

## Statement of solidarity with the Federation for Women and Family Planning in Poland

FIAPAC, the international association of professionals involved in contraception and abortion care is deeply concerned that the Polish Government is to consider a draft law introducing a complete ban on abortion and a new category into the criminal code – “prenatal murder”, which will introduce penalty of 3 to 5 years in prison for women, doctors and anyone helping a woman to perform an abortion. We would like to recall that Poland has been one of the first countries to legalize abortion (1956) until it was declared illegal again in 1993 as requested by the former pope Wojtyla.

FIAPAC calls on members of the health care professions in Poland and internationally, to make the case that in Poland, as elsewhere in Europe, abortion should be provided legally and safely - particularly where it is necessary to preserve the health and well-being of women - and to extend solidarity and support to the Federation for Women and Family Planning in Poland.

FIAPAC believes that while it is right and proper that democratically elected politicians should determine laws about abortion, decisions about clinical practise must be left to clinicians in consultation with their patients.

All medical care is based on well-established underlying ethical principles of beneficence, autonomy and justice. Beneficence implies providing the best care possible for each patient. Autonomy means that patients are free to choose their treatment based on fully informed consent. Justice implies equitable access to care.

It is wrong for politicians to intrude into the relationship between a doctor and patient by insisting that clinically recommended practices are outlawed for political reasons.

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### 12th FIAPAC Conference from 13 to 15 October 2016

Lisbon, Portugal  
Improving women's journeys through abortion  
<http://fiapac.org/en/program/20/lisbon-2016/>

