

Dear reproductive freedom fighter,

Please use these materials as your pro-choice campus organising kit. This kit contains tools and resources to educate students on pro-choice issues, and help them publicise pro-choice issues and organise events. It was produced to support students' unions, and campus and youth advocates who have chosen to actively work to support a woman's right to choose.

Prior to the decriminalisation of abortion in Canada in 1988, generations of women fought for access to safe and legal abortion as a basic right of women to security of person, liberty, and freedom of conscience. Last year, we celebrated the twenty year anniversary of that historic victory, but today it remains under threat. The Harper Government has allowed the introduction of several regressive private members' bills that have indirectly sought to undermine choice and women's rights in general. In the Maritimes, as in many rural and northern regions, access to abortion is severely limited, violating the tenets of the Canada Health Act and jeopardising women's health and safety. Clearly, there is a need for vigilance in the protection of the fundamental human rights of women to control their own bodies and make their own decisions, rights that are all too easy to take for granted.

On many campuses, external groups continue to fund aggressive campaigns to spread misinformation about choice and to advocate for limitations on women's rights. Groups such as the Genocide Awareness Project and the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform use materials, deemed offensive by Canadian courts, that compare abortion to racist lynching and the Holocaust, and confrontational tactics that create unsafe space on campuses. It is in this context, recognising the importance of voicing continued support for the right to choose, that many students' unions and pro-choice students and groups have sought to promote that right.

These materials were created in the hope of providing support for reproductive freedom fighters. Be proud to promote women's human rights on your campus, and the right of students to advocate for those rights.