



we are





GRUPO DE INFORMACIÓN EN REPRODUCCIÓN ELEGIDA / **GIRE**
INFORMATION GROUP ON REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

We are a feminist and human rights organization

that, for 30 years, has been working so that women and people with capacity to get pregnant can exercise their reproductive rights. Through public policy advocacy, monitoring and accompaniment of cases, and research and communication strategies, we seek to achieve progress in abortion, reproductive health (including obstetric violence, maternal death and assisted reproduction services), and labor and care work issues.

Three decades of work have positioned us as a benchmark in Mexico and Latin America.

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IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT OUR WORK IN **GIRE**:

We monitor the status of reproductive rights in Mexico, analyze the federal and local legislation on the matter and evaluate how said legal framework contributes or not to the advancement of reproductive justice.

We work to promote a regulatory framework and public policies that guarantee women and people with capacity to get pregnant in Mexico.

We provide legal arguments, technical assistance and training on reproductive rights, for decision-makers, local organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

We accompany women, people with capacity to get pregnant and families whose reproductive rights have been violated in Mexico, before national and international bodies.

We contribute to rational and informed public debate about reproductive justice in Mexico. To do this, we implement campaigns and communication strategies in traditional and digital media.



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OUR WORK

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abortion

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We want all women and people with capacity to get pregnant have access to legal and safe abortions. Then, our efforts in this sense are focused in the legal and social decriminalization of abortion in Mexico as well as in the promotion of actions so that the Mexican State guarantees access to abortion as a health service.

Despite the progress made in this area, in Mexico there are still multiple legal barriers and limits to accessing abortion services that we have sought to eliminate thanks to long-term collaborative work. GIRE has contributed to promoting social changes, among which we highlight the following achievements:

- ❖ The support that we provided to Paulina, an minor who was denied access to an abortion in 1999, even though it was legal in cases of rape. This is a case that later contributed to the publication and updating of the legal norm (NOM-046) that regulates access to abortion services for sexual violence survivors in Mexico.
- ❖ Our work in collaboration with other organizations was essential to achieving the decriminalization of abortion within the first trimester of pregnancy in Mexico City in 2007 and, more recently, in Oaxaca (2019), Hidalgo (2021), Veracruz (2021), Baja California (2021), Colima (2021), Sinaloa (2022), Baja California Sur (2022), and Guerrero (2022).
- ❖ From 2011 to date, we have accompanied 95 cases related to abortion. Some of them have been resolved by the Supreme Court, setting important precedents to achieve adequate access to abortion. For example:



2018 / Marimar (Legal stay under review 601/2017) and Fernanda (Legal stay under review 1170/2017) | cases of abortion denial in case of rape.

The Court declared that said denial constituted a violation of her human rights and reaffirmed the legal obligation of health service providers to guarantee access to abortion in cases of rape.

2019 / Marisa (Legal stay under review 1388/2015) | case of denial of legal abortion due to health risk.

The Court confirmed that denying abortion services violates human rights, especially when the woman's health is in danger, and recognized that women's right to health includes access to abortion.

2021 / Jessica (Indirect legal stay 438/2020) | case of abortion denial in case of rape.

The Court ruled that limiting the period of legal abortion for victims of rape is discriminatory, especially for those who live with a disability.

- * We have carried out campaigns and communication pieces that have contributed to eliminating and changing narratives around the subject.
- * Since 2018, as part of MxMareaVerde, we have promoted a movement to contribute to the social decriminalization of abortion in Mexico.
- * We have published highly relevant reports and texts on the subject, such as: Violence without interruption (2016); Motherhood or punishment. The criminalization of abortion in Mexico (2018); Myths and questions about abortion (2019) and Abortion under the microscope (2021).
- * For 30 years, we have accompanied actions that have led to changes and have set judicial precedents, such as the Court ruling (Unconstitutionality Action 148/2017) that in September 2021 established the unconstitutionality of the absolute criminalization of abortion and invalidated the article of the criminal code of the state of Coahuila that established said penalty, a landmark decision that was taken unanimously by the Court.



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OUR WORK

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repro- ductive health

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We work so that women and people with capacity to become pregnant have access to quality reproductive health services, including pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium, and their decisions are respected without discrimination.

obstetric violence

- * We monitor and work so that women and people with capacity to become pregnant receive adequate health services, from trained personnel, in order to avoid procedures that constitute obstetric violence, such as unjustified cesarean sections or other procedures, as well as we provide the necessary information to guarantee informed consent of users of obstetric health services that takes into account their specific wishes and needs, according to their cultural context.
- * We were one of the first organizations in Latin America to use the term obstetric violence and document the conduct and omissions that constitute it.
- * Since 2011, we have accompanied 74 women who have experienced this type of violence, achieving important resolutions that set legal precedents on the issue.



