



The All-Party Parliamentary Group on
Population, Development
and Reproductive Health



ANNUAL REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

2022/2023

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UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health

Annual Review April 2022 – March 2023

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FOREWORD



Baroness Hussein-Ece OBE

The APPG on PDRH 2022 – 2023 annual report covers activities that members have engaged in within the UK Parliament and abroad and highlights extraordinary moments in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in the past year.

The USA's Supreme Court's overturning of the 1973 Roe v Wade ruling, ending the nationwide right to an abortion, in June 2022 made it clear that we cannot be complacent about the rights of women and girls around the world, including the UK. We continue to advocate for the UK Government to truly put the rights of women and girls at the centre of their foreign and development policy and use their voices on the world stage to champion this cause.

Members of the APPG on PDRH have repeatedly highlighted and continue to emphasize in debates, during question-time and at national meetings and international conference and during study tours that \$1 invested in SRHR gives an \$8 return in investment and changes women and girls lives and communities forever, for the better. Members that participated in this year's Uganda study tour in May 2022, the International Family Planning Conference in Thailand in November 2022, Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict in London in November 2022 and the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 2023 held meetings with other likeminded parliamentary champions to share experiences for a stronger global voice.

The drop in UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) from 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) to 0.5% of GNI in November 2020 continue to have serious impact on SRHR programmes and women and girls' health and wellbeing globally. The UK Government's reinstatement of some funding to UNFPA, IPPF and MSI Reproductive Choices this year is welcome, however it is nowhere near the 10% of UK ODA to SRHR disbursement agreed at consecutive International Parliamentary Conferences on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development statements of commitments. The UK ODA disbursement to SRHR was 4.89% in 2020 and 4.54% in 2021.

Some positive news from the UK was the ratification of the Istanbul convention in July 2022. A catalyst for this was the long fought-for Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Minimum Age) Bill, which came into force in February 2023.

Importantly, this year the UK Government published its International Development Strategy in May 2022 and Women and Girls' Strategy in March 2023 and I am pleased to highlight the UK Government's promise

to drive progress on universal, comprehensive SRHR, including on the fight to end Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting and other harmful practices.

Andrew Mitchell MP was appointed as the new Minister of State for International Development, FCDO this year, which is encouraging and the APPG on PDRH had a productive meeting with him in February 2023 where UK ODA to SRHR was discussed.

Other battles that have been won in the UK are telemedical abortion, which is now a permanent option for women and girls; the banning of virginity testing and hymenoplasty via the Health and Care Bill which received Royal Assent on 28th April 2022 and safe abortion access zones via the Public Order Bill, which gained royal assent in May 2023. It is now an offence to interfere with any person's decision to access, provide, or facilitate the provision of abortion services within the 150m exclusion zones.

Since the Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations came into force in 2021, services were commissioned formally in December 2022, however recruitment of staff remains a concern.

The APPG on PDRH will do all we can to achieve the universal access to SRHR services that we all want to see.

In 2023 - 2024, the APPG on PDRH will continue to scrutinise, monitor and hold the UK Government to account for their political and financial commitments to SRHR through Private Members' Bills (PMBs), Parliamentary Questions (PQs), debates, conferences, study tours, meetings, letter writing and media activities.

Finally, I want to thank members, and in particular committee members and members that are standing down, for their hard work over the past year.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Hussein-Ece', written in a cursive style.

Baroness Hussein-Ece OBE
Co-Chair, UK APPG on PDRH

APPG ON PDRH COMMITTEE MEMBERS & STAFF

The APPG on PDRH has around 80 members from all parties and both Houses. There are currently 17 committee members.

Co-Chairs



Baroness Hussein-Ece OBE
(Liberal Democrat)



Virendra Sharma MP
(Labour)

Vice Chairs



Baroness Northover
(Liberal Democrat)



Lord Patel KT
(Crossbench)



Baroness Hodgson CBE
(Conservative)



Holly Lynch MP
(Labour)

Secretaries



Tommy Sheppard
(Scottish Nationalist Party)



Baroness Uddin
(Non-Affiliated)

Treasurer



Baroness Jenkin of Kennington
(Conservative)

Other Officers



Baroness Barker
(Liberal Democrat)



Baroness Blackstone
(Labour Independent)



Baroness Sheehan
(Liberal Democrat)



Lord Mann
(Non-Affiliated)



Baroness Flather
(Crossbench)



Baroness Massey
(Labour)



Lord Cameron of Dillington
(Crossbench)



Lord Hussain
(Liberal Democrat)

**Parliamentary and Policy
Advisor**

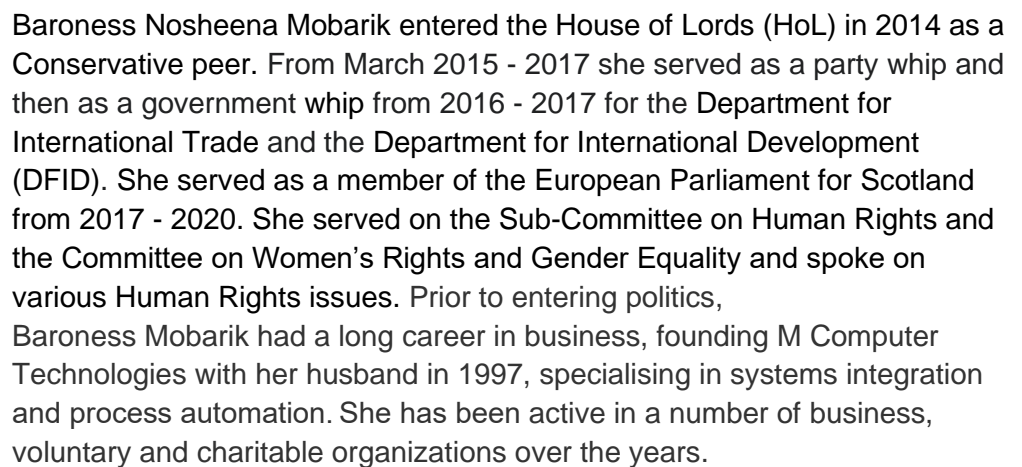
Ann Mette Kjaerby

**Parliamentary Administrator
and Researcher**

Mikki Francis-Lawton

Recruitment of new APPG on PDRH members this year was instigated via study tours and targeted letter writing, which included the new APPG on PDRH leaflet available here: [APPG on PDRH leaflet](#)

The below four parliamentarians joined the APPG on PDRH in this period.





Alan Brown MP

Alan Brown has been the SNP Member of Parliament for Kilmarnock and Loudoun since 2015. Before becoming an MP, he was an SNP councillor for 7 years. Alan Brown served as the SNP Shadow Secretary of State (SoS) for Transport from 2017 - 2020 and was the SNP Infrastructure and Energy Spokesperson in the House of Commons (HoC) from 2017 - 2018. He has served as the SNP Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change since 2020. He is Chair of the Energy Costs APPG.



Steve Brine MP

Steve Brine has been the Conservative MP for Winchester since 2010. In October 2013, Steve Brine joined the Government as Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to Mike Penning, Minister of State (MoS) at the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) and Minister for Disabled People. In July 2014, he moved to the Home Office (HO) and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) with Mike Penning, as MoS for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims. In May 2015 Steve Brine was appointed by the Prime Minister as PPS to Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt. After the change of Prime Minister in July 2016, Steve Brine became a government minister after being appointed by Theresa May as an Assistant Government Whip. Following the 2017 election he was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (PUSS) at the Department of Health (DoH), a post he held until March 2019 when he resigned from the Government. In November 2022 was he selected to be Chair of the Health and Social Care Select Committee. He is Co-Chair of the HIV and AIDS APPG.



Baroness Gohir OBE

Baroness Shaista Gohir OBE entered the HoL in 2022 as a Crossbench peer. Previously, she worked in the charity sector and as a women's rights campaigner. Baroness Gohir joined Muslim Women's Network in 2005 and then became one of the founding members who established it as an independent organisation in 2008 and renamed it Muslim Women's Network UK (MWNUK). She serves on the board of the University Hospital North Midlands NHS Trust and is the women's voices lead at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG). She is Vice-Chair of the Aid Match, British-Pakistan Trade and Tourism, Kuwait and Muslim Women APPGs.

APPG ON PDRH AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Aims

To ensure the full implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA), with specific reference to stabilising the world's population through ensuring choice and sustainable development (SD).

Objectives

- To raise the profile of population and SRHR, including family planning (FP), in Parliament and internationally.
- To provide parliamentary backing to the Foreign and Development Secretaries in their negotiations with the Treasury, in order to return UK ODA to 0.7% of GNI and increase the allocations to the ICPD PoA to 10% of ODA.
- To keep under review population trends and SRHR programmes/policies/legislation nationally and internationally.
- To assess how the UK might respond to requests from outside for support (in consultation with UK Government departments, international agencies, foundations and NGOs) and to press for action by Parliament and the UK Government.
- To study the results of research into the causes and consequences of population changes and the effect that access to comprehensive SRHR services has on population and to draw these to the attention of both Houses of Parliament.
- To increase awareness of the interdependence between countries, with reference to poverty reduction, women's equality, access to SRHR services, environment, consumption and pollution and the impact of legislation, policies and practices of one country upon others.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES

APPG on PDRH Committee Meetings

The APPG on PDRH held four committee meetings this year, with one attached to the annual general meeting (AGM) in July 2023:

- 4th July 2022 committee and AGM meetings
- 17th October 2022 committee meeting
- 5th December 2022 committee meeting
- 6th February 2023 committee meeting

Please find agendas and committee meeting minutes enclosed at appendix 1.

It was agreed at this year's meetings to focus APPG on PDRH parliamentary activities on below:

- UK ODA to increase to 0.7% of Gross National Index (GNI) with ODA to SRHR focussing on fragile/conflicted affected states especially. Initial advocating for 4% of UK ODA to SRHR, increasing to 10% as per IPCI ICPD PoA globally.*
- Enabling environment for SRHR globally with a focus on Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) policy papers including references to universal and comprehensive SRHR and international engagement, with a particular focus on UK high priority countries*

Parliamentarians to highlight to UK Government and British HC/Embassies the cost effectiveness of SRHR in particular in these areas:

- *FP and Abortion (medical abortion especially)*
- *Skilled Birth Attendants*
- *Cervical Cancer prevention and treatment*
- *Gender Based Violence (GBV) with a focus on Child Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and online GBV for youth*
- *Promote the Minimal Initial Service Package in conflict/fragile states (MISP)*
- *Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and SRHR service provisions for the hardest to reach, including the poorest of the poorest, youth in- and out of schools, people with disabilities and LGBTQI+*
- *Population dynamics and the demographic dividend*

This year has seen more scrutiny in relation to APPGs in the UK Parliament and lobbying and connections to foreign governments. The HoC Standards Committee has been consulting and writing reports on recommended changes to APPGs. The APPG on PDRH responded to the consultation in August 2022, as although the majority of proposed changes will have little impact on the APPG on PDRH, some will require enormous administrative staff time. Proposed changes are expected this Autumn 2023 and relates to APPG rules and the system that oversees them. Please see here: [All-Party Parliamentary Groups consultation - Committees - UK Parliament](#)

APPG on PDRH SRHR Briefing Meetings

The UK APPG parliamentary COVID-19 regulations were fully lifted on 2nd May 2022, which meant that in-person meeting could finally recommence. The APPG on PDRH hosted one hybrid and three in-person briefing meetings this year.

UNFPA 2022 State of the World Population Report launch, 30th March 2022, HoC, London



The APPG on PDRH co-hosted UNFPA's 2022 SWOP report launch, which highlighted the topic of unintended pregnancies. Globally, nearly half of all pregnancies are unintended - a startling 121 million each year throughout the world. The report title was 'Seeing the Unseen – The case for action in the neglected crisis of unintended pregnancy'.

Baroness Sugg chaired and welcomed guests to the event highlighting the facts that an unintended pregnancy is a personal issue, a health issue, a human rights issue, a humanitarian issue and a development issue. She drew attention to APPG on PDRH activities in Parliament on and relating to unintended pregnancies.

Matt Jackson, UNFPA London representative launched the report outlining its key messages.

Please see report here: [SWP Report 2022 | United Nations Population Fund \(unfpa.org\)](https://www.unfpa.org/swop-2022)



Baroness Sugg and Matt Jackson, UNFPA

Key speakers at the event also included: Rose Caldwell, Plan International UK; Tigist Grieve, University of Bristol; Chris Carter, FCDO and Priti Dave, Consultant expert. Speakers noted that unintended pregnancies rob women and girls of their most life-altering reproductive choice, it drives up unsafe abortions, one of the leading causes of maternal death globally; it both causes and results from gender discrimination and inequality, women in conflict zones and refugee camps face a high risk of unintended pregnancy, including from sexual violence and there is a strong correlation between rates of unintended pregnancy and a lack of development. A question-and-answer session followed presentations moderated by Matt Jackson.



Matt Jackson, UNFPA, Rose Caldwell, Plan International, Tigist Grieve, University of Bristol, Chris Carter, FCDO and Priti Dave, Consultant expert

World Population Day (WPD) reception with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and UK SRHR Network, 11th July 2022, HoL, London



Baroness Sugg

The APPG on PDRH co-hosted the 2022 WPD reception with IPPF and the UK SRHR Network.

The annual reception saw 150 guests including MPs, peers, embassy -, private sector-, NGO-, and donor representatives gather to celebrate this special day with the theme 'A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future for all - Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all'.

Baroness Sugg opened and welcomed all attendees to the annual reception alongside Baroness Hussein-Ece and noted that it was great to see SRHR stakeholders after COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions, which had meant the cancellation of this event for the last two years.

She endorsed UNFPA's 2022 World Population Day statement, that: *"...today serves as an opportunity to catalyse an informed conversation around population dynamics in the lead up to the world reaching 8 billion later in 2022. It offers a moment to celebrate human progress. Our world, despite its challenges, is one where higher shares of people are educated and live healthier lives than at any previous point in history. Societies that invest in their people, in their rights and choices, have proven time and again that this is the road to the prosperity and peace that everyone wants—and deserves."*

She referenced UK Aid's reduction from 0.7% to 0.5% and the 80% reduction of ODA to SRHR and SRHR stakeholders' activities to reinstate funding and latest announcement of some restoration of funding to UNFPA Supplies Partnership and MSI Reproductive Choices (MSI) and IPPF WISH programmes. She also highlighted her latest APPG on PDRH study tour to Uganda with colleagues, the UK Domestic Abuse Act, which received Royal Assent on 29th April 2021, the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act, which received Royal Assent on 28th April 2022, the banning of virginity testing and hymenoplasty in the Health and Care Bill, which also received Royal Assent on 28th April 2022 and the devastating impact the Roe v Wade decision had on women in the USA and across the world, alongside the progress seen on telemedical early abortion services, which became a permanent service after August 2022.

The Right Honourable Amanda Milling MP, MoS, FCDO was meant to deliver the key-note speech, but sent her apologies and Catherine Nettleton, Director of Prosperity, FCDO delivered the speech instead. She outlined FCDO's continued commitment to SRHR and its focus on women and girls in the recent International Development Strategy and the promise from the Foreign Secretary that FCDO would restore aid funding for women and girls.

Alvaro Bermejo, Director General (DG) of IPPF spoke at the close, outlining the devastating impact the UK's ODA reduction had on women and girls around the world and what SRHR investment can achieve with continued investment.



Baroness Sugg and Baroness Hussein-Ece with the Ugandan Ambassador



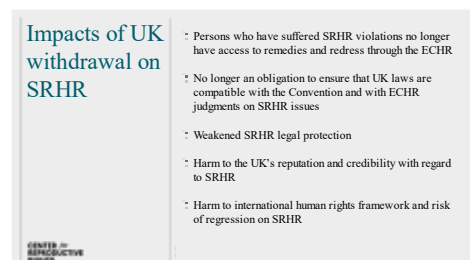
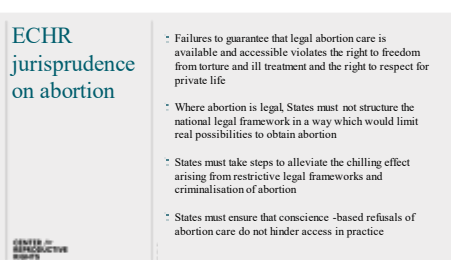
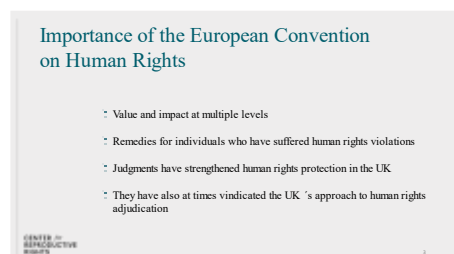
Baroness Sugg, Baroness Hussein-Ece and Alvaro Bermejo with some of the many ambassadors present

Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) briefing on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), 6th February 2023, HoC, London

The APPG on PDRH organised a round table briefing meeting for members on the legal consequences in the UK and the political ramifications internationally if the UK leaves the ECHR, with a focus on the impact on SRHR. The meeting was set up in response to the ongoing discussions in the UK Parliament about the UK potentially leaving the convention.

Baroness Sugg chaired the meeting, which included ten parliamentarians and representation from UNFPA and RCOG.

Katrine Thomassen, Associate Director for Europe, CRR outlined the importance of the ECHR and the potential impact of UK withdrawing from it. Keina Yoshida, Legal Advisor for Europe, CRR proceeded by highlighting specific UK case studies and concluded by saying that the chances of the UK withdrawing was extremely unlikely and if so, the whole judiciary and training of lawyers would need to be re-considered and amended. A question-and-answer session followed presentations.



International Women's Day (IWD) event: Unlocking health and opportunity for women and girls in Africa, 7th March 2023, HoL, London



The APPG on PDRH co-hosted a briefing meeting with UK APPGs working on HIV/AIDS and Malaria & Neglected Tropical Diseases to celebrate IWD and highlight Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS) and the opportunities that FGS integration brings for women's health and resilient health systems.

Baroness Barker chaired the event with panel speakers: Amaya Bustinduy and Dr Helen Kelly both lecturers, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM); Dr Pamela Sabina Mbabazi, FCDO medical epidemiologist, Dr Wendy Harrison, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unlimit Health and Robinson Karuga, Head of Research, Evaluation and Learning at LVCT Health in Kenya.



Baroness Barker chairs IWD event

The event achieved engagement from thirty delegates and included parliamentarians, NGO -, Academia- and a broad range of health representatives.

FGS is widely unknown amongst health care providers and women themselves and is a neglected tropical disease caused by parasitic worms that live in lakes, rivers and ponds where people bathe, wash clothes and collect water. Symptoms are caused when the parasite eggs are deposited in the uterus, vaginal wall, vulva or cervix. Chronic infection can lead to inflammation and lesions forming in the reproductive organs. 50 million women and girls across sub-Saharan Africa are experiencing painful, yet preventable, SRH complications due to FGS and as well as pain it can cause painful intercourse, bleeding, infertility, spontaneous abortion and ectopic pregnancy.

