

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Bolivia: Abortion and Comprehensive Sex Education

Coalition: Right Here Right Now Bolivia & SRI

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UNPUNISHED ABORTION AND LEGAL INTERRUPTION OF PREGNANCY

Follow up the previous cycles of the UPR



Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, A/HRC/28/7:

- 113.31 Revise penal laws regarding the criminalization of women and girls in cases of abortion as well as of the doctors who practise it (Uruguay);
- 114.76 Review respective legislation to eliminate the requirement of prior judicial authorization for therapeutic abortion and abortion in cases of rape and incest (Slovenia);
- 114.112 Protect the reproductive rights of girls and women, adopting legal reforms that eliminate the requirement for prior judicial authorization for abortion (Israel).

UNPUNISHED ABORTION AND LEGAL INTERRUPTION OF PREGNANCY

Developments and needs



- Constitutional Sentence 206/2014 - Legal Interrupt of Pregnancy (ILE) eliminates judicial authorization.
- From 2014 to 2018, only 332 Legal Pregnancy Interruptions have been carried out. The requirement to file a complaint of sexual violence discourages women, girls and adolescents.
- Clandestine and insecure abortion is the third cause of maternal mortality.
- The ratio of maternal mortality in Bolivia is 160 women who die per 100,000 live births, a figure above the regional average.
- Current legislation continues to criminalize women who abort and the doctors who practice it.
- Since 2014, civil society organizations have submitted proposals for the decriminalization of abortion, but have not been addressed.

Recommendations:

Guarantee access to the ILE

- Reformulate the regulations in force to eliminate the requirement of filing a complaint to access the Legal Interruption of Pregnancy (ILE) in case of rape, since it promotes the revictimization of women, girls and adolescents and therefore both discourage them from practicing an abortion through legal ways.
- Prepare and carry out measures for the scientific and up-to-date training of health agents that guarantee access to the ILE under a comprehensive health concept.

Protect the health and life of women

- Modify the current criminal regulations regarding the criminalization of women, girls and adolescents in cases of abortion to make decriminalization effective and guarantee the voluntary interruption of pregnancy.



COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION AND SRHR

Follow up the previous cycles of the UPR

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, A/HRC/28/7:

- 114.9 Introduce gender equality issues, as well as non-discrimination and non-violence due to gender identity and sexual orientation in education programmes, in school regulations and in the training of teachers (Colombia);
- 114.21 Implement the Strategic National Plan on Sexual and Reproductive Health 2009–2015, including allocating adequate budgetary resources for its full and effective implementation. The Plurinational State of Bolivia should ensure efficient access to information for women and girls about their rights. (Finland);
- 114.77 Create regulations and public policies in favour of sexual and reproductive rights, especially those of women and indigenous population (Mexico);
- 114.111 In order to achieve a full and effective implementation of the Strategic National Plan on Sexual and Reproductive Health, mobilize adequate resources to improve access of women to the justice system (Netherlands).

COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION AND SRHR



Developments and needs

- National Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health 2016-2020 has not been approved yet.
- Not only do we not have a national Comprehensive Sex Education program, but neither do teachers receive necessary training.
- The inefficient implementation of the Plurinational Plan for the Prevention of Pregnancies in Adolescents and Young People and the lack of CSE for girls, boys, adolescents and young people is evident in the worrying situation of their sexual and reproductive health
- The birth rate in women between 15 and 19 years old in Bolivia is 116 per 1,000 when the regional average is 77 per 1,000.
- 3 out of 4 teenage pregnancies between 15 and 19 are unplanned and 17% of them are the result of rape crimes.
- The division between religions and the State is not effective, a strong religious influence persists in the areas of health and education.

Recommendations:

- Approve and implement, with the allocation of sufficient resources, the National Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health 2016-2020, extending its coverage to girls under 15 years old.
- Develop and apply an educational curriculum that includes Comprehensive, secular, scientific and updated Sexual Education, that is respectful of sexual and gender diversity, at all levels of schooling, recognizing interculturality and based on Human Rights.
- Respond in a timely, adequate and effective manner to the needs of girls, adolescents and young people regarding access to state-of-the-art contraceptive methods and differentiated sexual health services.
- To guarantee the implementation of the Plurinational Plan for the Prevention of Pregnancies in Adolescents and Young People with sufficient economic and technical resources both at the central level of the State and at the sub-national levels.





Thanks!



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