

June 29, 2016

Dear Sr. Jorge Fernández Díaz, Ministro del Interior, Gobierno de España,
Sr. Jorge Fernández Díaz, Ministro del Interior, Gobierno de España, and
Sr. Antonio Doz Orrit, Subdirector General de Recursos, Ministerio del Interior:

We write on behalf of Global Doctors for Choice (GDC), an international network of physicians from a range of specialties committed to improving women's reproductive health and rights. GDC is committed to the provision of high-quality medical care grounded in science and to the defense of reproductive rights. We strive to protect and expand access to comprehensive reproductive health care through advocacy for evidence-based policy and medical research.

We write to urge you to reverse the recent decision by the Ministry of the Interior that revoked the Spanish Federation of Family Planning's (FPFE)'s status as a public utility. As a public utility FPFE provided information, advice, and training on family planning and sexual and reproductive healthcare particularly to underserved populations such as youth, youth with intellectual disabilities, and immigrants. The decision to revoke FPFE's status as public utility has serious repercussions for the people they serve and who rely on their services.

As doctors, our first duty is always to our patients. Access to comprehensive reproductive health and family planning is essential to ensure the best possible conditions for women's and the overall population's health. We are alarmed that the recent decision denies the Spanish population, especially vulnerable groups, access to comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services.

As a global network of physicians, we urge you to overturn your recent decision and urge you to reinstate FPFE's status as a public utility, and thus prevent unnecessary medical and psychological harms for people, particularly women and vulnerable populations, in Spain.


Sincerely,

ANA CRISTINA GONZALEZ V.

Dr. Ana Cristina González Vélez
Grupo Médico por el Derecho a Decidir
Bogotá, Colombia

Alfonso Carrera RPO

Dr. Alfonso Carrera
Grupo Médico por una Libre Elección
México DF



Dr. John Koku Awoonor-Williams
Global Doctors for Choice
Ghana



Dr. Wendy Chavkin
Columbia University
New York, USA



Dick Van der Tak
Executive Director, Global Doctors for Choice
55 West 39th St, New York, USA