

- I** TO SAVE THE WOMAN'S LIFE OR PROHIBITED ALTOGETHER
- II** TO PRESERVE HEALTH
- III** SOCIOECONOMIC GROUNDS
- IV** WITHOUT RESTRICTION AS TO REASON
- UNAVAILABLE

# THE WORLD'S ABORTION LAWS 2011

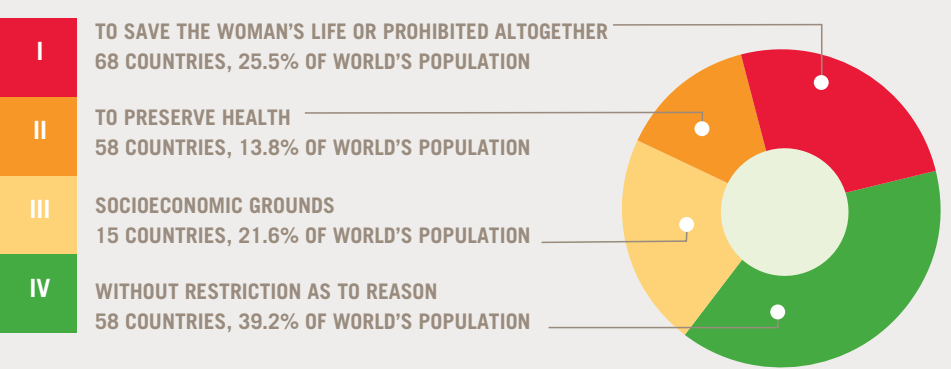
Currently, more than 60% of the world's people live in countries where induced abortion is permitted either for a wide range of reasons or without restriction as to reason. In contrast, about 26% of all people reside in countries where abortion is generally prohibited.

The table below illustrates the varying degrees to which countries worldwide permit access to abortion. Laws are categorized according to provisions in national statutes, regulations and court decisions. The categorization of each law does not necessarily reflect the law's actual implementation in that country. Depending on such factors as public support for abortion rights, the views of government officials and providers, and individual circumstances, laws in each category may be interpreted more broadly or restrictively than indicated by their classifications below. Countries in Category I have the most restrictive laws. Those in each subsequent category recognize the grounds specified in the preceding category as well as additional grounds.

