

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES

Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales

IAW ACTION SHEET - June 2005



U.S. Disregard for Science Jeopardizes Lives

IAW ACTION PROGRAMME 2005 – 2007
HEALTH (extract)

The self-determination of women in matters relating to reproductive health must be recognised (using the World Charter on Sexual and Reproductive Rights of the IPPF).

- a) The IAW therefore urges governments that
 - reproductive rights be implemented for all women, especially the right to refuse unprotected sex, unwanted pregnancies and unwanted abortions.

Gudrun

Haupter, Convenor of the IAW Commission on Health, has sent the following item for your information and action. Haupter@T-online.de

Oppose U.S. Interference in the World Health Organization!

Dear Friends,

Since March, the U.S. government has been pressuring the World Health Organization (WHO) not to include two FDA-approved drugs -- mifepristone (aka RU 486) and misoprostol – on its List of Essential Medicines. These drugs are proven to safely terminate early-stage pregnancies and could **save the lives of many of the 68,000 women who die each year from unsafe and botched abortions around the world.** However, listing of the drugs is now embroiled in what a WHO spokesman has said is a “political matter”.

[Click here to send emails now to Dr. Lee Jong-Wook, the Director-General of the WHO, to ask that these approved drugs be added to the List of Essential Medicines immediately.](#)

Join our colleagues at International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region who have initiated a global action to protest this **latest outrage in the Bush administration's strategy to bully the rest of the world** with its backward, dangerous stance on reproductive health and women's rights. Every day of delay results in women dying unnecessarily from complications of unsafe abortion.

[ACT NOW to support the lives of women and girls and the integrity of public health research by urging the WHO Director-General to resist outside pressure and add the approved drugs to the List of Essential Medicines without further delay.](#)

Once you've sent your letter to Dr. Lee Jong-Wook, please forward this email to your friends, family members, and colleagues and ask them to join you in contacting the WHO.

Thank you for your action, Jodi Jacobson, Executive Director, Center for Health and Gender Equity

More information:

Letter to Dr. Lee, <http://www.genderhealth.org/swgag.php>

Free Choice Saves Lives, IPPF/WHO's action center www.freechoicesaveslives.org

Guardian article, “US accused of trying to block abortion pills”

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,12271,1464644,00.html>

Lancet editorial, “Abortion drugs must become WHO essential medicines”

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673605665932/fulltext> (requires free registration)

The Center for Health and Gender Equity is a U.S.-based non-governmental organization focused on the effects of U.S. international policies on the health and rights of women, girls, and other vulnerable populations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. www.genderhealth.org. If you have difficulties viewing this newsletter or wish to unsubscribe, please e-mail change@genderhealth.org.

Contacts

IAW Newsletter / News Flash	:	Joke Sebus	< j.sebus@inter.nl.net >
International Women's News	:	Priscilla Todd	< iaw.iwnews@toddsec.com >
Membership Officer	:	Pat Richardson	< iaw.membership@tsn.cc >

You can find this IAW Action Sheet also on the IAW website: <http://www.womenalliance.com>