



Global  
Justice Center  
Human Rights Through the Rule of Law



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### Support Us

We need your support to continue fighting against this inhuman policy. Please consider [making a donation to support GJC's work](#) to end this discrimination against women and girls in war.

December 17, 2014

## 41 Years Later, Helms Still Hurts Women Abroad

Dear Friends,

Forty-one years ago today, in response to the landmark *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision that upheld **women's right to choose**, Congress enacted the Helms amendment in an effort to restrict U.S. foreign aid from being used to provide safe abortion services. Shamefully, for over *four* decades, the Helms amendment has resulted in the denial of lifesaving abortions to women and girls brutally raped and forcibly impregnated in war.

[Take a look at our map which tracks the devastating effects of the Helms amendment.](#)

The Helms amendment hurts women and girls today more than ever as **rape is being used as a weapon of war against women and girls in places like Syria, Iraq, Nigeria and Burma**. Young girls and women are kidnapped from their schools and homes, brutalized, and terrorized through forced marriages, forced pregnancies and sexual slavery. Because of the Helms amendment, upon escape or rescue these women and girls will be denied access to safe abortions and **forced to bear the child of their rapists**.

The Global Justice Center has led an international campaign to uphold the right of impregnated war rape victims to non-discriminatory medical care under the Geneva Conventions, including **access to lifesaving abortion services**. GJC has built a coalition of supporters - including parliamentarians, lawyers, human rights activists and physicians - urging President Obama to **issue an executive order lifting the abortion restrictions** placed on US foreign aid.

WATCH GJC President Janet Benshoof speak about why President Obama must act to ensure the rights of survivors of sexual violence in war.



### Why We Must End Discrimination Against Women in War

We need your support in our efforts to combat the effects of the Helms amendment. Please consider making an [end-of-year donation](#) to our campaign to end decades of discrimination against war rape victims and ensure they have access to lifesaving care.

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