Untreated schistosomiasis is linked to an increased risk of HIV transmission, bladder cancer and cervical cancer. It is easily treated with a short course of medication (praziquantel) which kills the worms and is also preventable if people can access safe water, adequate sanitation and good hygiene.

Working across APPGs and across siloes on FGS will accelerate progress on bilharzia, HIV prevention and the prevention of cervical cancer, together. Not only are these three conditions inter-related, but they also affect the same groups of women.

Below briefings and links were shared with all in attendance and disseminated with APPG on PDRH weekly Future Business:

[FGS: A neglected health condition; https://youtu.be/cyvLwgPSFOs;](https://youtu.be/cyvLwgPSFOs)
['Unlocking Health and Opportunity for Women and Girls in Africa'](https://frontlineaids.org/resources/fgs-policy-brief/)
<https://frontlineaids.org/resources/fgs-policy-brief/>
 FGS Integration Group (FIG)



Baroness Barker subsequently tabled a [written question](#) on FGS in HoL in March 2023; which received this reply;

Answer

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park

Conservative

Life peer

Answered on

28 March 2023

The UK is supporting research and development into schistosomiasis through funding for the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) which is actively developing new drugs for the disease with the aim to counter the risk of resistance and to treat female genital schistosomiasis. We had previously supported research into female genital schistosomiasis through support to the Coalition for Operational Research on Neglected Tropical Diseases (COR-NTD) and this had led to the development of new competencies for the training of health professionals on the disease. Through our funding for The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and support for their Global AIDS Strategy 2021-26 we are also supporting initiatives to address female genital schistosomiasis and integrate treatment and prevention services for the disease with HIV services, sexual and reproductive health and rights services and comprehensive sexuality education.

Other SRHR Briefing Meetings

APPG on PDRH members received invitations to an extensive list of virtual and later hybrid and in-person SRHR briefing meetings and conferences this year; circulated via the weekly APPG on PDRH Future Business and newsletter. Below is a list of events which saw APPG on PDRH representation.

- 5th April: MSI, IPPF, Federation of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians (FIGO) and Ipas webinar 'Defending frontline defenders of SRHR – a Call to Action'



- 6th April: UNFPA and MSI webinar 'Reproductive violence: Where reproductive rights meet GBV'



- 19th April: International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) webinar 'Why women are footing the bill for climate: Lessons from Bangladesh'
- 21st April: FIGO webinar 'All about environmental health and SRHR'



- 11th May: Pathfinder webinar 'Tackling provider bias in contraceptive service delivery - adapting, implementing and scaling the beyond bias model'



- 17th May: European Parliamentary Forum on SRH (EPF) and (SWOP) report launch webinar 'Seeing the Unseen'

World Population

- 17th May: British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS), RCOG and MSI in-person telemedicine abortion reception, HoL – Baroness Sugg spoke at this event
- 18th May: 'The Impact of COVID-19 on SRHR with a focus on India, Kenya and Nigeria'
- 18th May: PMA and IPUMS webinar 'Did the COVID-19 pandemic effect contraceptive use and the impact of COVID-19 on SRHR: Youth-led perspectives and solutions for a gender-equal world'
- 19th May: Women Deliver webinar: Women Deliver's latest research 'The Impact of COVID-19 on SRHR: Youth-led perspectives and solutions for a gender-equal world', PMNCH webinar 'Lives in the balance: Delivering commitments in humanitarian and fragile settings' and FIGO webinar 'Obstructed labour: Post Partum Haemorrhage (PPH) and obstetric fistula'



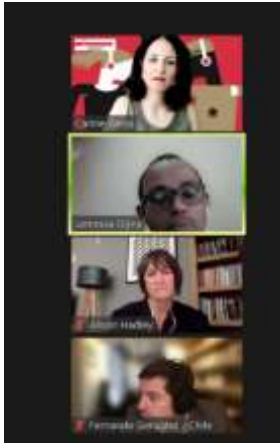
- 24th May: Heinrich Boell Stiftung webinar 'Framing abortion' and DFID Select Committee inquiry into UK's approach to preventing mass atrocities
- 8th June: APPG on Malaria and NTD event 'The impact of UK investments and contributions to ending NTDs', HoL – Baroness Sugg spoke at this event



- 8th June: UNFPA webinar 'Behavioural science to promote gender equality through strengthened marriage registration'
- 21st June: UN DESA webinar 'Global policy dialogues on recommitting to the SDGs: Promoting gender equality through education: Exploring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 and 5'



- 22nd June: Medicus Mundi et al webinar 'Scaling up teenage pregnancy interventions in England, Ethiopia, Chile and Jamaica'



- 5th July: Ipas webinar 'Stepping up to contain the Roe v Wade shockwave'



- 19th July: Bond webinar 'How is the UK performing globally on the SDGs?'
- 20th July: APPG SRH AGM and event 'A turning point for women's reproductive healthcare'



- 22nd September: PMNCH Summit during UN General Assembly calls on global leaders to tackle health threat from COVID-19, conflict, climate change to women, children and adolescents



- 22nd September: World Health Organization (WHO) event 'My story, your camera, our rights: communicating on abortion care and family planning as health care'



- 28th September: EPF event 'Survey on knowledge and attitudes of young people on contraception' at the European Parliament



- 29th September: Progress Educational Trust (PET) event 'Donor conception: Who should know what and when?'



- 3rd October: MSI event at the Conservative Party conference 'What should the UK government be doing to promote global gender equality?' Baroness Sugg spoke at this event
- 2nd November: PET/Scottish Government event '30 Years of ICSI: An injection of hope for male infertility'
- 3rd November: Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) virtual event 'Public engagement for universal health coverage'



- 30th November: Action Aid reception, Speaker's House, HoC on 16 Days of Activism Against GBV
- 12th January: IMPT for reproductive health webinar 'Public health status and opportunities for Multipurpose Prevention Technologies (MPT)'



- 18th January: PET webinar 'Your guide to genetics and genomics in the fertility clinic'



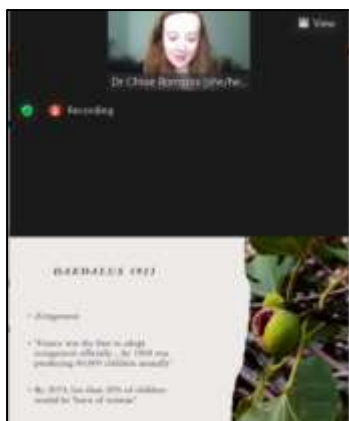
- 19th January: Inclusive Futures webinar 'Disability inclusive SRH'



- 19th January: YIELD Hub Webinar 'SRHR for universal health coverage: What young people want'



- 24th January: International Development (ID) Select Committee inquiry 'The UK's strategy towards development finance institutions'
- 26th January: FIGO's webinar 'Initiative on the impact of pregnancy on long-term health'
- 1st February: PET webinar '100 Years of 'Daedalus': The birth of assisted reproductive technology'



- 8th February: EPF webinar 'Contraceptive policy atlas launch'



- 2nd March: Winnie Byanyimi, UNAIDS ED meeting 'Learning from HIV and COVID-19: How the UK can be a leader in pandemic preparedness and response'
- 7th March: APPG on SRH briefing 'The SACHA Study – Initial findings to guide new directions in UK abortion care'
- 9th March: RCOG IWD virtual event 'Tackling stigma in women's health services'
- 14th March: HIP FP High Impact Practices (HIP) webinar 'Promoting healthy couples'



- 17th March: WHO DG Dialogue with civil society 'Priorities on SRHR at global, regional and country levels'



- 23rd March: Period posse webinar 'Menstrual health & hygiene in emergencies: Cluster coordination and beyond'
- 29th March: PET webinar 'Shaping the UK's fertility and embryo law'

European Meetings

European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF)



Collaboration between the UK APPG on PDRH and EPF remains strong, with Baroness Northover continuing as the UK representative on the EPF Executive Committee (EC). She attended 3 EPF meetings this year: A council meeting in September 2022, Vittoria-Gasteiz, Spain; an EPF EC online meeting in October 2022; and an EPF EC meeting in April 2023, Motovun, Croatia. Agenda items included criteria for selecting parliamentarians for EPF events, EPF code of conduct and EPF-future work plan along with round table discussions on national parliamentary activities. UK parliamentary code of conduct was shared with EPF.

Baroness Northover has also been on several EPF delegations and spoken at numerous events including: The Caribbean - African Dialogue in Barbados, May 2022; the 24th International AIDS conference in Montreal, Canada, July 2022; the ICFP in Pattaya, Thailand, November 2022 and EPF Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) delegation to New York, USA, March 2023 (please see International Conferences Section for further details).

Pauline Latham MP was invited to speak at the EPF and Spanish APPG Parliamentary dialogue on SRHR in fragile contexts, Vitoria, Basque country, Spain in September 2022, but was unfortunately unable to speak due to Her Majesty the Queen's death. Baroness Northover attended the latter part and the EPF ED meeting that followed the dialogue and Ann Mette Kjaerby represented the APPG on PDRH at the full dialogue.

EPF continue to monitor anti-choice activities in Europe and information sharing in this area has been useful for UK Parliamentary debates on telemedicine abortion, abortion buffer zones, Roe v Wade, UK ODA to SRHR and the Istanbul Convention. The EPF publication 'Tip of the Iceberg' has been of particular interest to members.

A statement by Petra Buyr, Chair of the EPF on Roe v Wade was circulated this summer and welcomed by UK APPG on PDRH members.

The war in Ukraine and SRHR services to Ukraine refugees both in Europe and the UK have received joint attention. Baroness Hodgson of the UK APPG on PDRH said on 28th October 2022:

"We have also recently seen horrific reports of the use of rape as a weapon in Ukraine and rights for women in Afghanistan have been eradicated. In short, we have to recognise that the rights of women and girls globally have been significantly rolled back on all fronts. Many believe that were we to have another world conference for women now, we would not be able to achieve the strength of language contained in the Beijing platform for action of 27 years ago."

The APPG on PDRH has responded to various inquiries from EPF this year in relation to its Atlases on contraceptives, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and infertility. Liaison with the UK national APPG on SRH on a survey of knowledge and attitudes of young people in the UK on contraception was undertaken, which engaged Lucy Emmerson at the Sex Education Forum (SEF) network.

In November 2022, Claire Poppelwell-Scevak, a new EPF staff member, made a courtesy call to UK Parliament to discuss future collaborative activities including study tours and parliamentarians' conference attendance.

Two EPF letters were circulated for UK signatures this year, one in May 2022, which requested the German Chancellor to put SRHR on the G7 Agenda in June 2022 and one in November 2022, which

requested Dr Robert Abela, Prime Minister of Malta, to support the amendments put to their criminal code at the time to allow women with health issues to be allowed to terminate their pregnancies. The amendment was sadly watered down and as of June 2023, abortion will only be available when the life of the person is in immediate danger.

In December 2022, Ann Mette Kjaerby attended the annual EPF APPG secretariat meeting in Izmir, Turkey, alongside other APPG on PDRH secretariats. This annual meeting took place on 12th -13th December 2022 with the main aim of discussing EPF's work and sharing best APPG practices, among national APPGs.



EPF Secretariats' Retreat - Izmir, Turkey

At present there are thirty national APPGs working on SRHR across Europe with the majority represented at the annual meeting. An EPF survey was completed as requested prior to the meeting on national campaign activities for discussion.

On this occasion, Neil Datta, EPF ED gave a comprehensive overview on EPF activities undertaken throughout 2022, which included the latest contraception atlas, research focusing on upholding human rights in the field of SRHR, Roe v Wade statements and current challenges relating to fertility and demography in Europe. Most recent communication activities were also presented and shared and a statement from representatives of UNFPA was circulated, which included an update on ICPD@30 plans.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by Gökçe Lara Bodur, a medical student at Izmir University of Economics, on 'Norms and Values on Gender and SRHR in Turkey'. All sessions included discussion and brainstorming.

In January 2023, Heather Wheeler MP and Baroness Mobarik participated in the EPF study tour to Tanzania/Zanzibar (please see Study Tours Section for further details).

In March 2023 Baroness Uddin spoke at an EPF event in on 'Violence against Women (VAW) in fragile contexts: Lessons learned and policy objectives moving forward' at the European Parliament, Brussels and Baroness Northover sent a quote to EPF's annual report as requested, stating:

'EPF is a unique network that allows parliamentarians from all over Europe to work together towards their common goal of defending SRHR in Europe, and wider. Thanks to the forum, I have been able to participate in key international conferences, such as the World Health Summit and the International AIDS/HIV Conference, to learn about new legislative developments and to exchange ideas on good practice with my colleagues. Through EPF I have met some very impressive and brave parliamentarians in this field.'

Members have also attended various EPF webinars this year, including 17th May EPF webinar to launch the UNFPA 2022 SWOP report: Seeing the Unseen and 8th February 2023 EPF webinar to launch the 2022 Contraceptive Policy Atlas.

Please find sample letters referenced above enclosed at appendix 2



Baroness Uddin speaks at EPF event

Study Tours

APPG on PDRH 28th May – 2nd June 2022 Uganda study



APPG on PDRH Uganda study tour delegates with UNFPA, MSI Uganda representatives and Ugandan MP, Uganda Parliament

In the spring 2022 invitations were disseminated to UK MPs and targeted peers, inviting them to participate in the forthcoming APPG on PDRH study tour to Uganda co-hosted by MSI and their Ugandan affiliate organisation MS Uganda and IPPF and its member organisation Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU).

The study tour delegation was led by Baroness Sugg, Co-chair APPG on PDRH with the following delegates: Alan Brown MP, Steve Brine MP, Matt Vickers MP and Tommy Sheppard MP and Ann Mette Kjaerby, Secretary APPG on PDRH.

The aim of the study tour was to strengthen UK parliamentarians' knowledge of SRHR and ID and to enhance the membership of the APPG on PDRH. The study tour delegates were briefed in the UK parliament prior to departure by representatives from the British High Commission Uganda (BHCU), the UK FCDO, MSI, MS Uganda, IPPF, RHU and UNFPA.



APPG on PDRH study tour delegation with British HC, Uganda and staff

Whilst visiting Uganda, delegates met with numerous stakeholders including from The British High Commission, Ugandan Parliament, MS Uganda, UNFPA, the International Refugee Committee (IRC), Reach A Hand Uganda (RAHU), SRHR Alliance, National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU), Uganda Family Planning Consortium, National Population Council (NPC), Partners in Population and Development Africa Regional Office (PPDARO) and the Center for Health Human Rights and Development (CEHURD). Delegates also met with directors, national and international health workers and volunteers and SRHR clients, logistics and supplies staff.

In the Palabek refugee settlement in Lamwo delegates met and spoke with the settlement commandant and health coordinators, World Food Programme and UNHCR representatives, health workers and refugees, mainly from South Sudan.

Study tour delegates saw a variety of Ugandan Government and FCDO-supported FP and SRHR services including FCDO WISH, and RISE, and UNFPA Supplies Partnership programme. The delegation discussed FP, maternal and neonatal health, services for adolescents, male circumcision and HIV/AIDS, menstrual regulation, post-abortion care, obstetric fistula, cervical cancer, HPV and cancer, GBV including child



marriage and FGM/C. Services for young and vulnerable populations were prominent in discussions, as were service provisions for populations living in refugee settings. The aim of the study tour to introduce, broaden and deepen delegates' understanding of core FP, SRHR, GBV and refugees and ID in Uganda, with a particular reference to FCDO-supported projects was accomplished. Alan Brown MP and Steve

Brine MP joined the APPG on PDRH upon their return and committed to taking action on SRHR in the UK Parliament. Steve Brine MP was nominated chair of UK Health and Social Care (HSC) committee in November 2022.

The full study tour report can be accessed here: [PUBLICATIONS — APPG on Population, Development and Reproductive Health \(appg-pdrh.uk\)](https://publications.appg-pdrh.uk/)

Letters were sent to the Ugandan Deputy Speaker; Uganda MoH and MSI ED in June 2022 thanking them for their study tour support and the study tour report was disseminated to interested parties.



APPG on PDRH study tour delegates visiting neonatal unit in a Government Maternity Hospital, Kampala

EPF Tanzania/Zanzibar study tour, 7th - 14th January 2023



The members of EPF, TPAPD and TGNP Officials at TGNP Offices in Dar es Salaam

EPF in partnership with Tanzania Parliamentary Association on Population and Development (TPAPD) conducted a study tour in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar Island from the 7th - 13th of January 2023. Heather Wheeler MP and Baroness Mobarik participated from the UK alongside Petra Bayr (MP, Austria), Henrike Brandstötter (MP, Austria), Silvia Modig (MEP, Finland), Merja Kyllönen (MP, Finland), Hon. Annie Hoey (MP, Ireland), Ester Matiko (MP, Tanzania), Christine Mnzavas (MP, Tanzania), Hawa Mchafu (MP, Tanzania) and Oliver Semgeruka (MP, Tanzania)

The main aim of this study tour was to learn more about Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) as well as FP and to discuss SRHR-related pertinent issues with Tanzanian counterparts. Additionally, this study tour provided a unique opportunity for MPs to gain first-hand experience on how to deal with and advance SRHR.

The study tour involved a series of meetings with partners working in RMNCAH whereby presentations from partners were made. In addition, an informal meeting with other human rights organisations also formed part of the programme. Finally, site visits were undertaken to see what was happening on the ground. These site visits enabled the delegates to talk directly to the service providers and most importantly, to become acquainted with the environment in which the services were provided. Daily briefings were held every morning so that the EPF delegates could reflect on the issues from the previous day and prepare for the next event.

An article on the study tour can be found here: <https://www.epfweb.org/node/958>

Contact was made with FCDO and the British High Commission prior to departure and a meeting was set up in Dar-a-salam, Tanzania for Heather Wheeler MP and Baroness Mobarik to discuss SRHR/FP as well as other pertinent issues whilst in the country.

Heather Wheeler MP, Baroness Mobarik and Ann Mette Kjaerby hosted a follow up meeting in February 2023 with Innocent Grant, ED, The Young and Alive Initiative (YAI) who was visiting the UK to discuss recent debates in Tanzania Parliament relating to prohibiting girls from attending high school due to pregnancy and adolescent pregnancies. The UK Teenage Pregnancy Strategy was shared alongside other UK policy papers of relevance.

In the Spring 2023 Baroness Mobarik tried for a debate in HoL on SRHR in Tanzania/Zanzibar but was unsuccessful. In May 2023 she tabled a written PQ in response to violation of human rights in the country, which received below reply from Lord Goldsmith:

'The rights of LGBT+ individuals in Tanzania are coming under increasing pressure. The UK Government is clear that there needs to be an end to violence and discrimination against LGBT+ people in Tanzania and around the world. The British High Commission in Dar es Salaam is in regular contact with the LGBT+ community and human rights defenders to ensure we have a full understanding of the situation. Mindful that overt western interventions can exacerbate the situation, our responses are always informed by the LGBT+ community's perspective on what will best assure their safety.'



