

6 Days of Action on Helms Social Media Toolkit

Our official 'hashtag' for this outreach strategy is: #LiftTheBan. Other suggested hashtags include, #HelmsLegacy, #HelmsHurts #BreakBarriers and #BadLegacy which will allow you to engage in ongoing conversations on Twitter regarding the Helms Amendment. Below are suggested tweets and Facebook posts, please feel free to modify and use your own language. We will also be sharing graphics and a text video to go with our social media activity!

HASHTAGS:
#LifttheBan
#BadLegacy
#BreakBarriers
#HelmsHurts
#Helms Legacy

August 12th *Theme: Geneva Anniversary*



SAMPLE TWEETS:

43 yrs & counting, Helms amendment hurts women worldwide and violates the Geneva Conventions #HelmsHurts <http://theatlntc/11OvjI0>

@_____, thanks for standing up against Helms, which denies women medical care & breaks Geneva Conventions <http://bit.ly/2aAVSDN>

Replace ___ with the twitter handles of the following US Senators who signed letter urging Obama to take action on Helms:

- o Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT): @SenBlumenthal
- o Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO): @clairecmc
- o Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH): @SenatorShaheen
- o Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI): @maziehirono
- o Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY): @SenGillibrand
- o Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA): @PattyMurray
- o Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA): @SenatorBoxer
- o Sen. Edward Markey (D-MA): @SenMarkey
- o Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO): @SenBennetCO
- o Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT): @SenatorLeahy
- o Sen. Al Franken (D-MN): @alfranken
- o Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI): @SenatorBaldwin
- o Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH): @SenSherrodBrown
- o Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD): @SenatorBarb
- o Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE): @ChrisCoons
- o Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT): @ChrisMurphyCT
- o Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI): @brianschatz
- o Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL): @SenatorDurbin
- o Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ): @CoryBooker
- o Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR): @RonWyden
- o Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA): @elizabethforma
- o Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-VT): @SenSanders
- o Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA): @SenatorCantwell
- o Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA): @SenFeinstein
- o Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY): @SenSchumer
- o Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI): @stabenow
- o Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI): @SenGaryPeters
- o Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN): @amyklobuchar

61 years after ratifying Geneva Conventions, US stands in direct conflict due to #Helms Amendment:

<http://globaljusticecenter.net/documents/August12th.LettertoPresidentObama.July2015.pdf>

"The very first requirement in a hospital is that it should do the sick no harm." - Florence Nightengale. Tell @POTUS to #LiftTheBan

Women victims of war have the right to necessary medical care #HelmsHurts: <http://bit.ly/2ayyEh0>

"Helms prevents millions of women from accessing safe, essential reproductive care"- @ReproRights #HelmsHurts <http://bit.ly/1RdD8aR>

ISIS rapes #Yazidi women – US denies them abortions #HelmsHurts <http://bit.ly/2awUujG>

UN demands non-discriminatory medical treatment – why can't US do the same? #LifttheBan <http://bit.ly/2aWgUio>

Sign the petition! 30 days to get 100,000 signatures: <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/>

.@POTUS could #breakbarriers for women & girls raped in conflict with just 1 executive order #HelmsHurts <http://huff.to/1SwZYMh> #HelmsLegacy

SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS:

