

Saal: Project 20:00 01:00 Day: 2 Track: Ethics, Society & Politics nA
2501

Title: **Drones, ships, pills and the Internet**

Subtitle: Women on waves

Speaker: **rebecca gomperts**

Short: *Women on Waves and Women on Web, 2 non profit organisations use all possible loopholes and undetermined legal spaces to make sure that also women in countries where abortion is illegal can access safe abortion services.*

Long: Currently 39% of the population lives in countries with highly restrictive abortion laws. An estimated 43.8 million abortions are carried out worldwide each year of which 21 million in countries where abortion is illegal. About one in five pregnancies ends in an abortion. Medical abortion (with pills) is one of the safest procedures in contemporary medical practice, with minimal morbidity and a negligible risk of death. However each year, approximately 21.6 million women worldwide still undergo an illegal and unsafe abortion resulting in an estimated 47000 deaths. In response to this medical need, Women on Waves was founded in 1999. On board a Dutch ship, the abortion pill can be provided safely and legally to women with unwanted pregnancies, once it sails outside the territorial waters of countries where abortion is illegal. In response to a growing number of help emails from women around the world, Women on Web, an online medical abortion service, was founded in 2005. Over the years WoW used innovative strategies with ships, mobile phones, apps, printed material, grassroots mobilization, internet, art and now drones as well to draw much-needed public attention to the consequences of unwanted pregnancy and unsafe, illegal abortion and to create access to safe medical abortion. This talk will present the work and challenges of WoW.