

ACAI EXPRESSES ITS SATISFACTION AT THE PASSING OF THE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND VOLUNTARY INTERRUPTION OF PREGNANCY BILL, A LAW THAT INCLUDES A LARGE NUMBER OF ITS PROPOSALS.

After this step, ACAI asks the Regional Governments not to hinder its effective application, while requesting the National Government to ensure inclusion of the health service of Clinical Abortion in the Public Health System does not detract from the quality of the service.

The professionals of the accredited centres consider it indispensable for the service to be standardised to be able to continue to ensure its provision.

Madrid, 24th February 2010. The professionals of the accredited centres wish to express their satisfaction at the consensus reached by the different parliamentary forces, while congratulating the Ministry of Equality for having been the promoter of that political and social consensus. An agreement that, for the first time, recognises women's unpatronised right to decide about their maternity for themselves.

The Association of Accredited Pregnancy Interruption Clinics (ACAI) is acting to ensure that the will to achieve the "best possible law" is maintained during the regulatory implementation of the Act.

After approval of this bill, ACAI asks the **Regional Governments not to obstruct the effective application of new legislation in their health management capacity.** In that sense, it asks the National Government to promote, based on the instruments of consensus, such as the Interterritorial Health Council, **common protocols of health action to guarantee the quality, gratuity and equity of access** to termination of pregnancy nationwide and for all women, otherwise, the spirit of this law would be infringed.

Faced with the non-existence of public units specialised in Clinical Abortion, the professionals of the ACAI ask that undertaking that service by the National Health Service not to obscure the differential nature of Clinical Abortion. **Termination of pregnancy is a specific clinical practice that has its own protocols for action, specific techniques and requires specialised units to perform it.** Thus, we ask the Executive and the Regional Governments to consider these circumstances so as not to detract from the quality of the service in health, medical and human terms; definitively, so as not to harm the women who resort to Clinical Abortion. We also ask special emphasis to be placed on maintaining the protocol for psychological, personal and human accompaniment the centres have established.

ACAI also wishes to point out that, **due to abortion being a non-standardised practice under the Spanish National Health Service, there is a clear reluctance to perform abortions among the Public Health doctors and gynaecologists who do not find professional fulfilment in its practice.** Due to this, we consider that, regardless of the necessary training for the professionals and the regulation of conscientious objection, **it is indispensable to standardise the practice,** if we really wish to ensure the country continues to have doctors committed to this basic women's right. If this is not done, we may find that the service is eventually carried out by **doctors who do not wish to perform abortions and that, if they do so, it would be under obligation and applying obstetric knowledge that has nothing to do with specific clinical abortion techniques.**

Lastly, ACAI wishes to express **its solidarity with Senator Roberto Lertxundi,** who has had to cease to perform his democratic duty, to which he is entitled as a legitimately elected public office holder, under pressure by those who prioritise imposing their moral criteria over the legal and democratically defended values.

Note: For further information, you may contact Santiago Barambio, Chairman of ACAI, 670 24 69 82, or Francisca García, Vice-Chairlady of ACAI, 618 26 34 14.