

# URGENT ACTION

## LEGISLATORS COULD PASS A DISCRIMINATORY LAW

Guatemala's Congress is at the verge of passing a law to ban abortion, same-sex marriage and inclusive sex education. The bill 5272 "to protect family and life" directly threatens the rights of girls, women, and LGBTI people, their lives and their families.

### TAKE ACTION:

1. Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
2. [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 163.18**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Email addresses of directors of main political forces in Congress:

[oblanco@congreso.gob.gt](mailto:oblanco@congreso.gob.gt) ; [aarzu@congreso.gob.gt](mailto:aarzu@congreso.gob.gt) ; [rcastaneda@congreso.gob.gt](mailto:rcastaneda@congreso.gob.gt) ; [apop@congreso.gob.gt](mailto:apop@congreso.gob.gt) ;  
[mconde@congreso.gob.gt](mailto:mconde@congreso.gob.gt) ; [gvelasquez@congreso.gob.gt](mailto:gvelasquez@congreso.gob.gt) ; [rromero@congreso.gob.gt](mailto:rromero@congreso.gob.gt) ;  
[jahernandez@congreso.gob.gt](mailto:jahernandez@congreso.gob.gt) ; [ochinchilla@congreso.gob.gt](mailto:ochinchilla@congreso.gob.gt) ; [ealvarez@congreso.gob.gt](mailto:ealvarez@congreso.gob.gt) ; [jadell@congreso.gob.gt](mailto:jadell@congreso.gob.gt)  
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[wfelix@congreso.gob.gt](mailto:wfelix@congreso.gob.gt)

Twitter handles:

[@BloqueUNE\\_OL](https://twitter.com/BloqueUNE_OL)  
[@MaizUrnq](https://twitter.com/MaizUrnq)  
[@BancadaTODOS](https://twitter.com/BancadaTODOS)  
[@BancadaUcn](https://twitter.com/BancadaUcn)  
[@BancadaWinag](https://twitter.com/BancadaWinag)  
[@FUERZAGUATEMALA](https://twitter.com/FUERZAGUATEMALA)  
[@chinchilla\\_g](https://twitter.com/chinchilla_g)  
[@EncuentroGuate](https://twitter.com/EncuentroGuate)  
[@anibalrojasgt](https://twitter.com/anibalrojasgt)

Dear member of Congress:

The Guatemalan Congress is about to discuss Bill 5272, that would harden penalties in cases of abortion and criminalize women even in cases of natural death of the foetus, putting at risk the health and lives of women and girls by denying them lifesaving healthcare. It would also extend the criminalisation of abortion to situations of miscarriage, stillbirth and obstetric complications, and impose prison sentences on anyone who "promotes or facilitates access to abortion", moving Guatemala backwards in terms of abortion rights.

I urge the Guatemalan Congress to vote against Bill 5272 that puts at risks the rights of women, girls and LGBTI people. Instead, I urge the Guatemalan Congress to work on a bill that would guarantee their rights.

Yours Sincerely,

**AMNESTY**  
**INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Committee on Civil and Political Rights have recognized the causal link between maternal mortality and laws that restrict or criminalize abortion. The WHO has stated that restriction of access to legal abortion does not decrease the need for abortion, and likely increases the number of women who seek illegal and unsafe abortions. This leads to higher morbidity and mortality rates and creates social inequities.

According to international treaties that Guatemala has signed, the Guatemalan government is obligated to guarantee people's rights without discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

In its recent observations about the Guatemalan government, the UN Human Rights Committee highlighted its concern about discrimination and violence motivated by victims' sexual orientation or gender identity, the criminalization of abortion and miscarriage and a lack of adequate reproductive health services. It demands that the Guatemalan government "ensure unimpeded access to sexual and reproductive health services, emergency contraceptives and comprehensive sex education for men, women, boys and girls throughout the country".

For its part, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child expressly recommended that the Guatemalan government "ensure that sexual and reproductive health education is part of the mandatory school curriculum, and that it is developed with the involvement of adolescent girls and boys, with special attention paid to preventing early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections."

The bill 5272 was presented before Congress on 27 April 2017 and was read for the second time on 28 August 2018. It now needs a third reading in a plenary session, which could take place in the next few days, and if it is approved there it will proceed to final article-by-article approval. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/09/guatemala-ley-discriminatoria-pone-en-riesgo-la-vida-y-los-derechos-de-miles-de-mujeres-ninas-y-personas-lgbti/>

Name: Girls, women, LGBTI people  
Gender: All

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