



INTERNATIONAL SAFE ABORTION DAY AT SHARE-NET NETHERLANDS

Introduction

Throughout the world, barriers continue to undermine access to safe and legal abortion care. By disproportionately harming low-income and marginalized communities, these laws and policies exacerbate social inequality. Today, on September 28th, 2021, Share-Net Netherlands joins the worldwide demand to remove all laws and policies restricting the right to safe abortion.

This overview provides you with more information about some of Share-Net Netherlands members' and partners' efforts and activities to make unsafe abortion history and some resources amplifying the dialogue on abortion!

CENTER *for* REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

For nearly 30 years, the Center for Reproductive Rights and its partners have used game-changing litigation and legal advocacy work to transform how reproductive rights are understood by courts, governments, and human rights bodies worldwide. Active in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean and the US, and at the United Nations, the Center has successfully advanced legal and health standards to protect and advance access to safe abortion care as a fundamental human right.

In recognition of International Safe Abortion Day 2021, the Center's Global Legal Program will be engaging in global and national activities to advance safe abortion. Two are briefly highlighted below:

- Globally, they are partnering with others to push for the right to safe abortion in the annual 28 September campaign, which includes the call for all countries to remove laws and policies restricting access to safe abortion; to decriminalize abortion by expanding legal grounds, increasing the upper time limits, removing barriers and third party approval: www.september28.org
- In Kenya, they are urging the government to implement the constitutional reforms which are necessary to address unsafe abortion and end preventable maternal deaths: [Implement Constitution to end preventable maternal deaths](#)

For more detailed information about their current efforts to Make Unsafe Abortion History, please visit their website: [Center for Reproductive Rights](#).



In the Netherlands even when you have no legal permit to stay you have the right to health care. This is possible through the 'CAK' regulation, under which health care providers can declare the costs when they provide health care which falls under the basic Dutch health insurance law (Zorgverzekeringswet). However, abortion care in the Netherlands is not covered in the basic Dutch health insurance. This means that this form of necessary care for undocumented women is restricted unless women pay for this themselves. This is often not an option in their position.

In light of this, [Doctors of the World Netherlands](#) started in 2018 in Amsterdam with special consultation hours for undocumented women, in which education is provided and nearly costless fitting contraceptive methods are offered. The aim is to prevent an unwanted pregnancy and to let women themselves decide if they want to have a child and when. This year we expanded this consultation to The Hague. In case of an unwanted pregnancy occurring we help mediate women to care, among others by working with Women on Waves. Our goal is that mediation in the future would not be necessary anymore, by advocating that the government makes abortion care available to all women. Everyone should have the right to safe abortion health care in The Netherlands **#makeunsafeabortionhistory.**



Iпас works globally to expand access to abortion and contraception.

Our member organisation, Iпас, invite you to engage with their "Chats with Changemakers" series where they are connecting with artists and activists in the reproductive justice space. Follow their Instagram to join the conversation: [@ipasorg](https://www.instagram.com/ipasorg).

“

Abortion bans are backed by a very well-funded movement, with some of the most adept legal minds trying to figure out how to do exactly what we've seen done.

”



Michele Goodwin
Award-winning author, advocate,
professor and social commentator

CHATS WITH
CHANGEMAKERS



Abortion with pills allows a woman to manage as much of the abortion process as she wants on her own, with or without the involvement of a health provider.



Source: [Iпасorg](https://www.instagram.com/ipasorg) (Instagram)

Illustration by Marcita Leite, art director for
www.ipas.org/AbortionWithPills Source: [Iпасorg](https://www.instagram.com/ipasorg) (Instagram)

Rutgers

For sexual and
reproductive health
and rights

Research by Rutgers shows COVID-19 measures led to unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions.

Services were not or hardly accessible for young people. 30% of young women reported not being able to access the family planning services they needed. STI and HIV testing and clinics, as well as safe abortion care, were also less available. Half of all young people missed reliable information about sex and COVID-19. They resorted to online sources, such as social media groups, which they were uncertain they could trust.

Through the [She Makes Her Safe Choice](#) programme, our member organisation, Rutgers, works to reduce the devastating numbers of unsafe abortions and related deaths by providing women with a safe choice. Rutgers invites you to engage with their International Safe Abortion Day 2021 activities. Follow their Twitter to join the conversation: [@Rutgers INTL](#).



 **30%**
of young women were not
able to access the family
planning services they
needed due to COVID-19.

Source: Rutgers International (website)



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Europe

In 2020, PSI reached over 1.7 million users with post-abortion care (PAC) and safe abortion care.

They did so by putting more care and control directly into users' hands—by amplifying access to high-quality products and services, reaching abortion seekers with needed information and support, and building a stronger enabling environment for SRH and rights. Explore their impact, approach and learnings [here](#).

Our member organisation, PSI-Europe, invites you to explore their story map that captures safe abortion and post-abortion care adaptations across multiple implementing organisations. They also invite other implementing organisations to add their story to the map! You can find the interactive map here: [Explore the Map](#). Follow their Twitter to join the conversation: [@PSIimpact](#).