EPF & TPAPD members with a group of adolescent girls who are now in gainful employment, Mbagala, Dar es Salaam

Written Briefings

Members of the APPG on PDRH have received weekly Future Business/newsletters, which outline HoC and HoL business including debates and questions, where members have the opportunity to raise FP/SRHR. This weekly update also includes latest SRHR policies, funding, research, programme activities, as well as briefing events/meetings and conferences for members to register and join for updates in support of SRHR/FP parliamentary advocacy.

Oral and written PQs have also been disseminated as and when relevant for members to table for SoS for FCDO-, Chancellor of the Exchequer-, Justice Secretary-, SoS for HSC and Minister for Women and Equalities to respond to (please see Parliamentary Section for further details).

Individual and specific briefings have also been sent to members in response to requests in support of parliamentary debates, legislation, questions and presentations at conferences.

A summary list of parliamentary statements, legislation, debates, EDMs and PQs highlighting SRHR issues can be found on the APPG on PDRH [website](#) and important parliamentary business is highlighted in the parliamentary section in this report.

Below is the list of information disseminated to APPG on PDRH members:

- 1st April: Baroness Sugg received summary information on the telemedicine abortion process
- 1st April: All members received Future Business with information on the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill's second reading in HoL; UNFPA SWOP report launch and articles in *The Guardian* and *The Independent*; worldwide media on UNFPA SWOP report; Uganda APPG on PDRH study tour; amendments on the provisions to ban hymenoplasty and the power to create a licensing regime for non-surgical cosmetic procedures - a 10-year renewable storage periods for eggs, sperm and embryos up to a maximum of 55 years for everyone regardless of medical need – and telemedicine abortion up to 10 weeks and 6 days in England; Baroness Sugg and Baroness Blackstone questions of the CEO and Director of Policy and Advocacy at Bond at the International Relations and Defence Committee meeting on the Impact of merging the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and DFID; 5th April IPPF, FIGO, MSI and others webinar: Defending frontline defenders of SRHR; 6th April UNFPA and MSI webinar: Reproductive violence: Where reproductive rights meet GBV; 7th April World Health Day and the 2020 theme and toolkit; 5th May International Day of the Midwife 2022 toolkit; 28th May International Day of Action for Women's Health; 29th June - 1st July the UK Government Safe To Be Me Conference; 29th July - 2nd August AIDS2022 in Montreal; 14th – 17th November ICFP2022 Conference in Pattaya City, Thailand; 30th March WHO new guidelines on postnatal care and reports in the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ), *Business Today* and *The Statesman*; Dr Pam Lowe joined BPAS' Centre Reproductive Research & Communication for a year to lead research into reproductive coercion; articles in *The Telegraph* on the Taliban's extension to the ban on girls attending school; article on *The World Bank* having put £600m of aid on hold; articles in *The Independent* on new ban against women travelling without a male relative; Human Rights Watch article called 'Responding to Taliban attacks on women's rights'; UN report on India and UN agencies working with the Government of Rajasthan to help combat child marriage; Action Aid and Outlook India reports on child marriage initiative in India; The National Audit Office report on the reductions in ODA and an article on Devex comments on the report and articles in *Metro* and *OK Magazine* on the non-hormonal male contraceptive pill
- 24th April: All members received Future Business with information on the World Immunization Week and infographics from WHO; 27th April virtual launch event for the *Chaos Continues* report by Fòs Feminista: The 2021 Revocation of the Global Gag Rule (GGR) and the need for permanent repeal; 5th May International Day of the Midwife 2022 - 100 Years of Progress' and toolkit; 5th May Girls' Education Challenge, World Vision and The Population Council webinar: Supporting pregnant and parenting girls to thrive in education; 28th May International Day of Action for Women's Health; 29th July – 2nd August AIDS2022 Conference in Montreal; 12th April OECD DAC statistics on ODA with reports from Bond and Devex; International Conference on FP (ICFP) webinar: The pulse of FP with Dr T series; The *Guardian* report on doctors in Argentina facing imprisonment for conducting a legal abortion; The *Daily Mail* on research into ovarian cancer; articles in *The Evening Standard* and *The Sun* on Pregabalin and foetal abnormalities; The *Times* article on anti-abortion rallies in Glasgow after a maternity ward was picketed by more than 100 protesters; articles in the *Glasgow Live* and *The Scotsman* on Pro-choice groups and buffer zones around clinics and hospitals and the Scottish governments inaction; article in the *Herald* with Nicola Sturgeon condemning the protests; articles in *iNews*, *The Brussels Times* and *Impakter* on Ukrainian refugees on need of abortion services in Poland; article on UNFPA report that 60 percent of all maternal deaths occur in humanitarian crisis and articles in *Egypt Independent* and *Egyptian Streets* that Egypt cabinet has approved the drafting of a law prohibiting child marriage
- 26th April: Baroness Sugg received invitation to APPG on Malaria and NTDs events: Opportunities for science and innovation around NTDs, pandemic preparedness and climate change
- 29th April: All members received Future Business with information on The Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Minimum Age) bill receiving royal assent on Thursday 28th April with press in *The BBC*, *Sky News*, *The Times*, *The Daily Mail* and *ITV News*; 5th May The International Day of the Midwife 2022 with an online toolkit; 5th May webinar: Girls' Education Challenge, World Vision and The Population Council; 6th May webinar by SRHR Matters; 11th May webinar: 'Tackling provider bias in contraceptive service delivery' for youth and adolescents; 19th May PMNCH webinar: Lives in the balance: Delivering commitments in humanitarian and fragile settings; 28th May: International Day of Action for women's health; 29th July – 2nd August: AIDS2022 Conference in Montreal; article in *The Independent* on sexual assaults by Russian soldiers in Ukraine; articles in *The Independent* and *The Guardian* on IPPF and emergency contraception sent to Ukraine; article in *The Daily Mail* on crisis hotline set up for sexual assault victims of Russian troops; report in the *Business Insider* on UK Government sending a team of experts to help gather evidence and prosecute war crimes, including sexual violence, in early May; MSI 2-page impact report for 2021; statement by Chris Carter, Head of Human Development at the FCD: UK Government to focus its spending in Pakistan on supporting marginalised groups, including women and girls; MSI and BBC reports on French drama set in the 1960s on illegal abortion and articles in *Variety*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Mail* and *The Independent* on shortage of Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) in the UK

- 9th May: Baroness Northover received briefings for EPF meeting on young people - ensuring equitable SRHR services UK and internationally from BPAS and MSI
- 13th May: All members receive Future Business with information on EPF petition putting SRHR on G7 Agenda; updates on Roe v Wade; article in The Guardian on contraception under fire if Roe v Wade is overturned; Scotland abortion services under scrutiny as the First Minister offers to chair an emergency abortion summit; articles in The Times on telemedicine and Scotland; 17th May EPF webinar to launch UNFPA's SWOP report: Seeing the Unseen; 17th May Ipas webinar: The Economics of Abortion; 18th May webinar: The Impact of COVID-19 on SRHR with a focus on India, Kenya and Nigeria; 18th May PMA and IPUMS webinar: Did the COVID-19 pandemic effect contraceptive use?; 19th May webinar: Why women are footing the bill for climate: lessons from Bangladesh; 19th May PMNCH webinar: Lives in the balance: Delivering commitments in humanitarian and fragile settings; 23th May International Day to End Obstetric Fistula; 24th May The Heinrich-Böll Stiftung webinar: (Re)Framing abortion; 27th May webinar: Menstrual health in crisis: From Afghanistan to the Ukraine; 28th May: International Day of Action for women's health; 28th May: Menstrual hygiene day; 29th July – 2nd August: AIDS2022 Conference in Montreal; articles in Outlook India and The Indian Express on India's fertility rate dropping has fallen from 2.2 in 2015 - 2016 to 2; article in The Independent on elderly couple suing son for failure to provide a grandchild; The HO consultation to update guidance on 'Controlling and coercive behaviour'; The UK Department of HSC launching a grant fund to support women experiencing reproductive issues – such as the menopause or pregnancy loss; long-acting reversible contraceptives most popular contraception in Kenya; Radio Free Europe report on women's rights in Turkmenistan with abortion limited to 5 weeks and new bans on policing women's clothes and behaviour; article in The Guardian on Ukrainian refugees and abortion services in Poland; UNFPA released their strategic plan 2022 - 2025 with video link; USAID's Office podcast on FP Programming; and The Lancet article on maternal and perinatal care over 75,000 pregnancies in Nigeria funded by MSD for Mothers with support from numerous UN organisations
- 18th May: Pauline Latham MP, Virendra Sharma MP and Theo Clarke MP received information to raise SRHR at DFID Select Committee evidence session with Liz Truss MP on 18th May 2022
- 23rd May: All members received Future Business with information on The UK International Development Strategy with articles in the Telegraph and The Guardian as well as IPPF, Devex and Bond; SoS FCDO giving evidence to the ID Select Committee on the new strategy; 28th May Menstrual Hygiene Day with suggested tweets; 23rd May: International Day to End Obstetric Fistula; 23rd May APPG on UNSDGs reception with the Global Partnership for Education to mark one year on from the UK hosted landmark Global Education Summit; 23rd May Pathfinder and Global Health Council webinar: Pushing the needle on women's healthcare; 24th May The Heinrich-Böll Stiftung webinar: (Re)Framing abortion; 27th May webinar: Menstrual health in crisis: From Afghanistan to the Ukraine; 28th May International Day of Action for Women's Health; 28th May Menstrual Hygiene Day; 22nd June ActionAid UK and ODI/Gage HoC event: UK's new report building power together: A Girl-led research project and ODI/GAGE's COVID-19 research series; 29th July - 2nd August: AIDS2022 Conference in Montreal; World Wide, The Los Angeles Times, CNN and TV news reporting on abortion rallies across the country; article in The Evening Standard on Oklahoma's plan to prohibit abortions; article in The Independent on Louisiana and abortion; article in The Guardian on Roe v Wade; article in The National reporting that Gillian MacKay MSP plans to get the buffer zone law introduced as soon as possible in Scotland; reports from Euronews and The Mail that Spain might become the first country in Europe to introduce menstrual leave; articles in Reuters and The Independent on draft bill to widen abortion rights for teenagers and Project Drawdown report on Climate–Poverty connections
- 24th May: Baroness Sugg and Baroness Hussein-Ece received UK International Development Strategy summary points of interest on FP/SRHR
- 6th June: Baroness Sugg received information on the Istanbul Convention and UK ratification as requested
- 9th June: All members received Future Business with information on UK Government press release on the Istanbul Convention being rectified on 31st July and an article in The Guardian and letter from 80 women's organisations criticising the Home Secretary; 15th June APPG UN Global Goals summer reception; 22nd June Pathfinder webinar: Improving the quality of integrated FP services in Niger; 29th July – 2nd August: AIDS2022 Conference in Montreal; APPG on PDRH 11th July WPD reception; 12th – 18th September Sexual Health Week 2022; 14th – 17th November ICFP2022 Conference, Thailand; articles in Euronews and AP News on Poland and registering pregnancies; report in NPR on Ukraine refugees and abortion; articles in The Sun and The Independent on disrupting effect on hormonal contraception and anaesthetics; articles in The Mail and The Independent on decreased risk of attempted suicide if taking Oral Contraceptive Pill (OCP); IOL and iHarare News reports on bread packets used as condoms due to price increase; articles in The Guardian and ITV News report on the newly proposed law in Spain on consent; articles in The Guardian and The Telegraph on emergency contraception only being likely to be available with spousal consent in Japan; articles in The Guardian and UN News on lawsuit in Chile by CRR and Vivo Positivo on forcible sterilisation and HIV and report in Vice.com on anonymous American donation to a pro-life charity promoting anti-abortion agenda in British schools
- 17th June: All members received Future Business with information on Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health (FSRH) statement and RCOG and BPAS campaign on buffer zones and the amendment to the Public Order Bill; article in The Scotsman on an emergency summit on the same subject; a consultation by Gillian MacKay SMP on a buffer zone bill; CoE report by Senator Margreet de Boer (Netherlands) and resolution on buffer zones; media and tweets in support of next week's Cervical Screening awareness week; and International Day for the elimination of sexual violence in conflict information
- 24th June: All members received Future Business with information on 27th June HoL debate on the Istanbul Convention; Ukraine bill ratifying the convention; Dame Lesley Regan appointed England's first women's health ambassador to support the Government's upcoming Women's Health Strategy; articles in The Times and BBC News, The Independent and nursing times by Lesley Regan and Maria Caulfield, Minister for Women's Health and an MSI congratulating letter; 28th June FP2030 Knowledge SUCCESS and PAI event: FP in the UHC agenda; 6th July Result UK and the Global Fund event in HoC: The role of parliamentarians in the seventh replenishment of The Global Fund; 11th July APPG on PDRH WPD reception; 12th July WHO/IBP 3rd partners meeting; 21st July UNDP-IIGH event: Working local, Thinking Global:

Engaging evidence in policy making towards the SDGs; 29th July – 2nd August: AIDS2022 Conference in Montreal; 12th - 18th September: Sexual Health Week 2022; 12th - 13th September EPF event: Parliamentary dialogue on SRHR in fragile contexts in Vitoria, Spain; 14th - 17th November ICFP2022 Conference; articles in BBC News, The Malta Independent and The Guardian on Malta's strict abortion law; Articles in France24 and AFP/Yahoo News on access to abortion in Italy; article in Open Democracy on Roe v Wade's by MSI and BPAS; article in the Time Magazine on Roe v Wade; reports in Dutch News and NL Times on bill abolishing 5-day abortion 'reflection' period and a Perth report on decriminalising abortion in South Australia this July 2022

- 24th and 27th June: Baroness Sugg and Baroness Northover received briefings on The Istanbul Convention for HoL debate
- 28th June: Baroness Barker received follow up topical PQ on Roe v Wade as requested
- 1st July: All members received Future Business with information on Roe v Wade ruling, USA protests, Vogue article - Diana Johnson MP urgent PQ call to action to European leaders to protect local abortion rights - Politics Home article and urgent PQ in HoL; 11th July APPG on PDRH WPD reception invitation; 6th July Result et al event: The role of parliamentarians in the seventh replenishment of The Global Fund; 6th July Pathfinder webinar: Mobilising community participation in FP in Niger; 12th July Third WHO/IBP Partners Meeting: A global platform for local impact; 12th July Guttmacher Institute webinar: Defending abortion access in post-Roe America; 19th July Women Deliver's webinar: One Year Out; 21st July UNDP webinar on SDGs in Malaysia: Working local, thinking global; 29th July - 2nd August: AIDS2022 Conference in Montreal; 12th - 18th September: Sexual Health Week 2022; 12th - 13th September webinar: Parliamentary Dialogue on SRHR in fragile contexts; 14th - 17th November: ICFP2022 Conference; article on First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and abortion summit meeting in Edinburgh; report on Scotland to introduce a buffer zones; A petition for buffer zone around a Bournemouth BPAS clinic and reports in the BBC and local paper Bournemouth Echo; Dominic Raab ruled out backing an amendment to his proposed British Bill of Rights to decriminalise abortion, The Evening Standard and Politico reports on German government banning abortion advertising; The Telegraph and TimesLive reference UNICEF report on increase in child marriage in Ethiopia; Liz Truss reference to development aid malign actors like China and YouTube report on teenage pregnancy interventions in England, Ethiopia, Chile and Jamaica
- 7th July: Baroness Sugg and Baroness Hussein-Ece received HoC EDM on the GGR
- 8th July: All members received Future Business with information on HoL library briefing on women and girls in the UK; the Independent article on Nadine Dorries MP wanting to reduce abortion time limit; APPG on PDRH 11th July WPD reception; 12th July WHO/IBP Partners Meeting: A global platform for local impact on equality; 12th July The Guttmacher Institute webinar: Defending abortion access in post-Roe America; 13th July ICRW and Care event: Global care investments for an effective and inclusive COVID-19; 13th July Bond and Devex event: How is the UK performing globally on the SDGs?; 14th July Lancet commission event: Gender and global health in partnership with the UNU Gender and health hub; 19th July Women Deliver's event: One year on; 21st July UNDP et al event: Working local, thinking global; 29th July – 2nd August: AIDS2022 Conference in Montreal; 12th - 18th September: Sexual Health Week 2022; 12th - 13th September EPF event: Parliamentary dialogue on SRHR in fragile contexts; 14th - 17th November: ICFP2022 Conference; 6th - 17th March CSW67; SRHM podcast on Roe v Wade; Metro article on 10-year-old rape victim and abortion in Ohio; article in Romper magazine investigating privacy laws in the USA and fertility tracking apps; UNFPA report on teenage pregnancies; Devex and Yahoo finance reported on the World Bank's plan to create a fund to finance investments in strengthening against pandemics; new guidance published by MoJ on supporting victims of sexual violence and abuse; Wall Street Journal and The Independent report on USA shortage of baby formulas; The Fuller Project looks at the aggressive marketing of formula in the US; The Times article on Romania virginity testing and UNFPA press release and Africa Newsroom report on renewed commitments as follow up to the 2019 Nairobi Summit
- 8th July: Baroness Sugg received EPF 'Tip of the Iceberg' report for debate on 15th July in HoL and briefing for 11th July WPD reception
- 14th July: HoL members received HoL library briefing in support of Baroness Gale's debate: Status and opportunities for women and girls in the UK since 2010
- 15th July: All members received Future Business information on 19th July Women Deliver's event: One year out; 21st July UNDP event: Working local, thinking global; 29th July – 2nd August AIDS2022 Conference in Montreal; 12th - 18th September Sexual Health Week 2022; 12th - 13th September EPF event: Parliamentary dialogue on SRHR in fragile contexts; 3rd - 5th October Global Health Practitioners Conference: Transforming the global health landscape in Bethesda, Maryland, USA; 14th - 17th November: ICFP2022 Conference; 6th - 17th March 2023: CSW67; article on a floating abortion clinic in the Gulf of Mexico and UK protest planned in Glasgow in response to Roe v Wade; Euronews article on same subject and Stella Creasy MP's article in Vogue; 'Crossing the Line' 10 episode podcasts featured in Forbes as shining new light on abortion care; article on Phoenix and "personhood" law; The Guttmacher Institute interactive abortion map of the USA; The Daily Mail and The Guardian articles on Death by Stoning in Sudan; BBC News and The Guardian report on application to sell OCP over the counter in USA; Sarah Champion MP press release on International Development Aid being less transparent in recent years; ITV News and Yahoo reports on Angela Crawley MP and her miscarriage leave and EDM and WHO and ILO report on gender pay gap
- 25th July: All members received Future Business with information on 19th July ID Select Committee press release on the impacts of the cut in UK aid from 0.7 to 0.5% of GNI; articles in Women's Health Magazine, The Sun, The Huffington Post and The Independent on the UK Government's Women's Health Strategy for England to tackle the gender health gap; The APPG on Women's Health statement welcoming the strategy; Parliament.uk homepage featured Baroness Hussein-Ece in the Life Peers' Life Stories series, Speaking on issues affecting women; 26th July USAID event: Towards transforming Ethiopia's PHS; 27th July The Lancet commission event: Gender and global health; 29th July – 2nd August: AIDS2022 Conference in Montreal; 29th July FIGO event: Preterm labour; 12th - 18th September: Sexual Health Week 2022; 12th - 13th September EPF event: Parliamentary dialogue on SRHR in fragile contexts; 3rd - 5th October Global Health Practitioners Conference; 14th - 17th November: ICFP2022 Conference; 6th - 17th March 2023: CSW67; The Times report on British women in court over abortion; BPAS campaign to review abortion law; iNews report on woman left for 36 hours in police custody after a stillbirth at 24 weeks; New Statesman article on women disproportionately impacted by the cost-of-living crisis; report on a charity in Middlesbrough and honour- and GBV claims since COVID-19; Bond, The Telegraph and The Guardian articles on UK's Global Contribution to the SDGs and The National and The Daily Record report on Buffer Zones in Scotland

