A United Stand against the Global Gag Rule, a Harmful and Inhumane Policy

As civil society organizations, we stand united in opposition to the U.S.-imposed Global Gag Rule, which undermines women’s health, rights and autonomy. There are 225 million women in developing countries who want to avoid pregnancy but are not using modern contraception. The Global Gag Rule further hurts an already-dire situation by weakening the effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance funding by making ineligible some of the most capable and effective organizational partners. The burden of unsafe abortion—a leading cause of maternal death and injury—also falls overwhelmingly on women in these regions.

The Global Gag Rule causes irreparable harm by forcing organizations that provide information, referrals and services for legal abortion to choose between receiving U.S. funding and providing high quality reproductive health services and counseling to women. The Gag Rule causes cuts in services, increases in fees and closures of clinics. Organizations also lose valuable technical assistance and U.S.-donated contraceptives, including condoms.

The world has made incredible progress in improving health and advancing reproductive rights. Many countries have both increased domestic funding for family planning and liberalized abortion laws. A reimposed Global Gag Rule will reverse decades of progress on reproductive, maternal and child health and increase unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions by putting critical services out of reach. When in place, the Global Gag Rule not only forces organizations to disregard laws established by their governments, it violates the trusted relationship between a woman and her healthcare provider—sometimes at the cost of her life.

A woman’s rights and her life and health should not depend on the whims of U.S. politics.

Endorsing Organizations

Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights
Advocacy, Research, Training and Services (ARTS) Foundation
Afghanistan Social Development and Health Organization (ASDHO)
Africa CSOs Coalition on Population and Development
African Federation for Sexual Health and Rights
AfyaElimu CBO
Akina Mama wa Afrika
Albanian Center for Population and Development
Albarka Health Spring Foundation
Alianza Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Juventudes
Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights
Articulação De Mulheres Bresileiras
Asia Catalyst
Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA)
Association "Papardes zieds"
Association Centrafricaine pour le Bien Etre Familial (ACABEF)
Association for Reproductive and Family Health
Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID)
Association HERA XXI
ASTRA Network
ASTRA Youth
AVAC
Babiker Badri Sientific Association for Women Studies
Balanced Stewardship Development Association
British Pregnancy Advisory Service
Cal State University Fullerton
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Catholics For Reproductive Health (C4RH)
Catholics for the Right to Decide/Mexico
Católicas pelo Direito de Decidir - Brasil
CEINSA
Centre for the study of Adolescence
Centro de Derechos de Mujeres
CESI- Center for Education, Counselling and Research, Croatia
Circle of Health International
Civil Society Forum - SANAC
Colectiva Ciudad y Género AC
Coletivo Mulher Vida
CooperAcció
Coordenação Estadual das Promotoras Legais Populares - São Paulo Brasil
Coordinadora de la Mujer
COPPER ROSE ZAMBIA
Danish Family Planning Association
DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung)
Echoes of Women in Africa
Echoes of Women in Africa Initiative
Elige Red de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos-RedLAC México
EPF : European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development
Equidad de Género, Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia
Equilibres & Populations
EuroNGOs
European Humanist Federation
Family Planning Association of Malawi
Family Planning Victoria
federación planificación familiar estatal
Federation for Women and Family Planning, Poland
FEMNET
FOKUS - Forum for Women and Development - Norway
Fortress of Hope Africa
Forum for African Women Educationalist in Malawi
Forum for Family Planning and Development, Inc.
Fundación Oriéntame
GLIHD
Global Doctors for Choice South Africa
Grupo Curumim
Health Education and Research Association-HERA
Impact Health Organization (IHO)
Instituto de Estudos de Gênero/CFH/UFSC
Instituto de Liderazgo Simone de Beauvoir
International Consultant
International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU)
International Planned Parenthood Federation
International Youth Alliance for Family Planning
Ipas
IPPF EN Member Association in Armenia
Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning
(JOICFP)
Jesus Cares Ministries
Kenya Muslim Youth Development Organization
Latin American Network Of Catholics For The Right To Decide
LiveWell South Sudan
Lugar de Mulher
Management Sciences for Health
Michael Adedotun Oke Foundation
Midwife Pilgrim
MOMS CLUB INTERNATIONAL NIGERIA
Mosaic International, LLC
Mouvement Français pour le Planning Familial
Myanmar Partners in Policy and Research (MPPR)
National Committee for Maternal and Neonatal Health (NCMNH) Pakistan
NAWOL - National Assoc. of Women Opinion Leaders
NGO "Sana Sezim" (ASTRA Youth)
P&D Factor - Associação para a Cooperação sobre População e Desenvolvimento
PAI
Pakachere Institute of Health and Development Communication
PaRiter
Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand
Population Communication
Population Foundation of India
Profamilia - Colombia
RAISE Initiative
Red Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Jóvenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos - RedLAC
Rede Nacional Feminista de Saúde Direitos Sexuais e Direitos Reprodutivos
Rede Panapanã - Mulheres do Noroeste Paulista - São Paulo - Brasil
Reproductive Health Services
Reproductive Health Training Center from Moldova
Rutgers
Samasha Medical Foundation
SANRU
Sensoa
SERAC-Bangladesh
Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT
Si Jeunesse Savait (SJS)
Society for Feminist Analyses-AnA, Romania
Spatium Libertas AC
SUPKEM
The Association of Non-governmental Organization (TANGO)
The Danish Family Planning Association
The Society for Education on Contraception and Sexuality, Romania
Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH)
Ugoku/Ugokasu (GCAP Japan)
União de Mulheres de São Paulo - Brasil
Union Women Center
VillageReach
Vision Spring Initiatives
western uganda FBO Network
WIPGG Nigeria
WoMena
Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)
World Prossion Centre
Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka
Zambia Association for Research and Development (ZARD)
Zambia Health Education And Communications Trust