

ArtsForAbortionRights.

#WhyAbortionWhyNow

ToolKit



She Decides.

Arts for Abortion Rights



Art is a powerful tool for change. It connects the personal with the political and provides a unique way to bring people together. It ignites discussion over complex issues and helps change perspectives, narratives and norms.

Join SheDecides activists from across the globe as we use art and creative expression to **speak out** and **organize**. To think, feel, connect and find new ways to take-action for access to safe abortion, and the right to decide.

#WhyAbortionWhyNow

Around the world we can see the gendered-impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. From overloaded health systems, reallocation of funding and resources, shortages of medical supplies, to lockdowns, travel restrictions and social distancing. The pandemic is adversely affecting women and girls. It is further restricting their right to decide about their bodies, lives and futures. This is personal and political. Ensuring access to safe abortion services and the right to decide has never been so urgent. Now more than ever, we need to stand up, speak out and shout **#WhyAbortionWhyNow**.

Why the colour green?

In recognition of the urgency of the cause and as a salute to our sisters, the inspiring abortion rights activists of Latin America, **#WhyAbortionWhyNow** will invoke the colour of the Green Tide for Legal and Safe Abortion, and help to take it worldwide.

How do I take action?

Use this toolkit to create, plan and use arts to express **#WhyAbortionWhyNow** in your context. With a range of possible activities, there is room and space for everyone who wants to take action on abortion rights and speak out for a **#NewNormal**.



What is International Safe Abortion Day and why is it important?

28 September is a global moment where activists around the world unite to demand universal access to safe and legal abortion, led by the International Campaign for Women's Access to Safe Abortion. As a movement, SheDecides stands in sisterhood with the International Campaign.

For [#WhyAbortionWhyNow](#), 28 September in 2020 will be our spark. Starting on International Safe Abortion Day, SheDecides activists around the world will each take action and ignite six months of global activism and dialogue, building momentum ahead of SheDecides Day in 2021.



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Media

Social Media: Toolkit

Use social media to engage others and raise awareness. [This social media toolkit](#) on the website is full of assets and templates to help amplify your activity. Remember to use [#WhyAbortionWhyNow](#) and tag @SheDecidesGFI in your posts.

Local Media

Reach out and alert local and national media to crowd in supporters and make the most noise possible about [#WhyAbortionWhyNow](#). Head to the website to download this [press pack](#) to help raise awareness about your activity and spread the word.

Share your story: Write an Op-Ed or Blog

Time to get vocal! Write an article – either as a single author or as a joint article with other activists, to highlight why abortion matters and why it matters now. Or if you prefer, send the Support Unit a blog to share on the SheDecides website! Share your views by emailing blogs@shedecides.com



"In Brazil, fundamentalists are pushing for laws that further restricts women and girl's access to safe abortion. During Covid-19, women's health services have closed and violence against women has increased. We have solutions: separation of church and state, prioritising budgets for sexual health and rights policies, education on the right to decide, contraception to prevent unwanted pregnancy, and access to safe and legal abortion to save lives. Together, we must shout [#WhyAbortionWhyNow](#)!"

Tabata Tesser, member of Catholics for the Right to Decide BR, and SheDecides 25x25 young leader Brazil



Film

Add a Film to the Abortion Rights Film List

Check out what other people around the world are watching and recommend some of your favorite films. The theme is abortion rights. From fiction to documentaries, to arthouse and beyond – all movie suggestions are welcome! This is all about connecting the personal to the political. Visit the [ArtsForAbortionRights webpage](#) to add your suggestions.

Watch a film and share

Pick out a film from the list and watch it! Where possible, links will be available to watch the film online. You can access the full film list on the website [here](#).

Organise a SheDecides Film Circle

Films are a great conversation starter and organising a gathering to watch a film is a fun and easy way to open a discussion on access to safe abortion, and the right to decide. Learn how to organise a SheDecides Film Circle [here](#).

*In person gatherings should only be organized if they are in line with your country's social distancing guidelines.



Tips and Tricks for Gathering Online:

Need support with how to gather online? Read [these simple tips and tricks](#) for guidance.

Design

Create your mask

Say [#WhyAbortionWhyNow](#) with style, and customize your face mask! Head to the website to see a [video tutorial](#) on how you can create your own DIY face mask in support of [#WhyAbortionWhyNow](#).

Take a selfie in your new mask and show your support for abortion rights.

