

SARJAI
CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

SARJAI Condemns the SCOTUS Decision Overruling *Roe v. Wade*

The South Asia Reproductive Justice and Accountability Initiative (SARJAI) strongly condemns the U.S Supreme Court's reversal of *Roe v. Wade*: a half-century-long precedent that upheld the constitutional right to abortion for women. The judgment of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (24 June 2022) is retrogressive and violative of international human rights law that the United States of America is obligated to respect, protect, and fulfill. We see a strong trend in abortion-access being liberalized globally, while the US has now become an outlier.

SARJAI stands in solidarity with the people living in the United States and the international community in denouncing and demanding the reversal of the judgment that blatantly disregards the bodily autonomy of pregnant persons. The right to abortion and the right to autonomy in terms of reproductive choices are fundamental human rights. Denying abortion violates a person's fundamental rights including the right to equality and non-discrimination; right to privacy; right to the highest attainable standard of health; and freedom from ill-treatment, harmful practices, and gender-based violence. The United Nations and other human rights experts, including, most recently, the World Health Organization through its [2022 Abortion Care Guideline](#), have repeatedly called for the right to comprehensive abortion-access and recognized it as an essential health service.

Induced abortions are a common pregnancy outcome. Efforts to restrict access to abortion are deplorable and force abortion seekers to consider unsafe means leading to preventable mortality and morbidity. The restrictive abortion legal frameworks that would be in effect and enacted as a result of this judgment will not only exacerbate abortion stigma but also disproportionately impact already vulnerable groups of people, in particular women and girls, amongst people of color, young people, migrants, and persons living with disabilities.

The ripple effect of the judgment globally and in the region cannot and should not be ignored. Inspired by the liberalization of abortion laws in other regions and several South Asian countries, SARJAI will continue to work to stand our ground, defend our gains, and sustain progress in the region. We remain poised to push against and counter any adverse impact that the judgment might have in the region where it could be relied on by public authorities to undermine the right to abortion and other sexual and reproductive rights. We will continue to work together with all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation and amplification of the progressive legal frameworks protecting abortion rights, in particular for women and girls, that are in place in some South Asian countries.

In light of this regressive step, SARJAI therefore strongly urges for the reversal of such a retrogressive judgment as early as possible to fully uphold the right to reproductive choices of the people living in the United States. We urge the U.S. government to immediately enact legal and policy reforms to ensure that abortion access is recognized and remains a fundamental human right. We call upon governments in South Asia to realize the promises under their Constitutions, and commitments under international laws to ensure safe abortion access is recognized, effectively implemented, and remains a fundamental human right protected by domestic laws. We also call for increased public solidarity and support in our advocacy to advance abortion rights in our region, in particular for women and girls.

June 29, 2022

CENTER *for*
REPRODUCTIVE
RIGHTS

कपा
CREHPA

নারীপক্ষ

 JUSTICE FOR ALL (J4A)
सबैका लागि न्याय
Equality, Freedom & respect bring justice for all


YoSHAN
Youth Led SRHR Advocacy Nepal


Saige
Safe Abortion
Advocacy Initiative
Global South Engagement

AHUNG



HIDDEN POCKETS
COLLECTIVE


Sama


greenstar
health • prosperity • future

arrow  *championing women's
sexual and reproductive rights*

blast
bangladesh legal aid and services trust


Centre *for*
Equality *and*
Justice


the yp foundation
INTERSECTIONAL • FEMINIST • RIGHTS-BASED

HRLN
HUMAN RIGHTS LAW NETWORK


enfold


JuRI-Nepal



Dr. Asha Bajpai - *Former Faculty, Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS)*
Dr. Jaya Sagade - *Former Vice Principal and Professor at ILS Law College Pune*
Anubha Rastogi - *Advocate, Mumbai, India*
Dr. Syeda Nasrin - *Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh*
Raju Prasad Chapagai - *Advocate, Supreme Court of Nepal*
Ayesha Khan - *Gender and Development Researcher*
Debanjana Choudhuri - *SRHR Advocate*
Dr. Sana Durvesh - *Greenstar Social Marketing Pakistan (Guarantee) Ltd*