

STORIES OF CHANGE

# Advocacy plans leverage the access to safe and legal abortion from statal to national level

📍 México



\*Name and personal details have been changed to protect privacy and confidentiality of the person

**Lyn\*, one of the leaders of OCNF, has been a defender of women's rights, access to justice, and reproductive and sexual rights. She was part of the social movement that advocated for the declaration of a Gender Violence Alert (AVGM) for comparative grievance, back in 2019, and the decriminalization of abortion in the state of Guerrero, approved by the state Congress in 2022.**

Although progress has been made in national legislation, Lyn's work is key because of the persistence of obstacles faced by Guerrero women to exercise their right to legal termination of pregnancy, mainly rape victims, who had to go to the Public Prosecutor's Office to obtain access to health services facing a context of criminalization and stigma, despite the existence of grounds for non-punishability that allowed it.

*“My commitment was to accompany this alert process to ensure that women, girls and adolescents do not live a ordeal when they face forced pregnancies as a result of rape or when their physical or mental health is at risk, especially because many of them are in situations of marginalization and poverty.”*

The AVGM was declared on June 20, 2020, and a little more than a year later – in August 2021 – the opinion of the Inter and Multidisciplinary Group (GIM), of which Lyn was a member in her capacity as petitioner, determined that the government did not comply with any of the measures requested. In view of the inaction of the authorities of the three levels of state government, executive, legislative and judicial, and in light of the resolutions of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation on the issue of abortion, decriminalization was requested **incorporating criteria of the Court in favor of guaranteeing the right of women to decide without criminal consequences; stating that the claim to grant the status of person to the embryo or fetus is unconstitutional; and invalidating Article 10 bis of the General Health Law on conscientious objection.**

*“We asked the National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women (CONAVIM) to urge legislators to decriminalize abortion. At the same time, the organizations involved have worked in campaigns to raise awareness among citizens about the progress made in Guerrero and the advantages of a reform that does not force women to have abortions but does allow them to decide without putting their health at risk.”*

The decriminalization of abortion in Guerrero represents an advance for women not only in that state, but throughout the country. It has been a very significant experience for activist as Lyn who despite some setbacks never let the guard down and along the way a women's movement was born with the support of young, brave deputies committed to the feminist struggle.

*“I have been promoting the decriminalization of abortion in various states for many years, working with organizations, with community leaders, in academia, in schools, etc., to ensure that Mexico advances in the decriminalization of abortion. The decriminalization was achieved after a great work of years of sensitization to the various actors, such as members of the judiciary, academics, doctors, lawyers, congressmen, human rights defense organizations, so that the various situations faced by women that lead them to make the decision to have an abortion were understood, it is the last resort they take when they cannot humanize a life; forums were held, tables of analysis from the different medical, legal, ethical and religious approaches; to develop laws that protect the decision to terminate a pregnancy.”*

OCNF published the ["Diagnosis on the Situation of Comprehensive Attention to Sexual Violence in Five States of the Mexican Republic"](#). The recommendations of the investigation have been also sent to health authorities, prosecutors' offices, government secretaries and the Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women in the five states where the FFFV project was implemented. 5 politically-astute advocacy plans were developed by OCNF to promote accountability actions for SGBV prevention and response within the framework of the AVGM mechanism for the 5 States of Guerrero, Jalisco, Mexico City, Quintana Roo, and Campeche.



These advocacy plans have resulted in government approval of a public legal abortion program and an accompaniment protocol in the state of [Guerrero](#). This has contributed to the preparation of the Evaluation report from 2020 to present. It also represents a long-standing struggle, where at the international level standards were advancing and recommendations were given to Mexico on abortion, by international mechanisms to advance in decriminalization, such as CEDAW and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council, which allowed to take up the recommendations for legislators to use in their arguments as part of the obligations to guarantee reproductive rights established in Article 4 of the Constitution.

By 2025, Mexico City, Oaxaca, Hidalgo, Veracruz, Baja California, Colima, Sinaloa, Guerrero, Baja California Sur, Quintana Roo, Aguascalientes, Puebla, Jalisco, Michoacán, San Luis Potosí, Chiapas, Zacatecas and the State of Mexico by law allow abortion on request or legal termination of pregnancy up to 12 weeks of gestation, with the exception of Sinaloa which allows it up to 13 weeks and Aguascalientes which restricts it to 6 weeks.