Make a poster for your window

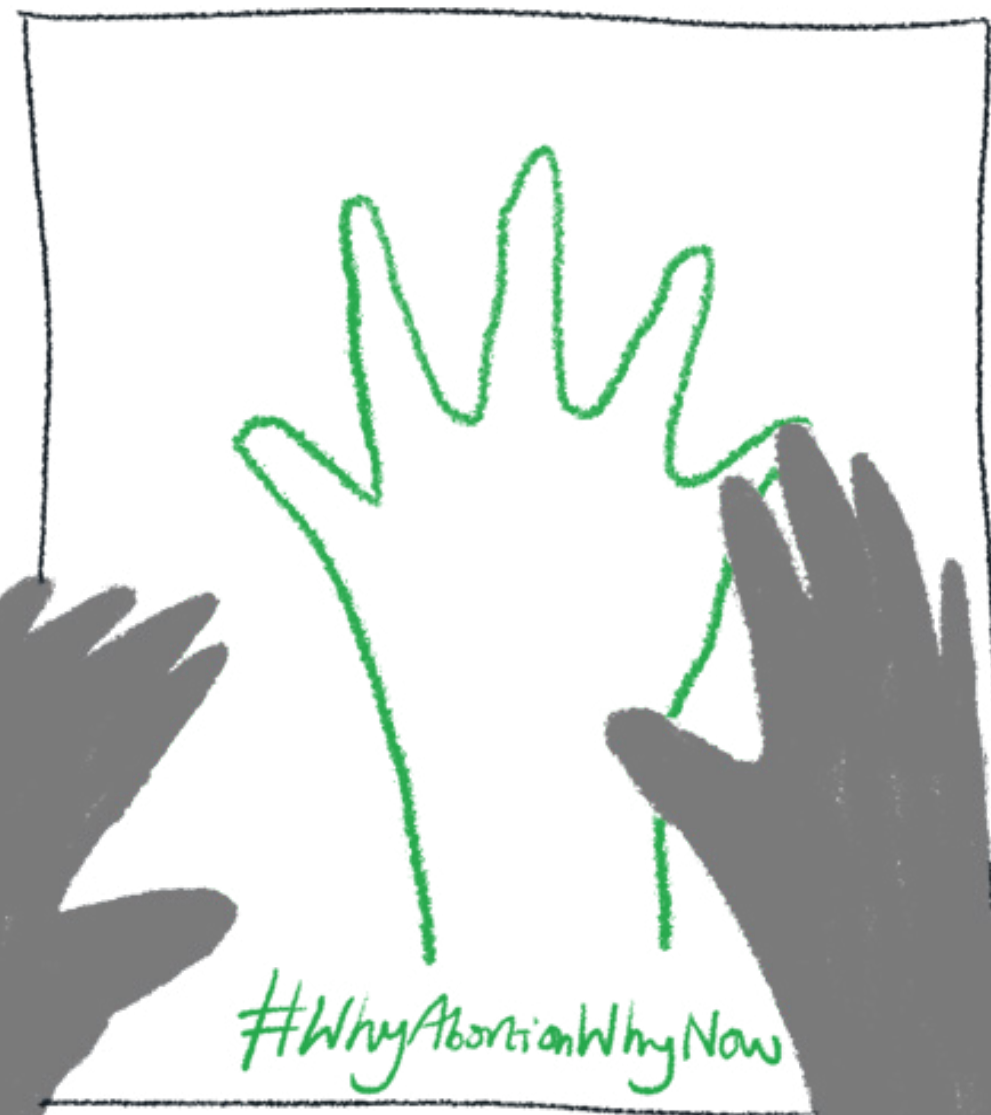
Get creative and make a banner to display in your home by following these 3 easy steps:

- Take a piece of paper
- Draw around the contour of your hand with a green pen
- Add [#WhyAbortionWhyNow](#) and stick it to your window

Or download this [ready-made poster](#) from the website and place it in your window.

Share the art and design you love

Have you been inspired by an abortion rights artist? Whether it's art, graffiti, dance, theatre, literature, music – we want to know about it. Share examples of art that inspires you and tell us what it means to you on social media @SheDecidesGFI using [#WhyAbortionWhyNow](#).



Combined Arts



Tips and Tricks for Gathering Online:

Need support with how to gather online? Read [these simple tips and tricks](#) for guidance.

Organise a SheDecides Open House

A SheDecides Open House is a space for existing SheDecides Movements to open their doors and invite people to join using artistic expression with [#WhyAbortionWhyNow](#) as the rallying cry.*

As SheDecides Movements, you will convene these spaces using art and performance to ignite discussions around safe abortion, bodily autonomy and what it means to be pro-choice.

Interested in organising?

If you're already part of an established SheDecides Movement then check out this [guide](#) on the website and connect with your Regional Movement Building Advisor from the SheDecides Support Unit for more information.

Interested in attending?

If you're new to SheDecides head over to the [ArtsForAbortionRights map](#) to see if an Open House is happening near you.

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Organise a SheDecides Open Mic

A SheDecides Open Mic is a fun, creative and engaging conversation about bodily autonomy, integrity and the right to decide. If there isn't a SheDecides Movement in your country yet, then organising an Open Mic is a great first step to establishing one. It can be a good starting point to grow your network of SheDecides activists for future action.

