



# US WOMEN'S CAUCUS AT THE UN

## Statement on Texas Abortion Ban

September 6, 2021

The US Women's Caucus at the UN joins with millions of other American women outraged at the passage of Texas Senate Bill 8 that effectively bans abortion access to women in Texas, the second largest state in the US. ***The passage of this law has a chilling effect on the rights of every woman.***

Since the law outlaws abortions after six weeks, before many women even know they are pregnant, and makes no exceptions for rape or incest, it clearly violates the *Roe v. Wade* precedent. The fact that the Supreme Court did not immediately stop this flagrant violation of *Roe v. Wade* and did not even hear arguments illustrates the clear intent of the Court to cast aside the established law of the land since 1973. We agree with Justice Sotomayor who wrote, "*The Court's order is stunning.*"

The six-week ban alone is an egregious step, but additional provisions of the law are even more despicable. The law assigns enforcement to any ordinary citizen with a grievance. It allows them to hunt down and deny a woman, or anyone who helps her, the constitutional right to an abortion. Bounty hunters would be rewarded with the outrageous sum of \$10,000. Such a vigilante law invites neighbor to turn on neighbor and smacks of fascist tactics.

By its tacit consent to such open, willful injustice, the Supreme Court will only embolden other state legislatures that wish to limit a women's right to choose to follow suit. *This cannot stand.*

**We call upon the Supreme Court to halt this law immediately;** to prevent any further enforcement provisions; to respect their oath of office to be impartial judges; and to reaffirm women's reproductive rights under *Roe v. Wade*.

**We applaud President Biden's statement denouncing the Supreme Court's actions** and his order directing the Gender Policy Council and the Office of the White House Counsel to "launch a whole-of-government effort to respond to this decision ... to ensure that women in Texas have access to safe and legal abortions as protected by *Roe* and what legal tools we have to insulate women and providers from the impact of Texas' bizarre scheme of outsourced enforcement to private parties."

But more is needed. Legislative action is required when the Supreme Court refuses to render justice. The US cannot, and must not, revert to the times when women were forced to flee like criminals to other states, or worse, seek unsafe underground abortions.

**We therefore call upon the US Congress to pass the Women's Health Protection Act** (H.R.3755 and S.1975) that will codify the reproductive rights outlined in *Roe v. Wade* to ensure that a woman's right to choose may not be taken away by any individual state or judicial body.

Even more important for women's rights is for Congress to **pass the Equal Rights Amendment** and to join the rest of the world in ratifying CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

*Elie Wiesel once said, "There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest."*

**NOW is the time for everyone who believes in women's rights to stand up and protest this gross injustice.**

***We are progressive US NGOs in solidarity for the human rights of women and girls.***  
**[uswomenscaucus.org](http://uswomenscaucus.org)                      [Info@uswomenscaucus.org](mailto:Info@uswomenscaucus.org)**