- 4th September: All members received Future Business with information on The Guardian and The Mail reporting on access to at-home early abortion pills being permanent for women in England and Wales; articles in the Stylist Magazine, Elle, The BMJ and The Times on young woman imprisoned for attempting an abortion after the 24-week limit; The Guttmacher Institute's report on the impacts of COVID-19 on contraceptive and abortion services in low- and middle-income countries; IPAS study: Toward a standard measure of abortion service quality— a stakeholder first approach; 3rd September Abortion Rights march for choice and meeting at The Fawcett Statue, Parliament Square; 12th September APPGs on Malaria & Neglected Tropical Diseases, HIV & AIDS and Tuberculosis event: The Global Fund's seventh replenishment; 12th – 18th September: Sexual Health Week 2022; 12th – 13th September EPF event: Parliamentary dialogue on SRHR in fragile contexts; 14th September Global reproductive rights event: After Roe; 14th September Backyard comedy club event on accessing sexual health services; 15th September FIGO event: Abortion and post-abortion contraception; 16th September CaPSAI and Ghana integrity initiative and Sikika event: Experiences of social accountability implementers focusing on FP; 21st September Momentum integrated health resilience event; 22nd September PMNCH annual accountability breakfast: Tackling conflict, climate change and COVID-19; 23rd September UNFPA event: Claiming bodily autonomy to achieve SRHR; 26th September World Contraception Day; 28th September International Safe Abortion Day; 3rd – 5th October Global Health Practitioners Conference; 6th October Women's Rights in global healthcare conference 2022; 11th October International Day of the Girl; 14th – 17th November ICFP2022 Conference; 6th – 17th March 2023 CSW67; UNAIDS Report into the state of the AIDS pandemic and Metro and Reuters articles on the report; The Herald article on buffer zones in Scotland; NewsTalk report on the Republic of Ireland safe access zones; BBC News reports on NI and abortion protest; Eurasianet and The Mail articles on women's freedom in Turkmenistan; BBC News report on Japanese women needing partners consent to access abortion pills; Ipas research on Climate change and SRHR; report on Tennessee, Texas and Idaho joined those states formally outlawing abortion; Facebook posts reporting concerns about use of personal data; report on Kansas voters and abortion; BMJ article on global implications of overturning Roe v Wade; report that telemedicine difficult to access in USA when living in poverty; The Guttmacher Institute research on FP in USA; WHO Study on contraception over-the-counter medicines to improve access; Dr Nafis Sadik - UNFPA ED from 1987 to 2000, has passed away aged 92 and Plan International longitudinal study
- 9th September: All members received Future Business with information on 12th – 18th September: Sexual Health Week 2022; 12th – 13th September EPF event: Parliamentary dialogue on SRHR in fragile contexts; 14th September New York Society for Ethical Culture event: Global reproductive rights after Roe; 14th September Backyard Comedy Club event: Breaking barriers on sexual health services; 15th September Fos Feminista event: Comprehensive sexuality education in the digital age; 15th September FIGO webinar: Abortion and post-abortion contraception; 16th September CaPSAI implementing partners, Ghana Integrity Initiative and Sikika event: Experiences of social accountability implementers focusing on FP; 21st September Momentum integrated health resilience event; 21st September the annual Rafael M Salas lecture on YouTube; 22nd September PMNCH annual accountability breakfast: Tackling conflict, climate change and COVID-19; 23rd September UNFPA event: Claiming bodily autonomy to achieve SRHR; 26th September World Contraception Day; 27th September RCOG webinar: Beyond safe: providing quality abortion care; 28th September International Safe Abortion Day this year's theme is 'Abortion in uncertain times'; 3rd - 5th October Global Health Practitioners Conference; 11th October International Day of the Girl; 14th – 17th November ICFP2022 Conference; 30th November Action Aid UK reception to mark 16 Days of Activism against GBV; 7th December PET event: Making fertility treatment fair: Equality in access, Equality in outcome?; 6th – 17th March 2023 CSW67; Devex and the Independent articles on UK new PM and women's issues; Devex and Politics.co.uk reports on what a new Foreign Secretary will mean for ID; Devex and Bond articles on Vicky Ford MP, new Minister at FCDO; The BBC and Glamour Magazine report on new Health Minister Therese Coffey MP stand on abortion and BPAS open letter to the Health Secretary; RCOG and Royal College of Midwives (RCM) statement about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines during pregnancy; AIDS Conference report from 24th International AIDS Conference in Montreal, Canada on 29th July - 31st July 2022; BBC iPlayer on abortion clinic buffer zones and Independent and BPAS reports and FIGO report on combatting PPH in Kenya
- 10th September: Pauline Latham MP received briefing for EPF Basque conference: SRHR in fragile settings
- 29th September: Pauline Latham MP received Melinda Gates Fortune article as requested
- 7th October: All members received Future Business with information on 10th – 16th October Sexual Health Week with Brook's social media; EPF Tanzania study tour 7th – 14th January 2023; 2nd October 200 days since The Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade; The Guttmacher Institute research on abortion in the USA; 11th October International Day of the Girl; 12th October: Vagina Museum, London; 18th October FP2030 and PAI webinar: FP in the UHC agenda; 20th October FIGO event: Wellness in women across the life course - can we do better?; 20th October Alliance for Choice event with Bernadette Devlin McAliskey; 30th October Rio Cinema, Dalston screen: The Janes on abortion rights; 14th – 17th November ICFP2022 Conference; 30th November Action Aid UK reception to mark 16 Days of Activism against GBV, Speaker's House, HoC; 7th December PET event: Making fertility treatment fair; 6th – 17th March 2023: CSW67; IPPF USA opened first mobile abortion clinic in Illinois; Period Poverty made headlines in The Mirror, NL Times, Sri Lanka RTE and Hindustan Times; Times Malta article on American women denied an abortion; Malta Today article on annual pro-choice rally in Valetta; MSI and BBC reported on Indian supreme court ruling on equal rights to abortion; FSRH statement and report on contraceptive provision in the NHS showing signs of post-COVID-19 recovery; BBC Podcast, The Independent, The Guardian and ITV report on Iran and protests; articles on women cutting hair at Iran protests; Reuters report on Hungary and foetal heartbeat and abortion; FIGO October issue and study on doctors advocating for improving access to safe abortion care; MSI and Human Rights Watch report on the situation of women and girls in Pakistan; SRH Matters annual report 2021; The Heinrich Böll Stiftung Feminist development policy; STOPAIDS 2022 - 2025 Strategy; Crimestoppers campaign on FGM and 27th July FT report Treasury has told FCDO to pause all 'non-essential' ODA spend until after the leadership election
- 14th October: All members received Future Business with information on Plan International report and Grazia article on FGM with Nimco Ali on the tenth annual International Day of the Girl; Teen Vogue article on IDG; 18th October FP2030 and PAI event: FP in the UHC agenda; 19th October Ipas webinar: Improving abortion care for survivors of sexual trauma in humanitarian settings; 20th October FIGO event: Wellness in women across the life course - Can we do better?; 20th October Alliance for Choice event: Conversation with Bernadette Devlin McAliskey; 30th October Abortion Rights

screening of documentary 'The Janes'; 14th - 17th November ICFP2022 Conference; 30th November Action Aid UK reception to mark 16 Days of Activism against GBV, HoC; 7th December PET event: Making fertility treatment fair; 6th - 17th March 2023 CSW67; 14th October hearing of Justyna Wydrzyńska in Poland on abortion and online petition in her support; Bond report on the Conservative Party Conference; The Guardian and The Financial Times article and BBC report on Iran protests; Abortion buffer zones - An extensive buffer zone is being put into place outside a BPAS abortion clinic in Bournemouth. BBC News, The Guardian and local news site The Bournemouth Echo reports on abortion buffer zones at BPAS clinic in Bournemouth with Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester City Councils following this; Open Democracy report on the Italian elections and abortion; The Daily Mail and The Independent report on male contraception; USA Today and Yahoo! News report on abortion activism and protests; A new morning-after pill, called Julie, to be sold in Wal-Mart USA nationwide; The Independent and Politics Home report on the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) report and FCDO transparency; The Independent, The Telegraph and The Guardian articles on minibudget and foreign aid and The Center for Disease Control and Prevention report on maternal mortality rate (MMR) and suicide

- October/November: All members received drafted oral PQs on SRHR and ODA for tabling
- 21st October: All member received Future Business with information on HoC vote on amendment to the Public Order Bill on 'buffer zones' and media coverage in The BBC, The Evening Standard and The Independent, Cosmopolitan and Stylist; APPG on PDRH letters to James Cleverley MP, Vicky Ford MP and Lord Ahmad attached; 30th October Abortion Rights film screening 'The Janes'; 14th - 17th November ICFP2022 Conference; 30th November Action Aid UK reception on GBV; 7th December PET event: Making fertility treatment fair; 6th - 17th March CSW67; Devex article on the freeze on UK Aid has extension until 31st October and further cut to 0.3%; The New York Times article on ODA cuts and its impact; Vice Magazine article on anti-abortion groups targeting students with online campaigns; Feminist Society criticising SPUC; articles on Iran and protests around hijab laws; The Guardian and The Metro articles on a democrat bill codifying Roe v Wade; The New York Times article on Ethiopia and stopping USA Aid due to Helms Amendment and The Times article on US-based abortion group and abortion-reversal pill outside clinics
- 26th October: Pauline Latham MP and Baroness Hussien-Ece received briefing in support of Baroness Hodgson's Women, Peace and Security Bill debate in HoL
- 31st October: All members received Future Business with information on EPF study tour to Tanzania 7th - 14th January 2023; 3rd November IPU event on UHC; 14th - 17th November ICFP2022 Conference; 30th November Action Aid reception on GBV; 7th December PET event: Making fertility treatment fair and 6th - 17th March 2023 CSW67
- 4th November: All members received Future Business with information on COP27 in Egypt 8th - 16th November and new UK PM attending; Pathfinder International petition on COP27; Andrew Mitchell MP sent a letter to Sarah Champion MP on ODA pause extended until 17th November 2022; Devex and other article on Andrew Mitchell MP defending UK ODA; 10th November ICRW event on Roe v. Wade; 14th - 17th November ICFP2022 Conference; 22nd November STOPAIDS event on digital justice; 30th November Action Aid reception on GBV; 7th December PET event: Making fertility treatment fair; 7th - 14th January 2023 EPF study tour to Tanzania; 6th - 17th March 2023 CSW67; The Evening Standard, The Independent and The Guardian articles on Maria Caulfield appointed as new Women's Minister and her anti-choice position and BPAS petition to PM on this; The Guardian and ITV News articles on Co-operative announced fertility leave; Ipas global abortion services Measuring tool - <https://www.acqtool.org/>; Buffer Zones - Marie Claire Magazine article on buffer zones and amendment to the Public Order Bill; The Independent and Bloomberg articles on USA and three abortion rights protesters in USA Supreme Court; Devex article on Climate Finance and the government's five-year £11.6 billion commitment to international climate finance; The Financial Times article on Germany's high climate finance commitment and The Guardian article on Filsan Abdi, Ethiopia's youngest minister and first Somali Ethiopian to be appointed to government
- 11th November: All members received Future Business with information on COP27; ICFP 2022; 15th November Public Policy Forum webinar on safeguarding midwifery services; 22nd November STOPAIDS event on digital justice; 29th November Cancer Research UK event on The Fight for global health equity; 30th November; The APPG on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases meeting with Diana Nankunda Kagyenyi Mutasingwa MP, Uganda Minister; 30th November Action Aid UK reception on GBV; 7th December PET event: Making fertility treatment fair; 7th - 14th January 2023 EPF study tour to Tanzania; 6th - 17th March 2023 CSW67; The UN Population Division announcement of eight billion on 15th November News 24 and New Scientist article on population projections; The BBC and The Belfast Telegraph articles on NI and abortion; The Daily Mail, NBC News and Reuters articles on the Pope and women's rights and FGM; reports on USA Midterms votes and abortion/SRHR; Devex article on USA and foreign aid; UNFPA report and Plan International on GBV in Somalia; Sky News and The Evening Standard articles on Poland, low birth rate at 1.3 and youth alcohol consumption and Malta Today article on abortion law changes
- 17th November: All members received Future Business with information on Population Media Center, The Guardian and The Independent's reports on the 8 million population mark; DFID SC inquiry in UK ODA; The BBC article on UK ODA and asylum seekers; Amendment nine to the Public Order Bill on buffer zones; ICFP 13th 17th November and UK speeches; 22nd November STOPAIDS event on digital justice; 29th November Cancer Research event; The fight for global health equity; 30th November Action Aid UK reception on GBV; 7th December PET event: Making fertility treatment fair; 7th - 14th January 2023 EPF study tour to Tanzania; 6th - 17th March 2023 CSW67; The Independent article on telemedicine abortion; LGA, The Guardian and The Daily Mail articles on UK sexual health services at breaking point; article on Nigeria, HIV and needle exchange programme; COP27 The Margaret Pyke Trust guide on climate change engagement. A guide for SRHR organisations' at COP27; GFF Partnership annual report on advancing health for women, children and adolescents amid overlapping crises; WHO App on medical eligibility criteria for contraceptive use and UK Government announced one billion pounds in funding to the Global Fund reported in The Guardian
- 24th November: All members received Future Business with information on FCDO statement on distribution of ODA and Sarah Champion MPs comment to statement; Devex article on UK ODA cuts; update on Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) Conference 28th - 29th November; 25th November Copper Rose Zambia and AVAC event on pills and rings; 29th November Cancer Research event on the fight for global health equity; 30th November Action Aid UK reception on GBV; 7th December PET event: Making fertility treatment fair; 7th - 14th January 2023 EPF study tour to Tanzania; 6th - 17th March 2023 CSW67; RCOG guidelines on post-abortion contraception and telemedicine abortion; HoL library briefing on COP27; The Independent and Devex articles on COP27 takeaways; Karma Nirvana activity on #16DaysOfAction to

end violence against women (VAW) including video on virginity testing on their website and YouTube; 25th November UN International Day of elimination of VAW; Human Rights Day and 2022 media tool; The Independent and The Fuller Project articles on The World Cup and human rights issues including women domestic workers and The Guttmacher Institute study on COVID-19 in USA

- 25th November: Pauline Latham MP received briefings on SRHR for PSVI intervention
- 28th November: Select members received update on UK ODA announced at PSVI: UNFPA 3.45 million for GBV and 12.5 million over 3 years to ambitious PSVI programmes including to Iraq, S. Sudan, Colombia and Bosnia
- 29th November: Baroness Sugg received EPF 'tip of the iceberg report' in support of HoL buffer zone debate in January 2023
- 2nd December: All members received Future Business with information on The Guardian and Politics at Home articles on FCDO PSVI conference and James Cleverly announcing a 3-year strategy to tackle sexual violence in conflict; 7th December PET event: Making fertility treatment fair; 7th December The APPG on Extreme Poverty HoL event on UK support to development and humanitarian emergencies; 8th December SRHM report on self-care interventions and rights-based access; 6th - 17th March 2023 CSW67; article in The Independent and The Evening Standard on HoC e-petition debate on abortion and human rights; The Guardian and The Independent articles on abortion in France and constitutional right; MP letters to PM in Malta on Malta abortion debate; Action for Global Health (AfGH) briefing on UK Aid for global health programming in fragile and conflict-affected settings and SRHM self-care report; and EPF SRHR funding atlas
- December: Baroness Sugg received briefings in support of abortion buffer zones debate in HoL and EPF information on anti-choice actors and funding
- 8th December: All members received Future Business with information on 6th December: ID Select Committee meeting on the future of UK Aid with Andrew Mitchell MP and report in the Evening Standard; 14th December WHO webinar launch: FP and comprehensive abortion care toolkit for the primary healthcare workforce; HoL UEA briefing event: Women of Influence in Peru; 6th - 17th March 2023 CSW67; Belfast Telegraph and The National reports on UK supreme court ruling on NI safe access zones being legal and reports on similar Scotland bill in Breaking News IE; The Guardian and The Telegraph reports on new laws in Indonesia banning extramarital sex, promotion of contraception and the outlawing of abortion except in cases of danger to the mother; The Guardian reports on Argentina and women experiencing stillbirths/miscarriages punished; Sur in English report on new Spanish law on sexual freedom, also nicknamed the 'Only yes is yes' law; Malta Today report on abortion amendment in the Maltese parliament and The Times and The Daily Mail reports on PET event on fertility education
- 16th December: All members received Future Business with information on 20th December APPG on UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development event with Andrew Mitchell MP; 1st February University of East Anglia briefing event on women of influence: Exploring the potential and impact of indigenous female community participation and leadership in Peru; 6th - 17th March 2023 CSW; The Guardian article on woman in Argentina accused of killing her baby after suffering an obstetric emergency; Research on digital health and human rights of young adults in Ghana, Kenya and Vietnam; 13th December the UK International Development Committee (IDC) report into extreme poverty and the SDGs; BBC report on morning-after and abortion pills in Honduras and Honduras's first woman president, Xiomara Castro, campaigned on a promise to overhaul the country's super-restrictive policies on female reproductive rights; The Independent and the BBC reports on France making condoms free in pharmacies for anyone up to age 25 and IBP Networks article for Devex on evidence-based guidelines and practices in FP and SRH
- December: Baroness Sugg and Baroness Hussein-Ece received Sian Harris' article on anti-abortion war
- 3rd January: All members received drafted oral PQ to Minister for Women and Equalities on abortion and buffer zones
- 6th January: All members received Future Business with information on reproductive rights round-up of June - December on the gains, concerns and opportunities arising in this period; MSI's five biggest wins from 2022; The WHO summary of the year in global health; Bond and Devex reflect on what the year has meant for ID; 6th February APPG on PDRH meeting with Minister Andrew Mitchell MP; 6th February meeting on The ECHR and SRHR; 24th April meeting on Roe v Wade and committee meeting; 3rd July APPG on PDRH AGM; 7th - 14th January EPF study tour to Tanzania; 23rd - 29th January cervical cancer awareness week; 26th January FIGO's event on pregnancy and long-term health; 31st January FIGO event on women's reproductive rights in Africa; 1st February UEA event on women of influence in Peru; 6th - 17th March; The Mail, Mirror Online and The Independent report on a woman charged with procuring her own miscarriage by poison; The Guardian and Women's Health Australia report on contraception and abortion in Australia; The Independent, Vogue and Reuters report on pharmacies selling medical abortion in USA; BuzzFeed News and The Independent report on an Idaho woman documented her miscarriage on TikTok; People Magazine and The Hill report on USA study linking restricting abortion access to increase in suicide; CNN and The Independent report on USA study linking restricted abortion laws and MMR; Byline Times and The Guardian report on Texas and parental consent for birth control and The WHO update on HPV vaccines
- 13th January: All members received Future Business with information on 6th February APPG on PDRH CRR briefing meeting on ECHR; IPPF DG article in Devex on SRHR 2023 and beyond; MSI CE letter to Minister Andrew Mitchell MP on ODA cut to SRHR; APPG on PDRH AGM 3rd July; link to APPG on PDRH Annual Report April 2021 - March 2022; 7th - 14th January EPF study tour to Tanzania/Zanzibar; 17th January APPG for the UN Global Goals event on the global goals; 19th January Inclusive Futures webinar: Disability inclusive SRH; 19th January CSW67 webinar: Exploring innovation in technology; 19th January Yield Hub webinar: SRHR for Universal Health Coverage (UHC); 23rd - 29th January: Cervical cancer awareness week; 26th January FIGO's webinar: The impact of pregnancy on long-term health; 31st January FIGO webinar: Women's reproductive rights in Africa; 1st February UEA webinar: Women of influence in Peru; 8th February EPF hybrid launch: 6th edition of the EPF contraception atlas Europe; 6th - 17th March CSW; Kent Online and The Times reports on UK NHS maternity crisis; UNICEF and The Guardian reports on UN Child Mortality Report; The New York Post and The Conversation reports on USA birth rate falls; UK Aid Cuts: The Development Engagement Lab at Bond report on public support of UK ODA; The Independent, NBC News and The Guardian report on USA and abortion; The Independent, CBS News and Chron report on Illinois and abortion; The Guardian reports on USA and medical and postal abortion; The Guttmacher Institute report on Roe v Wade and monitor and NTV Uganda reports on Uganda and FP