An Open Mic is usually a private space, to ensure it's safe for people to express themselves freely. It's a great way to gather a diverse range of perspectives and establish a collective voice. As activists and change-makers, you can call on your government and other decision makers to understand [#WhyAbortionWhyNow](#).

Interested in organising?

Anyone can organise an Open Mic! Check out this [guide](#) on the website for some tips on how to do it.

Interested in attending?

Head over to the [ArtsForAbortionRights map](#) to check if there's an Open Mic near you.

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Tips and Tricks for Gathering Online:

Need support with how to gather online? Read [these simple tips and tricks](#) for guidance.

TED
MASTERCLASS

Sign up to a MasterClass

Exclusively for SheDecides Movements, 25x25 Young Leaders and Champions:

On 28 September join Mariela Belski, in this SheDecides MasterClass titled **“Prison Notebook: Abortion, Why, Why Me”**. This will be a safe space to ask questions and share ideas for activism that can be taken worldwide. Registration will open soon.



“Carrying on with legislation that prevents legal abortion will not help in our fight against the pandemic. On the contrary, its contributing to health systems being overwhelmed during these times of COVID-19. It’s time to say no more women die from unsafe abortions. #AbortoLegal2020 #SeráLey”

-Mariela Belski, Executive Director of Amnesty International Argentina, and SheDecides Champion.

@Your Government



Take Action with the International Campaign

Join activists around the world campaigning for safe and legal abortion. The 14-day action starting 14 September 2020 will ignite important political discussions around bodily autonomy and the right to decide and put pressure on your national government in time for 28 September!

'@ **Your Government**' - send a tweet tagging (@) your government ministry, department, minister or politician who may be responsible for gender equality, human rights, health, sexual reproductive health and rights including safe abortion.

1. Choose which ministry, minister, or other key decision-makers you wish to target via Twitter.
2. Tag (@) the relevant account with your demand for ensuring access safe abortion in your country or region.
3. Make sure you include one of the dedicated hashtags in your tweet: **#28Sept #IManageMyAbortion and #WhyAbortionWhyNow**
4. (Optional) reply to your own tweet with a request for a formal statement from your government on 28 September 2020.

For further information, visit the [website](#), where you can also find out more about abortion laws in your country.

Safeguarding

Preparing for Opposition

As a movement that Stands Up and Speaks Out for bodily autonomy we may encounter threats and intimidation from those that wish to restrict women and girls rights to make decisions and choices about their own bodies and health.

At a time of increased backlash on human rights it is important that intimidation, threats and attacks are reported and that plans are put in place to safeguard activists defending abortion rights. Please take extra care on International Safe Abortion day and when taking action with the [#WhyAbortionWhyNow](#) campaign.

Stay safe with your online activism with these [Digital Security Tools & Tactics](#)

Security in-a-Box is jointly developed by Front Line Defenders and Tactical Technology Collective, along with a global network of thousands of activists, trainers and digital security experts.

If someone is sending you threatening messages or harassing you online, you can report the account or user to the platform or social networking site. If you are being intimidated, threatened and are concerned for your physical safety and emotional wellbeing please let someone know what is happening. This may include friends, parents, colleagues, an organisation, the police or the relevant authority in your country.

Please report any incidents to Lewis Emmerton (He/Him/His) Policy Advisor, SheDecides Support Unit with the subject line [ISAD Opposition]:

safety@shedecides.com

*In person gatherings should only be organized if they are in line with your country's social distancing guidelines.



International Safe Abortion Day is just the beginning

Starting on 28 September SheDecides activists around the world will join voices and forces as we shout [#WhyAbortionWhyNow](#).

Even if you are doing something different from the activities in this toolkit, your fellow SheDecides activists will want to know. Don't forget to use the hashtag, and tag @SheDecidesGFI on social media.

Make sure to also check out the SheDecides channels for inspiration building up to the day, and after.

Together we will tell the world [#WhyAbortionWhyNow](#). We will create a [#NewNormal](#). Where [#SheDecides](#). [#WithoutQuestion](#).



TAKE ACTION

Big or small, every action makes a difference. In this Toolkit there is something for everyone.



#Why
Abortion
Why Now



ORGANISE AN
OPEN HOUSE

GROW THE
MOVEMENT!

ORGANISE AN
OPEN MIC

ORGANISE A
FILM CIRCLE

ORGANISE

MAKE A
FACEMASK & POSTER

MEDIA

STAND UP, SPEAK OUT

@ Your
GOVERNMENT

SIGN THE
MANIFESTO

Credits

Playbook designer and illustrator: **Hannah O'Brien**

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*Illustrator of graphic featuring Mariela Belski: **Nuno Sarmento**

