

Causa Justa case synopsis

In 2018, Women's Link Worldwide joined the "[Causa Justa](#)" movement, which brings together more than 100 organizations and 140 activists, to file in 2020 a [lawsuit](#) in the Constitutional Court of Colombia to remove abortion from the criminal code. Women's Link Worldwide has led the movement's group of lawyers who wrote the legal action.

Since 2006, Colombian law only allowed abortion in three circumstances: rape/incest, nonviability of the fetus or to protect the life or health of a pregnant person.

Because abortion is still within the criminal code and remains a crime outside of the three exceptions, many women — especially those facing multiple inequalities — are unable to access safe, legal abortion care. This legal ambiguity has become the main barrier because it creates an atmosphere of inadequate information, fear and stigma for women, human rights defenders and health care providers.

Causa Justa argues that keeping abortion in Colombia's criminal code is unjust and forces women who need abortions — especially the most vulnerable — into clandestine, unsafe abortions.

The lawsuit proposes a different way to regulate abortion outside of criminal law in Colombia. By removing the threat of jail, women will be brought back into the health system, where health care workers will also be able to more freely do their job by providing the care patients need. The case asserts that states could regulate abortion through comprehensive health policies that help prevent deaths and complications from unsafe abortions and unwanted pregnancy through comprehensive sex health education programs, information, access and availability of contraceptive methods.

More than 100 interventions (*amicus curiae*), from national and international experts across different fields, who support this lawsuit, have been filed in the case.

The court is expected to rule in early November.

Point of clarification: The Court is also considering [a lawsuit](#) to decriminalize abortion in Colombia brought by another attorney.

[Click here](#) to read the case brief (English).