



## **Joint conference Statement:**

### **Standing in solidarity against the threat to Women's rights in Europe**

The 2016 EuroNGOs Conference "A Strong Start - Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the 2030 Agenda" has been taking place in Paris, France for the last two days. The conference, hosted by Le Planning, is an important moment of connection and collaboration for change by the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) movement.

We the international and domestic NGOs, government representatives, youth activists and UN representatives that have come together in Paris cannot stand idly by while the fundamental rights of European women are under attack. Through this statement, we express our deep concern at the erosion of women's rights, and in particular women's health and access to safe and legal abortion.

We express our solidarity and unity with Polish women in their struggle to secure their welfare, health and rights. We are deeply concerned that the "Stop Abortion" bill will compromise women's fundamental health rights.

Access to safe and legal abortion is a fundamental human right. Empirical evidence demonstrates that when access to abortion is restricted in a country, abortion rates tend to remain the same or to increase. In fact, abortions continue to be performed illegally or outside the country, leading to abortion "tourism".

As the SRHR community we will continue to fight with and for women across the world. In particular, we strive to create a Europe that recognises and fulfils the right of women to make the choices that determine their health, their well-being and their futures. We also stand in solidarity with women in Ireland, Malta and the numerous other Countries where women and girls continue to be denied access to SRHR.

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Notes:

- EuroNGOs - the European NGOs for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development- is comprised of 34 non-governmental organisations that cooperate in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, population and development.
- EuroNGOs is dedicated to promoting universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights worldwide. It does this by engaging in the key debates shaping development cooperation and other global policies at the European and international level.
- More information on the 2016 Annual conference can be found [here](#)
- More information on the proposed ban on abortion in Poland can be found [here](#)