

# Upcoming business of interest and opportunities to raise Global Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

#### **UPCOMING PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS**

Please note that the schedule and locations of events are subject to change. See the parliamentary <u>calendar</u> for up-to-date information.

# **House of Commons Monday 18 November**

Room 16. Palace of Westminster, sitting at 1:30pm

Foreign Affairs Committee – Oral evidence session – Work of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office



Main chamber, sitting at 11:30am

Oral questions – Department of Health and Social Care

What assessment he has made of the adequacy of the provision of health services for women – Alice Macdonald MP, Andy McDonald MP, Carolyn Harris MP



## Wednesday 20 November

Room 16. Palace of Westminster, sitting at 2:30pm Women and Equalities Committee – Oral evidence session - Tackling non-consensual intimate image abuse

#### **House of Lords**

No business of interest to APPG on Global SRHR

### INVITATIONS TO APPG ON GLOBAL SRHR EVENTS

**18 November:** 3:45-4:45pm. Room N, Portcullis House. APPG on HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health, STOPAIDS, APPG on Global SRHR Roundtable meeting. **'Breaking Barriers to Global HIV medicines: Pathways to Ending the Epidemic'**. Please see attached invitation. RSVP to <a href="molly@stopaids.org.uk">molly@stopaids.org.uk</a>.

19 November: 3:00-4:30pm. Committee Room 3a, House of Lords. Roundtable meeting with Global Financing Facility. Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:francislawtonm@parliament.uk">francislawtonm@parliament.uk</a> to attend. The Global Financing Facility (GFF) is a mechanism aimed at catalysing the allocation of grant resources to scale up healthcare initiatives in 36 low- and middle-income countries by leveraging domestic government resources, International Development Association and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development financing, aligned external financing, and resources from the private sector. Please see attached invitation and this analysis on SRHR in Global Financing Facility Countries.

**27 November:** 11:00-12:30pm. Committee Room G, House of Lords. 'Jordan Policing and Gender-Based Violence Briefing Meeting'. Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:francislawtonm@parliament.uk">francislawtonm@parliament.uk</a> to attend. Please see attached invitation.

### **INVITATIONS TO OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **18 November:** 2:00pm. UNFPA and European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health present a webinar 'Contraception and SRH in women with co-morbidity and disabilities'. Register here.
- **18 November:** 3:45pm. The World Health Organization (WHO) and The Human Reproduction Programme (HRP) present 'Social Accountability at HSR'. Social Accountability in the context of sexual and reproductive health and rights Building capacity on knowledge, skills and using tools necessary to build and facilitate social accountability capacities. Register here.
- **19 November:** 1:00pm. Countdown 2030 presents 'Integrating SRHR with climate adaptation and resilience: an overview of the European policy and funding landscape'. In the framework of COP29, taking place in Baku between 11-22 November 2024, the Countdown 2030 Europe consortium has just published a new research piece assessing if and how 14 European donors are bridging their efforts between the protection and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and the fight against climate change. Register here.
- **19 November:** 2:00pm. FIGO presents '**PPH From roadmap to reality'**. Post-partum haemorrhage (PPH) is the leading cause of maternal mortality globally, accounting for over 20% of maternal deaths worldwide. Although PPH is largely preventable, it continues to disproportionately affect women in low- and middle-income countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) recently collaborated with key stakeholders including FIGO and the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) to cultivate a PPH Roadmap. The 2023 to 2030 Roadmap seeks to address key PPH priorities and fast-track progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets. Register here.
- **19** November: 9:00pm. Population Connection presents 'What Happens Next: A Discussion on the Future of Reproductive Rights and Family Planning Post-Election'. Registration <a href="here">here</a>.
- **20** November: 1:00pm. The World Health Organization (WHO) presents 'Webinar on findings from the WHO 2023 sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health policy survey'. Register <a href="here.">here.</a>
- **20** November: 3:00pm. SRHM presents 'The (mis)use of evidence in contested rights: the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls' report on "prostitution and violence". In this online event, we will hear from the authors of the paper 'The (mis)use of evidence in contested rights: the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls' report on "prostitution and violence" and the Global Co-ordinator of The Global Network of Sex Work Projects. The paper will be available online soon and will be open access. Register here.
- **20 November:** 10:40-11:40pm, BBC1. **Young, British, and Anti-Abortion: Poppy Jay Investigates Gen Z's Rising Influence in the UK's Anti-Abortion Movement'.** Filmmaker Poppy Jay explores whether Gen Z is driving the UK's growing anti-abortion movement. Despite record-high abortion rates and the overwhelming support for abortion rights in Britain, Jay dives into the rising influence of young anti-abortion campaigners. Featuring Dr Sonia Adesara from Abortion Rights, this documentary sheds light on a confident, well-funded movement challenging abortion access. Watch <a href="here.">here.</a>

**25 November:** 1:30pm. Ipas presents 'Child marriage + teen pregnancy + school dropout = gender-based violence' a solutions-focused conversation to kick off this year's international 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. It will focus on three interrelated factors—child marriage, teenage pregnancy and school dropout—that frequently deny young people the right to make their own informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. Register <a href="here.">here.</a>

**26 November:** 2:00pm. British International Studies Association (BISA) presents 'Book talk - Sick of It: the Global Fight for Women's Health' with author Prof Sophie Harman, who spoke at our recent parliamentary reception. Register <a href="here">here</a>.