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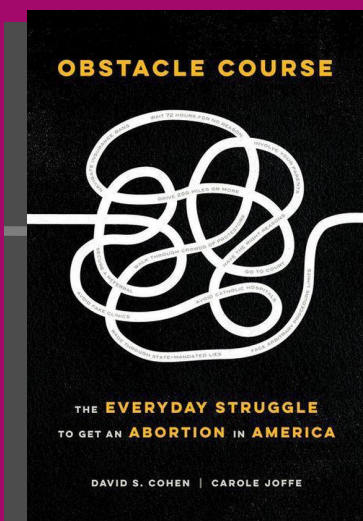
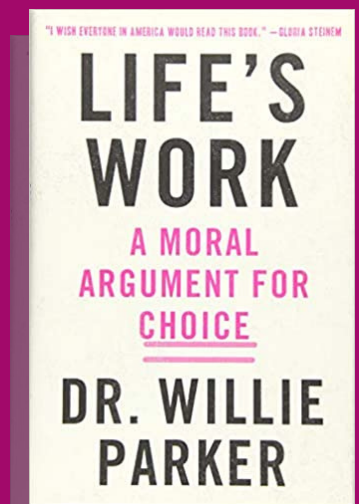
IN BENIN, WE
ADAPTED OUR
**SAFE ABORTION
WORK TO ENSURE
THE CONTINUITY
OF CARE DURING
COVID-19.**



Recommended resources from the Share-Net Netherlands Community of Practice on Contraception & Abortion

Books

"*Life's Work* by Dr. Willie Parker takes you on the journey of a Christian abortion provider by pulling from his personal and professional journeys, as well as the scientific training he received as a doctor to reveal how he came to believe, unequivocally, that helping women in need, without judgment, is precisely the Christian thing to do."



'*Obstacle Course* by David S. Cohen and Carole Joffe tells the story of abortion in America, capturing a disturbing reality of insurmountable barriers people face when trying to exercise their legal rights to medical services.'



Podcasts

"This podcast gives a really nice overview of the state of abortion in the United States (US)."

Listen here: [Queer Sex Ed Podcast: Episode 57](#)

Abortion Laws and Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) - Queer Sex Ed Podcast: Episode 57

Sara and Jay spend this week's episode discussing the legal and political movement to outlaw abortion in the United States, including the propaganda strategy of CPCs, the history of US abortion law, the current state of abortion rights, and how you can help protect abortion access in your area.



The Abortion Diary is the intersection of self-expression, healing, and the art of story-sharing and story-listening. We are dedicated to creating a space for people to share stories they haven't been able to share and listen to stories they haven't been able to hear. These are the stories we share.

"This podcast gives a nice peak into the lives of real people sharing their stories."

Listen here:

<https://www.theabortiondiary.com/>

Documentaries



Reversing Roe (2018)

"It lifts the lid on a decades-long political campaigning to overturn Roe v. Wade through interviews with abortion right supporters & opponents. Very relevant in light of recent developments in the US." - Nicolette van Duursen, Ipas

Overtijd (2019)

"This is a beautiful Dutch documentary which takes you in the minds of three women about their decision to have done an abortion." - Britt Kos, Doktors van de Wereld



Documentaries

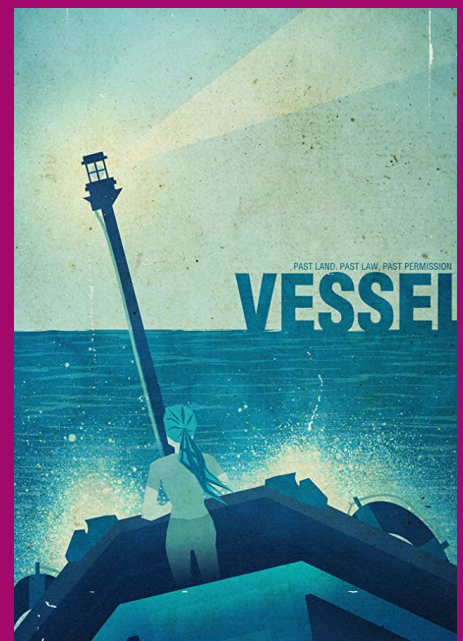


A Quiet Inquisition (2014)

"It shows the devastating impact of Nicaragua's abortion ban both for women & for healthcare providers determined to provide care to their patients." - Nicolette van Duursen, Ipas

Vessel (2014)

"This documentary highlights the work of Women on Waves (now Women on Web)" - Lindsay van Clief, Simavi



Source: IMDb



Want to contribute to strengthening the link between SRHR research, policy and practice?

Join Share-Net Netherlands!

As a member you:

- Have free access to all the meetings that we organise. (Non-members participate at cost-price)
- Participate in our working groups or CoPs, which is exclusive for members. These groups are crucial for agenda setting, organizing meetings and executing small research projects.
- Be elected in one of our governing bodies, the Steering Committee of the Netherlands or the Board of Share-Net International. All members are invited to our annual business meeting.
- Be eligible for our yearly call for proposals for the Share-Net International Small Grants facility.

For more information about our work and how to get involved. Please contact our ShareNet Netherlands Project Officer, Nicole Moran at info@share-net.nl

**Interested in our Community of Practice on Contraception and Abortion?
Find more information here: [Contraception & Abortion CoP](#).**