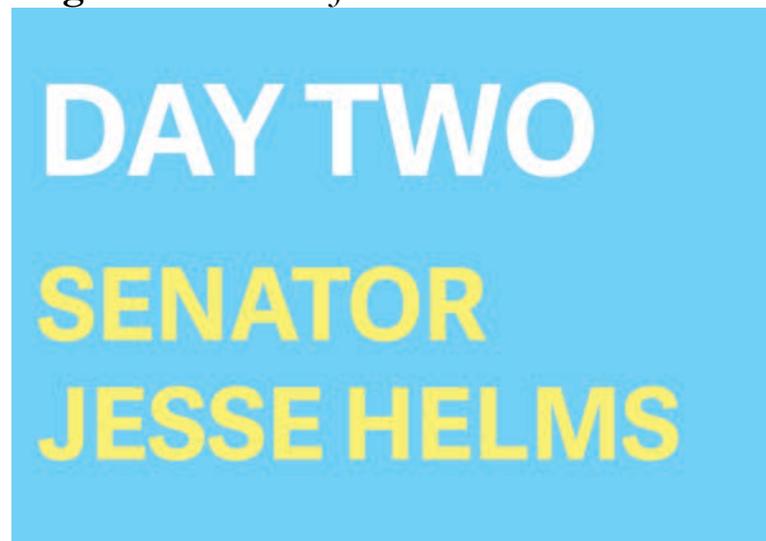
#1 The 1973 Helms Amendment continues to deny US foreign aid for abortion projects – a clear violation of individuals’ rights to non-discriminatory medical care under the Geneva Conventions. Today, on the 67th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Conventions, stand with [Org Nam] in calling for President Obama to issue an Executive Action that removes the abortion ban for women raped in war. #August12 #HelmsHurts

#2 As our friends at the Center for Reproductive Rights note, the Helms Amendment “prevents millions of women from accessing safe, essential reproductive care that is legal in their countries.” (Link to: <http://www.reproductiverights.org/feature/helms-hurts>)

#3 Take 90 seconds to learn how you can stand with women and girls raped in conflict. Around the world, women and girls who survive rape in conflict are too often unable to access the care that they need because of U.S. political barriers to safe abortion. It’s time to act now for women and girls!

#HelmsHurts #BreakBarriers #HelmsLegacy <https://vimeo.com/149154486>

August 15th *Theme: Jesse Helms*



SAMPLE TWEETS:

“Give birth to your rapist’s child or seek an unsafe ... abortion that kills 47,000 women ... a year” #HelmsLegacy <http://bit.ly/2aMPrgH>

Some of 47k women who die from abortions / yr could be saved if Helms Amendment repealed. #HelmsLegacy @Amnesty <http://bit.ly/2aPTgyP>

Jesse Helms is dead. Rape victims are still alive. Tell President Obama to overturn Helms. #HelmsLegacy <http://bit.ly/2aADx6f>

The US is 40 years late on repealing Helms. But Obama can before he leaves office #ObamaLegacy

Sign the petition! 30 days to get 100,000 signatures: <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/> <http://bit.ly/2aADx6f>

Women & girls turn to unsafe abortions because US won't provide safe procedures bit.ly/HuffPoHelms #HelmsHurts #BreakBarriers
43 years after “Senator No,” passed the Helms Amendment, his legacy continues #Helms Legacy #BreakBarriers
Say no to #HelmsLegacy Sign the petition & help women & girls get access to the lifesaving medical care they deserve http://bit.ly/1eAB6fX

SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS:
#1 During his 30-year career in the Senate, Jesse Helms (R-NC) denied hundreds of thousands of women access to safe, lifesaving abortions. His legacy lives on today: the 1973 Helms Amendment, which he introduced, denies US foreign assistance for abortion – even in cases of rape in war. Stand up against the #HelmsLegacy
#2 Stand with [Org.Name] in demanding justice for war rape survivors. http://blog.amnestyusa.org/women/president-obama-stand-with-women-and-girls-raped-in-conflict/
#3 For 43 years the U.S. has denied women and girls raped in conflict access to abortion care. President Obama, the time to act is now. What are you waiting for? #HelmsHurts https://girlsglobe.org/2015/12/17/42-years-of-betraying-women-and-girls-around-the-world

August 16th *Theme: War Victims*



SAMPLE TWEETS:
Women Raped in War + Int'l Law Establishes Abortion as Right = US denies abortions. #HelmsHurts #LiftTheBan http://bit.ly/2beXGjW
Suggesting war rape has "anything to do w “family planning,” is desecration of term.” via @WomenUndrSiege #HelmsHurts http://bit.ly/2aHcsjL
United States abortion restrictions on abortion access violates international humanitarian law #HelmsHurts: http://bit.ly/2aHcMij
Sign the petition! 30 days to get 100,000 signatures: https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/

