

**SYMPOSIUM:
SAFEGUARDING
ABORTION RIGHTS
DUTCH LAW
IN CONTEXT**

**18
SEPTEMBER
2025**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Abortion rights are under increasing threat worldwide. What is the legal situation in the Netherlands, what are the obligations of states under the UN Women's Convention, and how can we protect access to safe and legal abortion now—and in the future?

Join us for a one-day symposium organised by the Dutch CEDAW Network, in cooperation with the Association for Women and Law Clara Wichmann and Bureau Clara Wichmann, bringing together international experts and Dutch voices in law and policy.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Genoveva Tisheva, Vice-Chair of the UN CEDAW Committee and rapporteur of the Committee's inquiry into Poland's abortion law. This landmark report centres women's right to reproductive autonomy and recognises the far-reaching harm caused by Poland's legal restrictions on abortion.

Other speakers include:

- Karolina Kocemba, Marie Curie Fellow at Erasmus University, who will talk about the battle for abortion rights in Poland and resisting right-wing legal mobilisation. ;
- Fleur van Leeuwen, legal scholar at Utrecht University, who will critically assess Dutch abortion law, highlighting existing barriers in the Abortion Act (Wet Afbreking Zwangerschap) and the need for reform in light of international human rights law, in particular the UN Women's Convention.
- Bureau Clara Wichmann, presenting new research on how the right to safe and legal abortion can be firmly anchored in Dutch legislation.

More speakers and the full programme will be announced soon.

- 📅 Date: 18 September 2025
- 📍 Location: De Kargadoor, Oudegracht 36, Utrecht
- 🕒 Time: 10:00-16:00, including lunch, followed by drinks
- 🗣️ Working language: English

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