

The Honorable Chuck Schumer

Majority Leader

United States Senate Room S-221, The Capitol

Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

June 24, 2021

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer,

We are human rights, feminist and women's organizations and advocates from around the world urging you to prioritize the permanent end, through any legislative means available, to the Mexico City Policy also known as the Global Gag Rule (GGR).

We are pleased that President Biden, like other Democratic Presidents before him, has rescinded the Global Gag Rule, but this is only a short-term solution to the egregious harms that this cruel policy inflicts on women, girls, and gender-diverse people in marginalized communities around the world.

The policy affects the lives of people in low-income countries that receive U.S. global health assistance. It creates disruptions to national health systems, constrains access to health services, and the structural damage has resulted in more unintended pregnancies, and increased rates of STIs, HIV, and unsafe abortions. Despite false Republican claims that the GGR prevents abortion, abortion rates rose by 40% and use of modern contraception fell by 13.5% in countries highly impacted by the policy.¹

Further, by prohibiting foreign non-governmental organizations receiving U.S. development assistance from using their own funds to engage in any pro-abortion activities such as counseling on abortion as an option or campaigning for liberalized abortion laws, the GGR turns U.S. global health funding into an anti-democratic instrument that hampers civil society participation and undermines U.S. commitments to the promotion of free speech and democratic institutions.²

Whenever the GGR is enacted, the U.S. global health programs are contravening international human rights norms. The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrines the right to life and the right to health, and the many international treaties and other legal instruments that have followed support women's right to health care, including access to safe abortion. In 2015, the world adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, including gender equality and

¹ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(19\)30267-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(19)30267-0/fulltext)

² <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R44858.pdf>

empowerment of all women and girls that includes a target to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).³ The GGR violates the U.S. government's commitment to upholding SRHR by denying women and gender-diverse people the full range of reproductive health options and significantly impairing their control over their reproductive lives.

A permanent end to the Global Gag Rule would bolster the longstanding aspirational commitments of the U.S. to global health, democracy and human rights promotion, and would be a significant step towards reestablishing the U.S. as a leader in global health, upholding human rights standards.

We urge you to take legislative action to permanently end the Global Gag Rule. We look forward to your leadership in ensuring that this disastrous and deadly policy is never again exported to other nations to restrict the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women, girls, and gender-diverse people.

Signed,

Endorsing Organizations

1. Acção de solidariedade e saúde comunitária
2. ACOMPAÑAME CIPA
3. Action pour l'Education et la Promotion de la Femme (AEPF-Tchad)
4. Activiste des droits des femmes
5. African Young Positives Network
6. Afrihealth Optonet Association [CSOs Network]
7. Amnesty International
8. Angels in the Field
9. Anis - Instituto de Bioética
10. Antalya Women's Counseling Center and Solidarity Association
11. APROFA CHILE
12. ARROW
13. Asociación Panameña para el Planeamiento de la Familia (APLAFA)
14. ASSOCIATION DAHOLO
15. Association des Mamans Célibataires
16. ASSOCIATION POUR LA PROMOTION DE LA FAMILLE HAITIENNE (PROFAMIL)
17. Associazione Rosa Parks - centro culturale protestante di Grosseto
18. Asociación Venezolana para una Educación Sexual Alternativa
19. Bella Foundation for Child and Maternal Care
20. Betty Powell Associates
21. Bullard ESQ. Law
22. Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir -Colombia
23. Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir Bolivia
24. CECAVID

³ <https://srhrforall.org/download/prescribing-chaos-in-globalhealth-the-global-gag-rule-from-1984-2018/?wpdmdl=1064&refresh=60708c7d06aa41617988733>

