

## International SRHR Consortium – Statement on Roe vs Wade

The International Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Consortium (hereafter the Consortium) comprises 10 Australian organisations and institutions working to improve access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Asia and the Pacific. The Consortium was established in 2012 to collectively champion SRHR as a key contributor to gender equality. We work in partnership with local organisations to promote, protect and improve access to SRHR for all people, particularly women and girls, young people, and those most marginalised.

The Consortium strongly disagrees with the recent US Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe vs Wade, which has provided some legal protection for women’s rights to body autonomy and access to safe abortion in the United States for nearly 50 years. The decision enables each US state to decide the legal status of abortion. Trigger laws in eight states have already resulted in the criminalization of abortion since the Roe vs Wade decision. There is a concern that the reach of the US ruling, however, may be broader, with potential impacts on decision making and legal restrictions for abortion access in Asia, the Pacific, and globally. This would put millions of lives at risk and further increase economic and social inequalities for women, girls, and their families.

Access to safe, legal, and effective abortion is essential to an individual’s autonomy and their human right to make choices about their own bodies and lives.

The Consortium calls for governments to uphold legislation and policies that enable people to access safe and timely abortion care as an essential health care service. Moreover, the Consortium calls for environments that enable people to make safe reproductive choices, exercise their bodily autonomy, and to live well and healthy lives.

