

Mr Andrej Danko
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Dear Member of the Slovak Parliament,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the foreseen vote on a bill that aims to restrict access to legal and safe abortions in Slovakia.

If passed, the bill will require women seeking abortion to undergo a mandatory ultrasound scanning, to view and obtain an ultrasound image of the embryo or the foetus, and where technically possible, to also listen to the "heartbeat of the embryo or the foetus."

I am very concerned that these measures will harm women's health and well-being and will in turn obstruct their access to safe abortion. In addition, the bill will undermine women's privacy, personal integrity, autonomy in decision-making about health care and will subject them to harmful stigma, humiliation and degrading treatment.

I would like to remind you that according to the World Health Organization (WHO), there is no medical reason for routine ultrasound prior to abortion. Instead, the WHO has underlined that women's decisions to access abortion care should be respected and that safe abortion should be "delivered in a way that respects a woman's dignity, guarantees her right to privacy and is sensitive to her needs and perspectives."

I urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure the Slovak Parliament rejects this regressive bill, that breaches international human rights law, and to refrain from further attempts to restrict reproductive rights in Slovakia.

Yours sincerely,