25. CEDES - Centro de Estudio de Estado y Sociedad
26. Center for Reproductive Rights
27. Centro de Atención Integral a la Pareja A.C.
28. Centro de Derechos de Mujeres
29. Centro de Estudios de Guatemala
30. Centro Paraguayo de Estudios de Población
31. CEPAM-Guayaquil
32. CEPIA
33. CHANGE
34. CIES Salud Sexual Salud Reproductiva
35. CLACAI, Consorcio Latinoamericano Contra el Aborto Inseguro
36. Clínica Medieg
37. Coalición Nacional de Mujeres del Ecuador
38. Coalition of Feminists for Social Change (COFEM)
39. Colectivo "Género y Teología para el Desarrollo"
40. Colectivo de Sororidad "Leona Vicario Amorosa Madre de la Patria"
41. CON EFE COMUNICACIONES
42. Conseil Supérieur de l'Autorité Traditionnelle et Coutumière CONATC RDC AFRIQUE
43. Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights
44. DESSI International
45. Todos Ciudadanas, A.C.
46. INPPARES Perú
47. Doces Para Sempre SW
48. Dr Uzo Adirieje Foundation (DUZAFOUND)
49. DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung)
50. DUKINGIRE ISI YACU
51. ELA - Equipo Latinoamericano de Justicia y Género
52. Empowered At Dusk Women's Association
53. EnGen Collaborative
54. Equality Bahamas
55. Equipop
56. SAfAIDS
57. International Action Network for Gender Equity & Law (IANGEL)
58. Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO)
59. Feminist Alliance for Rights (FAR)
60. Fiji Women's Rights Movement
61. Filipino Catholic Voices for Reproductive Health (C4RH)
62. FOKUS - Forum for Women and Development
63. GAYA NUSANTARA Foundation
64. Four Freedoms Forum
65. Fundacion Aguaclara
66. Fundación Desafío
67. Fundacion Huesped
68. Fundación para Estudio e investigación de la Mujer
69. FUSA AC
70. Global Citizen
71. Global Fund for Women
72. Global Justice Center

73. Haiti Adolescent Girls Network
74. Hesperian Health Guides
75. Hope New Life Organization CEO
76. Inclusive Bangladesh
77. Iniciativas Sanitarias
78. INTER-MUJERES PUERTO RICO
79. International Action Network for Gender Equity & Law (IANGEL)
80. International Federation of Business and professional Women
81. International Women's Development Agency
82. Ipas CAM
83. Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association IPPF WHR
84. IYAFP Canada
85. Jaringan Perempuan Yogyakarta
86. KIKAP TRABZON
87. Kirkyama Kadın Dayanışması
88. Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network - LACWHN
89. Let Girls Learn Initiative
90. Liluye
91. LUKMEF-Cameroon
92. MADRE
93. Mor Salkım Kadın Dayanışma Derneği
94. Mujeres x Mujeres
95. Mulier Venezuela
96. Nicole Clark Consulting, LLC
97. Optio
98. Population Matters
99. Paper Crown Rwanda
100. Partido Manggagawa
101. Plataforma de mujeres caminando hacia la Igualdad
102. Pleasant Foundation Sierra Leone
103. PROMSEX, Centro de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos
104. Red de Mujeres y Hombres por una Opinión Pública con Perspectiva de Género
105. Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe
106. REDAAS - Red de Acceso al Aborto Seguro Argentina
107. Resonalia
108. Sanctus Initiative for Human Development and Values Sustainability (SIHDEVAS)
109. SANGRAM
110. Service Workers in Group Foundation Uganda
111. Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care
112. Sindicato OTRAS
113. Society for Conservation and Sustainability of Energy and Environment in Nigeria (SOCSEEN)/Afrihealth Optonet Association (CSOs Network)
114. Solidarité des Jeunes Filles pour L'éducation et l'intégration socioprofessionnelle, SOJFEP
115. Sonke Gender Justice
116. STRASS, Syndicat du Travail Sexuel
117. Success Capital Organisation
118. Sukaar Welfare Organization

