

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE  
HEALTH AND RIGHTS  
IN THE  
**FORMER YUGOSLAV  
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

*UPR Info Pre-sessions*

# Situation in Country

## Macedonia (FYR)

- No explicit recommendations regarding **sexual and reproductive health** care in the country and barriers to free and legal services
- Ministry of Health **established a working group** assigned to review the law
- Amended text of the **new Abortion law** was **posted for public consultation**

# Situation in Country

## Macedonia (FYR)

Amended text of the **new Abortion law needs to be improved:**

- ❖ **parental/guardian consent for minors under 18 and for people with intellectual incapacity** is in violation of the both Conventions of the Rights of Children and the Rights of People with Disabilities
- ❖ **restricts** the provision of abortion services in primary health care **only to medical abortion**

# Recommendations

- **Speed up the process of adoption** of the draft Abortion Law in the Parliament, without further delay, **and make final review** of the legislation barriers in the proposed text related to third party authorization for abortion services
- **Make medical abortion available** and accessible throughout the country, in line with the WHO Safe Abortion Guidelines
- **Provide an insurance coverage for the abortion on request**, particularly for socio-vulnerable groups and young people

# Situation in Country

## Macedonia (FYR)

- **NO effective measures to improve services for maternal and child health, as well as sexual and reproductive health for Roma women**
- **Ongoing illegal payment for health services in the primary healthcare**
- **Gynecological services at the primary level are not available for all women**
- **Low coverage by visiting nurses of the Roma women during the antenatal and postnatal period**

# Recommendations

- Take **systemic measures** on improving the reproductive healthcare system on national level in order **to eliminate widespread illegal charges**
- Take further steps in developing evidence informed policies to **ensure availability and accessibility of reproductive health services at the primary healthcare level**
- **Increase the number of patronage nurses** particularly in rural areas and areas with predominantly **Romani** populations
- Take measures to **integrate Roma Health Mediators in the public health care system** including their employment

# Thank you

From all the members of our coalition:

- ❑ **HERA – The Health Education and Research**

Association



- ❑ **Reactor – Research in Action**



- ❑ The Coalition “**MARGINI**”



- ❑ The **Sexual Rights Initiative**

