



MANIFEST FOR THE WORLD CONTRACEPTION DAY 2008 BY THE SPANISH FOUNDATION FOR CONTRACEPTION

Unplanned pregnancy is a great public health concern around the world. It involves unarguable implications at the sanitary, psychological and economical level, affecting the quality of life of women and their social environment. To a greater or lesser extent, this is a constant concern for the different public authorities and health systems.

Bearing in mind the economic connotations of unplanned pregnancy in different geographical and social sectors, sometimes even related with male domination, this issue is also in the eye of the hurricane among many social groups in our country and it constitutes a major concern for large sectors of the population.

That is why the **World Contraception Day**, encouraged by “Your life” platform and supported by different international entities working in the field of contraception, has taken unwanted pregnancy as its watchword for its second year of celebration. **The Spanish Society of Contraception (SEC) and its Foundation (FEC)** are determined to draw the attention to the problems associated with unplanned pregnancy in our country, as well as its solutions.

Although the activities promoting safe sex habits and the use of contraceptives for enhanced health and wellbeing must be **permanent activities** and should take place all year around, the celebration of an international day devoted to contraception is an important beacon. It must aim to raise awareness in all social groups and entities involved, so that we can further advance in the fields of contraception and sexuality.





SEC holds a **long tradition of continuous work** for the improvement of reproductive and sexual health among Spanish men and women and everybody who lives in Spain. We specially strive to encourage the continuous use of contraceptives based on scientific criteria. We also fight for the promotion of sexual and contraceptive education and for the access to health and social services in our country.

This is based on **the right to a free sexuality** and the need to provide instruments to enjoy sex life without risks and separated from procreation. In order to fight for this right, SEC/FEC takes part in every initiative which redounds to the achievement of these goals.

In spite of the advances which have taken place in the past few years, Spain still reports high rates of unplanned pregnancy, especially among young women, teenagers and women beyond 40 years of age. This situation forces us to continue implementing actions geared towards avoiding these situations. The **solutions** have to do with the generalization and improvement of sexual education, the promotion and access to regular and emergency contraception and the creation of the necessary legal mechanisms when, against all odds, contraception fails. SEC is always **open for collaboration** with national and local authorities to plan and develop these actions.

With a sense of **celebration** to make contraception easily spreadable and with a sense of **contestation** to fight for the work that still needs to be done, we work side by side with all the stakeholders and we manifest our **unequivocal adherence** to “Your life” initiative for the celebration of the World Contraception Day. We do manifest our active position to avoid unplanned pregnancy and our **solidarity** with all the countries where sex and reproductive rights are still far from the notions of justice, respect and normality.

Spanish Foundation for Contraception
26 September, 2008

