



## MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Dr. Shelley Ross  
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March 26, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
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Dear President Obama:

Re: Request to Issue an Executive Order  
Lifting the US Abortion Restrictions on USAID

I write on behalf of the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) which is an organization of women doctors from around the world. MWIA was started in New York City in 1919 by Dr. Esther Pohl Lovejoy, an American physician. MWIA advocates for the rights of women's health.

In this regard, as Secretary General, I am writing to ask for your consideration to issue an executive order lifting the US abortion restrictions on USAID.

Members of MWIA recently returned from participating in the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. The theme for 2013 was the Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls. Unfortunately, the use of rape to disempower women is prevalent worldwide. Not only do women suffer the immediate emotional trauma and chronic mental illness from this sexual assault but are often left with sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancies. To deny women the right to terminate such an unwanted pregnancy is unjust. I do not believe that you condone injustice.

MWIA talks of "men of good conscience" and I believe that you are such a man. Please step forward and free women from this restriction on their rights.

Thank you for showing the world leadership for women's rights by issuing an executive order to lift the US abortion restrictions on USAID.



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Sincerely,

Shelley Ross, MD  
Secretary General  
Medical Women's International Association

CC:

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