights*, Council of Europe, 15 Mar. 2023, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/comprehensive-sexuality-education-protects-children-and-helps-build-a-safer-inclusive-society>.

C. Gender

When reproductive rights and abortions are discussed, cisgender women are usually in the spotlight, mostly because they receive abortions “more than any other group of people.”¹² However, they are not the only group of people that are able to get pregnant or receive an abortion. Intersex, non-binary, and transgender people have the potential to get pregnant in some cases and therefore also need to be considered when creating inclusive legislation for reproductive rights. It is already difficult for trans and non-gender conforming people to receive medical treatment, let alone abortions. In many states that have restricted or banned abortions, reproductive rights have not only been restricted for women, but also for LGBTQIA+ people. Inclusive language and destigmatizing non-gender conforming people receiving reproductive healthcare both help to provide equal access to abortions for all.

D. Religion

Religious and traditional values are often closely tied to abortion restrictions and bans. However, abortion is not against beliefs in some religions. In Judaism, for example, it is believed that a fetus does not have independent rights and is therefore not given the right to life until it is born.¹³ Therefore under Jewish beliefs, abortions should be allowed and the pregnant person’s rights should come before the fetuses, even in late-term abortions. In Islam abortion is forbidden. In some cases depending on the health and status of the fetus, as well as that of the mother abortions may be allowed under Islam. Abortions are not allowed after “ensoulment”, or the point when it is believed that life begins. Ensoulment in Islam is at 120 days gestation.¹⁴ In Christianity the word abortion is not mentioned in the Bible, however, many passages of the Bible are interpreted as meaning that life begins at conception and that fetuses have a right to life.¹⁵ These views are

¹² Facci, AC. “Why We Use Inclusive Language to Talk about Abortion: ACLU.” *American Civil Liberties Union*, 24 Feb. 2023, <https://www.aclu.org/news/reproductive-freedom/why-we-use-inclusive-language-to-talk-about-abortion>.

¹³ *Advocacy Resource Judaism and Abortion - National Council of Jewish Women*. <https://www.ncjw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Judaism-and-Abortion-FINAL.pdf>.

¹⁴ Al-Matary, Abdulrahman, and Jaffar Ali. “Controversies and Considerations Regarding the Termination of Pregnancy for Foetal Anomalies in Islam - BMC Medical Ethics.” *BioMed Central*, BioMed Central, 5 Feb. 2014, <https://bmcmedethics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1472-6939-15-10>.

¹⁵ Melanie A. Howard Associate Professor of Biblical & Theological Studies. “What the Bible Actually Says about Abortion May Surprise You.” *The Conversation*, 13 Sept. 2022, <https://theconversation.com/what-the-bible-actually-says-about-abortion-may-surprise-you-186983>.

also generalizations, as many who are religiously Christian, for example, believe in allowing pregnant people to access abortions. In the United States “one in four Americans who have had abortions are Catholic”.¹⁶ In order to implement effective reproductive care and abortion access, it is important to recognize that abortions are a highly personal choice and that one person’s beliefs should not interfere with others’ reproductive rights and rights to privacy.

E. Sexual Violence

In 2021, 1 in 3 women, around 736 million, experienced physical or sexual violence. After the impacts of the COVID pandemic and lockdowns the amount of sexual violence women face was also exacerbated. A leading risk factor for sexual violence is economic inequality. In lower income nations the prevalence of sexual assault is sometimes as high as 1 in 2 women.¹⁷ In addition younger women are more likely to be affected by this sexual violence. In the UK for example, 97% of women aged 18-24 have been sexually assaulted in their lifetime.¹⁸

Not only are cisgender women strongly affected by sexual violence, but LGBTQ+ people are strongly affected by this issue as well. “LGBT people are nearly four times more likely than non-LGBT people to experience violent victimization, including rape and sexual assault.”¹⁹ Due to stigmatization of this group of people violence against them is common.

For both cisgender women and LGBTQ+ people, sexual violence can lead to the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases as well as unwanted pregnancies. In most countries abortion is allowed in cases of rape or incest.²⁰ It is recommended by the WHO to allow for abortions to be performed in these

¹⁶ “There Is No One ‘Religious View’ on Abortion: A Scholar of Religion, Gender and Sexuality Explains.” *Colorado Arts and Sciences Magazine*, 24 June 2022, <https://www.colorado.edu/asmagazine/2022/06/24/there-no-one-religious-view-abortion-scholar-religion-gender-and-sexuality-explains>.

