

## Accessible and Affordable Healthcare for Women

By Alexa Leitner

At the age of 19, Jennifer was sexually assaulted. She did not feel comfortable talking to anyone about her experience, including her primary care physician. Jennifer was brave enough to go to Planned Parenthood to get tested for STDs. From the moment she walked in she felt accepted, welcomed, and respected. Jennifer was treated with kindness and empathy and offered her various resources. 12 years later, Jennifer still chooses Planned Parenthood over any other doctor.

Planned Parenthood is a non-profit organization that provides reproductive health care to nearly 4,665,000 women all over the world every year. This organization is accessible for women, men, and transwomen of all ages. Not many people know that Planned Parenthood isn't just a place to get abortions. They also offer cervical cancer screenings, provide access to birth control, and getting tested for STDs. Only 3% of all of Planned Parenthood's services provided to women are actually abortions.

One large issue under the umbrella of female reproductive care is the inaccessibility to proper treatment for maternal health. In the U.S. women are often limited by their financial means, their sexual orientation, their age, and race. Planned Parenthood does not discriminate against these things. Yet some do not believe in their cause because they equate Planned Parenthood with abortions. People have been protesting the funding of Planned Parenthood for years and the government could pull its funding at any time. The future of Planned Parenthood is not guaranteed and millions would not receive the proper health care if it goes away. We must continue to fight for Planned Parenthood.

If not, you need to help fight for Planned Parenthood. For Planned Parenthood to continue providing services to millions of women, we need to take action. We need to take a stand and fight for women's reproductive rights all over the world. Whether it's participating in marches, writing letters to government officials, signing petitions, or informing your community. There is so much we can do to promote women's reproductive rights. This year the Supreme Court will see an abortion case that focuses on a Louisiana law restricting the number of doctors allowed to provide abortions. Every donation helps women who otherwise may not be able to get proper care. Planned Parenthood does so much for millions of women, especially those in need who cannot afford care elsewhere. If you believe that all women should have a say in their reproductive care, take action. As a woman I hope I'll have access to proper health care when I'm older and I hope that all women will have the same.

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<sup>1</sup> "10 Girls Share How Planned Parenthood Made a Difference in ...." 4 Dec. 2015, <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/planned-parenthood-day-of-solidarity>. Accessed 6 Feb. 2020.

<sup>2</sup> "Planned Parenthood." <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/>. Accessed 6 Feb. 2020.

<sup>3</sup> "by the numbers - Planned Parenthood." [https://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/9313/9611/7194/Planned\\_Parenthood\\_By\\_The\\_Numbers.pdf](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/9313/9611/7194/Planned_Parenthood_By_The_Numbers.pdf). Accessed 6 Feb. 2020.

<sup>4</sup> "Opinion | How to Really Defend Planned Parenthood - The ...." 5 Aug. 2015, <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/05/opinion/how-to-really-defend-planned-parenthood.html>. Accessed 6 Feb. 2020.