

**TABLE 1. Countries, by restrictiveness of abortion law, according to region, August 2008**

**Prohibited altogether or to save the woman's life**

THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Antigua & Barbuda, Brazil (R), Chile (ND), Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador (ND), Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico\* (F/R), Nicaragua (ND), Panama (F/R/PA), Paraguay, Suriname, Venezuela

CENTRAL ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran (F), Iraq, Lebanon, Libya (PA), Oman, Syria (PA/SA), United Arab Emirates (PA/SA), West Bank & Gaza Strip, Yemen

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Bangladesh, Bhutan (I/R/X), Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Kiribati, Laos, Marshall Islands (U), Micronesia (U), Myanmar, Palau (U), Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Tuvalu

EUROPE

Andorra, Ireland, Malta, Monaco, San Marino

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Angola, Central African Rep., Congo (Brazzaville), Côte d'Ivoire, Dem. Rep. of Congo, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi (SA), Mali (I/R), Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan (R), Tanzania, Uganda

**Physical health**

THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Argentina (RM), Bahamas, Bolivia (I/R), Costa Rica, Ecuador (RM), Grenada, Peru, Uruguay (R)

CENTRAL ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Jordan, Kuwait (F/PA/SA), Morocco (SA), Qatar (F), Saudi Arabia (PA/SA)

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Maldives (SA), Pakistan, Rep. of Korea (F/I/R/SA), Vanuatu

EUROPE

Liechtenstein (X), Poland (F/I/R/PA)

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Benin (F/I/R), Burkina Faso (F/I/R), Burundi, Cameroon (R), Chad (F), Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea (PA/SA), Eritrea (I/R), Ethiopia (F/I/R/X), Guinea (F/I/R), Mozambique, Niger (F), Rwanda, Togo (F/I/R), Zimbabwe (F/I/R)

**Physical and mental health**

THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Colombia (F/I/R), Jamaica (PA), Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia (I/R), Trinidad & Tobago

CENTRAL ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Algeria, Israel (F/I/R/X)

**Physical and mental health (cont'd.)**

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Hong Kong (F/I/R), Malaysia, Nauru, New Zealand (F/I), Samoa, Thailand (F/R)

EUROPE

Northern Ireland, Spain (F/R)

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Botswana (F/I/R), Gambia, Ghana (F/I/R), Liberia (F/I/R), Namibia (F/I/R), Seychelles (F/I/R), Sierra Leone, Swaziland (F/I/R)

**Physical and mental health, and socioeconomic grounds**

THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Barbados (F/I/R/PA), Belize (F), Saint Vincent & Grenadines (F/I/R)

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Australia\*, Fiji, India (F/R/PA), Japan (SA), Taiwan (F/I/PA/SA)

EUROPE

Cyprus (F/R), Finland (F/R/X), Iceland (F/I/R/X), Luxembourg (F/R/PA), Great Britain (F)

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Zambia (F)

**Without restriction as to reason**

THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Canada (L), Cuba§ (PA), Guyana†, Puerto Rico\*†, United States\*,\*† (PA)

CENTRAL ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Armenia§, Azerbaijan§, Bahrain§, Georgia§ (PA), Kazakhstan§, Kyrgyzstan§, Tajikistan§, Tunisia§, Turkey‡ (PA/SA), Turkmenistan§, Uzbekistan§

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Cambodia\*\*, China (SS/L), Dem. People's Rep. of Korea (L), Mongolia§, Nepal§ (SS), Singapore‡‡, Vietnam (L)

EUROPE

Albania§, Austria\*\*, Belarus§, Belgium\*\*, Bosnia/Herzegovina§ (PA), Bulgaria§, Croatia§ (PA), Czech Rep.§ (PA), Denmark§ (PA), Estonia§, Fmr. Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia§ (PA), France\*\*, Germany\*\*, Greece§ (PA), Hungary§, Italy§§ (PA), Latvia§ (PA), Lithuania§, Moldova§, Montenegro§ (PA), Netherlands\*†, Norway§ (PA), Portugal‡ (PA), Romania\*\*, Russian Fed.§, Serbia§ (PA), Slovak Rep.§ (PA), Slovenia§ (PA), Sweden††, Switzerland§, Ukraine§

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Cape Verde§, South Africa§

\*Federal system; abortion law determined by states. In Australia and Mexico, state laws fall into different categories of restrictiveness. Classification reflects law affecting largest number of people. †Gestational limit is eight weeks. ‡Gestational limit is 10 weeks. §Gestational limit is 12 weeks. \*\*Gestational limit is 14 weeks. ††Gestational limit is 18 weeks. ‡‡Gestational limit is 24 weeks. §§Gestational limit is 90 days. \*†Law does not limit previability abortions. Notes: The countries listed include independent states and, where populations exceed one million, semi-autonomous regions, territories and jurisdictions of special status. The table therefore includes Hong Kong, Northern Ireland, Puerto Rico, Taiwan and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. For gestational limits, duration of pregnancy is calculated from the first day of the last menstrual period, which is generally considered to occur two weeks prior to conception. Thus, statutory gestational limits calculated from the date of conception have been extended by two weeks. F=Abortion allowed in cases of fetal impairment. I=Abortion allowed in cases of incest. R=Abortion allowed in cases of rape. RM=Abortion allowed in cases of rape of a mentally disabled woman. X=Abortion allowed on additional enumerated grounds relating to such factors as the woman's age or capacity to care for a child. PA=Parental authorization required. SA=Spousal authorization required. SS=Sex-selective abortion prohibited. L=Law does not indicate gestational limit. ND=Existence of defense of necessity is in question. U=Law unclear. Source: reference 3.