



Education campaign for the Minister  
for Status of Women Canada  
Rona Ambrose

Lesson 2

Madam Ambrose,

**Do you know that in countries where abortion is legal and accessible, abortion rates are lower?**

In Western Europe for example, abortion rate is 12 per 1,000 women of childbearing age, whereas in Africa and in Latin America- regions in which abortion is illegal under most circumstances in the majority of countries- it is respectively 29 per 1,000 and 32 per 1,000<sup>1</sup>.

This is one of the reasons why I am pro-choice. To be pro-choice is to allow women the power to choose -- or to choose not -- to have children. It is to offer them options, and among these options is universal access to free and safe abortions.

I'm sharing this information with you now in light of your vote for motion M-312 which, if it had been adopted, would have opened the door to the criminalization of abortion, the prohibition of certain kinds of contraception, and the surveillance of the behavior of pregnant women.

I also hope this information will help you best carry out your mandate as Minister for Status of Women Canada- a responsibility that involves representing and defending the rights of women - and will avoid all future misunderstandings.

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<sup>1</sup> These statistics are produced by the Guttmacher Institute which recently released [a video](#) about abortion worldwide.

Best regards,

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