

IT'S TIME FOR JUSTICE

International Affairs Committee

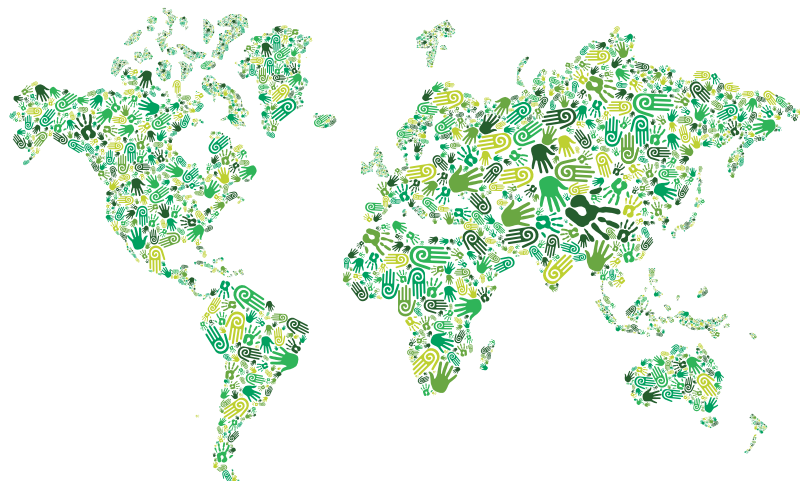
“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you. I will uphold you with My righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10). For those who are isolated, God brings comfort.

Violence against Women and Girls in Nicaragua

Half of all Nicaraguan women and girls will experience violence, including sexual violence, in their lifetimes. High levels of poverty increase their vulnerability to violence and contributes to feelings of isolation.

Their vulnerability is compounded by a Nicaraguan law that maintains a full ban on abortion, even in cases of rape, incest or when continuing the pregnancy threatens the health or the life of the mother. Such cases are referred to as therapeutic abortion. Nicaragua is one of only three countries in the world to ban therapeutic abortion.

Criminalizing therapeutic abortion does not decrease the number of abortions, but rather drives women and girls to seek clandestine medical procedures, or to not seek needed medical attention.



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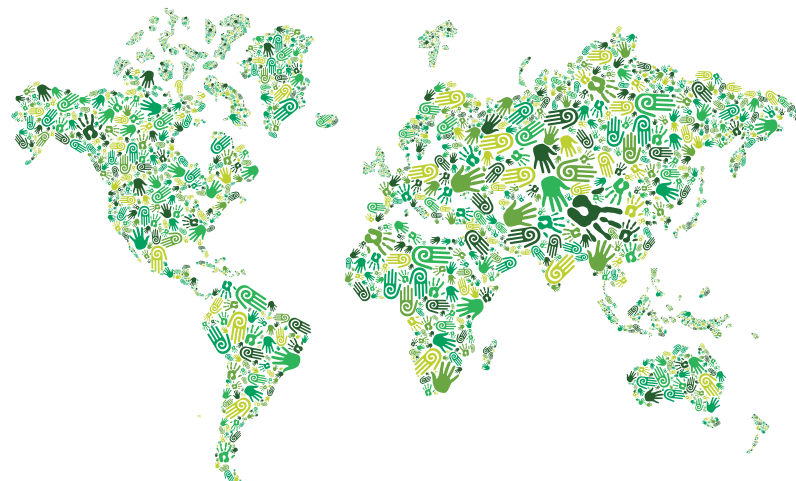
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The ban was set in 2006. In the year following, Nicaraguan women's organizations attributed the death of 82 women as a result of the ban.



The Church Responds

Presbyterian World Service & Development supports the Institute for Human Promotion (INPRHU) in Managua, Nicaragua, which provides shelter for young women and girls who have been living in abusive situations. INPRHU does not provide therapeutic abortion procedures.

The Moderator of the PCC wrote to PWS&D's partners in Nicaragua to express support for their work with victims of violence.



The Moderator also wrote to Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs requesting that she raise the matter of decriminalizing therapeutic abortion with the Government of Nicaragua.

Prayer

Loving God, we declare our support of women and girls around the world, especially for those who suffer as a result of gender-based violence and discrimination. Victims need our ongoing prayers and care.

Gracious God, we pray that all victims of violence will be surrounded by your love and comfort.

Amen.



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

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