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## CATEGORIES OF ABORTION LAWS FROM MOST TO LEAST RESTRICTIVE

I. TO SAVE THE WOMAN'S LIFE OR PROHIBITED ALTOGETHER <i>Countries printed in bold make an explicit exception to save a woman's life. See also NOTE I.</i>			II. TO PRESERVE HEALTH <i>(also to save the woman's life). Countries printed in bold recognize an exception to preserve a woman's mental health. See also NOTE II.</i>			III. SOCIOECONOMIC GROUNDS <i>(also to save the woman's life and health)</i>			IV. WITHOUT RESTRICTION AS TO REASON <i>See also NOTE IV.</i>		
Afghanistan	Iran-F	Papua New Guinea	Algeria	Jamaica-PA	Saint Lucia-R/I	Australia-FS	Albania	Fmr. Yugoslav Rep. Macedonia-PA	Serbia-PA	Singapore***	
Andorra	Iraq	Paraguay	Argentina-R1	Jordan	Samoa	Barbados-PA/R/I/F	Armenia	Georgia-PA	Slovak Rep.-PA	Slovenia-PA	
Angola	Ireland	Philippines	Bahamas	Kenya	Saudi Arabia-SA/PA	Belize-F	Austria*		South Africa	Spain-PA	
Antigua & Barbuda	Kiribati	San Marino	Benin-R/I/F	Kuwait-SA/PA/F	Seychelles-R/I/F	Cyprus-R/F	Bahrain	Germany*	Switzerland	Sweden**	
Bangladesh	Laos	Sao Tome & Principe	Bolivia-R/I	Liberia-R/I/F	Sierra Leone	Fiji-R/I/F	Belarus	Hungary	Ukraine	United States-FS/PA	
Bhutan-R/I/+	Lebanon	Senegal	Botswana-R/I/F	Liechtenstein+	Swaziland-R/I/F	Finland-R/F/+	Belgium*	Italy-PA			
Brazil-R	Lesotho	Solomon Islands	Burkina Faso-R/I/F	Malaysia	Thailand-R/F	Great Britain-F	Bosnia-Herzegovina-PA	Kazakhstan	Tajikistan	Tunisia	
Brunei Darussalam	Libya-PA	Somalia	Burundi	Maldives-SA	Togo-R/I/F	Hong Kong-R/I/F	Bulgaria	Kosovo-PA	Turkey-SA/PA	Turkmenistan	
Central African Rep.	Madagascar	South Sudan	Cameroon-R	Monaco-R/I/F/xx	Trinidad & Tobago	Iceland-R/I/F/+	Cambodia*	Kyrgyzstan			
Chile-x	Malawi-SA	Sri Lanka	Chad-F	Morocco-SA	Uruguay-R	India-PA/R/F	Canada*	Latvia-PA			
Congo (Brazzaville)	Malta-x	Sudan-R	Colombia-R/I/F	Mozambique	Vanuatu	Japan-SAR	Cape Verde	Lithuania			
Cote d'Ivoire	Marshall Islands-U	Suriname	Costa Rica	Namibia-R/I/F	Zimbabwe-R/I/F/xx	Luxembourg-PA/R/F	China-S	Moldova			
Dem. Rep. of Congo	Mexico-FS/R/F	Syria-SA/PA	Comoros	Nauru		Saint Vincent & Grenadines-R/I/F	Croatia-PA	Mongolia			
Dominica	Micronesia-U	Tanzania	Costa Rica	New Zealand-I/F		Taiwan-SA/PA/I/F	Cuba-PA	Montenegro-PA			
Dominican Republic	Myanmar	Timor-Leste	Ecuador-R1	Niger-F		Zambia-F	Czech Rep.-PA	Nepal-S			
Egypt	Nicaragua-x	Tonga	Equatorial Guinea-SA/PA	Northern Ireland			Dem. People's Rep. of Korea*	Netherlands*			
El Salvador-x	Nigeria	Tuvalu	Eritrea	Pakistan			Denmark-PA	Norway-PA			
Gabon	Oman	Uganda	Ethiopia-R/I/F/+	Pakistan			Estonia	Portugal-PA			
Guatemala	Palau-U	United Arab Emirates-SA/PA	Gambia	Poland-PA/R/I/F			France*	Puerto Rico*			
Guinea-Bissau	Panama-PA/R/F	Venezuela	Ghana-R/I/F	Qatar-F				Romania*			
Haiti		West Bank & Gaza Strip	Grenada	Rep. of Korea-SA/R/I/F				Russian Fed.			
Honduras		Yemen	Guinea-R/I/F	Rwanda							
Indonesia-SA/R/F			Israel-R/I/F/+	Saint Kitts & Nevis							



**A NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY**  
"Countries" listed on the table include independent states and, where populations exceed one million, semi-autonomous regions, territories and jurisdictions of special status. The table therefore includes Hong Kong, Northern Ireland, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Other entities, where visible on the map, appear in colors corresponding to laws in force, but they are not listed on the table.

**NOTE I** Laws that make no explicit exception to save a woman's life are normally interpreted to permit life-saving abortions on grounds of the general criminal law defense of "necessity." In this situation, although laws do not expressly permit abortion, the procedure could be performed on the rationale that it is necessary to preserve the life of the woman.

**NOTE II** According to the World Health Organization, "health" is "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." Laws in this category that do not make an explicit exception to protect a woman's mental health should be interpreted to allow abortion on such grounds.

**NOTE IV** **GESTATIONAL LIMITS KEY**  
All Countries in Category IV have gestational limits of 12 weeks unless otherwise indicated. Gestational limits are calculated from the first day of the last menstrual period, which is considered to occur two weeks prior to conception. Where laws specify that gestational age limits are calculated from the date of conception, these limits have been extended by two weeks.

§ Gestational limit of 90 days \* Gestational limit of 14 weeks ^ Law does not limit pre-viability abortion  
† Gestational limit of 8 weeks \*\* Gestational limit of 18 weeks ° Law does not indicate gestational limit; regulatory mechanisms vary  
‡ Gestational limit of 10 weeks \*\*\* Gestational limit of 24 weeks

**INDICATIONS**  
R Abortion permitted in cases of rape  
R1 Abortion permitted in the case of rape of a woman with a mental disability  
I Abortion permitted in cases of incest  
F Abortion permitted in cases of fetal impairment  
SA Spousal authorization required  
PA Parental authorization/notification required  
+ Abortion permitted on additional enumerated grounds relating to such factors as the woman's age or capacity to care for a child  
S Sex selective abortion prohibited  
X Legislation eliminated all exceptions to prohibition on abortion; availability of defense of necessity highly unlikely  
xx Legislation explicitly permits abortion only to protect the physical health of a woman  
U Law unclear  
FS Federal system in which abortion law is determined at state level; classification reflects legal status of abortion for largest group of people

**CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**  
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