¹⁷ “Devastatingly Pervasive: 1 in 3 Women Globally Experience Violence.” *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, <https://www.who.int/news/item/09-03-2021-devastatingly-pervasive-1-in-3-women-globally-experience-violence>.

¹⁸ “The 97%: The Frightening Sexual Harassment Statistics Facing Women: Yip Institute (Opinion Article).” RSS, Institute for Youth in Policy, 6 Aug. 2022, <https://yipinstitute.org/article/the-97-the-frightening-sexual-harassment-statistics-facing-women>.

¹⁹ thisisloyal.com, Loyal J. “LGBT People Nearly Four Times More Likely than Non-LGBT People to Be Victims of Violent Crime.” *Williams Institute*, 5 Oct. 2020, <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/ncvs-lgbt-violence-press-release/>.

²⁰ “Law and Policy Guide: Rape and Incest Exceptions.” *Center for Reproductive Rights*, 18 Jan. 2022, <https://reproductiverights.org/maps/worlds-abortion-laws/law-and-policy-guide-rape-and-incest-exceptions/>.

cases. Less than 20 countries worldwide have a total ban on all abortions and these nations have been criticized by the Committee against Torture (CAT).

IV. Major Parties Involved

A. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

This part of the UN has its focus on human rights and is therefore involved in ensuring reproductive rights globally. The Special Rapporteur in this case monitors reproductive health in many nations and reports on the situation, to improve access to reproductive healthcare and decrease violence and assault against women.

B. UN Women

This organization provides guidelines for the treatment of women and their access to reproductive rights. They work together with nations and companies to better ensure reproductive rights and the universal protection of human rights. In addition they attempt to end violence against women and improve the standard of living for women around the world.

C. Amnesty International

Amnesty International states that: “Whoever you are, wherever you live, all the decisions you make about your own body should be yours.”²¹ They promote this idea by not only globally pushing for reproductive rights to be respected, but also for same-sex marriage to be protected by law. Amnesty also pushes governments to provide reproductive healthcare, sexual education, and contraceptives and to make them easily accessible. Additionally they fight against gender-based violence and discrimination.

D. World Health Organization (WHO)

The WHO emphasizes that abortions are an important part of healthcare for those who can become pregnant and have published reports on how to administer quality care for an abortion. The idea of an abortion in this case, not only accompanies the procedure itself, but also sexual education and information and after-abortion care. The World Health Organization promoting these reproductive rights also works towards

²¹ “Our Bodies. Our Choice.” *Amnesty International*, 31 Oct. 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/sexual-and-reproductive-rights/>.

achieving SDGs 3, “relating to good health and well-being, and 5 gender equality”.²²

E. United States of America

The United States is one of four countries in the world to have restricted abortion laws since 1994.²³ In 2022 the United States overturned *Roe v Wade*, important legislation that provided the constitutional right to an abortion.²⁴ Since the overturning of *Roe v Wade*, “Most abortions are now banned in 14 states.”²⁵ Access to abortion has polarized the nation and led to further human rights restrictions, such as restrictions on LGBTQIA+ individuals and contraception. Although in 2023 62% of Americans stated that abortion should be legal in all or most cases,²⁶ lawmakers continue to restrict access to these important procedures and often put pregnant people in danger and force them to seek out unsafe alternatives to a medical abortion.

F. Netherlands

The Netherlands sets a positive example for Europe in terms of abortion laws and reproductive rights. Pregnant people in the Netherlands are able to choose to receive an abortion up until fetal viability, at around 24 weeks of pregnancy. The pregnancy may also be terminated after this point if there is serious medical reasoning. The Netherlands also offers care to those who live in nations where abortions have been restricted or are not as progressive. In most European nations the abortion restriction falls somewhere between 10 and 14 weeks, making the Netherlands a safe option for those seeking an abortion.

G. India

²² “Abortion.” *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, https://www.who.int/health-topics/abortion#tab=tab_1.

²³ Sobol, Virginia. “With Recent Ruling, India Follows Global Trend of Liberalizing Abortion Laws.” *Center for Reproductive Rights*, 7 Nov. 2022, <https://reproductiverights.org/india-abortion-mtp-act-supreme-court/>.

