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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GENUp Statement on the Overruling of *Roe v. Wade*

Press release

Washington, D.C., 26 June 2022 - The Supreme Court of the United States issued a 5-4 ruling on Friday in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2022) that takes away abortion as a constitutional right, effectively overturning *Roe v. Wade* (1973). According to the Court's majority opinion, as abortion rights are not specifically mentioned in the United States Constitution, states should be able to individually determine how to govern abortion rights within their own territory.

GENUp is outraged by the Supreme Court's decision to strike down *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark Supreme Court decision that stated that the Constitution generally protects a person's right to choose to have an abortion. The nearly half-century-old legal precedent protected access to safe abortions across the United States. Due to conservative hands who force their beliefs onto others, we have lost our freedom to choose, but most importantly, our freedom to live.

At particular risk due to this ruling are young students who may be forced to, among other things, forgo their educational dreams and drop out of school due to an unwanted pregnancy. The United States has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the Western industrialized world: recent statistics show that 3 out of 10 teens—nearly 750,000 per year—will get pregnant at least once before they are 20 years old.¹ On average, 31% of pregnant teenagers under age 18 get abortions.² Of those who don't, parenthood has become the leading reason that teens drop out of school with more than half of teen mothers never graduating high school, and less than 2% earning a college degree by age 30.³ Moreover, the children of teenage parents face countless struggles, as they are more likely to see lower school achievement, drop out of high school, be incarcerated during adolescence, become a teen parent themselves, and face unemployment as a young adult.⁴

Revoking access to abortions also endangers the health and lives of pregnant teenagers. For teenagers who decide to carry to term, young adolescents are at higher risk of pregnancy-related

¹ <https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-teen-pregnancy#fnref2>

² <https://www.aclu.org/other/laws-restricting-teenagers-access-abortion>

³ <https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-teen-pregnancy#fnref2>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/index.htm>

complications and death than adults: tragically, complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death worldwide for young women aged 15-19.⁵

Let's make one thing clear: banning abortions does not erase the existence of abortions, but it merely increases the number of pregnancy-related deaths and unsafe abortion procedures, which drags our current reality back to a time where approximately 200 women died per year due to dangerous self-induced abortions.⁶ Additionally, youth aged 15-19 make up 15% of people worldwide who get unsafe abortions, but make up nearly one-third of all unsafe abortion-related deaths.⁷

As a direct attack to meaningful equity and inclusion, the Court's ruling will impact people of color living in Republican-dominated states the most, depriving historically under-resourced communities of a crucial venue through which to receive the healthcare they need. More than half of nation's Black population, and significant numbers of Hispanic and Indigenous people, reside in states who have heavily restricted access to abortion,⁸ which would force many pregnant people to travel hundreds of miles to access the care they need and consequently imposes a heavy financial burden.⁹ Due to racial and socioeconomic structural discrimination, communities of color and Indigenous communities face disproportionate impacts of inaccessible healthcare surrounding pregnancy. For example, in Mississippi with severe restrictions to abortions, the pregnancy-related mortality ratio was three times higher for Black women than for white women.¹⁰

This ruling does not just affect cisgender women: it affects everyone with a uterus, including transgender men and some nonbinary and gender nonconforming individuals. A study estimated that around 500 transgender and gender non-binary people received an abortion in 2017 alone.¹¹

The Court's overturn of Roe v. Wade is historically unprecedented; never before has the Supreme Court reversed their ruling on a case in a manner which revokes fundamental human rights that had once been afforded to the general U.S. population. Over half of U.S. states are taking or expected to take actions that will severely limit or completely ban a person's access to abortion. This country has already faced the brute force of this decision through the criminalization of abortion and the closing of abortion clinics across the country. Kentucky, Louisiana, and South Dakota immediately outlawed abortion after the Court's decision¹² and Former Vice President Mike Pence called for a national

⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/10/11/teen-girls-need-access-safe-and-legal-abortion>

⁶ <https://www.npr.org/2019/05/20/725139713/what-abortion-was-like-in-the-u-s-before-roe-v-wade>

⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/10/11/teen-girls-need-access-safe-and-legal-abortion>

⁸ <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2021/03/25/the-growing-diversity-of-black-america/>

⁹ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/05/07/us/abortion-access-roe-v-wade.html>

¹⁰ <https://reproductiverights.org/supreme-court-case-mississippi-abortion-ban-disproportionate-harm/>

¹¹

<https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2020/01/transgender-abortion-patients-and-provision-transgender-specific-care-non-hospital>

¹²

<https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2022/06/13-states-have-abortion-trigger-bans-heres-what-happens-when-roe-overturned>

abortion ban.¹³ And the Supreme Court is not stopping at abortion rights. According to the majority opinion, the Court may reconsider the constitutionality of same sex marriage equality in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015), private sexual conduct in *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003), and access to contraceptives in *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965). Our rights to privacy have been violated and stripped from our lives.

