

June 24, 2022

**Global Doctors for Choice Statement
on the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision Overturning *Roe v. Wade***

Today, a United States Supreme Court majority opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturned *Roe v. Wade* and eliminated the constitutional right to abortion in the United States that has stood for nearly 50 years.

With *Roe v. Wade's* overturn at least 26 states are likely to ban abortion outright, and at the time of this statement, 4 states' trigger bans have already gone into effect, banning abortion as soon as the decision was published; the harm to people across the United States and especially those in these states is not only imminent, but unimaginable. Overturning the constitutional right to abortion and allowing states to ban abortion will not stop abortions from occurring — it will drastically limit the availability of safe abortion care and inevitably result in negative health outcomes, particularly for women living on low incomes and women of color.

Today's Court decision is the culmination of years of attacks on access to abortion, contraception, and other facets of sexual and reproductive healthcare in the United States - in recent years, the United States has become increasingly restrictive when it comes to reproductive rights. As a result, women across the country have suffered the consequences of a health system divorced from the importance of prioritizing reproductive care. Ending the constitutional right to abortion will undoubtedly exacerbate inequities in health and pregnancy outcomes for scores of people in the United States and perpetuate disenfranchisement of women.

The United States is an outlier on the global stage when it comes to the protection of reproductive rights and liberalization of abortion. Said Dr. Wendy Chavkin, co-founder of Global Doctors for Choice (GDC) and longtime reproductive rights activist: "Roe was profound and trailblazing as its core stipulations were that a woman had the private right to decide whether or not to have a child, and that her health and safety were paramount at all stages of pregnancy. Although the anti-abortion forces started chipping away immediately, American doctors and activists have had 50 years to improve and refine medical and patient centered approaches to abortion care and to share these advances with those living in more restricted conditions. The tables have now been turned and GDC will join with clinicians and activists in Ireland, Colombia, Argentina and elsewhere in supporting those in the US determined to maintain access to this vital service and to insist that respect for women's personhood and autonomy prevail." The World Health Organization recently published updated guidelines for safe abortion care and reaffirmed that access to safe abortion is a critical piece of healthcare that is crucial to keeping women and girls safe and avoiding preventable deaths around the world. The Court's decision undermines these guidelines, and increases health risks for women and pregnant people in the United States.



Said Dr. Mary Favier, co-chair of the GDC Board of Directors, and Lead Doctor of Doctors for Choice/Ireland: “Access to safe abortion is a human right. Global Doctors for Choice is committed to advancing the provision of medically safe abortion care and reproductive services to people all over the world. With this Court’s decision, our efforts to help advance the right to abortion in the United States will be guided by the success of our international partners.”

GDC galvanizes doctors and builds their capacity to advocate for the rights of all women everywhere to sexual and reproductive health, especially to safe, legal, and accessible abortion.