

OPEN LETTER

CIVIL SOCIETY OPEN LETTER TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF MY VOICE, MY CHOICE

4. February 2026

*Today, 170 civil society organisations from across all 27 EU Member States published an open letter calling on the European Commission to respond positively and decisively to the European Citizens' Initiative *My Voice, My Choice*. The signatories urge the Commission to commit to a concrete legislative proposal establishing EU financial support to ensure access to safe and legal abortion care within the EU, addressing persistent inequalities and cross-border barriers that continue to affect women's health, rights, and dignity.*

Dear President von der Leyen,

Dear Vice-President Mînzatu,

Dear Commissioner Lahbib,

Dear Commissioner Várhelyi,

On behalf of 170 civil society organisations working across all 27 EU Member States, we call on the European Commission to respond positively and decisively to the European Citizens' Initiative *My Voice, My Choice*. Specifically, we urge you to commit to present a clear and concrete legislative proposal establishing EU financial support for access to safe and legal abortion care within the EU, with dedicated budget coverage within the next Multi-annual Financial Framework.

The *My Voice, My Choice* initiative presents a concrete and strategic response to urgent and persistent women's health needs across the EU. Data and evidence demonstrate that profound inequalities continue to limit women's ability to access safe and legal abortion care within their EU country of residence and women living in some parts of the EU are still compelled to travel across borders to access safe care in other Member States or seek care outside of legal frameworks. For many of these women, financial barriers present a serious obstacle and can have very severe consequences including

significant physical and psychological harm. This undermines women's dignity, equality and fundamental rights and seriously threatens public health in the EU.

By responding positively to the *My Voice, My Choice* initiative, and introducing a legislative proposal for an EU financial mechanism, the Commission now has a powerful opportunity to address these threats, prevent harm and put in place a concrete EU-level solution. It can provide a meaningful EU-level response to address the challenges faced by Member States who may wish to assist women from other parts of the EU who need abortion care, as well as the grave forms of harm endured by patients who are unable to secure access to this essential health care in their own Member State.

As underlined by the Commission during the European Parliament debate on 16 December 2025, this initiative "does not seek to interfere with national laws on abortion, which remain under national competence." Action to give effect to the initiative will not impinge on Member States' competences or health systems.

Rather, *My Voice My Choice* proposes a proportionate EU-level response through the establishment of a financial mechanism that would simply allow Member States who are willing, on a voluntarily basis and in full accordance with their legal and medical frameworks, to provide abortion care to women from other parts of the EU, to receive EU financial support and reimbursement for doing so. This approach fully respects the principle of subsidiarity and aligns with EU supporting competence in the field of health. It also addresses a cross-border challenge that no Member State can effectively resolve alone. As a result the Commission is uniquely positioned to act.

More than one million European citizens, together with a clear majority in the European Parliament, have called for a positive response from the Commission. We urge you to honour this clear democratic mandate and to uphold the EU's commitments to gender equality, public health, human rights and freedom of movement. Doing so will save lives and reduce suffering.

Sincerely,

- A.L.E.G., Romania
- Abortion Network Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Abortion Support Network
- ACT (Against Conversion Therapy)
- Action For Choice, Ireland
- Aditus Foundation, Malta
- Afrikagrupperna, Sweden
- Akcja Demokracja, Poland
- Akto – Human Rights and Democracy, Portugal

