

Bangkok Declaration 2010 on Women's Health and Unsafe Abortion

**Bangkok, Thailand
On 23rd January 2010**

We participants, from a wide range of health professionals of more than 62 nations across the globe at the First IWAC 2010, declared the following:

We believe that:

- Unsafe abortion is both a public health and a women's rights issue.
- Every woman should have a free choice over whether to continue her pregnancy or to terminate it.
- A safe and appropriate method of termination of pregnancy should be made available to every woman requesting to end a pregnancy.
- A new approach should be initiated in countries where the "abortion related laws" are rigid and ignore the fundamental rights of women.

We understand that:

- All women, especially teens and adolescents need to receive clear and accurate information and knowledge about basic reproduction and reproductive health issues to avoid unintended pregnancies.
- Unsafe abortion is completely preventable provided societies decide to do so. The most effective way to prevent unsafe abortion is to provide safe abortion services. This has been documented in those countries where abortion was legalized and accessible.

We call on:

- All developed and developing countries to work hand in hand, to provide techniques, regulations and funding to eliminate unsafe abortions.
- Women's groups and NGOs working for women's health to empower women to achieve gender equality in society.
- All governments should pay more attention to the issue of unsafe abortion.
- All governments should significantly increase funding to prevent unsafe abortion.

We encourage:

- All countries experiencing unsafe abortion to work together and learn from each other's approach to tackling the issue.
- Those countries which have been successful in reducing unsafe abortion to share and/or disseminate their experiences with other countries.

We respect:

- The rights of each individual woman to access *safe* abortion care.

**IWAC 2010
Bangkok, THAILAND**