

Question for written answer E-005072/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Elena Kountoura (The Left)

Subject: Urgent need for universal protection and promotion of sexual and reproductive rights in all EU Member States

Sexual and reproductive rights are protected as human rights in international and European human rights law¹ and constitute a key element of comprehensive healthcare provision. However, it is estimated that more than 20 million women in the EU still lack access to safe and legal abortion, as well as to sexual and reproductive health services and related rights.

Considering that some Member States maintain particularly restrictive legal or practical barriers that lead women to forced pregnancies, illegal or cross-border solutions, constituting a violation of their fundamental rights and a form of gender-based violence², and taking into account the European Citizens' Initiative 'My Voice, My Choice', which has collected over 1.2 million signatures, calling for the establishment of a financial support mechanism for Member States that provide universal access to safe and legal abortion³:

1. How does the Commission intend to ensure full and non-discriminatory access to sexual and reproductive health services, including safe and legal abortion, for all women in the EU?
2. Does the Commission intend to propose the creation of a European funding mechanism to support Member States that choose to provide universal access to such services?
3. Does the Commission intend to include a specific pillar on sexual and reproductive rights in the annual rule of law report, in order to ensure systematic monitoring, accountability and compliance of Member States with the fundamental rights and principles of the Union?

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¹ Including the ICCPR and the ICESCR, CEDAW and the ECHR.

² In Malta, abortion is only permitted when the woman's life is at risk, while in Poland access is limited to cases of serious threat to the life of the pregnant woman or pregnancy resulting from sexual violence. In addition, many Member States impose additional barriers that delay or hinder timely and equal access to abortion, such as mandatory waiting periods, mandatory counselling, gestational age limits and the invocation of conscientious objection by health professionals.

³ The lack of access to abortion as basic women's healthcare in some Member States not only puts women at risk of physical harm, but also causes undue financial and psychological distress for women, often in marginalised communities who are less able to bear the costs (<https://www.myvoice-mychoice.org/>).