

KEEPING OUR PROMISES TO WOMEN AND GIRLS

On January 21, 2017, millions of people around the world marched to recognize women's rights as human rights.

On January 23, 2017, President Trump imposed the Global Gag Rule—a policy which will harm millions of women and girls. It will increase unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions and reverses decades of progress on maternal, child and reproductive health.

The world has promised that the rights of women and girls will be at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals—including access to contraception, maternal health and other reproductive health care.

We must now keep those promises.

About a quarter of a billion women in developing countries want to avoid pregnancy but are not using modern contraception. The burden of unsafe abortion also overwhelmingly falls on women in the world's poorest countries. Access to contraception is linked to greater health, empowerment, rights, gender equality, educational attainment and even economic development, particularly for women. The Global Gag Rule therefore not only threatens women's health and lives; it fundamentally curtails their economic and social potential.

The world must stand by its promises to women. We urge all governments to increase funding for contraceptives and to support organizations which advance sexual and reproductive health and rights for everyone.

