



MEDIA RELEASE

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The National Progressive Primary Health Care Network supports a woman's right to choice which includes abortion on demand taking into account high rates of maternal morbidity and mortality.

Maternal deaths have very serious consequences within the family, given the crucial role of the mother for her children's health and welfare.

We are profoundly disturbed by the large number of illegal abortions that occur annually in the country and the tragedy that follows when many of the women undergoing the procedure die as a result of complications. Equally tragic is the large number of unwanted children born into lives of abuse and neglect in a society that has yet to unequivocally protect and provide adequate resources to ensure the health and well-being of its children.

We have begun to build a society where women are in control of their lives, all facets of their lives, including sexuality and reproduction, and which values and cares for all its children.

But until then the reality of abortion needs to be confronted.

From a public health perspective unsafe abortion and all the complication's of sepsis, blocked tubes, excessive bleeding and death needs to be redressed within a framework of public health not one of criminality and morality.

The Network supports the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Standing Committee and applauds the Government in it's efforts to ensure that the necessary legislative changes are part of a comprehensive package to improve the quality of women's lives and which will ultimately lead to the improvement of the status of women in our society.

These changes are additionally supported in light of the advances being made in Primary Health Care in our country which will bring about major changes in making services for women and adolescents more accessible and user - friendly.

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