- 20th January: All members received Future Business with information on 6th February meetings with Minister Andrew Mitchell MP and CRR; 24th April meeting on Roe v Wade; 3rd July APPG on PDRH AGM; 23rd – 29th January Cervical Cancer Awareness Week with Twitter resources; 26th January FIGO's initiative on the impact of pregnancy on long-term; 26th January FP2030 webinar: 2022 Measurement Report; 31st January USAID's flagship social and behaviour change research and evaluation project; 31st January FIGO webinar: Women's reproductive rights in Africa; 1st February Women of influence HoL event: Exploring the potential and impact of indigenous female community participation and leadership in Peru; 8th February EPF launch: 6th edition of the EPF Contraception Atlas Europe; 6th – 17th March: CSW; The Independent report on UK out-of-area abortions; The New York Times, Sky News and The Independent reports on China's Population Decline; Malta Today, Malta Independent and Politico reports on proposed Maltese government bill on abortion; The Daily Mail and The Guardian reports on USA and abortion pills free in New York City; The Guardian and 19th News report on the Economic Policy Institute's report on abortion; The Guttmacher Institute's Interactive map on abortion access and policies; The Washington Post and The Independent report on pro-life March for Life; The Guardian and AP News reports on abortion in Spain and Metro and The Sun reports on Social Media misinformation on contraception
- 23rd January: Baroness Sugg received an article in support of abortion buffer zones and all members received drafted oral PQ to SS FCDO on UK ODA and SRHR
- 27th January: Baroness Mobarik received information in support of HoL debate on Tanzania study tour
- 27th January: All members received Future Business with information on 6th February meeting with Minister Andrew Mitchell MP and CRR; Bpas, RCOG, MSI, IPPF et al briefing HoL amendment 45 Public Order Bill report stage 30th January abortion buffer zones; 24th April APPG on PDRH briefing meeting Roe v Wade; 3rd July APPG on PDRH AGM; 31st January USAID's event: social and behaviour change research and evaluation project and FIGO webinar: Women's reproductive rights in Africa; 1st February event: Women of influence in Peru; 8th February EPF event: Contraception atlas Europe; 16th February FIGO webinar: maternal and perinatal deaths surveillance and response for health systems strengthening; 6th – 17th March CSW67; The Guardian article on UK abortion services crisis; The Guardian article on Cervical Cancer by Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust; The Huffington Post article on cervical screenings; Devex report on UK Aid and David Lammy MP speech at Chatham House; Follow up on the IMMDS Report - Ministers must act urgently to enable women and children avoidably harmed by medical intervention to receive compensation and care, MPs say in a report from The HSC Committee follow up report on IMMDS; The Irish Examiner and Belfast Telegraph reports on NI and abortion buffer zones; The Daily Mail and Science Alert report on latest HIV/AIDS vaccine not working; The Guardian, The Daily Mail and The Blast report on Roe v Wade rally; Fox News report on the Oregon Reproductive Rights Hotline; IPPF and The Guttmacher Institute study on abortion and wealth inequity and The Daily Mail and The Daily Echo report on pro-life charity ADF UK
- 30th January: All members received drafted oral PQs to the Chancellor of the Exchequer UK ODA to SRHR
- 3rd February: All members received Future Business with information on 6th February meeting with Minister Andrew Mitchell MP and 6th February briefing meeting with Center for Reproductive Rights on ECHR, press release from IDC on Aid Spending in the UK, report on the buffer zones amendment to Public Order Bill, information on 7th February MCI and CAML Health webinar on Multipurpose Prevention Technology; 8th February EPF event: Contraception atlas Europe; 16th February FIGO webinar: maternal and perinatal deaths surveillance and response for health systems strengthening; 6th – 17th March CSW67; 9th – 12th October FIGO Conference in Paris; information and media toolkit for International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM; FP2030 Measurement report and related article in The Telegraph; The Guardian report and UNFPA figures on Turkmenistan's mortality rate for under-5s; IPPF's Director in Brazil article for Open Democracy on SRHR, news on China's population decline from Insider and The Guardian; Anu Kumar, President and CEO of IPAS, article for Ms Magazine on the reproductive justice framework and the need for intersectionality when examining SRHR
- 10th February: All members received Future Business with information on 16th February FIGO webinar: maternal and perinatal deaths surveillance and response for health systems strengthening; 21st February meeting in HoL on 'Vulnerable Women, Crisis Pregnancies and the Criminal Justice System'; 6th – 17th March CSW67; 7th March APPG on SRH meeting on SACHA abortion report; 9th – 12th October FIGO Conference in Paris; articles from The Guardian and The Nation on Cervical Cancer Prevention Week; reports from Le Monde and RFI on the French government plan to include abortion in the constitution; articles from The Center for Reproductive Rights, The Guttmacher Institute and ABC News on the FDA lawsuit to remove mifepristone from the market in all 50 states; The Guardian and The Register reports on USA study about targeting by anti-abortion clinic ads; Sian Norris article for The Byline Times on anti-abortion network funding and link to her book; ICAI publish their approach for their upcoming review of the FCDO's new Programming Operating Framework
- 17th February: All members received Future Business with information on 21st February meeting in HoL on 'Vulnerable Women, Crisis Pregnancies and the Criminal Justice System'; 22nd February FP2030 webinar on the state of FP planning in South America; 2nd March STOPAIDS breakfast briefing on 'Learning from HIV and COVID 19: Making the UK a leader in pandemic preparedness and response'; 6th – 17th March CSW67; 7th March APPG on SRH meeting on SACHA abortion report; 13th June Global Government Forum webinar 'The doctor will see you now: The future of healthcare post COVID'; 17th – 20th July Women Deliver Conference Rwanda; 9th – 12th October FIGO Conference in Paris; report from UNFPA and articles from Byline Times and The Independent on Syria/Turkey earthquake implications from pregnant women; The Evening Standard, The Independent and Cosmopolitan reports on Male Contraceptive Pill study; European Contraceptive Atlas report from Euronews and Open Democracy; The Mirror report on UCL menopause study; FSRH and RCOG report on safe access zones around abortion clinics; OneIndia and The Independent and India Weekly reports on crackdown on child marriage in Assam, India; The Huffington Post report on the difficulties facing native American communities trying to access abortion services; Byline Times report on victims of sexual violence from soldiers in Ukraine being denied abortion services
- 24th February: All members received Future Business with information on The UN Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (MMEIG) estimates on maternal mortality 2000 - 2020 with press release from UNFPA and briefing note on results achieved and examples on the return on investment for funding SRHR; 7th March Cross-APPG Parliamentary Roundtable 'Unlocking Health and Opportunity for Women and Girls in Africa: Tackling a Neglected Reproductive Health Emergency' on links between NTDs, HIV and SRH; upcoming APPG on PDRH committee meeting on 24th April and AGM

on 3rd July; 28th February The NGO Committee webinar on the Status of Women 'Briefing on the EDVAW Platform: the platform of international & regional mechanisms on discrimination and violence against women'; 2nd March STOPAIDS breakfast briefing on 'Learning from HIV and COVID 19: Making the UK a leader in pandemic preparedness and response'; 2nd March the COP Steering Committee webinar on good practices and lessons learned in West Africa 'Postpartum Family Planning Integrated with MNCH and Nutrition'; 3rd March online interactive dialogue with the WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, on the theme "Priorities on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) at global, regional and country levels"; 6th – 17th March CSW67; 7th March APPG on SRH meeting on SACHA abortion report; 14th March webinar 'Promoting healthy couples' communication to improve reproductive health outcomes'; 23rd March Period Posse 'Menstrual Health & Hygiene in Emergencies: Cluster Coordination and Beyond' webinar; 13th June Global Government Forum webinar 'The doctor will see you now: The future of healthcare post COVID'; 17th – 20th July Women Deliver Conference Rwanda; 9th – 12th October FIGO Conference in Paris; iPlayer link to BBC Panorama special on Crisis Pregnancy Centres; Turkey/Syria earthquake reports from The Independent and UNFPA; Spain approves new SRH laws reports from El Pais and Yahoo News; The Daily Record, STV News and The Herald reports on pro-life Glasgow protest planned over Lent; The Huffington Post and The Guardian report on 22% increase on price of infant formula; Reuters, Channels.TV and Foreignpolicy.com reports on Nigerian military illegal abortion programme; BMJ research paper on early telemedical abortion, safeguarding and under 18s; BMC Women research into menstrual regulation; BBC News and The Guardian report on Kenyan senator protest against period poverty

- 4th March: All members received Future Business with briefings for IWD debates and information on The Public Order Bill in HoC with Baroness Sugg's amendment on abortion clinic buffer zones; CSW joint UK parliamentary statement on SRHR; 7th March Joint APPG event: Unlocking health and opportunity for women and girls in Africa: Tackling a neglected reproductive health emergency; 24th April APPG on PDRH event: Roe v Wade; articles in Politics Home, The Independent, The Mirror and The BBC on The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act coming into force this week; UK Government National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security launched 23rd February with written statement thanking Vice-Chair Baroness Hodgson for her dedicated work in this area; 4th March HPV awareness day and social post builder for social media messages; 6th – 17th March CSW67; 6th March CSW side event on male engagement hosted by Finland, Kenya and UNFPA; 7th March CSW side event on Ending GBV hosted by UNFPA, Belgium, Georgia and Zambia; 7th March CSW side event on Ukraine and GBV hosted by Ukraine and UNFPA; 8th March CSW side event on CSE hosted by UNFPA; 9th March CSW side event on technology and innovation for SRHR hosted by Sweden and UNFPA; CSW side event on harmful practices hosted by Burkina Faso, Italy, Zambia, European Union, UNFPA and UNICEF; 10th March CSW side event on GBV hosted by UNFPA; 7th March The APPG on SRH event: SACHA Study findings – a research project providing an evidence base to shape abortion care for change; 14th March HIP event: Promoting healthy couples; 23rd March Period Posse event: Menstrual health & hygiene in emergencies; 13th June Global Government Forum event: The doctor will see you now: The future of healthcare post COVID; 17th – 20th July Women Deliver Conference, Kigali, Rwanda; 9th - 12th October The XXIV FIGO World Congress of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Paris; article in The Guardian on Abortion in the UK; articles in The Independent and Glamour Magazine on BBC Panorama investigation into misinformation and abortion clinics with BPAS camping information; ID Select Committee report on UK Aid Spending; articles in Forbes and The Guardian on 200 human rights groups letter urging the UN to take action over the destruction of abortion rights in America; article in the Guardian on Benin and abortion law; articles in Fox News and The Independent on Rwanda and abortion; article in The Telegraph on Motorbike Midwives in Thailand; MSI 2022 Impact; UNICEF policy briefing: Seizing Opportunities: The role of the UK in getting child survival back on track; Kenya Biomed study on school attendance and SRH outcomes and an article on global vasectomy rates
- 11th March: All members received Future Business with information on the launch of FCDO's new international Women and Girls Strategy on IWD; ID Select Committee announced SRHR inquiry with deadline 18th April; 24th April APPG on PDRH briefing on Roe vs. Wade; articles in The Express & Star, Yahoo News and Liverpool Echo on the Public Order Bill and Baroness Sugg's abortion clinic buffer zones amendment passing; APPG on PDRH co-hosted event on FGS; 6th – 17th March CSW67; 14th March HIP event: Promoting healthy couples; 21st March event: Social and behaviour change and the enabling environment for FP; 22nd March Stellenbosch University event: Who believes black women?; 23rd March Period Posse event: Menstrual health & hygiene in emergencies; 13th June Global Government Forum event: The doctor will see you now: The future of healthcare post COVID; 17th – 20th July Women Deliver Conference, Kigali, Rwanda; 9th – 12th October The XXIV FIGO World Congress of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Paris; articles in The Guardian, Politics.co.uk and Bond on the new FCDO strategy; article in Devex on £200 million promised to the WISH programme on Wednesday actually represents a spending cut; Plan International briefing on the strategy; articles in The Independent and The Washington Post on Afghanistan and changes to the country's marriage laws; articles in Business Insider and Mashable on personal data used in abortion prosecutions; articles in The Guardian and The British Medical Journal on UK's biggest abortion study - The SACHA (Shaping Abortion for Change) Study; Countdown 2030 Europe annual figures on European donor support to SRHR & FP - 2021 - 2022; articles in Business Wire and Yahoo Finance on Organon/UNFPA collaboration focused on innovation, access and education and financing and sustainability; articles in Wio News and Medical Express on live vasectomies; articles in The Independent and The Guardian and IPPF America statement on Walgreens, the owner of Boots the Chemist stopping dispensing abortion pills in more than 20 states; and Wales Online report on high abortion rates in Wales
- 14th March: Baroness Uddin received briefing on sexual violence in fragile context for her EPF presentation on 28th March in European parliament, Brussels
- 18th March: All members received Future Business with information on 17th – 20th July the Women Deliver Conference, Kigali, Rwanda; 24th April APPG on PDRH event on Roe v Wade; 21st March SBC series on social and behaviour change and the enabling environment for FP; 22nd March Stellenbosch University event: 17th Annual Human Rights Lecture – on who believes black women?; 23rd March Period Posse event: Menstrual health & hygiene in emergencies: Cluster coordination and beyond; 28th March MPTs: Demand for novel male contraceptives & requisite need for development of male MPTs in select LMICs; 29th March Countdown 2030 event: An online briefing for parliamentarians on SRH in Ukraine; 13th June Global Government Forum event: The doctor will see you now: The future of healthcare post COVID; 17th – 20th July Women Deliver Conference, Kigali, Rwanda; 9th – 12th October The XXIV FIGO World Congress of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Paris; articles in The Independent, Rolling Stone and The Guardian on USA South Carolina

State considering a bill that would make a woman who has an abortion in the state eligible for the death penalty; articles in Associated Press and The Independent on Utah's Republican Governor Spencer Cox legislation on banning clinics from providing abortions; articles in The Guardian, NBC News and The Independent on a Texas judgement on the abortion pill Mifepristone; Foreign Secretary James Cleverley updated the HoC on the FCDO's 2023 Integrated Review refresh; article in Devex on HoC library briefing on the Integrated Review and the changes made; article in Devex on a new second Permanent Under-Secretary role to be established in the FCDO; article in The Guardian on ODA cuts and its impact on women and girls; reports in BBC News and NBC News on Honduras – Xiomara Castro, the first woman president of Honduras, having legalised the use of emergency contraception; and reports in The Guardian, CNN and Amnesty International UK on Poland – Justyna Wydrzynska and the Polish activist accused on passing on abortion pills to pregnant women, being convicted and sentenced to eight months community service

- 24th March: All members received Future Business with information on 24th April APPG on PDRH briefing meeting on Roe v Wade; 28th March IMPT event: Novel male contraceptives & requisite need for development of male MPTs in select LMICs; 29th March Countdown 2030 event: An online briefing for parliamentarians on SRH in Ukraine; 29th March WHO event: FP Global handbook for providers 2022 Updates; 4th April: WHO Infertility estimates; 20th – 21st April Global Justice Centre (GJC) event: Catalyzing change: Ongwen, sexual and gender- based crimes, and intersection; 13th June Global Government Forum event: The doctor will see you now: The future of healthcare post COVID; 17th – 20th July Women Deliver Conference, Kigali, Rwanda; 9th - 12th October The XXIV FIGO World Congress of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Paris; article in ABC News and The Independent on USA and reductive health; articles in The New York Times and Sky News on Wyoming becoming the first USA state to outlaw the use of pills for early medical abortion; articles in The Guardian and The Independent on Tennessee and anti-abortion laws; articles in Reuters and Fox News on Oklahoma supreme court overturning a portion of the state's near total ban on abortion; articles in The Guardian on USA and medical insurance; articles in San Antonio Current and Express News on improvement in women's maternal health; articles in The BMJ, The BBC and The Guardian on the rate of maternal deaths in the USA having risen by 40% in 2021; articles in The Times, The Guardian and The Daily Mail on hormonal contraceptives increasing risk of breast cancer; articles in The Guardian and The Evening Standard about 20th March Black maternal health conference UK organised by The Motherhood Group; Human Rights Watch and UN information on girls not going to school in Afghanistan; articles in The Guardian, Daily Mail and The Mirror on Menopause in the workplace and The Women and Equalities Commission oral evidence session on this subject and Yahoo News report that pregnant women return to Ukraine to give birth

Please find disseminated weekly Future Business at appendix 3

Collaboration with SRHR Stakeholders

Collaboration and communication continues between the APPG on PDRH and a variety of national and international SRHR organisations and stakeholders including: UNFPA, IPPF, MSI, UK SRHR Network, Plan International UK, FSRH, RCOG, BPAS, Abortion Rights; Margaret Pyke, forced marriage and FGM NGOs including Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD), Agency for Culture and Change Management UK (ACCM) and Girls Not Brides; and other NGOs, academic institutions and individuals working on SRHR and related health issues.

