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25 April 2014

## **The imperative need to avoid the counter reform on Abortion in Spain which breaches women's human rights**

**Written declaration No. 566**

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This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

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1. This is the greatest step backwards as regards rights and freedoms in Spain in the whole of our democratic era, and takes us back to moments of our history which we believed overcome.
2. The current Act of 2010 on sexual and reproductive health and on the voluntary termination of pregnancy is to be amended by an Act entitled "For the protection of the life of the conceived and the rights of the pregnant woman".
3. Under the Bill the interruption of pregnancy will be permitted only in case of rape, after lodging of a complaint and within a maximum of 12 weeks, and in that of serious deformity of the unborn child ("non nasciturus") incompatible with the life of the mother.
4. Therefore, this Act deprives Spanish women of all capacity to decide freely on their motherhood.
5. 90% of women interrupting pregnancy during the first 12 weeks, will have to do so in a clandestine way, thus risking their lives, freedom and dignity.
6. With this Bill, Spanish women will no longer be legal persons, but subjects of law who need to be supervised, thus depriving them of their status as rational persons with full enjoyment of their freedoms.
7. 86% of Spaniards consider this Bill an abuse of women's freedoms and of those of society as a whole. 75% consider it unnecessary.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

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ADAM Claude, Luxembourg, SOC  
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC  
ARIB Khadija, Netherlands, SOC  
AUROI Danielle, France, SOC  
AXELSSON Lennart, Sweden, SOC  
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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialist Group  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left  
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

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