²⁴ Frazier, Kevin, et al. “*Roe v. Wade* and Supreme Court Abortion Cases.” *Brennan Center for Justice*, 5 May 2023, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/roe-v-wade-and-supreme-court-abortion-cases#:~:text=Not%20under%20the%20U.S.%20Constitution,a%20constitutional%20right%20to%20abortion.>

²⁵ The New York Times. “Tracking the States Where Abortion Is Now Banned.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 24 May 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/us/abortion-laws-roe-v-wade.html>.

²⁶ Diamant, Jeff, and Besheer Mohamed. “What the Data Says about Abortion in the U.S.” *Pew Research Center*, Pew Research Center, 13 Jan. 2023, <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/>.

India is one of the many countries following the trend of expanding access to abortions. The Medical Termination of Pregnancies Act (MTP) put in place in 1971 allowed women access to abortions up to 20 weeks. In 2021 the act was amended to allow for some exceptions such as minors and rape victims to have abortions up to 24 weeks.²⁷ Married women were also included in this amendment of the MTP and were able to access abortions up to 24 weeks, however unmarried women were not. On September 29th 2022 India took a further step in making abortion more accessible and allowed unmarried women the same rights as married women.²⁸

H. El Salvador

In El Salvador currently all abortions are criminalized under all circumstances. The pregnant person is punished with up to 8 years in prison for receiving an abortion. In addition the medical professional, and any person providing financial or other aid to the pregnant person are punished with prison time as well.²⁹ Although no laws have been passed to change these strict bans, a case of a woman who was denied an abortion despite knowing she herself was not healthy and her fetus would not survive outside the womb. Many activists in Latin America see this as a monumental moment and as a possibility for abortion laws to expand in El Salvador and have the procedure be destigmatized.

V. Timeline of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1880	First female sterilization was performed by S.S. Lundgren in Toledo, Ohio. This method of contraception remains one of

²⁷ Saraswati, Bhumiika. "India's Top Court Rules Abortions up to 24 Weeks Legal, Regardless of Marital Status." *PBS*, Public Broadcasting Service, 29 Sept. 2022, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/indias-top-court-rules-abortions-up-to-24-weeks-legal-regardless-of-marital-status>.

²⁸ Sobol, Virginia. "With Recent Ruling, India Follows Global Trend of Liberalizing Abortion Laws." *Center for Reproductive Rights*, 7 Nov. 2022, <https://reproductiverights.org/india-abortion-mtp-act-supreme-court/>.

²⁹ "El Salvador's Abortion Provisions." *Center for Reproductive Rights*, <https://reproductiverights.org/maps/provision/el-salvadors-abortion-provisions/>.

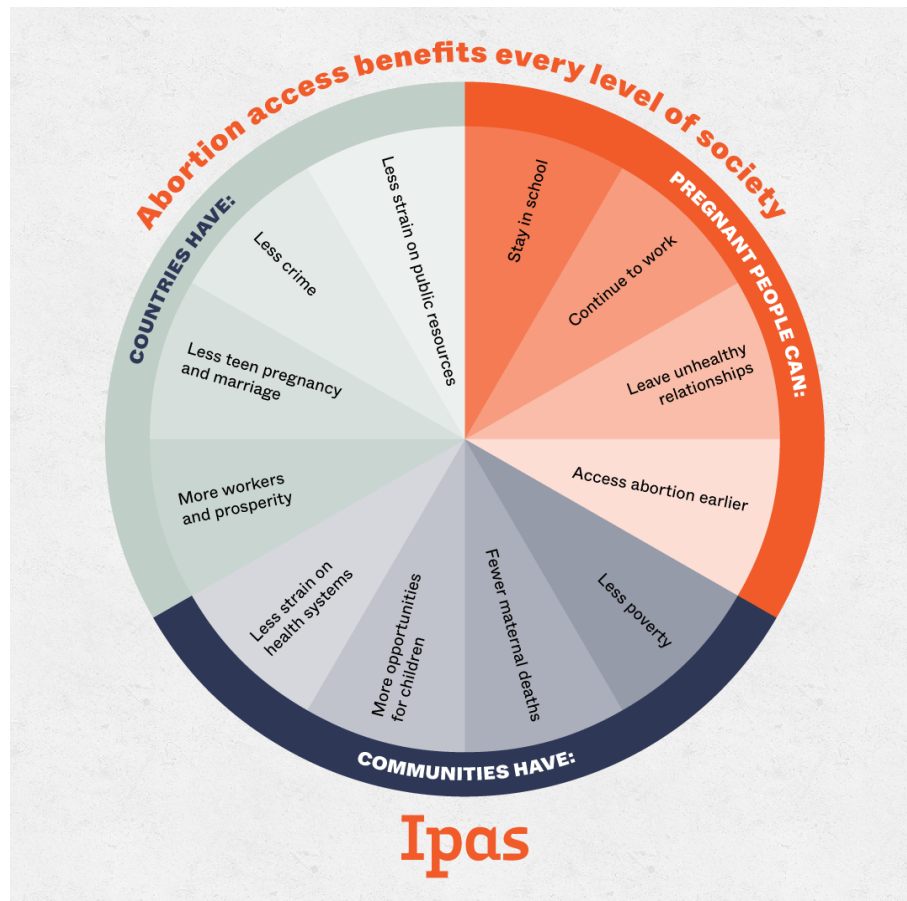
	the most common to this day. ³⁰
1950	The oral contraceptive pill, or <i>the pill</i> was introduced. It provided women with protection from pregnancy and a greater amount of bodily autonomy.
1920	Soviet Russia becomes the first nation to fully legalize abortion
1971	The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act was implemented in India to allow pregnant people access to abortions.
1973	Roe v Wade was passed in the United States and ruled that abortions were to be a constitutional right
1979	The one-child policy was introduced in China. This policy controlled the reproductive rights of Chinese citizens by penalizing those who gave birth to more than one child.
2006	Nicaragua became one of four countries to restrict abortions after 1994 by putting legislation in place that bans abortion under all circumstances.
January 27, 2021	Poland became another country that restricted access to abortions after 1994. A ruling in the Constitutional Tribunal made almost all abortions illegal.
June 24, 2022	Roe v Wade is overturned in the United States and many states begin putting in abortion bans and restrictions.