- * A fundamental part of our work has been to bring light to the imposition of contraceptive methods, particularly permanent ones, as a way of annulling freedom of women and people with capacity to get pregnant to make informed decisions. A case that we accompanied reached the Supreme Court, setting a highly relevant precedent on this issue:

May 2021 / Sonia (Legal stay under revision 1064/2019) | case of on-consensual sterilization

The Court determined that the consent obtained by the health personnel was not prior, free, full or informed. It also concluded that Sonia was a victim of non-consensual sterilization, gender violence, obstetric violence, and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

- * We have made this problem visible in various campaigns, and published the report *Obstetric Violence: a Human Rights Approach* (2015) and *Forgotten Justice: Violence and Impunity in Reproductive Health* (2022).
- * In March 2014, together with other organizations, we filed the first complaint of obstetric violence cases before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
- * In 2016, we organized the “Symbolic Court on Maternal Death and Obstetric Violence”, where 27 women and their families denounced the human rights violations they suffered, an experience that proved most relevant for both the women and families we have accompanied and for their communities.



maternal death

In Mexico, there is a regulatory and public policy framework that, if properly implemented, would allow progress in reducing maternal deaths, preventable deaths related to a systemic lack of access to services and gender discrimination. However, structural problems make it difficult for women and pregnant people to receive adequate services so that their health and life are not in danger during obstetric care.

- * Since 2011, we have accompanied 19 families who have lost someone during childbirth or in the immediate postpartum period. In many of these cases, we managed to push for the recognition of comprehensive reparations to include, for example, economic compensation, a public apology by responsible authorities, or specific psychological care schemes.
- * In order to expose the seriousness of human rights violations and the obstacles that relatives of victims of maternal death face in accessing justice, we carry out campaigns such as “Chiapasiónate? Justice for Susana” and “María Ligia. A preventable death”, in addition to various pieces of communication.
- * The current context, marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, has exacerbated existent problems and inequalities in health systems related to maternal death.
- * Our experience in research and advocacy in public policy has had an impact, however, we believe that it is necessary to transform the structural conditions that result in maternal death in Mexico, a human rights and reproductive justice issue.

assisted reproduction

- * In terms of assisted reproduction, GIRE sheds light on arbitrary and discriminatory acts resulting from the absence of a regulatory framework that regulates access to these techniques and their practice in Mexico.
- * The Supreme Court resolved one of the cases that we accompanied, and that shows the need to regulate this issue in Mexico:

November 2017 / Maria Teresa (Legal stay under Revision 619/2017)

| Case of denial of access to Assisted Human Reproduction Techniques

The Court determined the unconstitutionality of specific criteria for access to assisted reproduction programs, such as the age limit of 35 years, the requirements of requesting the services as a legal couple or not having inheritable genetic disorders or abnormalities.

- * At GIRE we fight for regulation that guarantees the rights of individuals, including same-sex couples, and single or non-binary people, to access assisted reproduction services without discrimination.



OUR WORK

3. labor and work care issues



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labor and care work issues

Since its inception, GIRE has had internal policies, such as compressed and flexible work schedules, aimed at guaranteeing the reconciliation between work and reproductive life and cultivating professionalization and personal development. This has strengthened our institutional and personal commitment to the feminist struggle.

- * Since 2011, the reconciliation between work and reproductive life has also become an axis of our work. In this sense, access to child care for all and increasing the number of weeks for maternity and paternity leave are central issues.
- * By following up on cases, we challenged the Social Security Law that restricted access to childcare services for fathers, because they had access to those services just in case they were widowed, divorced or had parental custody. This provision involved clear gender discrimination by assuming that care burdens should fall exclusively on women.
- * We accompanied more than 30 cases in this sense, several resolved by the Federal Supreme Court. In June 2016, the Court established that the provisions in force accentuated a differentiated treatment derived from assigning women the caregiver role for children based on the sole fact of being women, which allowed for the recognition of the need for men's co-responsible participation in care work.



- * In October 2020, we celebrated the Social Security Law reform, which recognizes the right of all people, without distinction due to sex or marital status, to childcare services.
- * In 2020, in collaboration with more than 30 organizations, we integrated the Gender and COVID-19 Observatory in Mexico in order to monitor the obstacles to guarantee and exercise the rights of women and underserved populations in the framework of the pandemic.
- * Since then, we have incorporated the issue of collective care into our plan and vision, and we are working on a model for evaluating and implementing good hybrid or flexible work practices within civil society organizations or groups.

16 reports*

We have published several documents that analyze the the situation of reproductive justice in Mexico. Among them, the following reports stand out:

2021 / *The road to reproductive justice. A decade of progress and pending issue*

2018 / *The Missing Piece: Reproductive Justice*

2015 / *Girls and women without justice. Reproductive rights in Mexico*

2013 / *Omission and indifference. Reproductive rights in Mexico*

2008 / *The process of decriminalization of abortion in Mexico City*

2008 / *Paulina, Justice through the international channels*

our team

Led by Rebeca Ramos, GIRE is a team of 37 people, diverse in their profile and experience and committed to reproductive justice. At GIRE, we work with people convinced that reproductive rights are human rights, essential to achieve a country with equality and justice for all people.

join us!

- * Contact us at: correo@giremx.org.mx
- * Follow us on social media:
 - Facebook: Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida
 - Twitter and Instagram: @GIRE_MX
- * For more information, please visit: www.gire.org.mx
- * To make a donation, please visit: <https://gire.org.mx/donativo/>

GIRE invites you to join us and work towards a Mexico where all people can choose their reproductive destiny

*Available at <https://gire.org.mx/tipo/informes/>



