

## **One Year Since Roe v. Wade Was Overturned: The fight to defend reproductive rights and gender equality continues**

One year ago, Roe v. Wade was overturned. It was a monumental setback in the ongoing global fight to defend abortion rights.

**This open letter has been drafted in partnership with the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund and signed by the 128 organizations and advocates listed below.**

One year later, we see it was also so much more than that. It has made visible a larger battle being waged against our rights and our bodies.

When people are denied their sexual and reproductive rights, it has life-altering consequences. It perpetuates gender inequality and restricts people's ability to make informed decisions about their health and lives. It contributes to social and economic inequalities, trapping people in cycles of poverty and limiting their opportunities and potential.

It also crucially undermines democracy.

Right now, we're witnessing a coordinated global movement that opposes sexual and reproductive rights, bodily autonomy, and gender equality. There are political actors and influential individuals that are actively working to roll back the progress made in advancing these rights. This coordinated mobilization is inherently connected to heightened hyper-nationalism and religious fundamentalisms and wider attacks on human rights globally. From the anti-2SLGBTQIA+ laws being passed in the United States, Uganda and Russia, rollbacks on the rights of queer and trans youth in New Brunswick and beyond, racist anti-migrant laws and policies across Europe, book bans, attacks on drag story times, disinformation, restrictions on gender-affirming care and heightened anti-trans hate on and offline, these efforts all reinforce a vision of the world with rigid social hierarchies and norms of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and more.

We reject it.

Instead, we are united in a vision of the world where we can all claim our rights, and make our own choices for our bodies, our relationships, our families, and our

health. A world where people are treated equally, where health and economic systems are built to support us all, and where diversity is celebrated and nurtured.

We reaffirm our unconditional commitment to dreaming of and building just societies and communities where all people have control over their bodies and lives and have access to the resources needed to make that a reality.

We recommit to speaking up against hate and discrimination as well as policies and laws that dehumanize and disempower.

We acknowledge that none of us are free until all of us are free.

As we continue the fight to protect and advance access to abortion in this country and around the world, we do with the full knowledge that standing up for this right also commits us to fight together for all human rights.

Today, we stand more committed than ever, to defending sexual and reproductive rights, gender equality, and to collectively fighting against hate and discrimination. We believe that having control over our own bodies is essential for having control over our lives.

We call on all levels of government to continue to take action until abortion access is a reality for everyone in this country. While abortion's legal status in Canada has been settled since 1988, access to abortion is far from equitable and opponents of reproductive rights continue to attempt to restrict what access we do have.

We call on our governments to work to stem the unprecedented tide of anti-2SLGBTQIA+hate and discrimination across the country.

We call on our governments to challenge rising disinformation and to invest in a strong civil society which centres diverse intersectional feminist movements, because they are the key to strong, stable democracies that work to leave no one behind.

Let the overturning of Roe v. Wade ending 50 years of constitutional protections for abortion in the U.S. be a wake-up call and a call to action for everyone in Canada and globally.

This is what defending the right to abortion looks like.  
The fight to defend reproductive rights and gender equality continues.

## How you can take action

- Share this letter widely with your communities.
- Become a monthly donor to feminist organizations to help sustain our work of defending and advocating for reproductive rights and gender equality in Canada and globally!
- Contact your elected officials about the demands outlined above.

## Signed by the following organizations and advocates

- Abortion is Healthcare Signs Inc
- Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada
- Abortion Support Services Atlantic
- Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights
- AGT Foods Canada
- Alberta Abortion Access Network
- Alberta Pro-choice Coalition
- Alberta Society for the Promotion of Sexual Health (ASPSH)
- Alliance du personnel professionnel et technique de la santé et des services sociaux (APTS)
- AlterHéros
- Anti-Heroine Media
- Asian Community AIDS Services
- Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic
- BC federation of labour
- British Columbia Nurses' Union
- BWSS Battered Women's Support Services
- CALACS Longueuil inc.
- The Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies
- Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity
- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
- Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU) / Fédération canadienne des syndicats d'infirmières et d'infirmiers (FCSII)
- Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)
- Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)
- Canadian Mental Health Association (National)
- Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW)

- Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
- Canadian Women's Foundation
- Centrale des syndicats du Québec
- Centre-femmes de Rimouski
- Centre Au Coeur des Femmes
- Centre d'éducation et d'action des femmes de Montréal
- Centre de femmes l'éclaircie
- Centre de formation de l'alimentation et du commerce du Québec
- Centre de santé des femmes de Montréal
- Centre des femmes de Forestville
- Centre des femmes de la Basse-Ville
- Centre de solidarité lesbienne
- Centre Entre-Femmes
- Center for Sexuality
- Child Care Now (Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada)
- Club Sexu
- Com'femme
- Comité d'actions féministes de l'agglomération de Longueuil (CAFAL)
- Comité sur la condition féminine du Québec
- ConcertAction Femmes Estrie
- Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN)
- Conseil Régional Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (CRFTQ) Montréal métropolitain
- CRFTQ Montérégie
- Department of Women and Gender Studies University of Lethbridge
- Egale Canada
- Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario
- Ending Violence Association of Canada
- FemDev Consulting
- Fierté Canada Pride
- Fédération des femmes du Québec
- Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ)
- Fédération du Québec pour le planning des naissances
- Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec
- Gender Affirming Care Nova Scotia
- Grain and General Services Union
- Halifax Sexual Health Centre
- HIV Legal Network / Réseau juridique VIH

- Hospital Employees' Union
- Inter Pares
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE / AIEST)
- Intersex Canada
- Island Sexual Health Community Health Centre
- Jeunesse Lambda
- Klinik Community Health
- L'R des centres de femmes du Québec
- Les Passeuses
- MAM autour de la maternité
- Manitoba Federation of Labour
- La Marie Debout, centre d'éducation des femmes
- Moms at Work
- National Abortion Federation Canada
- National Association of Women and the Law / Association nationale Femmes et Droit
- National Union of Public and General Employees
- National Union of Public and General Employees
- Niagara Reproductive Justice
- The Obstetric Justice Project
- Options for Sexual Health
- Oxfam Canada
- Planned Parenthood NL Sexual Health Centre
- Planned Parenthood Ottawa
- Planned Parenthood Toronto
- Planned Parenthood Regina
- Polonia Inclusive
- Le Projet Stérone
- Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) / Alliance de la fonction publique du Canada (AFPC)
- Rainbow Faith and Freedom
- Rainbow Railroad
- Rainbow Refugee Association of Nova Scotia
- Réseau des lesbiennes du Québec
- S.O.S. Grossesse
- S.O.S. Grossesse Estrie
- Saskatchewan Federation of Labour
- Saskatoon Sexual Health

- SEPB-574
- SEPB-610
- SEPB-Québec
- The Sexual Health Network of Quebec
- Sexual Health Nova Scotia
- SHORE Centre
- Social Planning Council Winnipeg
- Society of Queer Momentum
- South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario
- South Shore Sexual Health
- SRHR Hubs
- Status of Women Committee, Douglas College
- Stella, l'amie de Maimie
- Syndicat canadien de la fonction publique (SCFP) 4628
- Trans Legal Collective
- Unifor
- Unifor Québec
- Unifor Québec (Comité d'action féministe)
- The Union for Gender Empowerment
- United Steelworkers
- University of Regina Faculty Association
- Wellness Within
- West Coast LEAF
- Women's Health Clinic (Winnipeg)
- The Women's Legal Education & Action Centre (LEAF) / Fonds d'action et d'éducation juridique pour les femmes (FAEJ)
- Women's Shelters Canada / Hébergement femmes Canada
- YWCA Canada