VI. Previous & Possible Solutions

A. Repeal Restrictions

³⁰ "Contraceptive Use by Method 2019 ." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3849735>.

In nations where abortions are restricted, a solution to consider would be repealing these restrictions. In nations where abortions are already legalized, improving accessibility especially for those in low-income areas or in difficult financial situations is important. Accessible abortions benefit not only the individual receiving the abortion, but also many other parts of society, as demonstrated in the chart below. As represented, pregnant people who

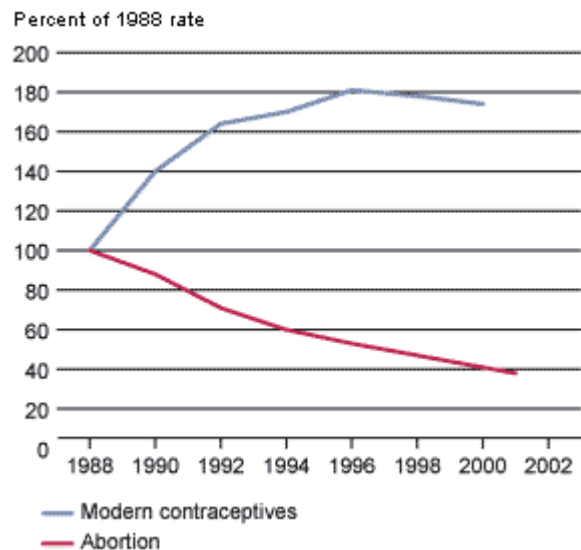


receive abortions can go on to continue educating themselves, working, and on the personal side, can also leave unhealthy relationships. Due to these factors in the individual, the effects on the community and nation are great. The continuation of education and working in people who receive abortions leads to more workers, less poverty, less crime, and more opportunities for children. Abortions also reduce maternal death, teen pregnancy, and child marriage. Overall abortions provide people who can get pregnant with reproductive rights that are beneficial to all.

B. Contraceptives

“In countries around the world, women who are determined to limit their family size and time their childbearing will use all available means to do so; if contraception is not a viable option, women will turn to abortion—even if it is

illegal.” If nations find that due to religious beliefs or other reasoning access to abortion can not be implemented, contraception in tandem with proper sexual education is also a potential solution. Russia is a good example of a nation that chose to promote contraception in order to reduce the abortion rate in their nation. Around 1990 abortions in Russia were over 100 per 1000 women of reproductive age. After promoting family planning and distributing contraceptives, the rate of abortion fell greatly and contraceptive use rose.³¹ This



dramatic change can be seen in the chart to the right. Clearly restricting abortions and access to contraceptives is not an effective solution, however, allowing access to contraception does allow women and people capable of pregnancy to exercise reproductive rights.

