

## Our Charter

Global Doctors for Choice's work is rights-based, aligned with the international human rights framework, and focuses on sexual and reproductive health, respecting the dignity and the autonomy of the health decisions of all people. All members subscribe to the following articles of the Charter:

- Global Doctors for Choice is a global network of member physicians whose overarching goal is to improve reproductive health outcomes and enhance women's autonomy to control their reproductive lives.
- Global Doctors for Choice is committed to promoting exchange, support, and collaboration among physicians around the world, so they can actively work towards ensuring that all people have access to comprehensive reproductive health care, with respect for autonomy and the information and freedom of choice to make their own reproductive health decisions.
- Members will draw upon their experience in diverse medical disciplines to harness their medical credibility and scientific expertise as health care providers dedicated to the best medical interests of women and men from all over the world.
- Members will actively advocate to make comprehensive, evidence-based reproductive health care, including abortion, accessible for women worldwide.

**Global  
Doctors**  
FOR CHOICE

(On front): Dr. Cristiano Fernando Rosas (GDC/Brazil),  
Dr. Ana Cristina González Vélez (GDC/Colombia),  
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**Global  
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FOR CHOICE

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**Global  
Doctors**  
FOR CHOICE



Committed to collaboration and action among physicians around the world so all people have the information, access to high-quality services, and freedom of choice necessary to make their own reproductive health decisions.

[www.globaldoctorsforchoice.org](http://www.globaldoctorsforchoice.org)

# Global Doctors

FOR CHOICE

## Who we are

Global Doctors for Choice (GDC) is an international network of physicians who advocate for reproductive rights and access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including safe abortion. GDC is dedicated to the defense of human rights and to the provision of high-quality medical care grounded in science.

Launched in 2007, GDC contributes the voice of medicine and science to civil society advocacy efforts, transforming individual doctors into an organized group of skilled advocates who contribute to a social movement for systemic enhancement of reproductive rights.

GDC supports physician-led Action Centers in Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Mexico, and South Africa. The Coordinating Team works from the United States and Malaysia.

Dr. Wendy Chavkin and Jodi Magee (GDC Board Managers) with Dr. Ntandho Patrick Godi (GDC/South Africa)



Dr. Laura Gil  
(GDC/Colombia)

## Our Rationale

Doctors are uniquely positioned to advocate for their patients. Doctors contribute scientific authority, a commitment to their patients' best interests, familiarity with health systems, as well as firsthand experience with the devastating consequences of unsafe abortion and lack of access to care.

Many doctors advocate for reproductive health and rights at the local level, and yet may not have the resources and mechanisms to share experiences and strategies. By creating a global network of physician-advocates and serving as a resource to transfer best practices in advocacy across borders, GDC enables doctors' voices and advocacy efforts to have a broader, more powerful impact on reproductive health and people's lives.

## Our Approach

GDC conducts advocacy-training workshops for doctors and other health professionals. With our signature training curricula that are adaptable to the local context, we equip physicians to develop distinct, relevant reproductive health and rights advocacy strategies. Training topics include stakeholder engagement, using data in advocacy, developing meaningful stories and working with the media, and doctor-lawyer collaborations for reproductive health related legal cases.

After training, GDC physician-advocates hone their new advocacy skills through participation in local advocacy initiatives to effect change in reproductive healthcare policy. GDC also engages in local, regional, and international policy discourse; participates in international conferences and hosts events; issues position statements; and engages in multinational research needed to inform advocacy, such as the cross-cutting issue of conscience-based refusal to provide reproductive healthcare.



Dr. Alfonso Carrera  
(GDC/Mexico)