If you're appalled, frightened, or angry, know that we are as well, and we will fight with you. Overturning *Roe v. Wade* is both a threat to educational equity and a public health crisis, and GENup is committed to protecting the health and well-being of students and young people. The GENup executive team is currently reviewing California legislation and constitutional amendments that we can support in order to solidify abortion rights in California. We are looking for opportunities to collaborate with other organizations across America to protect abortion rights and fight for reproductive justice.

If anything, Friday's Supreme Court decision should tell us that this moment is not one for us to be meeting anyone's definition of civility or obedience. Speak out against injustice whenever and wherever you see it. Go to protests, donate to abortion funds, start conversations about abortion, and support people in your life who have gotten or want to get an abortion. Hold your political representatives accountable by voting for those who will protect abortion rights and voting out those who won't. In whatever form it takes, we ask that you take action in this moment to assert that our most basic of human freedoms, including bodily autonomy, cannot be limited by a powerful few. What this country needs right now is not laws that chain our bodies, but rather, a community in solidarity who will fight for our freedom of choice in our lives.

We have compiled a list of abortion-related resources below, and we strongly encourage you to share this information with your community to learn how to advocate for reproductive justice.

Resources:

Where to find abortion clinics

[Plannedparenthood.org](https://www.plannedparenthood.org)

[Prochoice.org](https://www.prochoice.org)

[Abortionfinder.org](https://www.abortionfinder.org)

[Bedsider.org](https://www.bedsider.org)

[Powertodecide.org](https://www.powertodecide.org)

[Ineeda.com](https://www.ineeda.com)

[reproaction.org/fakeclinicdatabase](https://www.reproaction.org/fakeclinicdatabase)

Funding for abortions

[abortionfunds.org](https://www.abortionfunds.org)

[Providecare.org](https://www.providecare.org)

[Accessrj.org](https://www.accessrj.org)

[Needabortion.org](https://www.needabortion.org)

[Donations4abortion.com](https://www.donations4abortion.com)

[Wrrap.org/donate](https://www.wrrap.org/donate)

¹³ <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/mike-pence-roe-v-wade-abortion-ban-1373779/>

[Linktr.ee/IWRising](https://linktr.ee/IWRising)

Legal Aid

[Reprolegalhelpline.org](https://reprolegalhelpline.org)

[Aidaccess.org](https://aidaccess.org)

[Janedueprocess.org](https://janedueprocess.org)

[Ifwhenhow.org](https://ifwhenhow.org)

[Digitaldefensefund.org](https://digitaldefensefund.org)

Abortion pills and cost info

[Plannedparenthood.org](https://plannedparenthood.org)

lpas.org

[Npr.org](https://npr.org)

[Plancpills.org](https://plancpills.org)

[Heyjane.co](https://heyjane.co)

[Abortionpillinfo.org](https://abortionpillinfo.org)

[Wombofonesown.wordpress.com](https://wombofonesown.wordpress.com)

Ways to Get Involved

[Riseup4abortionrights.org](https://riseup4abortionrights.org)

[Plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-orange-san-bernardino/annual-event](https://plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-orange-san-bernardino/annual-event)

[Plannedparenthoodaction.org/rightfully-ours/bans-off-our-bodies](https://plannedparenthoodaction.org/rightfully-ours/bans-off-our-bodies)

[Pslweb.org/abortion_rights_petition](https://pslweb.org/abortion_rights_petition)

[Bansoff.org](https://bansoff.org)

More information on abortion

1-800-230-PLAN from Planned Parenthood

[All-options.org](https://all-options.org)

Support Groups: postroehandbook.com

Stories: wetestify.org and shoutyourabortion.org

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