C. Family Planning Services

These services encompass many different aspects of reproductive health. In the simplest terms they help families decide how many children they wish to have, how they wish to conceive them, and when. Not only do these services help families have children, they also educate on sexually transmitted diseases and provide counseling and contraceptives.

These services are very important and work well in connection with CSE (comprehensive sexuality education). Comprehensive sexuality education aims to reach similar goals as Family Planning Services, but is less focused on helping adults get pregnant and more on preventing STIs and unwanted pregnancies in adolescents.

Both of these forms of education are rendered relatively useless without contraception, making access to contraceptives vital in this case. Ideally in order for all people who are capable of getting pregnant to have reproductive rights and complete bodily autonomy, these forms of education would be provided to all equally, along with contraceptives, and access to medical abortions.

³¹ Amy Deschner Susan A. Cohen, et al. “Contraceptive Use Is Key to Reducing Abortion Worldwide.” *Guttmacher Institute*, 30 Aug. 2022, <https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2003/10/contraceptive-use-key-reducing-abortion-worldwide>.

VII. Conclusion

In conclusion, the main ways that reproductive rights are exercised are through the use of contraception and the accessing of medical abortions. In order for nations to promote bodily autonomy among women and non-gender conforming individuals, quality sexual education must be provided, gender-based and sexual violence need to be actively reduced, and reproductive healthcare must be accessible to all, no matter gender or economic status. In this way, not only the individual benefits, as does society as a whole.

VIII. Questions to Consider

- Is abortion largely stigmatized in your nation?
- When does the right to life begin in your member state?
- What restrictions are in place on abortion and contraceptives in your member state?
- What possibilities are there to expand the sexual education program in your member state?/ What possibilities are there to make these programs more accessible to all?
- Are abortions considered a part of healthcare for pregnant people in your nation?

IX. Sources for further research

“The World's Abortion Laws.” *Center for Reproductive Rights*, 21 Apr. 2023, <https://reproductiverights.org/maps/worlds-abortion-laws/?category%5B1348%5D=1348>.

This source provides a comprehensive and visual representation of restrictions on abortion around the world as well as descriptions of what exceptions and laws exist to allow abortions in each nation. Not only is this map a useful resource, but this website also provides many important statistics and initiatives that are being implemented around the world in relation to reproductive rights.

“Rights to Sexual and Reproductive Health.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/shalev.htm#:~:text=The%20right%20to%20reproductive%20choice,of%20family%20planning%20and%20contraception.ion.>

This source gives an overview of reproductive rights, how they can be implemented in the law and what rights pregnant people have. This source also contains further explanations of how discrimination and inequality affect reproductive rights, as well as the importance of consent and family planning.

Richardson, Saren. “Beyond the Individual: Research Shows Abortion Access Has Widespread Benefits.” *Ipas*, 15 Aug. 2022, <https://www.ipas.org/news/beyond-the-individual-research-shows-abortion-access-has-widespread-benefits/>.

In this source, the benefits to allowing access to abortions are described. These not only include benefits to the individual, but also to healthcare services, workforces, and nations as a whole.

X. Works Cited & Bibliography

2022, 24 June. “Statement: Reproductive Rights Are Women's Rights and Human Rights.” *UN Women – Headquarters*, 24 June 2022, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/statement/2022/06/statement-reproductive-rights-are-womens-rights-and-human-rights>.

“The 97%: The Frightening Sexual Harassment Statistics Facing Women: Yip Institute (Opinion Article).” *RSS, Institute for Youth in Policy*, 6 Aug. 2022, <https://yipinstitute.org/article/the-97-the-frightening-sexual-harassment-statistics-facing-women>.

“Abortion (Termination of Pregnancy).” *Harvard Health*, 9 Jan. 2019, <https://www.health.harvard.edu/medical-tests-and-procedures/abortion-termination-of-pregnancy-a-to-z>.

“Abortion.” *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, https://www.who.int/health-topics/abortion#tab=tab_1.

Advocacy Resource Judaism and Abortion - National Council of Jewish Women. <https://www.ncjw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Judaism-and-Abortion-FINAL.pdf>.

Al-Matary, Abdulrahman, and Jaffar Ali. “Controversies and Considerations Regarding the Termination of Pregnancy for Foetal Anomalies in Islam - BMC Medical Ethics.” *BioMed Central*, BioMed Central, 5 Feb. 2014, <https://bmcmethics.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1472-6939-15-10>.

