

International Council of Nurses Statement



on US Supreme Court's Decision to Overturn Roe V Wade: Implications for Nurses and Global Health

27 June 2022

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is deeply concerned by the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Roe v Wade, effectively removing the right for women to access high quality sexual and reproductive health care and therefore infringing the rights of women. This decision has major consequences for nursing professionals, and patients mental and physical health.

ICN's [Women's Health position statement](#) reaffirms and respects that women have a fundamental right to health. ICN supports health services that are accessible and sensitive to women's needs.

ICN recognizes and respects that women need control over their reproductive health rights, which include access to abortion services.

[ICN's Code of Ethics](#) (2021) affirms that nurses promote environments in which human rights are acknowledged and respected. Nurses also advocate for equity and social justice for access to health care.

Lack of access to safe abortion care is a leading cause of preventable maternal death and disability globally. The World Health Organization's [Abortion Care Guidelines 2022](#) (who.int) provides comprehensive evidence informed resources.