

Public Announcement Published in the newspaper *La Jornada*, April 24, 2008



One year of greater liberty, dignity and respect for women

April 24, 2008 marks the first year of the decriminalization of the termination of pregnancy in Mexico City. Today we emphasize again that this legislative change has put the city at the forefront of democracy in Latin America.

In the last year, reproductive freedom has expanded: it is no longer a crime for women to terminate a pregnancy up to the twelfth week of gestation, in accordance with their freedom of conscience.

The law which was approved a year ago is modern, moderate and holistic. It allows legal termination of pregnancy, and guarantees sexual education through public campaigns, as well as counselling and contraceptive methods for all women who consider having an abortion. This law protects and respects women's right to decide and promotes measures for the prevention of unwanted pregnancies.

We again recognize the commitment of the legislators who pushed for and approved the reforms to the Mexico City Penal Code and Health Law, putting their public function and commitment to women's fundamental rights above dogma.

We also recognize the undeniable political will of the Ministry of Health and the commitment of all the health professionals who have made it possible for thousands of women to access safe abortion procedures.

We recognize the authorities of Mexico City who have contributed decisively to putting this law into practice: the mayor, the city's legal counsel, the Ministry of Health, the director of the Mexico City Women's Institute, and the president of the Mexico City Human Rights Commission. They have all shown strong support for this legal reform.

This law has allowed women the autonomy and freedom of conscience to decide about their reproductive lives.

This law constitutes an important step in the struggle for social justice and democracy for Mexico City, and for the country.

National Alliance for the Right to Decide (andar)

Afluentes

Catholics for the Right to Decide

Mexico City Committee for Women's Health

Consortium for Parliamentary Dialogue and Equality

Decidir: Coalition of Young People for Sexual Citizenship

Elige: Network of Young People for Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Gender Equity: Citizenship, Work and Family
Mexican Federation of Sexual Education and Sexology (Femess)
National Forum for Women and Population Policy
Mexican Family Planning Foundation (Mexfam)
Fundar: Analysis and Research Center
Information Group on Reproductive Choice, GIRE
Ipas Mexico
Letra S: Health, Sexuality and AIDS
Modemmujer: Network of Electronic Communication
Population Council, Mexico
National Network of Catholic Youth for the Right to Decide
Network for Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Mexico (ddeser)
National Network on Democracy and Sexuality (Demysex)
Comprehensive Health for Women (Sipam)

Responsible for publication: Mariana Winocur