



Dear Women's Rights Defender,

Thank you for your activism this March 8, International Women's Day!

This year, **take action for women's rights worldwide!**

We've listed a number of cases on which you can take action—

- Use your phone to **record a short video** about sexual and reproductive rights! See the Action Guide at the end of this document! When you post your short interview, you join with countless people around the world demanding women's rights!
- Fight to **end child marriage** in Burkina Faso! Take action [online](#); then [download](#) the petition from our Spring Toolkit and get signatures!
- End the imprisonment of all women imprisoned under [El Salvador's brutal abortion ban](#). Take action [here](#).
- [Download](#) our My Body, My Rights Spring 2016 Toolkit for information and action on a variety of **sexual and reproductive rights** issues.

Stay connected to our work: Like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), and sign up for our [Newsletter](#)! For questions on these actions or International Women's Day, you can email Kaitlyn Denzler, our Women's Rights Campaigner, kdenzler@aiusa.org.

In Solidarity,

The Women's Human Rights Coordination Group
WHR@AIUSA.org



March 8th - International Women's Day Action Guide

Sexual and Reproductive Rights in the Americas

- Have you ever felt that someone has tried to make a decision about your body, sexuality, or reproduction?
- Imagine you are pregnant and your life is at risk. Could you access an abortion? What if you couldn't?
- If someone is a survivor of sexual abuse, do you think they should have the option to choose abortion?
- Did you receive accurate, fact-based sex education in school? Where do people actually learn about sex/reproductive health?
- Do you think women living with HIV have the right to decide if they have children?

CALL TO ACTION: MAKE A VIDEO!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS?

Video How-To

1. Set up a table with information about **International Women's Day** and sexual and reproductive rights. Learn more at www.amnestyusa.org/mybodymyrights
2. Use your smartphone to **film** yourself, your friends, and passers-by!
3. **Ask people** one, several, or all of the questions on this sheet.
4. Make sure you have the **permission** of the individuals you film and that they are aware:
 - a. Some of the questions cover triggering material
 - b. The footage might be included in a video that will be posted online.
5. Collect and edit the responses into a short video portrait of what people know and are concerned about with Sexual and Reproductive Rights. (Need an example? <https://youtu.be/eJ2yyZmDtoI>)
6. Upload your film to **social media** and share it using the hashtags **#IWD2016 #StateViolence #MyBodyMyRights**

MY BODY MY RIGHTS

Women and girls need sexual and reproductive health services, not mistreatment, discrimination, and torture. What is the status of Sexual and Reproductive Rights for women in your country? What do you know? Help spread the word about human rights abuses affecting women all over the world by making a video!

14 MILLION • ADOLESCENT
GIRLS GIVE BIRTH EACH YEAR
2 MILLION • YOUNG PEOPLE
AGED 10-19 LIVE WITH HIV

Legislation, policies, and practices that deny women their sexual and reproductive rights encourage violence against women. When governments directly commit violence, or encourage such acts through policies or negligence, it is oftentimes a form of **torture**. Systematic oppression - through gender discrimination, social exclusion, denial of health services, and lack of educational opportunities - **compromises women's lives, health, and opportunities** as they seek the help they need.

The total abortion ban in Chile and El Salvador means that women who have miscarried have been charged with **aggravated homicide** and sentenced to up to 50 years in prison. Those who seek abortions do so clandestinely and dangerously; **unsafe abortions are the third largest cause of maternal mortality** worldwide.

In countries like Peru and the United States, minority women have been the victims of **forced sterilization programs** in an effort to "reduce poverty." In order to protect human rights, states must ensure reproductive health information, options, and services are actually made available for women **so that 10-year old rape survivors are not forced to carry dangerous pregnancies to term**, as in Paraguay. In addition to threatening the life of the pregnant girl, these restrictions further traumatize survivors of sexual abuse, and compromise the victim's education and quality of life.

READ THE REPORT ON SRR DEFENDERS: <http://bit.ly/1YePdNJ>