



## One Year Since *Roe v. Wade* Was Overturned: The fight to defend reproductive rights and gender equality continues

One year ago, *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. It was a monumental setback in the ongoing global fight to defend abortion rights.

One year later, we see it was also so much more than that. It has made visible a larger battle being waged against our rights and our bodies.

When people are denied their sexual and reproductive rights, it has life-altering consequences. It perpetuates gender inequality and restricts people's ability to make informed decisions about their health and lives. It contributes to social and economic inequalities, trapping people in cycles of poverty and limiting their opportunities and potential.

It also crucially undermines democracy.

**Right now, we're witnessing a coordinated global movement that opposes sexual and reproductive rights, bodily autonomy, and gender equality.** There are political actors and influential individuals that are actively working to roll back the progress made in advancing these rights. This coordinated mobilization is inherently connected to heightened hyper-nationalism and religious fundamentalisms and wider attacks on human rights globally. From the anti-2SLGBTQIA+ laws being passed in the United States, Uganda and Russia, rollbacks on the rights of queer and trans youth in New Brunswick and beyond, racist anti-migrant laws and policies across Europe, book bans, attacks on drag story times, disinformation, restrictions on gender-affirming care and heightened anti-trans hate on and offline, these efforts all reinforce a vision of the world with rigid social hierarchies and norms of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and more.

We reject it.

Instead, we are united in a vision of the world where we can all claim our rights, and make our own choices for our bodies, our relationships, our families, and our health. A world where people are treated equally, where health and economic systems are built to support us all, and where diversity is celebrated and nurtured.

We reaffirm our unconditional commitment to dreaming of and building just societies and communities where all people have control over their bodies and lives and have access to the resources needed to make that a reality.

We recommit to speaking up against hate and discrimination as well as policies and laws that dehumanize and disempower.

We acknowledge that none of us are free until all of us are free.

**As we continue the fight to protect and advance access to abortion in this country and around the world, we do with the full knowledge that standing up for this right also commits us to fight together for all human rights.**

Today, we stand more committed than ever, to defending sexual and reproductive rights, gender equality, and to collectively fighting against hate and discrimination. We believe that having control over our own bodies is essential for having control over our lives.

We call on all levels of government to [continue to take action until abortion access is a reality for everyone in this country](#). While abortion's legal status in Canada has been settled since 1988, access to abortion is far from equitable and opponents of reproductive rights continue to attempt to restrict what access we do have.

We call on our governments to work to [stem the unprecedented tide of anti-2SLGBTQIA+ hate and discrimination across the country](#).

We call on our governments to challenge rising disinformation and to invest in a strong civil society which centres diverse intersectional feminist movements, because they are the key to strong, stable democracies that work to leave no one behind.

Let the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* ending 50 years of constitutional protections for abortion in the U.S. be a wake-up call and a call to action for everyone in Canada and globally.

This is what defending the right to abortion looks like.

## HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION

- Share this letter widely with your communities.
- Become a monthly donor to feminist organizations to help sustain our work of defending and advocating for reproductive rights and gender equality in Canada and globally!
- Contact your elected officials about the demands outlined above.