





International Day of Action for Women's Health



In 1987, during a reunion of members of WGNRR in Costa Rica, May 28 was declared as International Day of Action for Women's Health. Since then, May 28 has been internationally renowned and activities are held worldwide by women's and health groups. May 28 is a special day on which the women's health takes a centre stage. It is, therefore, an occasion to celebrate the gains for women's health as well as remind to the Ministries of Health, ruling presidents, Governors, Parliamentarians, as well as international agencies and for-profit companies of their commitments to women's health and rights.

Also, it has been the platform for campaigning for advocating and advancing for the recognition of the concepts of sexuality, sexual rights and reproductive rights and health frameworks at national, regional and international level. Examples of the successful of thousands of voices been sound together during this day are the recognition of the International Day by different governments, agencies and civil society around the world. We also tried to raise awareness by organising seminars, short plays act to complement campaign activities. The campaign and activities culminate on the commemoration of the International Day of Action for Women's Health.

			
<p><u>The denial of the right to access safe and legal abortion services :</u></p> <p>The systemic denial of women's right to access and legal abortion services, and/or the criminalization of abortion is one of the most severe examples on institutional violence in regards of sexual and reproductive health and rights.</p>	<p><u>Forced and coerced sterilisations :</u></p> <p>Forced and coerced sterilisations are grave violations of human rights and medical ethics and constitute acts of torture and cruel ,inhuman and degrading treatment, as recognised by Human Rights Bodies. Nevertheless, women across the globe have been forced or coerced by medical personnel to submit to permanent and irreversible sterilisation procedures.</p>	<p><u>Obstetric violence :</u></p> <p>Obstetric violence is a specific type of violation of women's rights, including the rights to equality, freedom from discrimination, information, integrity, health, & reproductive autonomy. It occurs both in public and private medical practice during health care related to pregnancy, childbirth, and post-partum and is a multi-factorial context of institutional and gender violence.</p>	<p><u>The denial of access to contraceptives including emergency contraception:</u></p> <p>Restrictions on access to contraceptives and abortion threaten women's fundamental human rights to life, health and equality. Every woman has the right to decide when and if she wants to have a child. Denied access to contraception, emergency contraception and safe abortion services is a solid example of institutional violence.</p>