Where Do #Refugee Women Turn for Abortions? Not the US until Obama acts <http://thebea.st/1TEuTYH> #HelmsHurts #BreakBarriers #HelmsLegacy

SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS:

#1 When women are raped in war, funds that could have helped provide vital, lifesaving abortions sits on the sidelines: the Helms Amendment denies US foreign aid for abortions for war rape victims. #HelmsHurts #LiftTheBan

Link to: <http://globaljusticecenter.net/blog/384-thinking-of-yazidi-women-and-girls-on-the-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict>

#2 There is a growing consensus that the United States has the responsibility to help women and girls raped in conflict. It's time for President Obama to break barriers to post rape care, including abortion access for women and girls raped in conflict. #BreakBarriers #HelmsHurts

<https://medium.com/@genderhealth/obamas-unfinished-agenda-women-and-girls-raped-in-conflict-45f42fa7bcda#.x1sndxe4w>

August 17th Theme: Sexual Assault & Discrimination



SAMPLE TWEETS:

Not giving rape survivors the right to abortion services is discrimination under international law. #LiftTheBan

“Rape in fact constitutes torture” - Rwanda Crim Tribunal. Yet US continues to deny abortions to women #HelmsHurts

Sign the petition! 30 days to get 100,000 signatures: <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/>

Rape is torture. Forcing a woman to carry the child of their rapist by denying abortions is torture. Helms is torture. #HelmsHurts #LiftTheBan

A powerful story on how #HelmsHurts women & girls globally by denying them access to post-rape care <http://bit.ly/HuffPoHelms> #BreakBarriers

Women rescued from Boko Haram deserve access to abortion services. #LifttheBan #BreakBarriers #HelmsHurts

<http://www.cosmopolitan.com/politics/news/a40182/nigerian-rape-victims-abortion/>

@POTUS & @JoeBiden support sexual assault initiatives, yet they're silent on war rape survivors overseas #LiftTheBan <http://bit.ly/2aHaK32>

SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS:

#1: In 1998, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda held that "rape in fact constitutes torture." Torture victims are entitled to complete medical care under the Geneva Conventions. 18 years later, the United States continues to deny abortions to war rape victims. #HelmsHurts

Link to: <http://globaljusticecenter.net/blog/484-rape-in-genocide>

#2: The United States' continual denial of abortions to war rape victims infringes on their right to access all necessary medical services under the Geneva Conventions. Forcing war rape victims to carry the child of their rapist against their will constitutes torture, and the Helms Amendment does just that.

#HelmsHurts #LiftTheBan <http://globaljusticecenter.net/blog/394-end-torture>

#3 Laura Bassett reports on the U.S. refusal to support abortion access for women and girls raped in conflict and the devastating impact President Obama's inaction is having on their lives. #HelmsHurts <http://highline.huffingtonpost.com/articles/en/kenya-abortion/>

August 18th Theme: Obama Legacy



SAMPLE TWEETS:

Obama has #UnfinishedBusiness: @POTUS can and should allow abortions for war rape survivors! #HelmsHurts: <http://bit.ly/2beYgyd>

532 days since @ACLU & others called on @POTUS to correct restrictive implem. of Helms and still no action #LiftTheBan <http://bit.ly/2aHaK32>

532 days since @FemMajority & others called on @POTUS to correct restrictive implem. of Helms and still no action #LiftTheBan
<http://bit.ly/2aADx6f>