Amy Deschner Susan A. Cohen, et al. "Contraceptive Use Is Key to Reducing Abortion Worldwide." *Guttmacher Institute*, 30 Aug. 2022, <https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2003/10/contraceptive-use-key-reducing-abortion-worldwide>.

Cha, Ariana Eunjung, and Rachel Roubein. "Fetal Viability Is at the Center of Mississippi Abortion Case. Here's Why." *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 19 Jan. 2022, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/12/01/what-is-viability/>.

Chavula, Malizgani Paul, et al. "Factors Influencing the Integration of Comprehensive Sexuality Education into Educational Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review - Reproductive Health." *BioMed Central*, BioMed Central, 19 Jan. 2023, <https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12978-022-01504-9>.

"Comprehensive Sexuality Education: For Healthy, Informed and Empowered Learners." *UNESCO.org*, <https://www.unesco.org/en/health-education/cse>.

"Contraceptive Use by Method 2019 ." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3849735>.

Council of Europe. "Comprehensive Sexuality Education Protects Children and Helps Build a Safer, Inclusive Society - Commissioner for Human Rights - [Www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)." *Commissioner for Human Rights*, Council of Europe, 15 Mar. 2023, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/comprehensive-sexuality-education-protects-children-and-helps-build-a-safer-inclusive-society>.

"Devastatingly Pervasive: 1 in 3 Women Globally Experience Violence." *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, <https://www.who.int/news/item/09-03-2021-devastatingly-pervasive-1-in-3-women-globally-experience-violence>.

Diamant, Jeff, and Besheer Mohamed. "What the Data Says about Abortion in the U.S." *Pew Research Center*, Pew Research Center, 13 Jan. 2023, <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/>.

"El Salvador's Abortion Provisions." *Center for Reproductive Rights*, <https://reproductiverights.org/maps/provision/el-salvadors-abortion-provisions/>.

Facci, AC. "Why We Use Inclusive Language to Talk about Abortion: ACLU." *American Civil Liberties Union*, 24 Feb. 2023, <https://www.aclu.org/news/reproductive-freedom/why-we-use-inclusive-language-to-talk-about-abortion>.

Female Sterilization: A Centennial Conference - JSTOR. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2134767>.

Feng, Emily. "China's Former 1-Child Policy Continues to Haunt Families." *NPR*, NPR, 4 July 2021, <https://www.npr.org/2021/06/21/1008656293/the-legacy-of-the-lasting-effects-of-chinas-1-child-policy>.

Frazier, Kevin, et al. "Roe v. Wade and Supreme Court Abortion Cases." *Brennan Center for Justice*, 5 May 2023, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/roe-v-wade-and-supreme-court-abortion-cases#:~:text=Not%20under%20the%20U.S.%20Constitution,a%20constitutional%20right%20to%20abortion.>

"'Historic Moment' as El Salvador Abortion Case Fuels Hopes for Expanded Access across Latin America." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 24 Mar. 2023, [https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/mar/24/historic-moment-as-el-salvador-abortion-case-fuels-hopes-for-expanded-access-across-latin-america.](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/mar/24/historic-moment-as-el-salvador-abortion-case-fuels-hopes-for-expanded-access-across-latin-america)

"Lack of Access to Sexual, Reproductive Health Education and Rights Results in Harmful Practices, Impedes Sustainable Development, Speakers Tell Population Commission | UN Press." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://press.un.org/en/2023/pop1106.doc.htm>.

"Law and Policy Guide: Rape and Incest Exceptions." *Center for Reproductive Rights*, 18 Jan. 2022, <https://reproductiverights.org/maps/worlds-abortion-laws/law-and-policy-guide-rape-and-incest-exceptions/>.

Manaev, Georgy. "History of Abortions – from Imperial Russia to the USSR." *Russia Beyond*, 10 Apr. 2021, <https://www.rbth.com/history/333651-history-of-abortions-russia-ussr>.

Melanie A. Howard Associate Professor of Biblical & Theological Studies. "What the Bible Actually Says about Abortion May Surprise You." *The Conversation*, 13 Sept. 2022, <https://theconversation.com/what-the-bible-actually-says-about-abortion-may-surprise-you-186983>.

Ministerie van Algemene Zaken. "Abortion." *Government.nl*, Ministerie Van Algemene Zaken, 20 Jan. 2023, <https://www.government.nl/topics/abortion>.