Communications of particular importance this year have been on UK ODA, international conferences and APPG on PDRH study tours, telemedical abortion in the UK and FCDO policy papers and international leadership on SRHR.

UNFPA



APPG on PDRH officers and staff have met in person, at events and conferences with UNFPA ED, representatives and staff.

In April 2022 Baroness Sugg hosted a luncheon in HoC with Diene Keita, Deputy ED to discuss UK ODA, general collaboration and the Uganda study tour. A similar meeting was planned for January 2023 to discuss UK ODA and the forthcoming FP Summit, Kigali, Rwanda, but this was cancelled due to rearranged travel plans.

In November 2022, at the UK PSVI conference, two meetings were organised between APPG on PDRH officers, Dr Natalia Kanem, UNFPA ED, Ian McFarlane, UNFPA Director Division for Communications and Strategic Partnerships and Matt Jackson, UNFPA London representative to discuss conference key messages. UK ODA, UNFPA public campaign activities and forthcoming APPG on PDRH parliamentary activities.

Throughout the year information has been shared on FCDO statements and policy papers, parliamentary debates, ID Select Committee inquiries, telemedicine abortion and child marriage in the UK and UNFPA has sent briefings when requested.

Quarterly APPG on PDRH activity reports have been shared with UNFPA as per Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Please find sample communications enclosed at appendix 4



APPG on PDRH officers and staff have met in person, at events and conferences with IPPG DG, IPPF representatives and staff.

Dr Alvaro Bermejo, DG IPPF spoke at this year's joint WPD reception in July 2022 and select officers met with him at the November 2022 ICFP in Thailand.

Throughout the year information has been shared on FCDO statements and policy papers, parliamentary debates, ID Select Committee inquiries, UK ODA and UK abortion provisions.

In the Spring 2023 IPPF's China member association delegates were scheduled to meet with members of the UK APPG on PDRH in the UK Parliament, but visas were not granted so the meeting was cancelled.

In April 2023 Baroness Barker was invited via IPPF to speak at the Asian Parliamentary Forum conference: Global conference of parliamentarians on population and development: Toward the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit, Tokyo. At this event she outlined APPG on PDRH activities of particular interest to Asian parliamentarians on the topic of gender emancipation and equality. She also visited national SRHR projects, supported by IPPF.

Please find enclosed Baroness Barker's report at appendix 5



Baroness Barker speaking at Japan G7 parliamentary event

Please find sample communications enclosed at appendix 6

MSI Reproductive Choices



APPG on PDRH officers and staff have met in person, at events and conferences with MSI ED and other representatives and staff.

Tommy Sheppard MP met with Simon Cooke, MSI ED at the November 2022 ICFP in Thailand and other members met with him at the 2022 World Population Day reception.

Throughout the year information has been shared on FCDO statements and policy papers, parliamentary debates, ID Select Committee inquiries, UK ODA and UK abortion provisions. MSI has provided briefings in support of parliamentary debates, briefing meetings and conferences including on private sector engagement on SRHR and on the global impact of *Roe v Wade*.

APPG on PDRH has shared its future strategic direction as requested and MSI co-hosted this year's APPG on PDRH study tour to Uganda (please see Study Tours Section for further information).

Please find sample communications enclosed at appendix 7

UK SRHR Network



Communications between the APPG on PDRH and UK SRHR Network chairs and members continue.

In June 2022 a hybrid meeting was held in parliament between Baroness Sugg, Baroness Hussein-Ece, UNFPA and UK SRHR Network members to discuss future collaborative activities and the APPG on PDRH's strategic direction. FCDO's Women and Girls Strategy and the forthcoming ICFP in Thailand in November 2022 were also discussed, as was the recruitment of new APPG on PDRH members. An in-person meeting was also held with UK SRHR Network chair Bekky Ashmore from Plan International and her colleague in March 2023, where the forthcoming ID Select Committee Inquiry was referenced.

Ann Mette Kjaerby has attended several virtual UK SRHR Network meetings this year in July 2022, October 2022, December 2022, February 2023 and March 2023. FCDO representatives were invited to Network meetings to present issues of particular interest to members and included amongst other things FCDO Ending Preventable Deaths of Mothers, Babies and Children by 2030 activities in its eleven priority countries.

Letters sent to ministers have been shared between APPG on PDRH members and UK SRHR Network members and UK SRHR Network members have prepared briefings for parliamentary debates at short

notice, including in connection with Baroness Hodgson's Women, Peace and Security Bill and ODA debates to highlight the economic benefit of ODA to SRHR in particular.

UK SRHR also disseminated EPF survey to youth 'Knowledge and Attitudes of Young People in Europe on Contraception'.

Please find sample communications enclosed at appendix 8

BPAS, FSRH, RCOG, MSI

APPG on PDRH officers, Baroness Sugg, Baroness Hussein-Ece, Baroness Barker and Diana Johnson MP have been in regular contact and communications with representatives from RCOG, BPAS, FSRH and APPG SRH this year to discuss strategies and campaign activities to ensure that telemedicine abortion would become permanent in England after the COVID-19 regulations, which allowed for this service, ceased to exist in August 2022.

Baroness Sugg and Baroness Barker tabled an amendment to the Health and Care Bill on 17th March 2022 and secured a favourable vote of 75 content and 25 not content. The Bill and amendment were debated on 29th March 2022 in the HoC. Prior to the debate and vote, numerous briefings were disseminated to MPs from professional colleges including RCOG, SRHR NGOs, Durham University of Lawyers and WHO and APPG on PDRH staff hand-delivered BPAS, MSI and RCOG telemedicine postcards to all MPs.

The HoC debate on 29th March saw the amendment to keep telemedical abortion permanent in England from August 2022 pass, with a vote of 215 to 188 against Government policy.

This saw the biggest change to abortion care in England since 1967 Abortion Act and a huge win for pro-choice campaigners and women and girls in England (please see Hearing Reports Section for further information).



Baroness Sugg also held personal and individual meetings with experts in the field of virginity testing and hymenoplasty and her amendment to the [Health and Social Care Act 2022](#) was successful and resulted in virginity testing and hymenoplasty finally becoming illegal on 1st July 2022. The offences will carry a maximum penalty of a 5-year custodial sentence and/or an unlimited fine. The UK Government produced guidance for people coming into contact with the procedure, which are available here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/virginity-testing-and-hymenoplasty-multi-agency-guidance>

APPG on PDRH members have also been involved in Baroness Sugg's amendment to the Public Order Bill mandating 150m 'buffer zones' around abortion facilities nationwide. The clause makes "influencing" any person who wants to access abortion services illegal (please see Hearing Reports Section for further information).

Other APPG on PDRH meetings/communication with SRHR organisations of interest are listed below:

- 17th May 2022: Ann Mette Kjaerby met with Scott Boule, Senior Specialist Parliamentary Affairs, The Global Fund for an update on activities, research and funding – referred via James Cole, STOPAIDS
- 17th May 2022/13th August: Ann Mette Kjaerby and Mikki Francis-Lawton met with Sarah Shaw, MSI for a debriefing on the Uganda study tour and after with Sarah Smith, Virendra Sharma MP staff joined for advice and support in connection with the forthcoming third British South Asian Youth Summit focussing on education in August 2022. Numerous contacts and potential speakers were suggested and contact details were forwarded
- 5th July 2022: Communications with Marianne Haslegrave, (COMMAT) in connection with UK ONS not reporting on 5.c.1 (Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment)
- 13th October: Communications with Marge Berer, Abortion Rights and UK MPs signing petition on Poland and abortion rights
- 20th October 2022/February 2023: Communications with Rick Nimmo, Director, GBIPU in connection with IPU delegations passing UK parliament and meetings to discuss SRHR and to liaise and collaborate on 2023 CSW as numerous UK delegations were attending
- 21st October 2022/March 2023: Communications with David Johnson, Margaret Pyke ED in connection with AfGH activity on SRHR and climate change and APPG on PDRH support statement to Margaret Pyke's funding application
- 26th October 2022: Communications with Riikka Kaukoranta, Vaestoliitto and Finish APPG on SRHR in connection with the forthcoming Women Parliamentarians Network conference that Baroness Hussein-Ece was invited to attend in November 2022
- 19th January 2023: Communications with Molly Thompson, STOPAIDS in response to request for support with parliamentary study tour
- 7th March 2023: Discussion and meeting with Julia Bunting, Population Council to discuss 2023 autumn briefing meeting on new research on contraceptive methods – Select APPG on PDRH members visited Population Council's research centre whilst at CSW, New York

Please find sample communications enclosed at appendix 9

Press and Social Media

The APPG on PDRH continued its press activities with the aim of engaging new members and informing the public of its activities and position on SRHR. Activities included:

- 2nd April: Child Marriage Bill the subject of Glasgow Herald article
- 2nd April: Child Marriage Bill reported on Radio 4
- 3rd April: Child Marriage Bill the subject of [International Business Times](#) article
- 13th April: Baroness Sugg mentioned in a [Birmingham Mail](#) article about abortion
- 26th April: Child marriage bill the subject of articles in [The Times](#), [Sky News](#), [Evening Standard](#), [The Daily Mail](#), [BBC News](#) and [ITV News](#)
- 18th May: Baroness Sugg and Anthony Mangnall MP wrote an article about [International Development Strategy](#) for [The Times](#)
- 21st June: Baroness Barker quoted in [The Independent](#) article about abortion in Northern Ireland (NI)
- 18th July: Baroness Hussein-Ece profiled on Parliament [YouTube](#) speaking about women's issues
- 2nd October: Sarah Champion MP was quoted in [Daily Mirror](#) article about period poverty
- 6th January: EPF published an article on their website about the Tanzania study trip, attended by Baroness Mobarik and Heather Wheeler MP – <https://www.epfweb.org/node/958>
- 27th February: Baroness Sugg and Pauline Latham MP co-author a piece on the Child Marriage Bill for [The House](#) magazine
- Pauline Latham MP quoted in [The Mirror](#) article on Child Marriage Bill, among others
- 7th March: Baroness Barker mentioned in Liverpool Echo [article](#) about buffer zones around abortion clinics

The APPG on PDRH continued to use Twitter to promote parliamentary events and activities. The tweets can be found on the APPG on PDRH Twitter feed @APPGPopDevRep.

Tweets have covered the following topics:

April – Abortion pills to Ukraine, cervical cancer prevention, EPF 'Anti-gender' event, Black and minority ethnic (BAME) communities and HIV, abortion in film, unintended pregnancies, men and HPV, #WorldImmunisationWeek, abortion in Puerto Rico webinar, #MyBodyMyChoiceMyFuture, Women's Health Strategy, APPG attendance at FIGO webinar on environment and women's health, reproductive health in rural areas, #SexualAssaultAwarenessMonth, girl's education, registration for ICFP2022, State of the World Population Report, FP2030 webinar on dual prevention pill, #IamJustyna abortion rights campaign, APPG attendance at MSI Reproductive Choices webinar on GBV, reproductive freedom in Roma communities, sexual violence in Conflict, #WorldHealthWorkersWeek, #SeeingTheUnseen report, FIGO survey on SRHR, FP2030 Hub in Nigeria

May – EU funding for SRHR, street harassment #CrimeNotCompliment, Vicky Ford MP visit to Sierra Leone, menstrual dignity, Poland abortion law, girls education, APPG attendance at Boell Stiftung webinar, International Day to end Obstetric Fistula, ICFP The Pulse, IIED webinar, News on abortion in Spain, APPG attendance at Women Deliver webinar, Liz Truss MP questioned by IDC, Painful period leave in Spain, universal access to SRHR, DHSC menopause grant fund, ICFP2020 meeting, Turkmenistan women's rights, Turkmenistan abortion access, Ukraine refugees abortion problems, APPG attendance at Pathfinder International webinar, COVID-19 impact of contraceptive use, Roe v Wade, Afghanistan women's rights, Period health in emergencies, contraceptive access after Roe v Wade, Roe v Wade impact on the Caribbean, sexual violence in Ukraine, abortion law deaths, International Day of the Midwife, Rwanda FP advances, abortion across Europe, child marriage

June – German government overturns anti-abortion advertising law, Adolescent Pregnancy, Cervical Screening Awareness Week, Norway funding Gender Equality, Poland abortion law, Reproductive Health Uganda's services, Baroness Sugg on Global Fund, UNAIDS, SDG 13, Roe v Wade article, UN Women Strategic Plan, Abortion law in Malta, #GirlsLeadingTheWay, SDGs 4 & 5, Abortion in Italy, APPG attendance at SDGs webinar, #EndRapeInWar, Women in Ukraine, Steve Brine article on APPG Study Tour, #AbortionIsHealthcare, Scotland Abortion Summit, Paula Rego obituary, India's heatwave and climate change impact on maternity, #ClimateAction, Gender Equity and childcare, FGS Integration Group, Endometriosis, APPG Study Tour, DFID/FCO merger, #FP2030Partnership, Anti-abortion activists, International Development Strategy, UK Aid, Victims of sexual violence in Ukraine, ICFP2030 registration, MSI Reproductive Choices in Uganda, Japanese law requiring partner's consent for abortion.

July – Child Marriage Bill, virginity testing and hymenoplasty become illegal, Roe v Wade, keeping girls in school, Avabai Wadia article from IPPF, abortion in Poland, extreme heat effects on pregnancy, decriminalization of abortion in UK, Abortion Rights march, the impact of mandatory waiting periods for abortion, street harassment in London, Paid Miscarriage Ten Minute Rule Bill, choosing a method of contraception, joint World Population Day event with IPPF in Parliament, universal access to SRH, Arrow youth event, EPF online survey, World Population Day photographs, Preventing Sexual Violence event, South Carolina abortion lawsuit, ban on abortion in Malta, gender equality, Ukraine ratifies Istanbul Convention, UK's contribution to the SDGs, economic effects of abortion bans, MHE profile on Parliament website, abortion prosecutions in the UK, Treasury halts aid spending, SRHR removed from Human Rights statement, ICFP2022 on abortion care worldwide, Planned Parenthood on abortion ban, IPAS reproductive health and climate change, situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, the Helms amendment repealed, period poverty, IPPF news, scaling up breastfeeding.

Top Tweet earned 1,708 impressions
YES! Congratulations to our co-chairs @Pauline_Latham and @liz_sugg for getting this bill through. Congratulations also to all the campaigners! @IKWRO @GirlsNotBrides @KNFMHBV @FORWARDUK @gardencourtlaw @lyg'yemen @DrProudman @PayzeeMalika @RavalFarhana
bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politi...

Top Follower followed by 2,638 people


Top mention earned 63 engagements
 **Sarah Champion** @SarahChampion2019 Apr 18
Climate policies must allow women to control their bodies and their fates @newhumanitarian @CommonsIDC @APPGPopDevRep : thenewhumanitarian.org/opinion/2022/0... (@newhumanitarian)

Top media Tweet earned 1,202 impressions
In World Health Worker Week it's shocking to hear @stable_dr explain "We (pro-choice, #SRHR doctors) are being attacked verbally, and our actions are being controlled. The fear of coming out as a pro-choice doctor is a fear of not being able to



APPG on PDRH @APPGPopDevRep · Jul 4

Fantastic news! Congratulations to our Co-Chair @liz_sugg and @KNFMHBV @RCObsGyn @rosiemayw_ @morris_ep @MidwivesRCM @consideredview @RicHolden @MewsOrg @IKWRO @NayWiseman @DrProudman and all the others who helped put this into action! 🎉

👤 **Karma Nirvana** @KNFMHBV · Jul 1

It's official! Today the legislation to ban #VirginityTesting and #Hymenoplasty are now in force.

Watch the video we produced on the medical, safeguarding, and legal implication of the new law.

youtube.com/watch?v=fcDsiO...

Show this thread



5



8



August – World Breastfeeding Week, period poverty, MSI RC article on abortion provision in NI, MSI RC article about abortion clinic buffer zones, Kansas vote against abortion ban, free HPV vaccines in Belgium, impacts of COVID-19 on contraception and abortion services, IPPF newsletter, contraceptive provision in rural Kenya, UK Women's Health Strategy, UK government remove SRHR from internationally agreed statement on women's rights, IPPF article on abortion laws by USA state, abortion care in Poland protests, ICFP2022, UNFPA SWOP report, ICFP 2022 event, FGM, water is a women's issue, UNFPA Meeting, Guttmacher Institute event, gender bias in healthcare, keep girls in school to improve reproductive choice, COVID-19 vaccine in pregnancy, abortion rights in Japan, FP in emergencies, telemedical abortion provision.

September – Legal abortion provision, MSI RC event, March for Life, abortion clinic buffer zones, Health Secretary's views on abortion, new FCDO Secretary, lack of water and menstrual hygiene, APPG attend conference in Spain, FP2030 abortion event, gender-responsive UHC, BPAS petition to Health Secretary, IPPF on sexual violence in Ukraine, abortion provision worldwide, Roe v Wade, World Contraception Day, maternal deaths in Uganda, gender equality, Safe Abortion Day, end menstruation stigma, APPG attend HRP event, Global Fund, gender violence in urban settings, women in leadership, IPAS webinar, telemedical abortion access, EPF report launch, APPG attend PMNCH event, APPG attend HRP Research/WHO event, save the date for ICFP2022 event.

October – Abortion clinic buffer zones, FCDO statement on women and girls' rights, APPG attendance at IPAS webinar, USA abortion legislation, FCDO question on Development Aid, World Menopause Day, UNFPA in Sudan, HoL question on menopause support, EPF partnership with WHO, UK extends aid freeze, APPG on HIV/AIDS event, vasectomies on World Vasectomy Day, ICFP 2022, Polish activist in prison for aiding an abortion, International Day of the Girl, girl's education, women in Afghanistan, women's representation at COP27, Global Fund, abortion clinic buffer zone in Bournemouth, ending child marriage, menstrual hygiene, female genital mutilation (FGM), Baby Loss Awareness Week, abortion in Arizona, women in Iran, Sexual Health Week, FCDO statement on Iran 'Morality Police', 9 out of 10 Americans oppose abortion bans, APPG attendance at Women's Rights in Healthcare Conference, USA tracking menstrual data online, petition on cut to SRHR funding, reproductive rights in India, mobile abortion clinic in the US, contraception provision recovery post-COVID-19, CPC22.

