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Grande Loge Féminine de Belgique

Vrouwengrootloge van België

**Manifest from the Grande Loge Féminine de Belgique-
Vrouwengrootloge van België (GLFB-VGLB)**

**for the withdrawal and/or against the adoption of Gallardón's bill
on volunteer interruption of pregnancy.**

The Grande Loge Féminine de Belgique (GLFB-VGLB) joins the Grande Loge Féminine de France, the Federation du Droit Humain de France, the Federation du Droit Humain d'Espagne and the Grand Orient of France to support the Grande Loge Féminine d'Espagne all Spaniards who are mobilizing against the Gallardón bill to reduce or *de facto* remove the right of women to abortion in Spain.

This bill of Mr. Rajoy government violates commitments made by the Kingdom of Spain on behalf of his people, as a signatory to the following international treaties: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations (1948), the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental freedoms of the Council of Europe (1949), the Beijing Platform (1995), and the Charter of Fundamental rights of the European Union (2000).

To remove the woman's right to abortion constitutes a grave violation of their fundamental rights, i.a. dignity, integrity, and freedom.

Gallardón's bill, aiming to dictate women's bodies and to assign them to a role of forced-mother, is also contrary to the spirit of fundamental rights such as respect the property and privacy, since the body deserves at least the same respect as the property or home.



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Let us remember Olympe de Gouges, who went to the guillotine in November 1793 for having required that also apply to women any new rights of men and citizens. Keep in mind that a woman dies every 9 minutes from the consequences of unsafe abortion in poor conditions. The criminalization of abortion has the effect, not to prevent the act, but to accentuate social inequalities, some women having the means to travel elsewhere in Europe to abort with dignity and safely, while others must rely to the backstreet abortionists acting in hiding.

The GLFB - VGLB invites Spanish institutions to meet their commitments on behalf of their people, in terms of fundamental rights, removing this sad bill from another age or not adopting it.

Grande Loge Féminine de Belgique – Vrouwengrootloge van België
February 15, 2014

Christine De Vos
Grand Master