



**Human Rights Council 29<sup>th</sup> session**

**Adoption of UPR outcome on Kenya, 25 June 2015**

Mr. President,

In the implementation of the UPR recommendations, the Center would like to emphasize the issues of inadequate access to quality maternity care and unsafe abortion in Kenya.

We welcome Kenya's commitment to ensure reproductive health and rights, including access to contraceptives and reproductive health information. We urge Kenya to address ongoing barriers to access reproductive health services, particularly access to quality maternity care, through the effective implementation of its free maternity care policy, supported by sufficient financial and human resources. Following the declaration of free maternity services in 2013, pregnant women continue to face abuse, neglect, and mistreatment during delivery at health care facilities due to the lack of adequate infrastructure and staffing. As such, we are concerned that Kenya has not accepted the recommendations to allocate 15% of GDP to its health budget and to ensure the effective implementation of reproductive health through an inter-sectoral policy and action plan.

We regret that Kenya has not accepted the recommendation to ensure that women have access to legal and safe abortion, especially in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest, as required under the Maputo Protocol. Unsafe abortion and lack of access to post-abortion care account for one-third of maternal deaths in the country. These deaths are a direct result of the uncertainty in the law which force many women to resort to unsafe, clandestine abortions. Kenya's restrictive abortion laws continue to have the most devastating impact on the health of vulnerable groups such as adolescents and low-income women, who face higher rates of unintended pregnancy and greater barriers to safe abortion services.

Thank you.