November – Hymenoplasty and virginity testing, abortion in France, #16Days against VAWG, EPF Funding Atlas, Marriage and Civil Partnerships (minimum age) Bill, buffer zones for abortion clinics, World's population reached 8 billion, PSVI Conference, telemedicine abortion, RCOG best practice guidelines, abortion in Malta, ICFP Conference, access to sexuality education, menstrual stigmas, Gender Day at COP27, Global Fund, HIV in Nigeria, MEPs write to Polish authorities re abortion, far-right anti-abortion groups, education and climate change, FP2030, APPG attendance at IPU event, IPPF News, climate change, National Fertility Awareness Week, HIV and fertility treatment, New Zealand improves access to abortion, FCDO question on Development Aid, #ZeroHunger, abortion in NI.

December – World AIDS Day, Tigray: Maternal and Neonatal Mortality, Abortion Services (Northern Ireland) Bill, Gates Foundation on FP, Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, Universal Health Coverage Day, EPF's Secretariat Meeting, FCDO second largest donor to UNFPA in 2022, written question on Genito-urinary Medicine, written question about UNFPA and SRHR, Malta's abortion laws.



January – Cervical Cancer, Abortion Rights newsletter, EPF study trip to Tanzania, SRHR in Europe 2023, EPF Contraceptive Policy Atlas launch, APPG on PDRH represented at webinar on STIs and MPTs, documentary about funders against SRHR in Europe, menstrual hygiene dignity, Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs), World Economic Forum (WEF23), Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy website, Contraception and Modern Ireland book, Brazil repeals law preventing abortion in case of rape, measures in Castilla y Leon discouraging access to abortion, APPG on PDRH represented at Genetics and Genomes in the Fertility Clinic webinar, APPG on PDRH represented at 'Disability Inclusive Sexual and Reproductive Health' webinar, climate change and food poverty, #MyBodyIsMyOwn, FP2030 Measurement Report launch, #EndFGM, 2022 Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World adopted by European Parliament, 50th anniversary of Roe v Wade, FIGO webinar on pregnancy and long-term health, FIGO webinar on reproductive rights in Africa, French laws on abortion, International Education Day, Syphilis cases on the increase.

February – Child Marriage resources for professionals, upcoming IWD, upcoming HPV Awareness Day, BBC Panorama special on crisis pregnancy centres, Child Marriage Act comes into law, crisis pregnancy centres manipulate vulnerable women, Pauline Latham MP and Baroness Sugg co-author a piece for The House magazine on Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill, RCOG event on tackling stigma in women's healthcare, including pleasure in sexual health interventions, campaign to end child marriage, BMJ SRH call for papers, ICFP stillbirth and child mortality rates, UK government introduce prepayment prescription certificate for HRT, risks to pregnant women in Syria and Turkey earthquake zones, Spain passes new laws on SRH, anniversary of Columbia decriminalising abortion, BMJ on telemedical abortion, MSI RC host Andrew Mitchell MP in Niger, European Contraception Policy Atlas, European Parliament vote for ratification of the Istanbul Convention, MSI Reproductive Choices abortion language guide, Plan International work in earthquake zones, study on partner-perpetrated pregnancy coercion, UNFPA deliver new ambulances in Moldova, SRR is critical for SD, Plan International keeping adolescent girls in school project, Action Aid work in earthquake zones, UK top list of best performing countries in European Contraception Policy Atlas, APPG represented at launch of European Contraception Policy Atlas, IDC evidence session on Spending in the UK, at-home HIV tests, national HIV testing week, End FGM Day, FIGO call for inclusion of contraception and abortion in medical school curricula, BPAS podcast, APPG represented at PET webinar on assisted reproductive technology, APPG represented at FIGO webinar on pregnancy impact on long-term health, HoL votes in favour of safe access zones around abortion facilities, SRH action plan

March – PET webinar on UK fertility and embryo law, APPG event on FGS, Baroness Barker question on FGS, Baroness Uddin speaks at EPF event on VAWG, change in rules for prescriptions, Universal Health Care webinar, British Association of Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) and FSRH virtual conference, link between oral contraception and breast cancer, repealing of the Helms amendment, Relationship and Sex Education in schools, closure of maternity wards in Ohio, APPG represented at menstrual health and hygiene in emergencies webinar, abortion bans, disrupting healthcare systems, teenage pregnancy rate in Kenya, FCDO Women and Girls Strategy, European donors to SRHR, Women and Equalities Commission meeting on menopause in the workplace. UK boost girls access to education in the Democratic Republic of Congo, tackling inequalities to eliminate cervical cancer, Afghanistan closes schools to girls, Black Maternal Health Conference UK, Polish activist convicted for supplying abortion pills, EPF event on sexual violence in fragile contexts, abortion law in Tennessee, Conservative Friends of International Development event to discuss women and girls strategy, Baroness Sugg discusses the Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill, UNFPA appeal for women and girls in Syria, APPG represented at WHO webinar, Guttmacher Institute study on unintended pregnancies, IDC enquiry into FCO approach to SR HR, IPAS study on abortion complications in fragile settings, so-called 'crisis pregnancy centres' giving misleading advice, buffer zones amendment, France enshrines abortion in the constitution, CSW67 in New York, APPG represented at RCOG IWD webinar, Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder, Protests on IWD, APPG host event on 'Unlocking health and opportunity for women and girls in Africa', SACHA study presented in HoC, IWD, UK's largest study on abortion, decrease in vasectomy rates, APPG on PDRH delegation in New York as part of CSW 67, HPV Awareness Day, Protection from Redundancy (Pregnancy and Family Leave) Bill, IPPF mobile clinics in Sri Lanka, letter signed by human rights groups asks UN to intervene in USA abortion laws.

Top Tweet earned 1,189 impressions

APPG on PDRH members @HeatherWheeler and @NosheenaMobarik joined @EPF_SRR and other European parliamentarians to discuss and learn more about #SRHR in Tanzania. twitter.com/UKinTanzania/s...

2 3 4

Top Tweet earned 2,095 impressions

Today the legal age for marriage raises to 18! Congratulations to our chair @Pauline_Latham who took this bill to @HouseofCommons and @liz_sugg who saw it through @UKHouseofLords. @PayzeeMalika @KNFMHBV @GirlsNotBrides @FORWARDUK @IKWRO @natasharat2 mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/m...

3 6 21

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PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENTS, LEGISLATION, DEBATES, QUESTIONS & EDMs

APPG on PDRH members and other parliamentarians have continued their SRHR parliamentary advocacy this year via amendments to Bills, debates, Early Day Motions (EDMs), PMBs and PQs.

Below you will find relevant summarised statements, legislation, debates, EDMs and PQs.

The provision of telemedical abortion in England after the COVID-19 pandemic policy was of particular importance, as was the introduction of buffer zones around abortion clinics and the banning of virginity testing and hymenoplasty. Child marriage is now a criminal offence and the UK Government continue to give their political support on SRHR, as outlined in the May 2022 International Development Strategy and March 2023 Women and Girls strategy.

Full information and transcripts are available on the APPG on PDRH's website www.appg-pdrh.uk. Please note that not all activities below and on the website are attributed to the APPG on PDRH members.

House of Commons

Oral Ministerial Statements

Women's Health Strategy for England – 20th July 2022

The SoS for HSC, Steve Barclay MP, made a statement on the Women's Health Strategy for England. He explained that the Government were publishing the first ever Women's Health Strategy for England, which sets out a wide range of commitments to improve the health of women and girls. These commitments are; making sure women are listened to and giving women and girls better access to services, increasing research into women's health conditions, providing better information and education on issues relating to women's health, supporting women at work, focusing on the disparities in women's health and removing barriers to fertility care. APPG on PDRH members taking part in the subsequent debate included Hannah Bardell MP, who commended the removal of barriers to IVF for same-sex couples in England, Dame Diana Johnson MP, who welcomed the appointment of Lesley Regan as Women's Health Ambassador and asked what plans the SoS has to remove the barriers to co-commissioning of reproductive healthcare to require different parts of the system to work together and Ruth Cadbury MP, who asked the SoS to ensure that the focus on clinical training and retraining also addresses gender stereotyping in diagnosis and support.

Menopause and the Workplace – 8th September 2022

Caroline Nokes MP read a statement from the Women and Equalities Committee on the committee's 'Menopause and the Workplace' inquiry. She claimed that there have been some improvements in society around the discussion of menopause, but that they needed to be extended upon and thanked the women who had come forward to give information to the inquiry. The report has found that we need to improve the diagnosis and treatment of women and keep the many menopausal women who should be thriving at work in work, even if it means treating menopause as a protected characteristic.

East Kent Maternity Services: Independent Investigation – 20th October 2022

The PUS for HSC, Dr Caroline Johnson MP, made a statement on the review into East Kent maternity services. The report on maternity failings in the East Kent Hospitals University Trust was published on 19th October. From examining over 200 births in that trust between 2009 and 2020, the report found that, had care been given at nationally recognised standards, 45 babies might not have lost their lives, it also found a toxic culture within the trust, with a "disturbing lack of kindness and compassion" and victims' families were

even blamed for their devastating losses. Dr Caroline Johnson MP said that she would be reviewing all the report's recommendations and would issue a full response once she has had time to consider them.

Ukraine – 31st October 2022

The SoS for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (FCDA), James Cleverly MP, updated the House on the situation in Ukraine. He reported that that morning, Russian missiles had again struck Kyiv and other cities, destroying critical national infrastructure and depriving Ukrainians of water and electricity. In addition to this, at the weekend, Russia suspended its participation in the Black Sea grain initiative, which allows the exportation of 100,000 tonnes of food every day, including to some of the least developed countries in the world. He reiterated the UK's support for Ukraine. Alicia Kearn MP asked the Minister to reassure the House that sanctions are being considered against those individuals whose sole job is to terrorise the Ukrainian public, as Putin's troops are weaponizing sexual violence.

Integrated Review Refresh – 13th March 2023

The SoS for FCDA, James Cleverly MP, made a statement on the 2023 integrated review refresh, updating the House on developments since the Government's integrated review was published two years previously. He claimed that the UK has maintained a position as a global leader on ID by pursuing patient, long-term partnerships tailored to the needs of partner countries, in addition to our ODA. He said that various challenges, in particular Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and attempts to annex part of its sovereign territory were challenging the entire international order and that across the world, state threats have grown, and systematic competition has intensified. He anticipated a growing prospect of further deterioration in the coming years.

The subsequent debate focused largely on defence spending, however David Lammy MP and Patrick Grady MP both criticised the Government's decision to cut ODA spending from 0.7% and Anum Qaisar MP posited that given the Department's devastating international aid cuts, the UK Government cannot now claim to be fully safeguarding vulnerable communities around the world.

Written Ministerial Statements

Hymenoplasty – 16th March 2022

The MoS, Minister for Care and Mental Health (CMH), Gillian Keegan MP, provided a statement to the House, saying that on 23rd December 2021, as part of the Vision for the Women's Health Strategy in England publication, the Government had announced its intention to ban the hymenoplasty procedure in the United Kingdom (UK). The Government had made the decision to ban hymenoplasty following the recommendations of an Independent Expert Panel, which was established to look at the clinical and ethical implications of banning the procedure. She went on to say that the Government are already working to ban virginity testing and introduced an amendment to the Health and Care Bill in November to do so (APPG on PDRH member Baroness Sugg's amendment). She concluded that banning hymenoplasty is another important milestone in the Government's ongoing mission to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Northern Ireland Update – 24th March 2022

The SoS for NI, Brandon Lewis MP, made a statement to the HoC that two years after the Abortion (Northern Ireland) 2020 Regulations established the framework for abortion services, women and girls were still unable to access high-quality abortion and post-abortion care in NI. He said it had become clear that the NI DoH was not going to ensure relevant healthcare services are available by the 31st March 2022 deadline and that he would consequently have to prepare work on further regulations to ensure that services are commissioned. He promised that directly following the Assembly election in May he would make regulations and directions that will place a duty on the DoH to make abortion services available as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan – 30th March 2022

The SoS for the Home Department (HD), Priti Patel MP, announced the publication of the new cross-Government Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan. The Plan sets out the Government's vision to drive down domestic abuse and domestic homicide cases and ensure that those who experience domestic abuse get the support they need. It was developed using responses to the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Call for Evidence, it is also closely aligned with the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and shares the same four pillars; Prioritising Prevention, Supporting Victims, Pursuing Perpetrators and A Stronger System. On the same day the Government are also publishing updated versions of the Violence Against Women and Girls National Statement of Expectations and Violence Against Women and Girls Commissioning Toolkit. These documents will support local areas in commissioning effective support services.

Provisional Statistics on International Development 2021 – 28th April 2022

Minister for Europe and North America, James Cleverly MP, announced the publication of 'The Statistics on International Development: Provisional UK Aid Spend 2021' on 12th April. This set out that the UK spent almost £11.5 billion on ODA in 2021, representing 0.5% of GNI. The statement reiterated the Government's intention to return to spending 0.7% of GNI on ODA "as soon as the fiscal situation allows". The publication of the report is the first official release confirming the UK has not met the target of spending 0.7% of GNI on ODA as required by the International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015. That Act requires the SoS to lay a statement before Parliament if the 0.7% target is not met, explaining why it has not been met, as soon as reasonably practicable after laying the FCDO's Annual Report and Accounts (see section 2(1) and 2(3) of the 2015 Act). The statement confirmed that the FCDO's Annual Report and Accounts will be laid before the summer recess.

The Government's Legislative Programme (Northern Ireland) 2022–2023 – 11th May 2022

The SoS for NI, Brandon Lewis MP, provided a summary of the Government's Legislative programme and its application to NI. He announced his intention to return to Parliament soon to lay regulations that will place a duty on the NI DoH to make abortion services available as soon as is reasonably practicable; remove the need for EC approval before services can be commissioned and funded; and confer on him the power to do anything that a NI Minister or department could do to ensure that abortion services are provided in NI to the standard decided by Parliament in 2019.

International Development Strategy – 16th May 2022

The SoS for FCDO, Elizabeth Truss MP, announced the publication of the FCDO's International Development Strategy. The strategy plans to rebalance the aid budget towards bilateral programmes in order to give the Government greater control over how money is spent. She set out four priorities of the strategy:

- *Delivering honest, reliable investment through British Investment Partnerships.*
- *Providing women and girls with the freedom they need to succeed.*
- *Stepping-up our life-saving humanitarian work to prevent the worst forms of human suffering around the world.*
- *Taking forward our work on climate change, nature and global health.*

Ratification of the Istanbul Convention – 17th May 2022

The SoS for the HD, Priti Patel MP, made a Written Ministerial Statement regarding The Council of Europe (CoE) Convention on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence. The Minister said that the UK had been proud to sign up to the convention in 2012 and that the Government is now satisfied that it has the legislative framework and other necessary measures in place to meet the requirements of the Convention, that the UK is compliant with the Istanbul Convention and in a position to seek Parliament's approval to ratify it. She confirmed that the Government is today laying the text of the Istanbul Convention in the form of a Command Paper in both Houses, alongside an Explanatory Memorandum. If no objections are raised to ratification of the Convention in either House within the next 21 joint sitting days, the Government will arrange to deposit its instrument of ratification. In line with the requirement under section 1(3)(b) of the 2017 Act they can confirm that they would expect the UK to have ratified the Convention by 31st July 2022.

Northern Ireland Update – 19th May 2022

The SoS for NI, Brandon Lewis MP, announced that on 22nd July 2021, he had given a direction to the NI DoH and to the HSC Board, to commission and make abortion services available in NI by 31st March 2022. As the DoH had not met that deadline, he was therefore laying regulations that would remove the need for EC approval before services can be commissioned and funded by the DoH and to confer on an SoS the power to do anything that an NI Minister or department could do for the purpose of ensuring that the recommendations in paragraphs 85 and 86 of The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) report are implemented. For the purpose of determining what a NI Minister or department could do, any need for EC approval will be disregarded. He further announced that if the DoH did not commission and fund abortion services as directed, he would intervene further and that he was establishing a team in the NI Office to work alongside the DoH and take this forward.

Women's Health Ambassador – 20th June 2022

The PUSS for DoH, Maria Caulfield MP, announced the appointment of Professor Dame Lesley Regan DBE MD DSc FRCOG as the first ever Women's Health Ambassador for England. She announced that the Ambassador's role will focus on raising the profile of women's health, increasing awareness of taboo topics and bringing a range of collaborative voices to implement the Women's Health Strategy. She also announced that she looked forward to announcing the publication of the new Women's Health Strategy shortly and to working with the new Women's Health Ambassador to deliver real change for women in England.

International Development – 0.7 per cent of GNI on ODA target 2021 – 19th July 2022

The Minister for Asia and the Middle East, Amanda Milling MP, announced the publication of the FCDO's Annual Report and Accounts 2021 - 2022. The Minister explained that in November 2020, the Deputy Prime Minister and former Foreign Secretary had delivered a statement outlining that, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and as a result the public finances, the UK would temporarily reduce the ODA budget from 0.7% of GNI to 0.5% from 2021, returning to 0.7% when the fiscal situation allows. The new FCDO's Annual Report and Accounts 2021 - 2022, report that the 0.7% target was not met in 2021, on a provisional basis, and a statement was laid before Parliament, as required by Section 2 of the 2015 Act. In a Written Ministerial Statement on 12th July 2021, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer reaffirmed that the decision to reduce the ODA budget to 0.5% is temporary and that the government is committed to the 2015 Act and to return to spending 0.7% of GNI on ODA once the fiscal situation allows. She confirmed that each year during this Spending Review period SR21 from 2022 - 2023 to 2024 - 2025, the government will review, in accordance with the 2015 Act, whether a return to spending 0.7% of GNI on ODA is possible against the latest fiscal forecast provided by the OBR.

Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan – Annual Report to Parliament 2021 – 19th July 2022

Minister for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Vicky Ford MP, made a statement informing the House that the FCDO, together with the MoD, have published the 2021 annual report on progress towards the UK's fourth National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. Published on 18th January 2018, the National Action Plan sets out the Government's objectives on the Women, Peace and Security agenda for the period 2018 - 2022. This is the UK Government strategy for how they will meet their Women, Peace and Security commitments, under UN Security Council Resolution 1325, to reduce the impact of conflict on women and girls and to promote their inclusion in conflict resolution and in building peace and security. The report published today outlines progress against the National Action Plan over the last 12 months, including work in the nine focus countries of Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia and Syria, and Yemen as a priority country. It is centred around seven strategic outcomes where the Government expects to see progress over the five-year duration of the NAP.

Work of the Home Office – 5th September 2022

The SoS for the HD, Priti Patel MP, updated the House on HO delivery since her previous statement of 31st March 2022. One area of update was The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 which was passed in April and strengthens sentencing laws to keep serious sexual and violent offenders behind bars for longer. Tackling VAWG, including domestic abuse, has been supported by funding and the Domestic Abuse Act to prevent and raise awareness of these crimes, including investing £3m per annum in prevention projects, improved support for victims, directly supporting thousands of victims and children and tackling perpetrators through a £25m package of behaviour change programmes and research to reduce further violence. The HO provided funding for a number of helplines and online services to support victims of VAWG, including domestic abuse. This included specialist domestic abuse helplines for elderly, deaf and disabled, LGBTQI+ and male victims, as well as teachers and employers. In 2021 - 2022, over 81,000 people used the national tackling VAWG helplines for support.

