

States' responsibilities for Sexual and Reproductive Rights

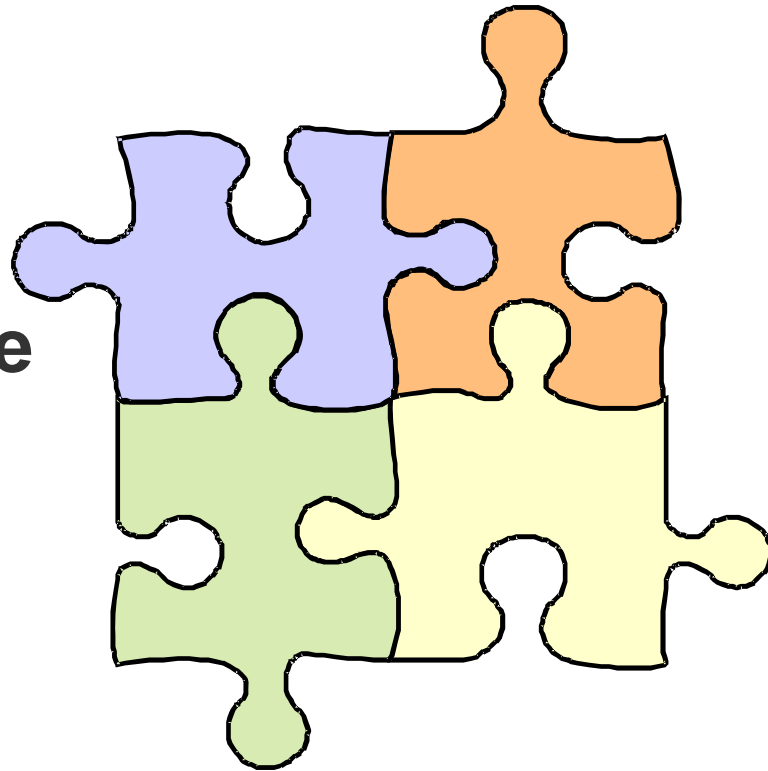
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Traditional states' responsibilities within the Human Rights Framework

1. Not **inflict** harm directly
2. **Protect** from harm inflicted by non-state actors
3. Take **positive** measures to prevent harm

States' Responsibilities within the Sexual and Reproductive Rights Framework

**Sexual and
Reproductive
Autonomy**



**Access to
sexual and
reproductive
health
services**

What is the basis for these responsibilities?

*“Various international treaties form the basis for the recognition and protection of women’s reproductive rights, which derive from the protection of other fundamental rights such as the right to **life, health, equality, the right to be free from discrimination, the right to liberty, bodily integrity and the right to be free from violence** – all of which constitute the essential core of reproductive rights”*

C-355/06 Colombian Constitutional Court

Responsibilities to secure the right to life, health and integrity

- Why is legal abortion an expression of the right to life?
- How is health defined and why it is important?
- How is a woman's right to integrity violated (maternal mortality and morbidity)?

Responsibilities to secure the right to equality and non-discrimination

- Whose life, health and integrity is being put at risk?
- Which are the groups of women paying the costs of maternal mortality and morbidity?

Within this framework **abortion should be:**

Legal

Safe

Optional

Guaranteed by the State

Accompanied by a comprehensive policy
on SRH and therefore rare

Never promoted as method of family planning

*"Sexual and reproductive rights of women have been finally recognized as human rights. As such, they have entered the realm of constitutional law, which is the **fundamental ground of all democratic states**. These rights find their protection in the recognition that equality in general, gender equality in particular, and the emancipation of women and girls, are **essential to society**. Their protection is a direct path for the promotion of **dignity of all human beings** and a step forward **in humanity's advancement towards social justice**."*

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