119. Support for Women in Governance Organization
120. The African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)
121. The IWI: International Women's Initiative
122. Unchained At Last
123. University of Toronto, Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Program
124. WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform
125. Wokovu Way
126. WomanHealth Philippines
127. Women Deliver
128. Women for Women's Human Rights
129. WomenLift Health
130. Women Transforming Cities International Society
131. Women Working Group (WWG)
132. Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)
133. Women's Pro Bono Initiative
134. WWHR - New Waya
135. Young Feminist Europe
136. YUWA
137. Zamara Foundation

Endorsing Individuals

1. A. Potts
2. Achebe Powell
3. Adriana Mendoza Bautista
4. Aiman Hameed
5. Alice Bullard
6. Alma Clarisa Rico Díaz
7. Ana Maria R. Nemenzo
8. Andrea Carlise
9. Andreina Cordova
10. Angela Son
11. Annesha Das
12. Anya Victoria-Delgado
13. Ardra Manasi
14. Argentina Casanova
15. Arsene Basobe
16. Aubrey Michels
17. Aubrey Shayler
18. Autumn Michels
19. Bafana Khumalo
20. Bella Akhagba
21. Berat Can Erdoğan
22. Bergen Cooper
23. Berhan Haile
24. Bertha Pooley
25. Beth Darlington
26. Betty J Houbion

27. Bobbee Cardillo
28. Camila Pereira
29. Carla Pagano
30. Cassie Denbow
31. Cecilia Hofmann
32. Chandra T Mohanty
33. Charmaine Picardo
34. Chelsea Ullman
35. Chiara Kotyrba
36. Chuck Wieland
37. Cissy Nalusiba
38. Claire Grobler
39. Claudia Angeletti
40. Claudia Florentin
41. Clémence Doumenc-Aidara
42. Constance Garcia-Barrio
43. Coralie Vos
44. Corena Gonzalez
45. Cristiam Espíndola Molina
46. Cynthia Rothschild
47. Daniela Miramontes
48. Darcy Ashman
49. Darell Bagula
50. Darren Mitton
51. Debbie Schmidt
52. Deyanira González de León
53. Dibaia Dirão
54. Dominique Edmondson
55. Donna M Raycraft
56. Doortje 't Hart
57. Dori Grasso
58. Dr. Dapo Osituyo
59. Dr. Uzodinma Adirieje
60. Dr. Phil Arie Setyaningrum Pamungkas
61. Dragana Dardic
62. Dumiso Gatsha
63. Dunia Tegegn
64. Ed Cohen
65. Elaine Gorman
66. Elisa Garcia Teigell
67. Elisabeth Prügl
68. Elisabetta Borzini
69. Elizabeth Castro Salas
70. Elizabeth Gilarowski
71. Elizabeth Watts
72. Ellen Woodsworth
73. Emilce Sánchez Ferreira
74. Erica Post

75. Erika Dupuis
76. Esther Kimani
77. Esther Vicente
78. Ethan Weed
79. Evelia Estela Catalán Casiano
80. Farhana Loonat
81. Fatma Şengül
82. Fay Payton
83. Finn Koehler
84. Frank Wilsey
85. Fred Granlund
86. George Schneider
87. Grecia Lozano
88. Guadalupe Torres
89. Guido Secchiaroli
90. Gulser Kayir
91. Güneş Akgün Şahin
92. Halise Akın
93. Heather Benjamin
94. Heidi Jackson
95. Helena Minchew
96. Houry Geudelekian
97. Ira Gerard-DiBenedetto
98. Irazca Geray
99. Irma Ramos
100. Jacqueline Pitanguy
101. Jaime Todd-Gher
102. James A Clark Jr
103. Jane Leavitt
104. Jennifer Rauch
105. Jill Langhus
106. JL Angell
107. Joannine Nanyange
108. Joanna Seth-Smith
109. Joanne Crawford
110. Joanne McGrath
111. John Guillebaud
112. John Peterkin
113. Jonathan Peter
114. José Luis Mendoza
115. Josefien Ensdorff
116. Joshua Ellenberg
117. Joshua L Cooper
118. Judy Ann Miranda
119. Julie Okiro
120. Jutta Weldes
121. Kandi Berryman
122. Karen Berger

