

Christina Zampas

Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Fellow

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Christina Zampas is an international human rights lawyer with extensive experience managing projects on law reform, litigation and training. Her scholarship and advocacy focus on UN and regional human rights law, particularly on sexual and reproductive rights.

She has conducted advocacy at various UN and regional human rights bodies and in national parliaments and ministries. She has advocated for development of standards and law and policy reform on issues ranging from the decriminalization of abortion, same sex conduct, and sex work, to gender based violence, contraception, human rights during childbirth, comprehensive sexuality education, legal gender identity, and the rights of marginalized populations. She has led major research missions documenting human rights violations related to abortion, forced sterilization, and sex work, and has managed and supported the drafting and publication of such findings.

Zampas has litigated groundbreaking cases before the European Court of Human Rights on numerous issues, including, denial of access to lawful abortion, prenatal health information, and on the forced sterilization of Roma women. She has also filed amicus briefs in a number of cases concerning sexual orientation and gender identity. Zampas has also filed a complaint challenging discriminatory and non-evidence-based sexuality education programs in Croatian schools under the European Social Charter. She has also been involved in cases before the Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Court on Human Rights regarding unlawful deportation of Haitians from the United States, as well as lack of due diligence by law enforcement in a domestic violence case against the United States. She most recently provided oral expert legal testimony to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the case of *I.V. v Bolivia*. Her testimony focused on UN and European human rights and health standards on informed consent generally and to sterilization specifically. *I.V. v Bolivia* is the Inter-American Court's first case regarding forced sterilization, and its first case on informed consent in health care.

She is the co-founder of the Women's Human Rights Training Institute (WHRTI), in Bulgaria, the first training program for lawyers from Central and Eastern Europe on using international and regional human rights mechanisms to seek redress for violations of women's rights.

Zampas has worked at Amnesty International as Senior Legal Advisor, the Center for Reproductive Rights as Regional Director for Europe, and at Parliamentarians for Global Action as Project Director for its work in West African parliaments. She has been a Practitioner-in-Residence at University of Miami Law School Human Rights Clinic and a Visiting Lecturer in Russian university law faculties with Yale University and Open Society Foundations. She has done consultancy work for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNAIDS, UNFPA and the World Health Organization. Zampas has lectured widely and made presentations before policy and academic institutions around the globe. Zampas holds a B.A. in political science from Douglas College, Rutgers University and a J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law and is licensed to practice law in New York. She has authored or co-authored the following publications:

- "Abortion and the European Convention on Human Rights: a Lens for Abortion Advocacy in Africa," in *Strengthening the protection of sexual and reproductive health*

and rights in the African region through human rights, ed. Charles Ngwenya and Ebenezer Durojaye, Pretoria University Law Press, Pretoria, South Africa (2014) (with Jaime Todd-Gher), http://www.pulp.up.ac.za/pdf/2014_14/2014_14.pdf

- Legal and ethical standards for protecting women's human rights and the practice of conscientious objection in reproductive healthcare settings, *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics* 123, Supplement 3 (2013) [http://www.ijgo.org/article/S0020-7292\(13\)60005-3/abstract](http://www.ijgo.org/article/S0020-7292(13)60005-3/abstract)
- "Conscientious Objection to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services: International Human Rights Standards and European Law and Practice," *European Journal of Health Law* 19 (2012) (with Ximena Andión-Ibañez) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22916532>
- "Abortion as a Human Right—International and Regional Standards," *Human Rights Law Review*, Oxford University Press 8:2 (2008) (with Jaime M. Gher) - also available in Spanish in *Aborto y Justicia Reproductiva*, ed. Paola Bergallo (2011) <http://hrlr.oxfordjournals.org/content/8/2/249.abstract>
- "Human Rights Begin at Birth: International *Law and the Claim of Fetal Rights*, *Reproductive Health Matters* 13[26] (2005) (with Rhonda Copelon, et al) [http://www.rhm-elsevier.com/article/S0968-8080\(05\)26218-3/abstract](http://www.rhm-elsevier.com/article/S0968-8080(05)26218-3/abstract)
- *Forced and Coerced Sterilization of Women in Europe*, *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics* (2011) (with Adriana Lamačková) http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2027937