26 November: 6:00pm. 'Family Planning practices implemented in Peru: what worked and what are the challenges' Since launching its National Family Planning program in 1983, Peru has made notable progress in sexual and reproductive health, with a decrease in fertility rates and higher modern contraceptive use. However, national-level achievements often conceal significant health inequities that continue to affect vulnerable groups, who still face substantial barriers and challenges. Register <a href="here.">here.</a>

**1 December:** 10:00am. Chamber UK presents **'Baroness Barker's Book Club: World AIDS Day'.** In recognition of World AIDS Day, Baroness Barker will be joined by guest speaker Lord Norman Fowler, former Secretary of State for Social Services. Lord Fowler was instrumental in launching the UK's first major AIDS awareness campaign "*Don't Die of Ignorance.*" He will share insights from his extensive experience and lead a discussion on several significant books that explore the AIDS epidemic and its political implications. Register <a href="here">here</a> (under Upcoming Events).

**27-31 January 2025**: EPF Study Trip to the Philippines. Please email <u>kjaerbym@parliament.uk</u> to express your interest, if not already done so.

**10-25 March 2025**: New York. <u>Commission on the Status of Women</u> (CSW). Please email <u>kjaerbym@parliament.uk</u> to express your interest, if not already done so.

**5-9 October 2025:** Cape Town, South Africa. <u>2025 FIGO World Congress of Gynaecology and Obstetrics</u> - email kjaerbym@parliament.uk to express your interest, if not already done so.

**3-6 November 2025**: 2025 International Conference on Family Planning - Bogata, Columbia – email <u>kjaerbym@parliament.uk</u> to express your interest, if not already done so.

#### **NEWS**

**UK** – A petition to decriminalise abortion is taking off on UK Government and Petitions website <a href="here">here</a>, which will be debated in Parliament if it reaches 100,000 signatures. The petition is being endorsed by Abortion Rights UK and The British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS).

Over the past four years in Northern Ireland, 24 women have been violently killed. Of these women, all but one were killed by a man, or it is a man who has been charged in connection with their deaths. In at least 20 of the 24 deaths the killers, or suspects, were well-known to the women, with 18 of these women being killed in their own homes. Police figures show domestic abuse is reported on average every 16 minutes, but the real figure is likely to be higher, as many cases remain unreported. The Guardian, Belfast Telegraph and BBC News report.

**Libya** - Libya's interior minister has announced the reintroduction of the morality police to the streets to enforce what he called "society's traditions" and restrict women's freedom of movement. Emad al-Tarabulsi said the patrols would resume next month and would target people with "strange" haircuts, ensure women wear "modest" clothing and prevent gender mixing in public spaces. He also suggested that women would be barred from travelling within the country without a male guardian, adding that those "seeking personal freedom should go to Europe". <u>Human Rights Watch</u>, <u>The Telegraph</u> and <u>Amnesty International</u> report.

**Iraq** - Girls as young as nine could be forced into marriage with adult men in Iraq, as conservative groups in parliament push for legislation that would lower the age of consent. Currently, marriage contracts in Iraq are required to be signed under the provisions of Law 188, known as the "personal status law". Enacted in 1959, Law 188 was known as one of the most progressive laws in the Middle East at the time, safeguarding the rights of women and girls from regressive, conservative marriages and practices of certain religious sects. The Evening Standard, The Telegraph and The Mirror report.

**SRHR** and **Climate Change Research** - In the framework of COP29, taking place in Baku between 11-22 November 2024, the Countdown 2030 Europe consortium has just published a <u>new research</u> <u>piece</u> assessing if and how 14 European donors are bridging their efforts between the protection and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and the fight against climate change. See also attached summary and above event on 19 November.

**2024 SDG Gender Index** - The 2024 SDG Gender Index is the most comprehensive global measure of gender equality. Developed by EM2030, it provides a snapshot of where the world stands on the vision of gender equality embedded in the 2030 Agenda. It is a multidimensional index, benchmarking gender equality across 139 countries (covering 96% of the world's women and girls) and 56 issues across 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Contraceptive Use and Health Review - The WHO has published a new systematic review examining the impact of contraceptive use on various aspects of women's and adolescents' health. 'Assessing the impact of contraceptive use on reproductive cancer risk among women of reproductive age—a systematic review'. The study aims to evaluate the evidence on the association between modern contraceptive use and the risk of breast and reproductive cancers (ovarian, endometrial, and cervical cancer) among women of reproductive age, to inform healthcare providers, women, and program managers about cancer outcomes related to contraceptive use.