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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**NEW POLL SHOWS MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SUPPORT  
U.S. FUNDING FOR ABORTIONS FOR WOMEN RAPED IN CONFLICT**  
*Despite Growing Calls to Act, President Obama Refuses to Break Barriers  
to Abortion Access in Post-Rape Care*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A [new poll](#) released today, on International Women’s Day, shows that seven-out-of-ten U.S. voters support access to abortion for women who survive rape. The poll, commissioned by the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) and conducted by [Lake Research Partners](#) in early February, also shows that the majority of voters support the use of U.S. foreign assistance to provide comprehensive post-rape care – including safe abortions – for women and girls raped in conflict.

“This poll makes it clear that President Obama has the support of the American people in standing with women raped in conflict and breaking barriers to abortion access in post-rape care,” said CHANGE President Serra Sippel. “Moreover, this poll shows support not in just one corner of the nation, but in every region.”

The poll comes on the heels of a series of public calls on [President Obama](#) to act on the Helms amendment – a decades-old provision that prohibits U.S. foreign assistance from paying for abortions as a “method of family planning” but does not prevent U.S. support for abortion access in the cases of rape, incest, or life endangerment.

Despite this distinction, no administration – including the Obama administration – has implemented it correctly which has resulted in the Helms amendment applied as a complete ban.

In October, [28 U.S. Senators](#) wrote to Obama, calling on him to act on Helms. In August, [81 members](#) of the U.S. House of Representatives wrote to the president, urging him to act. Since December of 2013, when CHANGE launched the “[Break Barriers: Stand with Women and Girls Raped in Conflict](#),” campaign – which calls on President Obama to take action on Helms, 109 members of Congress, more than [70 NGOs worldwide](#), more than [30 U.S. faith leaders](#), [two Nobel Laureates](#), a former USAID administrator, tens of thousands of petition signers globally, both the [New York Times](#) and the [Washington Post](#), and rape survivors and survivor advocates from the Global South have called on President Obama to act.

As of yet, he has failed to act.

“We know the president understands that women are being raped in conflict, he’s spoken publicly about it five times in the last year-and-a-half,” said Sippel. “I do not understand why he would isolate himself on the issue of abortion access in post-rape care – when there is so much support. On today of all days, International Women’s Day, one must ask: Mr. President, what are you waiting for?”

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