

Trump's anti-abortion global gag rule threatening women's lives, report says

'People are dying' in Africa and south Asia as a result of policy that bans aid to foreign groups who support abortions, says author of report

2017

MSF: Trump Administration's Expanded Global Gag Rule Puts Lives of Women and Children at Risk



OUR RIGHTS ARE UNDER ATTACK

Despicable and unacceptable: The expanded Global Gag Rule

Statement from Anu Kumar, Ipas President and CEO, in response to today's announcement of the expanded Global Gag Rule



Global health charities warn of 'huge and terrible' threat to abortion rights if Trump returns

'Global gag rule' and funding cuts will be 'on different scale' if Republicans win again, family-planning providers say



CNN World
The Trump administration has gutted family planning. Here's how it's impacted women overseas

Expanded Global Gag Rule is a major blow to global health and human rights

The newly expanded rule further advances an extreme anti-rights agenda
The Jan. 27 expansion of the Global Gag Rule is just the latest action by the current U.S. administration to decimate global health and human rights.



USAID's reproductive health funding has saved millions of lives. Now it's gone.

For decades, USAID's family planning program was the main source for contraception and HIV treatment in some countries. Experts say without it, women and LGBTQ+ people will die.



THE GLOBAL GAG RULE:

what it is, what changed, and why it matters!



What is the Global Gag Rule?

The Global Gag Rule (also called the Mexico City Policy) is a US government policy that blocks foreign organisations from receiving US funding if they so much as mention abortion, even to provide counselling, referrals, or information about safe and legal procedures, and even when using their own non-US money. First introduced by President Reagan in 1984, it has been switched on and off by successive administrations ever since.

How has it recently been expanded?

In January 2025, President Trump reinstated the rule immediately after taking office. In January 2026, his administration announced its most sweeping expansion yet, rebranded as "*Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance*." The policy now applies to all non-military US foreign assistance, including humanitarian aid (food, water, medicine after disasters). On top of this, it now strips funding from any organisation that supports transgender people or engages in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work.

What is the impact?

The consequences are already visible. Clinics lose funding and are forced to shut down or reduce services. Organisations working in disaster zones must choose between feeding people and keeping their funding. During Trump's first term, researchers documented a rise in maternal deaths, unwanted pregnancies, and reproductive coercion wherever the rule took hold. The 2026 expansion extends this harm to LGBTQI+ communities and anyone dependent on aid organisations that value inclusion.

What needs to change?

The Global Gag Rule must be permanently repealed, not just paused when a different president takes office. Foreign aid should never be used as a political tool to silence healthcare providers. Governments, international organisations, and donors outside the US can step in to bridge funding gaps and protect comprehensive reproductive and LGBTQI+ health services. Policies should be grounded in evidence and human rights, not ideology.

How can YOU respond?



Speak up!

Share this with your network and break the silence around the rule



Support frontline orgs

Donate to MSI, IPPF, or local reproductive health providers



Contact your MP / MEP

Ask your government to fill the funding gap left by the US



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LDE Thesis Lab Global Women's Health

By Femke Paulis, Nienke Loohuis & Maureen van der Haar