- Amnesty International
- ANEF Association nationale des études féministe, France
- Asociación Feminista de Asturias, Spain
- Asociația SEXUL vs BARZA, Romania
- Asociația Traditionala Hutulca, Romania
- Asociatia UNIC, Romania
- Associa DOINA, Portugal
- Associação Portuguesa de Estudos sobre as Mulheres (APEM), Portugal
- Associação Repúbl. e Laicidade, Portugal
- Associação Ser Mulher, Portugal
- Association "Papardes zieds", Latvia
- Association for Integration and Migration, Czech Republic
- Association for Nonviolent Communication, Slovenia
- Association for Studies, Cooperation and Development (EOS), Portugal
- Association SOS Help Line for Women And Children – Victims of Violence, Slovenia
- Associazione Luca Coscioni per la libertà di ricerca scientifica (APS), Italy
- ASTRA Network
- Aufstehn.at – Verein zur Förderung zivilgesellschaftlicher Partizipation, Austria
- Ava, Netherlands
- BOLD Bulgarians Organising for Liberal Democracy, Bulgaria
- Bulgarian Fund for Women, Bulgaria
- Bulgarian Platform of the European Women's Lobby, Bulgaria
- Bündnis für Sexuelle Selbstbestimmung, Germany
- Bureau Clara Wichmann, Netherlands
- Center for Education, Counselling and Research (CESI), Croatia
- Center for Equality Advancement, Lithuania
- Center for Partnership and Equality (CPE), Romania
- Center for Reproductive Rights
- Centre d'Action Laïque, Belgium
- Centre de planning familial de Forest, Belgium
- Centre de Planning Familial de Herstal (CPFH), Belgium
- Centre de Planning Familial de Watermael-Boitsfort, Belgium
- Centre de Planning Familial Marolles, Belgium
- Centre de Planning Familial Ourthe-Amblève, Belgium
- Centre de Planning Familial Rosa, Belgium
- Centre de Planning Familial Soralia de Verviers, Belgium
- Centre de Planning Familial Willy Peers, Belgium
- Centre Léa Lor, Belgium
- Centre Louise Michel, Belgium

- Centre Séverine – planning familial laïque de Bruxelles-Ouest. ASBL, Belgium
- Centrul FILIA, Romania
- CHANGES for women – Netzwerk und Unterstützung für ungewollt Schwangere, Austria
- Ciocia Czesia (Czech Auntie), Czech Republic & Poland
- CNVOS, Slovenia
- Collectif contraception Charleroi, Belgium
- Collectif contraception Liège, Belgium
- Collectif Jamais Seules, France
- Confederación General del Trabajo (CGT), Spain
- Congress of Laicity (Kongres Świeckości), Poland
- Conseil des Femmes Francophones de Belgique, Belgium
- Cyprus Family Planning Association, Cyprus
- Danish Family Planning Association, Denmark
- Danish Women's Society, Denmark
- Der Paritätische Gesamtverband, Germany
- Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW)
- Dis bonjour sale pute, France
- Doctors for Choice Germany
- Doctors for Choice Malta
- Dolle Mina, Netherlands
- EL*C – Eurocentralasian Lesbian* Community
- EMMA Association, Hungary
- End FGM EU
- Equipop, France
- E-Romnja Association, Romania
- Eumans
- European Center of the International Council of Women (ECICW)
- European Disability Forum (EDF)
- European Network against Racism, Belgium
- European Secularist Network/Réseau Laïque Européen
- European Women's Lobby
- Everyday Sexism Project Danmark, Denmark
- Fédération des Centres Pluralistes de Planning Familial, Belgium
- Fédération Laïque de Centres de Planning Familial, Belgium
- Feminism Romania Association, Romania
- Feministički tamburaški front, Croatia
- Feminoteka, Poland
- Finnish Federation of Graduate Women (Suomen Akateemisten Naisten Liitto), Finland

- Finnish Women's Association Unioni (Naisasialiitto Unioni ry), Finland
- Fondazione Pangea, Italy
- Foundation for Women and Family Planning FEDERA, Poland
- Frauenvolksbegehren 2.0 – Verein für Frauen*- und Gleichstellungspolitik in Österreich, Austria
- Fundació Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia, Spain
- Gunda-Werner-Institute, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Germany
- Humanists Malta
- Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU), Hungary
- Iele-Sânziene Association, Romania
- ILGA-Europe
- Institute 8th of March, Slovenia
- Institute for the Culture of Diversity Open, Slovenia
- International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion
- International Commission of Jurists
- International Confederation of Midwives, Netherlands
- International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
- International Planned Parenthood Federation – European Network (IPPF EN)
- Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA), Ireland
- Konsent, z.s, Czech Republic
- Laboratorio Lapsus, Italy
- Lawyers for Choice Malta
- LevFem, Bulgaria
- Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights, Lithuania
- Médecins du Monde International Network
- Men Against Violence Malta
- MGRM – Malta LGBTIQ Rights Movement, Malta
- Mouvement français pour le Planning Familial – association départementale des Alpes-Maritimes, France
- Mouvement français pour le planning familial, France
- Možnosť voľby (Freedom of Choice), Slovakia
- Mulher Século XXI – Associação de Desenvolvimento e Apoio às Mulheres, Portugal
- Mulheres à Obra, Portugal
- NGO Feministeerium, Estonia
- O'YES, Belgium
- Österreichischer Frauenring, Austria
- Österreichische Gesellschaft für Familienplanung (ÖGF), Austria
- Oxfam France
- Parents for Choice Malta



