

Mr. Mariano Rajoy  
Prime Minister  
Complejo de la Moncloa  
Avda. Puerta de Hierro, 28071 Madrid, Spain

Brussels, 29 January 2014

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

It is with great concern that the undersigned civil society organisations have learnt of the Spanish government proposal aiming at reforming the current law on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

On 20 December 2013, the Spanish Council of Ministers adopted a draft bill which proposes to dramatically restrict abortion right and women's freedom of choice. If approved, abortion would be allowed in Spain only in the case of rape or if the pregnancy poses a serious physical or mental health risk to women.

Any abortion carried out that does not fall under the two permitted categories will be considered a crime, leaving women in Spain with two choices: travel abroad to get a safe and legal abortion or having an "underground" abortion with serious threats to their health.

If approved, this law would lead to a dramatic step backwards in the rights of women and to the failure of the Government to fulfill its fundamental role to promote public health and human rights.

The undersigned organisations reaffirm women's right to decide over their body and freedom of couples to decide over their lives. Giving women the freedom to choose does not oblige anyone to abort.

Our organisations express their deep solidarity with women in Spain and respectfully ask you to ensure women's rights, to take into account the general opinion of the Spanish population on this issue<sup>1</sup> and to withdraw this draft bill.

Yours sincerely,



**Pierre Galand**

President  
European  
Humanist  
Federation



**Viviane  
Teitelbaum**

President  
European  
Women's Lobby



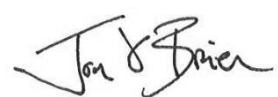
**Vicky Claeys**

Regional  
director  
IPPF-EN



**Julia Laot**

Spokesperson  
Abortion right  
Platform



**Jon O'Brien**

President  
Catholics for Choice

<sup>1</sup> According to a recent opinion poll by Metroscopia, 86% of people consider that a pregnant woman should have the right to freely decide on her pregnancy. [http://elpais.com/m/elpais/2014/01/11/media/1389453933\\_455931.html](http://elpais.com/m/elpais/2014/01/11/media/1389453933_455931.html)