

JULIE GROMELLON 8



## Human Rights Council

### Adoption of UPR outcome on Honduras, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Mr. President,

During the review of Honduras; Germany and Norway recommended to take steps to guarantee full and effective recognition of reproductive rights, and emphasized the need to decriminalize abortion, particularly in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape or incest. In addition, twenty-four other states recommended Honduras to take measures to prevent violence against women.

Honduras is one of the most violent countries in the world with particularly high rates of sexual violence. The harm suffered by victims of sexual violence in Honduras who are mainly women, is exponentially exacerbated by Honduras's restrictive reproductive health laws and policies.

Currently, Honduras has an absolute ban on emergency contraception and abortion- leaving women with the dire choice between carrying a pregnancy to term, even in cases of rape or to save the women's lives, and undergoing a clandestine and unsafe abortion.

**A: The Center for Reproductive Rights welcome's Honduras' commitment in accepting the recommendation on reproductive health and rights, it is critical that Honduras takes urgent steps to implement those recommendations by taking all the necessary measures to guarantee access to abortion in cases where legal. We also request that the State address the following reproductive rights issues that remain of concern.**

**B: The Center for Reproductive Rights regrets that Honduras has rejected the recommendations made on reproductive health and rights. We continue to be deeply concerned about the access to health services, including sexual and reproductive rights without discrimination. We urge Honduras to address the following reproductive rights issues that remain of concern:**

First, to amend the current law to legalize abortion in the case of rape.

Second, to amend its extreme prohibitions on accessing, using, and selling emergency contraception.

Third, to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

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We believe that now more than ever Honduras should pass and implement legislation guaranteeing women's access to essential reproductive health services and provide information that will enable women to exercise reproductive autonomy, particularly protecting their right to health, life and dignity.

Thank you very much for your attention.