The New York Times. "Tracking the States Where Abortion Is Now Banned." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 24 May 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/us/abortion-laws-roe-v-wade.html>.

NHS *Choices*, NHS, <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/contraception/how-effective-contraception/#:~:text=Contraceptive%20pill&text=than%2099%25%20effective.,Fewer%20than%201%20in%20100%20women%20will%20get%20pregnant%20in,use%3A%20around%2091%25%20effective.>

"Nicaragua: Abortion Ban Threatens Health and Lives." *Human Rights Watch*, 28 Oct. 2020, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/07/31/nicaragua-abortion-ban-threatens-health-and-lives#:~:text=In%202006%2C%20Nicaragua%20adopted%20a,pregnancies%2C%20or%20severe%20fetal%20impairment.>

"Nine out of 10 Abortions Done before 12 Weeks in Many High-Income Countries." *BMJ*, 9 Apr. 2019, <https://www.bmj.com/company/newsroom/nine-out-of-10-abortions-done-before-12-weeks-in-many-high-income-countries/>.

"Our Bodies. Our Choice." *Amnesty International*, 31 Oct. 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/sexual-and-reproductive-rights/>.

“Providing Quality Family Planning Services.” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 27 Mar. 2023, <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/contraception/qfp.htm>.

“Regression on Abortion Harms Women in Poland.” *Human Rights Watch*, 26 Jan. 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/01/26/regression-abortion-harms-women-poland>.

Richardson, Saren. “Beyond the Individual: Research Shows Abortion Access Has Widespread Benefits.” *Ipas*, 15 Aug. 2022, <https://www.ipas.org/news/beyond-the-individual-research-shows-abortion-access-has-widespread-benefits/>.

“Rights to Sexual and Reproductive Health.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/shalev.htm#:~:text=The%20right%20to%20reproductive%20choice,of%20family%20planning%20and%20contraception>.

RightToLifeUK. “What Are the Abortion Time Limits in EU Countries?” *Right To Life UK*, 7 June 2022, <https://righttolife.org.uk/what-are-the-abortion-time-limits-in-eu-countries>.

“Roe v. Wade.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 4 May 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Roe-v-Wade>.

Rummler, Orion. “Abuse, Discrimination, Exclusion: Transgender Men Explain Domino Effect of Losing Reproductive Care Post-Roe.” *The 19th*, 5 July 2022, <https://19thnews.org/2022/07/abortion-transgender-men-nonbinary-reproductive-rights/>.

Saraswati, Bhumika. “India's Top Court Rules Abortions up to 24 Weeks Legal, Regardless of Marital Status.” *PBS*, Public Broadcasting Service, 29 Sept. 2022, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/indias-top-court-rules-abortions-up-to-24-weeks-legal-regardless-of-marital-status>.

Sobol, Virginia. “With Recent Ruling, India Follows Global Trend of Liberalizing Abortion Laws.” *Center for Reproductive Rights*, 7 Nov. 2022, <https://reproductiverights.org/india-abortion-mtp-act-supreme-court/>.

“Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health.” *OHCHR*, 3 May 2023, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-health>.

Summary - Reproductive Health in Developing Countries - NCBI Bookshelf. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK233272/>.

“There Is No One 'Religious View' on Abortion: A Scholar of Religion, Gender and Sexuality Explains.” *Colorado Arts and Sciences Magazine*, 24 June 2022, <https://www.colorado.edu/asmagazine/2022/06/24/there-no-one-religious-view-abortion-scholar-religion-gender-and-sexuality-explains>.

thisisloyal.com, Loyal |. “LGBT People Nearly Four Times More Likely than Non-LGBT People to Be Victims of Violent Crime.” *Williams Institute*, 5 Oct. 2020, <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/ncvs-lgbt-violence-press-release/>.

“What Is Women's 'Bodily Autonomy' and Why Does It Matter?” *World Economic Forum*, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/03/what-is-bodily-autonomy-and-why-does-it-matter-for-women/>.

"The World's Abortion Laws." *Center for Reproductive Rights*, 21 Apr. 2023, <https://reproductiverights.org/maps/worlds-abortion-laws/?category%5B1348%5D=1348>.

Zafar, Hania, et al. "Low Socioeconomic Status Leading to Unsafe Abortion-Related Complications: A Third-World Country Dilemma." *Cureus*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, 16 Oct. 2018, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6298628/>.