



1 August 2018

TO:

Festival for Women's Lives  
Brasilia, 3-6 August 2018  
c/o Sonia Correa,  
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On behalf of the almost 1,300 members of the Campaign in 119 countries around the world, we send solidarity greetings to everyone in Brazil who supports women's right to safe abortion.

It is amazing that not long ago, the women's movements in Brazil defeated an anti-abortion bill and now you are celebrating women's lives while your Supreme Court hears arguments about why they should decriminalise abortion.

In spite of so many dangerous and worrying political trends in the world, this year has been an incredible year for progress on abortion in many countries, and with each victory, large and small, more groups in other countries have been inspired to work actively for change too.

We know that a critical mass of support for abortion rights, coming first and foremost from women in all walks of life, and especially young women, is crucial for change to happen on the ground. This year, we have published photo after photo, video after video, taken in the midst of massive numbers of people in the streets, demanding change on behalf of women. We can mention Ireland, Argentina, Isle of Man, Cyprus, Macedonia. And now, Brazil, and not for the first time.

We fully support the grounds for changing the law put forward in ADPF 442 – specifically, women's constitutional rights, including the right to dignity and citizenship; the right not to be discriminated against; the right to life, equality and freedom; the right to freedom from torture; and the right to health and to family planning. For many years the women's movement in Latin American has identified unsafe, illegal abortion as a form of violence against women. It is time to end that violence.

It was in Brazil in 1990 where the first celebration of 28 September took place, on what is now called International Safe Abortion Day, the date the slaves in Brazil were freed many years ago. Now centuries later, it is time to grant women freedom too, in the form of autonomy over our own bodies.

Wishing you the best in a struggle that is for all our rights,

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