



International Alliance
for Sexual and Reproductive
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Fòs Feminista Releases First-of-its-Kind Report on the Strengths and Pitfalls of the Revocation of the Global Gag Rule

Washington D.C.— Today, Wednesday, April 27, [Fòs Feminista](#) released *Chaos Continues: The 2021 Revocation of the Global Gag Rule and the Need for Permanent Repeal*. This report relies on first-of-its-kind research stemming from 57 in-depth stakeholder interviews that document the impact of the U.S. government’s communications following President Biden’s January 2021 revocation of the Global Gag Rule (GGR).

The GGR is a deadly policy that prohibits foreign civil society organizations who receive U.S. global health assistance (implementing partners) from advocating for the liberalization of abortion law as well as providing, referring, or counseling about abortion as a method of family planning, even if doing so with other funding.

The findings from *Chaos Continues* demonstrate an alarming breakdown in communications between the U.S. government and relevant global health stakeholders regarding the revocation — one significant enough that some implementing partners did not know the policy was revoked until the research team contacted them for an interview. At times, the failure of both the U.S. government and implementing partners to thoroughly communicate and enforce the revocation of the GGR unnecessarily prevented women, girls, and gender-diverse people from accessing legal abortions.

There is a concerning lack of research regarding the clarity and effectiveness of the U.S. government’s global communications when the GGR is revoked. “The findings of the report fill this gap and demonstrate not only the breadth of the policy’s harm while it was in place, but also its lasting impact after it was revoked, which is a direct result of insufficient action and poor communications practices by the U.S. government,” said [Kemi Akinfaderin](#), Chief Global Advocacy Officer Co-lead of Fòs Feminista.

For decades, the GGR has been cyclically and temporarily revoked and reinstated with each incoming U.S. presidential administration based on party affiliation. This vicious cycle perpetuates global instability among implementing partners seeking to comply with restrictions on U.S. funding.

Our research found that even when revoked by a sitting president, the GGR continues to negatively and unnecessarily impact individuals and organizations who feel pressured to restrict allowable services in order to avoid risking critical funding streams and programs that provide vital health services, including but not limited to sexual and reproductive health services, in communities around the world.

“Temporarily revoking the GGR is like putting a Band-Aid on a gaping wound. We’ve always known that temporary action is unacceptable. Now we have the research to show the breadth of the policy’s harm even after it has been revoked,” said [Giselle Carino](#), Director and CEO of Fòs Feminista. “The GGR is a



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colonialist, state-sanctioned coercion tactic implemented by anti-choice U.S. lawmakers on a global scale. Revoking it was a step in the right direction, but, clearly, it was not enough.”

The new report includes clear and actionable recommendations for Congress, the White House, U.S. global health agencies and implementing partners to begin the process of mitigating the lingering harm of the GGR and improving communications regarding its revocation.

“Most urgently, Congress must permanently repeal the policy through legislative action as the most effective way to instill clarity and prevent future administrations hostile to global health and human rights from reinstating it,” said [Sammy Luffy](#), Policy Research Officer at Fòs Feminista. “President Biden’s move to immediately revoke the GGR in late January 2021 was timely and necessary, but more than a year later, this report shows that it’s time to make the repeal *real* by ensuring its permanent repeal and backing that up with widespread communications and compliance efforts across the U.S. global health system.”

“The GGR continues to have an influence in our country to this day. Though Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA) is not an issue in the U.S. anymore, it remains a big problem in Malawi because anti-abortion activists and politicians are using the GGR as a yardstick for rejecting domestic abortion law reform efforts,” says [Emma Kaliya](#), Director of Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre, a coalition that advocates for safe abortion in Malawi.

“Many governments continue to look to the U.S. for policy guidance, as it carries some recognizable weight on the global stage. With inconsistent communications regarding the revocation of the GGR, it sends mixed signals to governments, activists, and organizations in other countries, regarding their commitment to SRHR globally,” said [Rouzeh Eghtessadi](#), Executive Director of SAFAIDS. “Reinforcing the GGR allows one country to make decisions for others, creating a global development dent that extends beyond abortion, and deepening inequalities. It will also impact infant and maternal health, women's and girls' rights and autonomy, and even access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene resources.”

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[Fòs Feminista](#) is an international feminist alliance centered around sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice for women, girls, and gender-diverse people. Together with more than 170 local organizations across the globe, we engage in healthcare, education, and advocacy to advance our agenda. This includes providing sexual and reproductive health services and implementing community-based strategies that make sexual and reproductive healthcare more accessible to women, girls, and others at the margins. We also engage young people with comprehensive sexuality education and provide care to survivors of gender-based violence. We stand alongside our partners in the streets, in the courts, and in other advocacy spaces as an unapologetically feminist voice, resisting injustice and advocating for gender equality and reproductive rights locally and globally.