URGENT ACTION

ATTACK ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

On 21 January, the Honduran Congress approved the first reading of a bill that would reform the Constitution to increase the number of votes needed to change the articles that prohibit abortion and marriage between people of the same sex. If ratified, the bill would effectively block future attempts to decriminalize abortion under any circumstances or to legislate in favour of equal marriage. The bill must be ratified by three quarters of the Congress and will be discussed on 28 January. It is expected to be voted on this same day. We demand Congress to reject this pernicious bill.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Mr. Mauricio Oliva
President of the Congress
Calle Bolívar, Tegucigalpa M.D.C. 11101
Email: molivah08@hotmail.com
Twitter: @DrMauriciolivaH

Dear Mauricio Oliva,

We write to you as we are extremely concerned about the implications of a bill that was recently approved by the Congress of Honduras in its first reading and will be imminently presented to Congress for ratification. By seeking to make it essentially impossible to block any future attempts to change Honduras' legislation regarding access to abortion and marriage equality, the bill represents a shameful attack on sexual and reproductive rights and a serious breach of Honduras' international human rights obligations.

If ratified, the bill would perpetuate a violation of human rights, specifically the sexual and reproductive rights that women, girls, people with reproductive capacity and LGBTI people have suffered for decades in Honduras.

Restricting access to abortion causes a serious and urgent public health problem, leading to avoidable deaths of women and pregnant people, generally from the most vulnerable sectors of the population. A vote in favour of this bill is a vote in favour of clandestine abortions and a vote against public health and human rights.

Equally, by continuing down the path of prohibiting marriage between people of the same sex, Honduras will sustain inequalities, perpetuate discrimination and stigmatization of LGBTI people, preventing them from enjoying a whole range of other rights. Same-sex relationships need to be recognized equally and on the same basis and with the same rights as those of opposite-sex couples.

Therefore, we call on to you to honour your commitment and meet Honduras's obligations under international human rights law to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of women, girls and LGBTI people to life, health, autonomy and dignity by rejecting this pernicious bill.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In April 2017, Honduras missed a historic opportunity to protect women's rights and guarantee them access to safe and legal abortion. Despite recommendations made by International human rights bodies and mechanisms, the National Congress of Honduras decided to maintain the total ban on abortion.

Under the new Penal Code that entered into force in June 2020, abortion continues to be criminalized in all cases, including when the life and health of the woman is at risk or when the pregnancy is the result of sexual violence. Honduras is one of nine countries in the world that continues to prohibit any form of abortion.

According to an analysis based on data from the Ministry of Health in 2018, the NGO Women's Rights Center noted that 75% of maternal hospital deaths could have been prevented if the pregnancy had been terminated. During the analysis of legal files of women of women criminalized for abortion, CDM also found 47 criminal files against women prosecuted for abortion.

Marriage between people of the same sex is also explicitly prohibited in the Honduran Constitution.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: SPANISH
You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 25 February 2021
Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFFERED PRONOUN: Honduran women at risk (Them, theirs)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: n/a