

**ADOPTION STATEMENT**  
**Consideration of UPR Reports: Austria**  
**UN Human Rights Council**  
**62 Session**  
**15 June–10 July 2026**

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Austrian Society for Family Planning (OGF).

We welcome Austria's constructive engagement in the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and its support for recommendations to sexual and reproductive health services and inclusive education.

At the same time, we regret that Austria did not support recommendations on the decriminalization of abortion, the removal of barriers to abortion care, and the integration of abortion services into the public healthcare system.

Although abortion is exempt from criminal penalties under specific conditions, it remains regulated under criminal law. This is incompatible with a rights-based approach to sexual and reproductive health and rights and contributes to stigma and barriers to care.

Access to abortion services remains uneven across Austria. In several federal states, public services are unavailable, requiring individuals to travel and bear additional costs. Abortion care is also generally not covered by public health insurance, creating financial barriers, particularly for those with limited resources.

We urge Austria to remove abortion from the Criminal Code and ensure legal, free of charge, low-threshold, and nationwide access through the public healthcare system.

We also emphasize the importance of comprehensive, age-appropriate, evidence-based sexuality education, as well as free contraceptive counselling and access to modern contraceptive methods. These measures support informed decision-making, help prevent unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights.

We reaffirm our commitment to working with the Austrian government and civil society to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

Thank you.