

Wednesday,
MARCH 18
3:00 – 4:15 PM
UN Headquarters,
Conference Room 12

The Many Harms Coming from Abortion after Cairo and Beijing

A CSW64 Side Event

Twenty-five years ago at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, following the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, abortion entered UN policy. The compromise struck was to include abortion as part of “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights agenda” but together with a series of caveats that excluded the possibility that abortion be considered a human right and that cast abortion in a negative light. The caveats also prohibited international interference in national debates about abortion, stated that abortion was an exclusively domestic prerogative, insisted that abortion should never be promoted as family planning and urged governments to help women avoid abortion.

As we mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Conference, some are arguing that the unfinished business of Beijing is to push for abortion to be treated as a human right and celebrated as a good for women. In this event, we will examine the various dimensions of the fallout from abortion in the lives of women and children and investigate how the push for abortion corrupts international human rights law, development policy and more.

To Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and Adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

UN pass needed to attend. Space is limited. Please RSVP online at holyseemission.org/rsvp18March2020

MODERATOR AND OPENING STATEMENT:

Archbishop Gabriele Giordano Caccia, Nuncio, The Apostolic Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations

SPEAKERS:

Melissa Ohden, Founder and Director, Abortion Survivors Network

Sr. Veronica Sullivan, SV., Sisters of Life, Hope and Healing Mission

Anushree Bernard, VanishingGirls

The Honorable Chris Smith, U.S. House of Representatives (TBC)



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