

UNI WORLD WOMEN'S COMMITTEE DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND FREEDOM OF CHOICE OF THE WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The current ongoing situation in the United States of America, where information has been leaked regarding the possible overturn of the Roe vs. Wade decision by the United States Supreme Court, is a clear attack on women's reproductive rights and a concern for women across the world. This decision would overturn decades of women's achievements regarding access to sexual and reproductive services and would reinforce an already alarming tendency across the world where other governments deem it necessary to legislate and limit women's rights, such as the case of Poland, who banned abortion in 2021, and Slovenia, who reduced access.

The global impact of overturning such a historical decision as Roe vs. Wade, would place pressure on other countries to do the same and the impact on countries and continents where maternal death rates are already high, would be catastrophic.

According to the World Health Organization, around 45% of all abortions are unsafe and 97% of them take place in developing countries. Unsafe termination of pregnancies can lead to physical and mental complications and social and financial burdens for women, communities and health systems¹.

The UNI World Women's Committee stands united and firmly condemns this attack on women's reproductive rights, self determination and freedom of choice. As representatives of more than 10 million women workers in all regions, we oppose any measure that aims to control women's health and reproductive rights and freedom of choice; and we call for the protection of legal instruments, such as court decisions, that protect and provide for women's sexual and reproductive rights. Furthermore, we recognize that these attacks are the result of the rise of the far right and other anti-democratic movements that exploit women to advance their political agendas.

10 May 2022

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/abortion> WHO, November 2021