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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEART Demands Reproductive Justice in the Wake of the Supreme Court Decision and Continued Criminalization of Bodily Autonomy

June 24, 2022

Contact: info@heartwomenandgirls.org

HEART condemns the recent Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. In spite of persistent state-sponsored, white supremacist-Christian hegemonic attacks, we continue to assert that Muslims and all people have the freedom to make decisions over their own bodies. This freedom should include access to sexual and reproductive health care such as abortion.

While no Muslim organization can speak for all Muslims, we know that—according to the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding’s 2022 American Muslim Poll—a [majority of Muslims in the US support access to legal abortion care in all or most cases](#). At HEART, we believe that it is up to the pregnant person to determine what is aligned with their religious and spiritual understanding and what is best for their health and safety.

Contrary to misinformed, white supremacist, and Christian hegemonic beliefs, reproductive justice is inherently Islamic. The tenets of *khilafah* (individual moral agency and responsibility), *hurma* (sacred boundaries upheld through each person's bodily autonomy), and *ridha* (choice and consent) are at the core of how our faith tradition guides our communities through an intentional anti-harm approach.

“We know that violence occurs any time a person or a system exerts an abuse of power and control over us—which disempowers us from our God-given ability to have control over our bodies and lives,” commented Sahar Pirzada, Manager of Movement-Building and Aisha Ismail, Director of Development. **“Part of self-determination (and freedom from harm and violence) is the ability to make decisions about our bodies and lives that are aligned with our personal values and beliefs.”**

“Reproductive justice reflects basic human rights and dignity in line with the Islamic tenets of sacred bodies and bodily autonomy—especially for those who are most impacted by gendered violence,” said Navila Rashid, Manager of Survivor Advocacy and Training. **“Resisting the curtailment of reproductive justice is crucial to ending gendered violence at the interpersonal level (including reproductive coercion) as well as at the systems level (including gendered islamophobia).”**

Throughout US and global history, the same Muslim and BIPOC bodies have been persecuted—with our bodily autonomy persistently threatened and violated. This is reflected through oppressive and inhumane surveillance, policing, criminalization, and incarceration, which perpetuate shameful legacies of rape, colonization, slavery, genocide, forced sterilization, and other forms of reproductive violence.

It takes HEART to grow



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"Abortion criminalization and other attacks on reproductive justice only deepen and continue this targeted and intergenerational systemic harm," stated Kiran Waqar, Communications Coordinator, and Sabreen Mohammed, Manager of Education and Research.

Further, a network of technologies and actors used in the War on Terror apparatus are continuing to be used to surveil and criminalize Muslims. Under the guise of countering domestic violent extremism, these resources are being further pitted against low-income Black and brown Muslims and others who are seeking abortion care and/or engaging in reproductive justice activism. This occurs as far-right white supremacist-nationalist actors continue to enact harm.

"We demand a defunding of supposed 'national security' and local policing and instead a reinvestment in communities of care." Communities who are most impacted know and continue to advocate for what they need to access reproductive justice—food, housing, mental and reproductive health care, education, and jobs," stated Aliza Kazmi and Nadiah Mohajir, Co-Executive Directors.

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We are available for interviews upon request. Please contact us at info@heartwomenandgirls.org.

For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/SVandRJinfo>. Other resources include:

- [American Muslim Poll](#)
- [Request a Workshop with HEART](#)
- ["Abortion is a Muslim issue, and its on us to Fight for Abortion Access"](#)
- ["Why banning abortion is just another way to criminalize Muslims' bodies"](#)
- [On Abortion, Muslim Americans Say Islamic History is "on the side of mercy", Religion News Service](#)
- [Muslim-led Reproductive Justice Organization Makes Sense of the Abortion Debate,](#)
- [Partnership to End Gendered Islamophobia Report](#)

HEART is a national, Muslim woman of color-led public health and advocacy organization working to promote sexual health, uproot gendered violence, and advance reproductive justice by establishing choice and access for the most impacted Muslims. Our vision is a world where all Muslims are safe and able to exercise self-determination in the communities where they live, work, and pray.

Follow HEART on social media @hearttogrow and join the email list at <https://hearttogrow.org/>.

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