

Media statement

London, 9th March 2022: If you are covering the new Guatemalan law on 'Protection of the Life and the family', you may find the below statement from the International Planned Parenthood Federation helpful.

Eugenia Lopez Uribe, IPPF's Regional Director for Americas and the Caribbean Region, said:

"It is disturbing that on International Women's Day 2022, the Guatemalan Congress passed a law that completely violates the human, sexual and reproductive rights of women, girls and marginalized people.

"While countries across Latin America were celebrating the lives and rights of women, Guatemala has chosen to criminalize those making the best decision for themselves and their families, while also risking imprisoning vulnerable women and girls who have experienced sexual violence or suffered pregnancy loss. By severely limiting access to safe and post-abortion care, the law will undoubtedly lead to an increase in unsafe abortions and a decrease in prenatal care, resulting in life-long disabilities for some women and a rise in maternal deaths.

"At the same time, by prohibiting same-sex marriage, limiting comprehensive sexuality education and enabling the discrimination of sexual diversity, the Guatemalan Government is creating a society that fosters miseducation, stigma, intolerance and homophobia and fueling the persecution of LGBT and non-binary people.

"IPPF strongly condemns the passing of this archaic law and demands that the Guatemalan Government fulfils international human rights agreements. We stand in solidarity with affected people across Guatemala and the organizations working tirelessly to ensure that all people have the freedom to make their own choices."

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