Reviewer's report

Title: Global Abortion Policies Database: a descriptive analysis of the legal categories of lawful abortion

Version: 0 Date: 17 Jun 2018

Reviewer: Leah Treanor

Reviewer's report:

This paper provides an overview of abortion regulation in over 100 countries, using data from the Global Abortion Policies Database (GAPD). It contends that ambiguity in prescribed legal classifications may impact on women's ability to access abortion services.

The paper is well-written and addresses an interesting and timely topic. There are some minor details/typos which should be addressed:

- Word missing at line 88.
- Word missing at line 114. Should read "strengthening of knowledge…"
- Reference for the evidence referred to in line 416? Further detail or a supporting example might be helpful here.
- Reference for example referred to in lines 436-439?

The "conclusion" section would benefit from some further consideration. The paper initially sets out to "discuss the implications for access to safe, legal abortion". At times, the link between the ambiguity of the legal classifications and the resulting implications for access appears to have been lost. I would have liked to have seen further discussion of the implications for access and the significance of same. The conclusion section also presents an opportunity for the authors to capitalise on the relevance and significance of their findings in relation to what is, undoubtedly, a very topical issue at present. Do the authors have any recommendations/thoughts about directions for future research?

I would have no hesitation in recommending this for publication after the minor revisions above have been effected.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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