- Period Think Tank Aps, Italy
- Plan F ASBL, Belgium
- Planning familial Aimer à l'ULB, Belgium
- Planning Familial de Woluwe-Saint-Pierre, Belgium
- Planning Familial d'Evere, Belgium
- Planning Familial du Luxembourg
- Planning Familial La Famille Heureuse de La Louvière, Belgium
- Planning Rochefort ASBL, Belgium
- Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
- Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights (PpDM), Portugal
- Prisme, Belgium
- Pro Choice Austria
- pro familia Bundesverband, Germany
- pro familia Landesverband Berlin, Germany
- Reclaim the Power Association (Združenje za MOČ), Slovenia
- Red Ecofeminista Ibérica e Iberoamericana, Spain
- Rutgers, Netherlands
- SIPS, Centre de Planning Familial, Belgium
- Social Democratic Women in Finland
- Social-Liberal Youth of Denmark
- Society for Feminist Analyses AnA, Romania
- Sofélia, Belgium
- Soralia, Belgium
- Stichting Samen naar de Kliniek, Netherlands
- Stichting Vrije Keuze Coalitie, Netherlands
- Submit, Netherlands
- Suomalainen Naisliitto, Finland
- Suomen Kätilöliitto – Finlands Barnmorskeförbund ry (Federation of Finnish Midwives), Finland
- Supporting Abortions for Everyone – S.A.F.E.
- Terre des Femmes e.V., Germany
- The Brussels Binder, Belgium
- The Feminist Club Amsterdam, Netherlands
- The Romanian Midwives Association, Romania
- The Society for Education on Contraception and Sexuality, Romania
- Trasek ry, Finland
- Uaar – Unione degli Atei e degli Agnostici Razionalisti, Italy
- UMAR – União de Mulheres Alternativa e Resposta, Portugal
- Väestöliitto, Finland

- Verein 12 Wochen – Hebammenwissen bei frühem Schwangerschaftsverlust, Austria
- Victoires Populaires, France
- VIDAs Associação Portuguesa de Menopausa, Portugal
- Voice For Choice Malta – L-Għażla Tagħna, Malta
- Vrouwenraad vzw, Belgium
- VULGAR Association, Romania
- WHEN Equity Empowerment Change, Greece
- WIDE – Entwicklungspolitisches Netzwerk für Frauenrechte und feministische Perspektiven, Austria
- Wirksame Schutzzonen JETZT!, Austria
- Women Act Greece
- Women Against Violence Europe
- Women's Organisation of the Austrian Green Party, Austria
- Women's Rights Foundation, Malta
- Women's Circles, Slovakia
- Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, Netherlands
- Zaklada SOLIDARNA, Croatia

The following European organisations active outside the EU also endorse this joint letter:

- Abortion Talk, UK
- Doctors for Choice UK
- Real People Real Vision, Georgia
- Reproductive Health Training Center, Moldova
- Roma Women's Right Initiative, North Macedonia
- Sarajevo Open Centre, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Women and Modern World Social Charitable Center (CWMW), Azerbaijan
- Women's Resource Center, Armenia
- #NousToutes, France

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Ärzte der Welt e.V. – Doctors of the World Germany

+ 49 (0) 89 452 30 81-0 – info@aerztederwelt.org – www.aerztederwelt.org

Geschäftsstelle München: Landsberger Str. 428 – 81241 München

Büro Berlin - Berlin Global Village: Am Sudhaus 2, Neubau – 12053 Berlin