



**CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN WOMEN'S NETWORK FOR  
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS**

27 January 2009

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of ASTRA Central and Eastern European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights I write to express deep gratitude for the actions you and your administration have taken last week to ensure the health and rights of women and girls worldwide. By rescinding the global gag rule, creating an opportunity for new leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and moving toward support of United Nations Population Fund you have taken the first steps down a long road of reshaping U.S. policy to better meet the sexual and reproductive health needs of women and girls around the world.

These issues are important to us because of our activities directed at promotion of reproductive health and rights. ASTRA is a regional network of NGOs and individuals advocating in a collective voice for sexual and reproductive health and rights in Central and Eastern Europe. ASTRA Network has 29 members from 18 countries and includes: Federation for Women and Family Planning, Warsaw/Poland; Family Planning Association of Albania, Tirana/Albania, Women's Rights Center of Armenia, Yerevan/Armenia; Center "Women and Modern World", Baku/Azerbaijan; Women's Independent Democratic Movement of Belarus, Minsk/ Belarus; Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, Sofia/Bulgaria; B.a.b.e (Be Active, Be Emancipated), Zagreb/Croatia; CESI - Centre for Education and Counselling of Women, Zagreb/Croatia; The Legal Center for Women's Initiatives "Sana Sezim", Shymkent/Kazakhstan; Family Planning and Sexual Health Association of Lithuania, Vilnius/Lithuania; Latvia's Association for Family Planning And Sexual Health, Riga/Latvia; Eastern European Institute for Reproductive Health, Targu Mures/Romania, AnA: Romanian Society for Feminist Analysis, Bucharest/Romania; Institute of State and Law, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow/Russia; Novgorod Gender Center, Novgorod/Russia; NGO "Women Health and Family Planning", Kiev/Ukraine; Habeas Corpus Working Group/Hungary; IPAS, Chapel Hill/USA; NGO Pro Choice Bratislava, Bratislava/Slovakia; Center for Reproductive Rights, New York/USA, Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association, Sofia/Bulgaria, Women's Center, Tbilisi/Georgia, Gender Education, Research and Technologies, Sofia/Bulgaria, Reproductive Health Training Center, Chisinau/Moldova; Women's Room - Women's Center for Sexuality and the Prevention, Research and Combating of Sexual

Violence, Zagreb/Croatia, ANO "Women's Health"/Russia; Charitable SALUS Foundation/Ukraine, Shelter Centar, Skopje/Macedonia, Women's Link Worldwide, Colombia, PATENT (Men and Women Opposing Patriarchy) Human Rights Association, Budapest/Hungary.

We expect that under your leadership, the new administration will be able to restore the United States to the forefront in the global movement to promote women's reproductive health and rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wanda Nowicka". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

ASTRA Network Coordinator

President of Federation for Women and Family Planning