

# RELEASE

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## **THE GREEN WAVE IS UNSTOPPABLE: Colombia joins the decriminalization of abortion**

**In a historic decision, the Constitutional Court decided to completely decriminalize abortion in the country, allowing legal access by women and pregnant people up to 24 weeks of gestation and in specific cases at higher gestational ages.**

IPPF ACRO and Profamilia Colombia celebrate the decision of the full chamber of the Constitutional Court taken on February 21, 2022, which recognized that voluntary abortion will no longer be a crime until the 24th week of gestation. After this week, women and pregnant people will have legal access in case of non-viability of the fetus with extrauterine life, when they have been victims of sexual violence or when the pregnancy puts their life and/or physical, emotional, or mental health at risk.

With this pronouncement, Colombia joins the group of Latin American countries that have advanced in transforming their legislation that previously sanctioned and punished access to abortion services. We applaud this triumph of the women's movement, in its broadest diversity, which achieved the broadest protection framework in the region and represents a victory for all women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**IPPF ACRO highlights the role of its Member Association Profamilia, which for 56 years has defended and guaranteed the Sexual and Reproductive Rights of all people in Colombia. It is also one of the main providers of abortion services in the country.**

Profamilia contributed to the decision that we celebrate today through the formulation of a series of arguments for the lawsuit, presenting an amicus curiae of its own and promoting the interventions of 27 other key actors who requested the elimination of the crime of abortion. In addition, Profamilia made the importance of this decision visible before the United Nations Human Rights Council and has supported the right to abortion by generating data and providing health services. For this reason, Profamilia is recognized in Colombia as a key player in the current and future conversation about abortion and its regulatory perspectives within the health system.

We are confident that the decision of the Colombian Constitutional Court on the decriminalization of abortion will serve as an example to other countries in the Americas, the Caribbean and the world that maintain legislation that limits the autonomy of women and pregnant people to decide about their lives and their bodies. Access to free and safe abortion is a matter of social justice, as this South American country has just recognized.

The successive changes that have been taking place in the regulation of abortion in Latin America are part of a transformation, led by feminist movements, to which all States that pride themselves on being democratic and respectful of human rights are called.

