

PRESS RELEASE

Reproductive Rights Alliance Resolution and call to National Department of Health, SOUTH AFRICA 28 July 2009

MATERNAL MORTALITY, UNSAFE ABORTION AND MEDICAL ABORTION GUIDELINES

Dear Comrades and Colleagues within the National Department of Health

We members of the Reproductive Rights Alliance, an alliance of some 60 organisations (women's, social movements, anti-poverty, labour, religious, research, training, LGBT, justice, human rights, legal) working on advancing reproductive choice and justice meeting in Johannesburg on 28 July 2009.

Note:

1. The recent findings of the Confidential Maternal Mortality Report which note increased reporting of maternal deaths. While mainly due to HIV/AIDS, there is indication of unsafe abortion related morbidity and mortality.
2. That surgically designated facilities have decreased from 60% with only 43% of these being operational
3. That currently demand exceeds supply of services
4. That medical abortion is currently only provided in the private sector up until 56 days (after last period)
5. Medical abortion guidelines for the public sector have been developed but not passed by the NDOH.
6. That the finalization of the medical abortion guidelines is one of the objectives within the National Strategic AIDS Plan
7. That illegal providers are providing services and causing morbidity, mortality and poor health care.

We call upon the NDOH to:

1. Adopt and process the medical abortion guidelines
2. Implement provincial workshops in partnership with provincial service providers and member organizations of the RRA to plan and monitor implementation.
3. To develop in partnership with the RRA, to develop communication and information messaging on issues relating to SRHR
4. To explore partnerships with private and NGO service providers to ensure equitable and accessible services in line with guidelines.

Reproductive Rights Alliance Steering Committee - July 2009

- ♀ Cathi Albertyn - CALS Wits University
- ♀ Maria Van Driel - Sociology of Work Project (SWOP)
- ♀ Vainola Makan - New Women's Movement
- ♀ Sally Shackelton - Womensnet
- ♀ Marjke Alblas - Mosaic
- ♀ Nandi Vanqa Magijima - Industrial Labour Research and Information Group (ILRIG)
- ♀ Martha Legong - Khanya College
- ♀ Marion Stevens - Women and HIV/AIDS Gauge -HST

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