



WIELKA KOALICJA ZA RÓWNOŚCIĄ I WYBOREM

45th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Item 8: General Debate

Federation for Women and Family Planning, Poland

30 September 2020

Thank you President,

The Federation for Women and Family Planning delivers this statement on behalf of the Great Coalition for Equality and Choice from Poland.

Contrary to the principles enshrined in the Vienna Declaration, women and girls in Poland still struggle to exercise their right to bodily autonomy and control over all aspects of their sexuality.

Covid-19 sheds a vivid light on the existing barriers in access to abortion and created additional obstacles. Systemic discrimination already faced by women and girls has been exacerbated in this pandemic. In addition to already strict conditions to access sexual and reproductive health services, during Covid-19 Polish women experienced among others, the following barriers: closing of hospitals wards, lack of medical staff to provide basic services, and impeded direct or tele contact with gynaecologists, which all resulted in even more restricted access, especially to abortion and contraception.

On International Safe Abortion Day, we unite to say that reproductive justice requires uncompromised access to available, accessible, acceptable and quality sexual and reproductive health services, including modern contraception and comprehensive abortion and post-abortion care on request, as part of universal health coverage. This should include the option of telemedicine, medical and self-managed abortion. Abortion is a safe medical procedure and as such should not be criminalised.

On behalf of Polish women, we declare we expect systemic changes!

We demand Pro-Abortion Law and Justice!

The state has a duty to respect, protect and fulfil our human rights, not to impede them.

The state has a duty to let us decide, not to control us.

To provide us with free, knowledge-based and ideology-free medical care.