

Freedom of Speech Denied within Reproductive Rights

How Syrian and Palestinian Women Peacebuilders Face Silencing in Exile

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Works Cited

Argument

- International human rights treaties ensure freedom of expression
- WP are limited when speaking about:
 - Reproductive rights
 - Right to speech
 - Inconsistencies in the application to the protection of freedom



Question

- How are women activists voices suppressed talking reproductive rights in underserved communities such as Syria and Palestine?

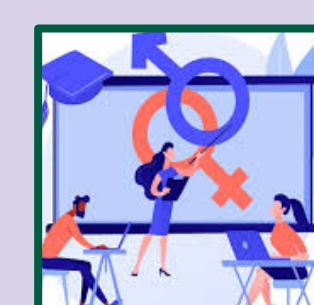
Methodology

- Explored legal analysis of scholarly academic journal articles
- First hand work with WPiE
- Analyzing legal analysis of international treaties

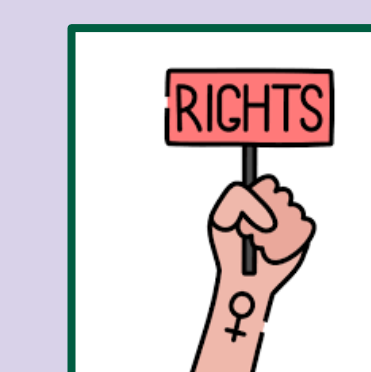


When is Freedom of Speech Denied when Talking about Reproductive Rights Internationally?

2012 - Philippines Legal and Religious Suppression of Reproductive Speech



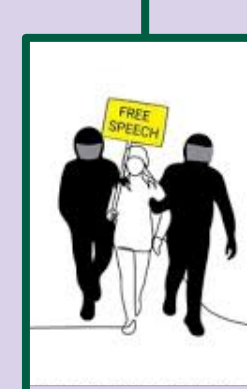
2017 - US Global Gag Rule: prohibited from mentioning abortion



2023 - Poland Arrest of Abortion Activists

1948 - UDHR

women's voices in public, political and private life



1966 - ICCPR

Protection of civil and political rights

1979 - CEDAW

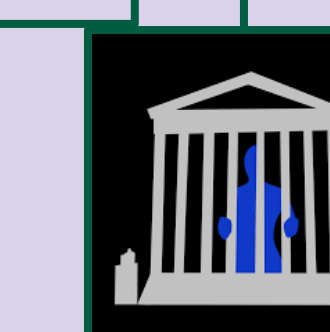
International bill of rights for women

1995 - Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: expression is essential to womens empowerment

2016 - Uganda Ban on Comprehensive sex education



2022-23 - Iran Crackdown on Women's Rights Campaign



Silenced by Culture

- Syrian and Palestinian WP face cultural barriers when discussing reproductive rights at home
 - These issues are seen as threats to family and communal honor
- Women pressured to remain silent due to dishonoring their families at home
- Patriarchal figures, male religious leaders, and NGO staff control women's speech
- When WP are in smaller communities and their work is directly on reproductive rights, WP often refrain from speaking

Silenced by Systems

- Patriarchal and culture and social norms
- Authoritarian regimes
- Occupation and resistance
- Religious leaders
- Islamic and Christian influence
- Targeting of activists
- Violence threats



Silenced in Peacebuilding

- Taboo topics - women who address these topics are seen as breaking societal norms
- Violent threats towards WPiE
 - Militias threaten women for speaking about reproductive rights
 - Private lives being invaded, having to flee due to their lives being in danger



Avenues to Changing Culture

- Create safe spaces for dialogue
 - Establish support and groups for reproductive education at home
 - Use cultural sensitivity in advocacy
 - Strengthen solidarity networks
 - Strengthen legal and advocacy support



Courses of Action to Break Systems

- Build community based networks for reproductive conversations
- Engage in conversation with religious and community members about reproductive rights
- Empower women through education
- Raise awareness in exile communities over reproductive rights



Combat Silencing of WPiE

- Amplify women's voices in the media
 - Share success stories
- Provide legal protection and advocacy support
- Foster peer networks for WPiE
- Lobby governments and international bodies
- Create mental health facilities in host countries for WPiE

