

Dear Friends,

The battle on abortion rights is continuing in Slovakia. As many of you know, over the past few years there have been numerous attempts to limit access to abortion in Slovakia, including a constitutional court case brought by conservative MPs which sought to recognize that Slovakia's permissive abortion law is in violation of the right to life and a treaty with the Vatican on conscientious objection would have made access to abortion more difficult.

After being unsuccessful in the above, the opposition's latest attempts have been to introduce amendments to the abortion law which while not outrightly banning abortion, create significant barriers for women and adolescents accessing abortion. It is an attempt to slowly chip away at the right to abortion. Slovakia ProChoice and Citizen and Democracy together with other Slovak NGOs are seeking our support in their efforts to stop these amendments .

Attached please find a sign on letter, prepared by CRR, to Slovak government officials and MPs asking them not to pass the proposed amendments with a very brief analysis of international human rights law and WHO medical standards on the issues presented in the amendments. The sign on letter is in line with the in-depth analysis of the amendments submitted by the Slovak groups to the Parliament and the letter explicitly expresses its supports of this in-depth analysis (which is in Slovak, but I am also attaching it, for your records).

Please submit all sign ons to me by end of the day on FRIDAY, 29 MAY, as the consideration of the amendments in Parliament is next week.

Thanks and please let me know if you have any questions.

Christina Zampas
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