123. Karen Fuller
124. Karl Koessel
125. Kate Harder
126. Katherine Turner
127. Kathleen Staudt
128. Kathy Bradley
129. Kayleigh O'Keefe
130. Kelly Pickerill
131. Khayriyyah Muhammad Smith
132. Kim Walker
133. Kiran Sullivan
134. Kristen de Graaf
135. Lauren Messina
136. Laurette L Cucuzza
137. Laurie Richardson
138. Laxman Belbase
139. Linda Greene
140. Lorreen Dube
141. Lucia Nass
142. Luciana Brito
143. Luz Darriba
144. Lynette Carpenter
145. Lynn C. Lang
146. Mabel Bianco
147. Madeline Peling
148. Mahendra Panta
149. Marco Pardi
150. Margaux Granat
151. Margaux Harrington
152. María Luisa Campos
153. Mario Boozang
154. Marsha Collins
155. Maud Hartstra
156. Max Garcia
157. Maxine Clark
158. Meena Saraswathi Seshu
159. Megan Duckworth
160. Melissa Upreti
161. Melvine Praxides Ouyo
162. Mercedes Muñoz
163. Michael Monroe
164. Mihanta Ramanantsoa
165. Miyoko ARIYAMA
166. Mojubaolu Okome
167. Molly Browning
168. Monica Soto-Elizaga
169. Morgan Farrington
170. Myla Butz

171. Myriam Narcisse
172. Mzikazi Nduna
173. Nai'a Newlight
174. Nicholas Lenchner
175. Nicola Short
176. Nicole le Roux
177. Nienke Westerhof
178. Nilgün Turan
179. Nina Plummer
180. Nora Evriani
181. Osai Ojigho
182. Ousseina Alidou
183. Paige Logan
184. Pam Harpe-Smith
185. Pamela C. Morgan
186. Pamela Kittinger
187. Pamella Mubeza
188. Paola Peña
189. Paolina Vercoutère
190. Pat Copenhaver
191. Paul Antonio Córdoba Mendoza
192. Paula Mock
193. Payal Shah
194. Peggy Curchack
195. Prabhakar Shrestha
196. Rachel Myers
197. Radhika Balakrishnan
198. Randy Trigg
199. Rasheeda Williams
200. Rashid Patch
201. Rashida Manjoo
202. Rebecca K. Nichols
203. Richard Stern
204. Rick Wood
205. Rita Chemaly
206. Rocío Rosero Garcés
207. Sabin Muzaffar
208. Sabrina Sanchez
209. Sadie Weldes
210. Samantha Son
211. Sandra Savic
212. Sarah Shannon
213. Saskia Doek
214. Sean Donohue
215. Shanta Shrestha
216. Sharon A. Bong
217. Sharon D'Agostino
218. Sharon Longyear

- 219. Sherrill Futrell
- 220. Sherrill Mulhern
- 221. Sherry Zane
- 222. Shirley A Wooden
- 223. Shreya Kanetkar
- 224. Susan Porter
- 225. Susana A. Chavez
- 226. Susana Lerner y Sigal
- 227. Susana Medina
- 228. Sylvia Maier
- 229. Tamara Soledad Cuello
- 230. Tania Malven
- 231. Tarah Ann Demant
- 232. Tate Potts
- 233. Teresa Lanza
- 234. Theresa Ulicki
- 235. Therese Hartwell
- 236. Tia Pamunglas
- 237. Valerie Peterson
- 238. Veena Khandke
- 239. Violeta Rubiani
- 240. Virginia Dwyer
- 241. William Ryerson
- 242. Zehra Arat
- 243. Zulma Miranda
- 244. Zuziwe Khuzwayo