

# Asociación Espacio Encuentro de Mujeres



## Narrative:

The organization has been part of the SOMBRILLA CENTRAL AMERICAN Regional Strategy for 8 years, participating in studies and activities to promote public policies that guarantee sexual rights and sexual and reproductive health rights. In the country, we have developed feminist leadership training schools that address specialized SRH topics. This issue is highly sensitive for women, especially due to policies in Panama that prevent women from controlling their bodies. For example, women are required to be 23 years old and have two children in order to be sterilized. There are many gaps in access to family planning (FP). All urban women of reproductive age are aware of these policies, as are 94.6% of rural women. From 2014, when FP consultation coverage was 12.7%, until 2019, it dropped to 2.2%. Between 2014-2019, the use of modern contraceptives was 46.45%, and in 2019, it increased to 59.3%. The international commitments EWEC-LAC and FP2030, aimed at improving access to family planning services, contraception, eliminating financial and legal barriers, and the quality of services, as well as promoting sexual and reproductive education, are only partially implemented in Panama.

We will continue to insist on training to build capacities and skills that enable women to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights. We aim to create spaces for the exercise of these rights within public health policy, particularly for women living in impoverished contexts.

- A. We will insist on training to create capacities and skills that allow women to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights. Achieve spaces for the exercise of these rights in public health policy, particularly for women who live in contexts of impoverishment.

The vulnerability of sexual rights that women experience requires significant efforts to bring about change. In this sense, thousands of girls and adolescents are condemned to carry unwanted pregnancies to term, subjected to sexually transmitted infections, and the most conservative sectors in power structures do not implement comprehensive sexuality education or non-sexist education programs.

We aim to deepen women's access, especially young women, to participate in promoting legal changes for policies decriminalizing abortion.

## Objectives:

- A. Raise awareness in Panamanian society: Increase public awareness about the current situation of the two causes of abortion due to rape and the negative consequences this has for victims, highlighting the need for change.
- B. Grant visibility: Make visible the difficulties of access to a legal abortion in its two causes.
- C. Raise awareness: Raise awareness among the population about the importance of improving medical protocol.
- D. Disclose: cases where government institutions have not fulfilled their protective role and have not exercised due process.