

THE GLOBAL GAG RULE

The Global Gag Rule (also called the Mexico City Policy) is a dangerous and harmful U.S. foreign policy that blocks global funding for non-profits and clinics around the world that provide counseling and education on safe abortion. Despite that fact that no U.S. money ever goes to abortion services because of existing U.S. law, the Global Gag Rule means that organizations that receive U.S. International aid for maternal health, HIV prevention, or basic health must choose between receiving critical U.S. funding, or providing people with the sexual and reproductive health care and information they need and deserve.

Data shows that the Global Gag Rule does not decrease abortions: it increases them.

The rule forces organizations to choose whether to provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care and education without the funding they need or comply with the policy in order to continue accepting U.S. funds and compromise their care.

Consequences of the Global Gag Rule:

- More unintended pregnancies, higher rates of maternal mortality, and an increase in unsafe abortions
- limits funding for international health programs, such as HIV, maternal and child health, malaria, family planning, and COVID response
- Women and girls lose access to contraception
- Increase-- not decrease-- in abortion rates
- Health clinics close
- Prevents women and girls from accessing safe abortion consistent with laws in their countries
- Rural communities will have decreased access to healthcare
- Interrupts the efficacy and speed of humanitarian aid

Who does the Gag Rule impact:

- Women—especially poor women—are most impacted by Gag. Pregnant people will suffer from disruptions in reproductive health services.
- Young people, particularly poor young people, who will lose access to comprehensive reproductive health services and information
- Marginalized groups such as LGBTI communities and sex workers will lose access to critical HIV and AIDS services, as well as other crucial health services.
- NGOs, health providers, and clinics who are face significant funding shortages struggle to continue to provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care
- Groups and organizations that advocate for human rights lose momentum due to the chilling effect the Global Gag Rule has on advocacy and collaboration between groups that are gagged and those that are not

The Global Gag Rule undermines human rights to life, health, equality, information, privacy and expression. Amnesty International advocates for the permanent repeal of the Global Gag Rule.