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A strong step towards guaranteeing bodily autonomy of women and pregnant people

IPPF's regional office and member associations in the Americas and the Caribbean join in Mexico's celebration of the historic ruling of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (SCJN) that advances the fight for the freedoms of women and pregnant people by recognizing their right to decide to terminate a pregnancy in its early stage, and therefore eliminating the legal penalty for abortion.

The Mexican Foundation for Family Planning, MEXFAM, has done systematic work with key actors in Mexico to advocate for the recognition of bodily autonomy, including work with the SCJN. Her commitment is also reflected in her participation as a leader of the Action Coalition of the Generation Equality Forum for Bodily Autonomy.

The historic ruling also contributes to the struggle of feminist movements and defenders of Sexual and Reproductive Rights in our continent who have achieved transcendental advances: Cuba, Guyana, Barbados, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina, Ecuador and now Mexico show the world that in terms of Human Rights there is no room for regression. We reiterate our determined work so that in other latitudes such as Central America and other Caribbean countries, where the strongest restrictions on access to abortion in the world remain, the guarantee of rights will soon be a reality.

Now it is Colombia's turn. Profamilia, a leading organization in the defense, promotion and guarantee of Sexual and Reproductive Rights in the country, celebrates this advance and hopes that the decision of the SCJN will be an example for judicial authorities in the region, especially for the Constitutional Court of Colombia, which is about to rule on the unconstitutionality claim against the crime of abortion. Profamilia reiterates that the total decriminalization of abortion is the best way to protect and guarantee the rights of women and pregnant people, reducing the stigmas and effects of criminalization on public health and health providers.

INNPARES, from Peru, congratulates the MEXFAM team for this historic achievement that will have repercussions in the struggle that unites us so that all women and pregnant women are truly masters of their bodies and their decisions.

The Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT), a leading Caribbean organization with a focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, celebrates with its regional partner in Mexico, the historic ruling of the SCJN. This advance in the recognition of a fundamental right and freedom of women demonstrates a forward-looking systemic approach to health. FPATT will continue to advocate for a similar decision for Trinidad and Tobago and will rely on the government, key partners and stakeholders to recognize the opportunity to positively impact women's lives as never before.

The Barbados Family Planning Association (BFPA) also welcomes the news of success in Mexico. Since 1983, women's right to have control over their bodies has been recognized and supported by the constitution of Barbados. This has led to a more equitable society, leading to the greatest period of social and economic development in the country's history. We must maintain and multiply these gains of equity and equality for all because the opposition never sleeps, and neither should we.

Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation joins the people of Mexico in celebrating this important breakthrough. The fact that Mexico has the second largest Catholic population in the world is inspiring because it teaches us that human rights, social justice, and women's reproductive health are in accord with the practice of faith. Too many women have suffered high health costs and many have died as a result of unsafe abortions. Decriminalization of abortion recognizes that women's right to choose is an issue of great relevance, not only for women but also for men and society as a whole.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America celebrates this victory for women and pregnant women in Coahuila, Mexico, and is optimistic about the impact the court's decision will have in paving the way for legalization across the country. Latin American advances to ensure that no one is punished for making autonomous decisions about their own bodies continue to inspire the rest of the world in the struggle for reproductive freedom. Now more than ever, and in the face of the setback represented by S.B. 8 that went into effect in Texas last week, steps like the one taken by Mexico bring hope for women and people of childbearing capacity in this country and change the landscape of abortion access in a border crossed by people seeking reproductive health services in Texas and other border states when they could not access them in their home states in Mexico.

Our commitment as a Federation remains, we will continue to accompany the movements so that all women and pregnant women from all corners of the Americas and the Caribbean can decide freely about their bodies and their lives so that sexual and reproductive rights and chosen motherhood are guaranteed.

We will not stop until we achieve reproductive justice for all!

ADS - Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña/Pro-Familia. BFPA- The Barbados Family Planning Association, FPATT - Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago, INPPARES - Instituto Peruano de Paternidad Responsable, JFPA - Jamaica Family Planning Association, MEXFAM - Fundación Mexicana para la Planeación Familiar, A.C. PPFA - Planned Parenthood Federation of America - United States of America, Profamilia - Asociación Pro-Bienestar de la Familia Colombiana, Stichting Lobi Suriname, CFPA - Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation: Anguilla Family Planning Association-The Primary Health Care, Antigua Planned Parenthood Association, Foundation for the Promotion of Responsible Parenthood (Aruba), Bahamas Sexual Health and Rights Association, Bermuda Teen Services, Curaçao Foundation for the Promotion of Responsible Parenthood (FPRP), Dominica Planned Parenthood Association, Grenada Planned Parenthood Association, Association Guadeloupéenne pour le Planning Familial, Association Martiniquaise pour l'Information et l'Orientation Familiales, Saint Lucia Planned Parenthood Association, St. Vincent Planned Parenthood Association, St. Kitts and Nevis Planned Parenthood Association, St. Lucia Planned Parenthood Association, St. Vincent Planned Parenthood Association, St. Vincent Planned Parenthood Association, Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office of the International Planned Parenthood Federation - IPPF ACRO