

Botschaft Spanien in Wien

Yago Pico de Coana y de Valicourt

Argentinerstraße 34  
1040 Wien



österreichische gesellschaft für  
**familienplanung**

c/o  
Ignaz Semmelweis Frauenklinik  
Bastiongasse 36-38  
1180 Wien

Vienna, 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2014

Dear ambassador Yago Pico de Coana y de Valicourt,

We the Austrian Family Planning Association respectfully submit this letter to express our concern about the planned changes to the Spanish law on termination of pregnancy.

Such law infringes fundamental rights and freedoms of the women and is a complex law with far reaching implications.

The Law imposes barriers on women's access to legal abortion services. As such, it conflicts with women's rights to life, privacy, physical integrity and autonomy, confidentiality, health, and non-discrimination, as protected by the Spanish Constitution and reflected in Spain's international and regional human rights obligations.

The restrictions by the new abortion law do not improve the health and life of women seeking safe abortion services, nor are they in accordance with international medical standards and international human rights obligations. Imposing these barriers on women's access to legal abortion services infringes upon women's decision-making, perpetuates gender stereotypes about women's ability to make reasonable decisions about reproduction, and thus, discriminates against women.

Furthermore, the proposed requirements reinforce the notion that women are unable to make rational and thoughtful reproductive choices, free from unnecessarily delays in accessing abortion services, and may drive some women, especially adolescents, to resort to illegal and unsafe abortions.

The changes infringe on the following international human rights "the right to non-discrimination, "the right to be free from cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment" and "the right to privacy, confidentiality, information and education." Therefore, we strongly urge you to withdraw the law proposal.

We thank you for your consideration of this letter and express our hope that Spain continue to ensure that its laws and policies on abortion highly value women's rights to health and life and respect women's dignity and privacy in an environment that is free of stigma and discrimination.

Respectfully yours,

  
Österreichische Gesellschaft  
für Familienplanung  
c/o Ignaz Semmelweis-Frauenklinik  
Bastiongasse 36-38  
1180 Wien  
T: +43 1 478 52 42, [www.oegf.at](http://www.oegf.at)