532 days since @Amnesty & others called on @POTUS to correct restrictive implem. of Helms and still no action #LiftTheBan http://bit.ly/2aADx6f
532 days since @ReproRights & others called on @POTUS to correct restrictive implem. of Helms and still no action #LiftTheBan http://bit.ly/2aADx6f
532 days since @IpasOrg & others called on @POTUS to correct restrictive implem. of Helms and still no action #LiftTheBan http://bit.ly/2aADx6f
Obama has one year left to change his legacy on reproductive rights for women and girls around the world. #BadLegacy #HelmsHurts
@JustinTrudeau has removed abortion restrictions on women and girls in conflict. Why hasn't Obama? #BadLegacy http://bit.ly/1YziOXL
What is @POTUS waiting for? Can give abortion access to women and girls in conflict #HelmsHurts
Sign the petition! 30 days to get 100,000 signatures: https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/
@POTUS & @JoeBiden support sexual assault initiatives, yet they're silent on war rape survivors overseas #LiftTheBan
109 US lawmakers have called on @POTUS to take exec action & #BreakBarriers to post-rape care http://bit.ly/24M7gAT #HelmsHurts
Take 90 seconds to learn how you can stand w/ women & girls raped in conflict bit.ly/ActNow16 #HelmsHurts #BreakBarriers #HelmsLegacy
532 days since @genderhealth & others called on @POTUS to correct restrictive implem. of Helms and still no action #LiftTheBan http://bit.ly/2aADx6f
532 days since @FemMajority & others called on @POTUS to correct restrictive implem. of Helms and still no action #LiftTheBan http://bit.ly/2aADx6f
532 days since @NationalNow & others called on @POTUS to correct restrictive implem. of Helms and still no action #LiftTheBan http://bit.ly/2aADx6f
Women's advocates have spent 8 years begging Obama for what Justin Trudeau already did http://www.vox.com/2016/5/17/11691762/trudeau-canada-obama-foreign-aid-abortion-womens-rights #BadLegacy
@POTUS don't leave a #BadLegacy on rape and abortion! Learn more with @reproaction at badlegacy.org #LiftTheBan
Tell @POTUS to stand with survivors of rape before he leaves office: https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/#BadLegacy

SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS:
#1: The lack of action on the Helms Amendment does not fit with Obama's human rights legacy. Join [Org. name] in asking the President to allow abortions for war rape victims: https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/
#2: Vice President Joe Biden has championed It's On Us, a sexual assault initiative here at home, but The White House has failed to address the worldwide survivors of sexual assault that suffer at the hands of the Helms Amendment. Demand action. Sign the petition: (link) #HelmsHurts #LiftTheBan
#3: President Obama has yet to take action on the Helms Amendment and its restrictive implementation, despite international outcry. Obama still has time to correct this archaic law: tell Obama #HelmsHurts and sign the petition! https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/
#4: Why does the Hyde Amendment - a domestic law limiting federal funding for abortion - contain exceptions for rape and incest, but its international equivalent - the Helms Amendment - does not? Good question. What's clear is that President Obama has the authority to change that discrepancy and allow abortions for war rape victims. Here's how: http://globaljusticecenter.net/documents/Q&A.9.25.13.pdf
#5 As long as President Obama continues to walk away from women raped in conflict, no victory lap, no legacy on women's rights can be complete. #HelmsHurts #BreakBarriers #HelmsLegacy https://medium.com/@genderhealth/obamas-unfinished-agenda-women-and-girls-raped-in-conflict-45f42fa7bcda#.x1sndxe4w

August 19th *World Humanitarian Day*



SAMPLE TWEETS:

#ShareHumanity – we all strive for equality, including equal access to medical care. #HelmsHurts

#ShareHumanity and expand access to abortions for war rape victims. #HelmsHurts

Sign the petition! 30 days to get 100,000 signatures: <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/>

Access to abortion is central to women’s equality. Tell @POTUS to #LiftTheBan : <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/>

SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS:

As we honor World Humanitarian Day and its theme ‘One Humanity’ we ask that Obama allow abortions for war rape victims. Join us in the fight for equality and sign our White House Petition: <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/>