Public Order Bill – 24th October 2022

The MoS for Crime, Police and Fire, Jeremy Quin MP, reiterated a written statement from Lord Sharpe of Epsom in the HoL on the Public Order Bill. The statement regarded the free vote on an amendment to the Public Order Bill by the HoC on Tuesday 18th October and its subsequent insertion into the Bill. Clause 9 establishes designated areas (buffer zones) around abortion clinics where interference with people accessing or providing abortion services would be an offence. The Minister stated that, in his opinion, the provisions of the Bill are presently compatible with the ECHR.

Northern Ireland Update – 24th October 2022

The SoS for NI, Chris Heaton-Harris, gave an update on the Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2022. He announced that the UK Government will ensure the commissioning of abortion services as 21st October marked the three-year anniversary of the decriminalisation of abortion in NI and women and girls in NI are still unable to access the full range of healthcare to which they are lawfully entitled. He announced that he is meeting the Chief Executives of HSC Trusts in NI in the coming weeks to ensure these services can be provided. Ultimately, it remains the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Executive to fund abortion services in NI. The UK Government will ensure that appropriate funding is available to enable healthcare professionals to take the necessary steps to ensure that essential training and recruitment of staff can progress and services can be implemented.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria – 14th November 2022

The Minister for Development, FCDO, Andrew Mitchell MP, made a statement on the UK's contribution to the Seventh Replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund). He reported that to date the UK have contributed over £4.4 billion to the Global Fund as its third largest donor and the mortality rate of the three diseases has been cut by more than half, helping to save 50

million lives, while improving access to prevention and treatment, building the strong and inclusive health systems that underpin all health services, and helping countries respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. He announced that the UK will therefore contribute £1 billion to the seventh replenishment of the Global Fund, which would help to save over 1.2 million lives. This pledge is drawn from the current ODA allocation and, as well as helping to save lives and prevent over 28 million new cases and infections, this funding will also help to build strong and inclusive health systems and support countries to prepare for and prevent future pandemic threats. It will make an important contribution to our priority of ending the preventable deaths of mothers, babies and children, helping to provide medicine for 170,000 mothers to prevent transmitting HIV to their babies.

Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative Strategy – 28th November 2022

The SoS for FCDO, James Cleverley MP, made a statement on the Government's vision for ending conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). He said that although progress has been made to support survivors and strengthen accountability, sexual violence continues to be widely used in conflict, demonstrated by reports from Ukraine and that we needed a stronger international response for all those affected. He went on to explain that The Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) Strategy will support the delivery of the International Development Strategy and the Integrated Review. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon is the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict. This strategy will deliver four key objectives:

1. *Strengthening the global response to CRSV.*
2. *Preventing CRSV, including by addressing root causes such as harmful gender norms.*
3. *Improving justice for all survivors and holding perpetrators to account.*
4. *Enhancing support for survivors and children born of sexual violence in conflict, including tackling the stigma they face within their communities.*

In addition to this the Government will drive concerted action on the Crimes Against Humanity Convention to strengthen international law in this area, including on some forms of CRSV. The Key policy initiatives are:

- *The Call to Action to Ensure the Rights and Wellbeing of Children Born of Sexual Violence in Conflict.*
- *The Murad Code, a global code of conduct to ensure that the documentation of the experiences of CRSV survivors is effective and upholds survivors' rights.*
- *The Declaration of Humanity, a faith and belief-based call for the prevention of sexual violence in conflict that denounces the stigma faced by survivors and children born of rape.*
- *Increasing the UK's focus on conflict and atrocity prevention to tackle the drivers of conflict before violence becomes widespread.*
-

He went on to say that the Government would use the development budget to deliver change, including through:

- *The £67.5 million committed to the What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale programme, which pioneers and rigorously evaluates scalable solutions to prevent gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual violence in conflict settings.*
- *Up to £12.5 million of new funding that the PSVI team will use over the next three years to tackle CRSV. This funding will be complemented by wider CRSV programming across FCDO. The £12.5 million will include; a contribution of up to £5.15 million to the Global Survivors Fund, which aims to enhance CRSV survivors' access to reparations, including through the provision financial support, livelihood assistance, education, and health care; and continued funding to the UK's PSVI Team of Experts, a group of independent specialists deployed to support the work of national and international bodies and NGOs to strengthen their response to CRSV.*
- *Delivering on our commitments under the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies, including working with our operational partners to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV, including CRSV, from the earliest stages of a humanitarian crisis.*

In conclusion he stated that the Government will continue to work closely with international and UK partners to put an end to sexual violence in conflict.

Human Rights and Democracy Report for 2021 – 9th December 2022

The SoS for FCDO, James Cleverley MP, made a statement that he had laid before Parliament a copy of the 2021 FCDO Report on Human Rights and Democracy (CP number 768). The report analyses human rights developments overseas in 2021 and illustrates how the government worked to promote and defend human rights globally, including work to stop sexual VAWG in conflict around the world and to eradicate modern slavery, to defend those who are abused, targeted or killed for their religion or beliefs, to promote media freedom and to support human rights defenders. He concluded by saying that the UK remains steadfastly dedicated to protecting and promoting human rights.

Work of the Home Office – 19th December 2022

The SoS for the HD, Suella Braverman MP, updated Parliament on HO delivery since the previous Written Ministerial Statement of 5th September 2022. The Minister claimed that the Government has faced substantial external pressures which have continued over the last three months, including the ongoing arrival of small boats and war in Ukraine. The Minister outlined her department's work on Tackling VAWG.

- *Between January 2021 and August 2022, a team of academics conducted sequential deep dives on the police response to rape in five police forces. Following the deep dives, the forces have developed tailored improvement plans to address the findings, which has led to the roll out of Operation Soteria.*
- *The Government continues to implement the Rape Review Action Plan, investing £6.65 million in Operation Soteria to deliver the national operating model for the investigation of rape for all forces to adopt from June 2023; introducing new powers to stop unnecessary and intrusive requests for victims' phones; and ensuring that the police return victims' devices within 24 hours. In the year-ending June 2022, the police recorded 196,889 sexual offences, the highest level recorded within a 12-month period. This is a 21% increase compared to year ending March 2020.*
- *On 15th December, the Government published its third six monthly Rape Review Progress Update, which showed that the Government is on track to meet its Rape Review ambition to more than double the number of adult rape cases reaching court by the end of this parliament. In the most recent data for 2022, the number of cases referred by the police to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) was up 95 percent; the volume of cases charged was up by two-thirds; and the number of cases reaching the Crown Court was up 91 percent compared to 2019 averages.*
- *The Government has continued to implement the Tackling VAWG Strategy, the Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan, and have enshrined into law the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. They have introduced new offences relating to non-fatal strangulation, hymenoplasty and virginity testing. They have strengthened protections and support for victims of domestic abuse and the response to perpetrators through the provisions in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and have made the regime for managing sex offenders and those that pose a risk of sexual harm more robust through provisions in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022.*
- *In January 2020 the Government introduced Stalking Protection Orders to protect victims of stalking.*
- *On 25th October, the Government launched the second phase of the multimedia 'Enough' national campaign which promotes safe ways for bystanders to intervene if they witness VAWG.*

Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch: Transition Update – 9th February 2023

The PUSS for HSC, Maria Caulfield MP, made a statement to update Members on the Government's timetable to establish the Health Services Safety Investigations Body (HSSIB) and the Maternity and Newborn Safety Investigations special health authority (MNSI). She informed the House that the Health and Care Act 2022 contains provisions that will, once commenced, establish the HSSIB as a non-departmental public body. On 26th January 2022, by way of a Written Ministerial Statement, the Department of HSC announced that a separate special health authority would also be established to continue the independent maternity investigation programme, and that both bodies were expected to be operational in April 2023. However, she announced that there would be a delay of six months until October 2023 to the expected establishment of both bodies.

Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls – 21st February 2023

The SoS for the HD, Suella Braverman MP, announced a package of measures that will bolster the Government's work on VAWG to hold perpetrators to account and better support victims. The new measures include;

- *Adding the most dangerous domestic abuse offenders to the Violent and Sex Offender Register.*
- *Adding VAWG to the Strategic Policing Requirement.*
- *Piloting the expansion of the 'Ask for ANI' codeword scheme.*
- *Piloting new Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders.*
- *Creating a new digital domestic abuse harm risk assessment tool*
- *Today we have published updated guidance for the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, also known as 'Clare's Law', ahead of next month's commencement of section 77 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which places the guidance into statute.*
- *Funding support services for victims.*

In summary, she expressed the hope that these measures will help us to build a society that has zero tolerance to VAWG and let us take the necessary steps to protect the safety and freedom of women and girls across the country.

UK Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan 2023 - 2027 – 23rd February 2023

The PUSS for FCDO, Leo Docherty MP, announced the publication of the UK's fifth National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2023 - 2027) jointly owned by the FCDO and the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The Plan will align with the FCDO's recently launched PSVI Strategy that sets out how HMG will work to put an end to sexual violence in conflict. It will also support the MoD's Joint Service Publication 985 on Human Security in Defence. The Plan will also support the operationalization of the upcoming FCDO Women and Girls Strategy. This Plan has been developed based on lessons learned from the previous four UK National Action Plans, extensive consultation with civil society and new research and evidence on WPS. It responds to the new global context, reflecting on Ukraine and Afghanistan, transnational threats such as climate and cyber, and ensures the UK maintains its reputation as a global leader on WPS. Key changes are:

- *A broader approach to transnational threats beyond preventing and countering violent extremism, to include new technologies and use of digital spaces by belligerent actors, proliferation of weapons and climate insecurity.*
- *The inclusion of a UK domestic policy approach to the WPS agenda, with inputs from HO, MoJ and NI Office.*
- *An improved framework for monitoring and evaluation throughout the duration of the Plan including more specific indicators.*
- *Proposals to strengthen the capabilities of UK Government officials to support and build an international network of expertise.*
- *Greater senior accountability for the Plan through better governance structures and external transparency mechanisms.*
- *Clearer expectations and support for focus countries and a more flexible approach, recognizing the dynamic nature of peace and security, especially in fragile and conflict affected countries.*

The Minister ended the statement by giving particular thanks to APPG on PDRH Vice-Chair Baroness Hodgson for her work on the plan.

International Women and Girls Strategy (2023 - 2030) – 8th March 2023

The SoS for FCDO, James Cleverley MP, announced the publication a new International Women and Girls Strategy (2023 - 2030). The new Strategy aims to tackle increasing threats to gender equality from climate change, humanitarian crises, conflicts such as the war in Ukraine and recent attempts to roll back women's rights, including in countries like Iran and Afghanistan. The Strategy commits the FCDO to involving its entire network of High Commissions and Embassies around the world to deliver the Strategy. This will include UK Heads of Mission developing plans and commitments specific to their host country and raising the most pressing issues with their host governments. The FCDO is also increasing support for women's rights organisations and movements and the Strategy commits the FCDO to at least 80% of its bilateral aid programmes having a focus on gender equality by 2030. He announced The Strategy's five guiding principles:

- *Standing up and speaking out for women's and girls' rights and freedoms on the global stage and in bilateral relationships.*

- *Emboldening and amplifying the work and voices of diverse grassroots women's organisations and movements, championing their role as critical agents for change.*
- *Targeting investment towards the key life stages for women and girls to maximise effectiveness and secure life-long and intergenerational impact.*
- *Acting for and with women and girls impacted by crises and shocks, including conflict, global health, climate change, violence, food insecurity and malnutrition and resulting humanitarian crises.*
- *Strengthening systems - political, economic and social - that play a critical role in protecting and empowering women and girls, embracing innovative financing models and technology use to secure long term development.*

FCDO will remain focused on the 'Three Es' of Educating girls, Empowering women and girls, championing their health and rights and Ending gender-based violence. He ended by announcing that The Strategy sets out new headline goals on how the FCDO will lead this work, including by;

- *Driving the conversation, through a major UK global campaign.*
- *Leading by example, by ensuring women and girls are at the centre of FCDO's operations and investments.*
- *Leading through knowledge, by driving forward new expertise, evidence and research.*

FCDO Programme Allocations – 30th March 2023

The MoS, Development and Africa, Andrew Mitchell MP, began the statement by reminding the House that the FCDO Annual Report and Accounts 2021 to 2022 had explained that the department's ODA spending plans needed to be revisited to ensure all ODA-eligible spending was managed within 0.5% of GNI. This was in the context of the costs incurred to support the people of Ukraine and Afghanistan and others seeking asylum. He explained that the Government had provided additional resources of £1bn in 22-23 and £1.5bn in 2023-2024 to help meet these unanticipated costs and remained committed to returning ODA spending to 0.7% of GNI when the fiscal situation allows. The Minister then went on to update the House on FCDO spending in 2022-2023 and plans for 2023-2024 allocations. In 2024-2025 the FCDO plan to spend £1bn on urgent humanitarian needs and expect to mobilise up to £8bn of UK-backed financing a year under British Investment Partnerships by 2025. He maintained that the FCDO remain committed to the cross government International Climate Finance (ICF) target of spending at least £11.6bn by 2026 and continues to work towards the IDS target on restoring funding for vital work on women and girls and the new target set out in the FCDO's International Women and Girls Strategy 2023 to 2030 for at least 80% of the FCDO's bilateral aid programmes to have a focus on gender equality by 2030. The Minister acknowledged that the revisions to FCDO's ODA budget in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 had necessitated difficult choices as spending plans have changed. He maintained that throughout the revision process the FCDO has worked closely with partners to understand the best way to allocate the revised budgets to deliver the most positive development outcomes.

FCDO 2022 - 2023 ODA ALLOCATIONS

Multilateral organisations	£ 3,311m
Bilateral programmes	£ 2,511m
FCDO operating costs	£ 606m
Financial transactions	£ 411m
Arm's length bodies, scholarships and international subscriptions	£ 367m
Research and development	£ 300m
Vaccines	£ 66m
TOTAL FCDO ODA 22-23	£ 7,572m

BILATERAL ODA 22-23 ALLOCATIONS

DG Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean	
Africa (East and Central)	£ 418.4m
Africa (West and Southern)	£ 344.6m
Latin America, Caribbean and Small Island Developing States	£ 35.2m

North Africa	£ 2.9m
DG Humanitarian and Development	
Development and Parliament	£ 16.3m
Education, Gender and Equality	£ 93.2m
Global Health and COVID-19	£ 58.4m
Humanitarian and Migration	£ 55.3m
International Finance	£ 130.1m
Office for Conflict Stabilisation and Mediation	£ 18.3m
DG Economics, Science & Technology	
Economic Security	£ 5.4m
Economics and Evaluation	£ 0.8m
Research and Evidence	£ 15.8m
Technology and Analysis	£ 3.2m
DG Europe	
Europe Group	£ 6.8m
DG Geopolitics & Security	
Open Societies and Human Rights	£ 57.9m
DG Indo-Pacific	
British Investment Partnerships	£ 53.3m
Indian Ocean	£ 105.3m
Southeast Asia and Pacific	£ 77.7m
DG Americas, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Middle East & Overseas Territories	
Energy, Climate and Environment	£ 154.2m
Overseas Territories	£ 80.6m
Afghanistan and Pakistan	£ 304.4m
Middle East	£ 247.0m
DG Defence & Intelligence	
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	£ 226.1m

FCDO 23-24 ODA ALLOCATIONS

Multilateral organisations	£ 3,974m
Bilateral programmes	£ 2,191m
FCDO operating costs	£ 691m
Financial transactions	£ 554m
Arm's length bodies, scholarships and international subscriptions	£ 385m
Research and development	£ 300m
TOTAL FCDO ODA 23-24	£ 8,095m

BILATERAL ODA 23-24 ALLOCATIONS

DG Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean	
Africa (East and Central)	£ 389.8m
Africa (West and Southern)	£ 256.1m
Latin America, Caribbean and Small Island Developing States	£ 25.8m
North Africa	£ 2.2m
DG Humanitarian and Development	
Development & Parliament	£ 9.6m
Education, Gender and Equality	£ 79.9m
Global Health and COVID-19	£ 41.8m

Humanitarian and Migration	£ 43.7m
International Finance	£ 130.9m
Office for Conflict Stabilisation and Mediation	£ 13.3m
DG Economics, Science & Technology	
Economic Security	£ 2.6m
Economics and Evaluation	£ 0.8m
Research and Evidence	£ 6.8m
Technology and Analysis	£ 3.9m
DG Europe	
Europe Group	£ 5.9m
DG Geopolitics & Security	
Open Societies and Human Rights	£ 64.2m
DG Indo-Pacific	
British Investment Partnerships	£ 108.9m
Indian Ocean	£ 105.4m
Southeast Asia and Pacific	£ 56.5m
DG Americas, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Middle East & Overseas Territories	
Energy, Climate and Environment	£ 155.8m
Overseas Territories	£ 85.7m
Afghanistan and Pakistan	£ 141.9m
Middle East	£ 229.6m
DG Defence & Intelligence	
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	£ 230.0m

Maternity Investigation Programme - 30th March 2023

Minister for Mental Health and Women's Health Strategy, Maria Caulfield MP, made a statement updating Members on the transition of the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch's (HSIB's) Maternity Investigation Programmes. On 26th January 2022 the Department of HSC had announced that a separate Special Health Authority would be established to continue the independent Maternity Investigation Programme, which is currently overseen by the HSIB. Following careful consideration, the Department has determined that the most appropriate mechanism for delivering independent maternity investigations would be for the function to be hosted within the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The purposes of the maternity investigation programme remain as set out last January: to provide independent, standardised and family focused investigations of maternity cases for families; to provide learning to the health system via reports at local, regional and national level; analyse data to identify key trends and provide system wide learning; be a system expert in standards for maternity investigations; and collaborate with system partners to escalate safety concerns. She said that the department would now work with the CQC and the HSIB to complete the transition of the Maternity Investigation Programme to the CQC by October 2023.

Legislation

Public Order Bill – First Reading – 11th May 2022

The Public Order Bill, a bill to make provision for new offences relating to public order; to make provision about stop and search powers; to make provision about the exercise of police functions relating to public order; to make provision about proceedings by the SoS relating to protest-related activities; to make provision about serious disruption prevention orders; and for connected purposes, was brought to the Commons by the SoS for the HD, Priti Patel MP and read for the first time.

Public Order Bill – Second Reading – 23rd May 2022

The Public Order Bill was introduced by the SoS for the HD, Priti Patel MP and read for a second time. During the ensuing debate Yvette Cooper MP complained that the bill did nothing to address violence against women. APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson MP said that the bill should legislate for buffer zones around abortion clinics, as women in England were facing harassment when trying to access these facilities, she added that she would add her support to amending the bill to address this. APPG on PDRH member Caroline Lucas MP spoke in support of this measure as the treatment faced by women outside abortion clinics was more like intimidation than protest.

Protection from Redundancy (Pregnancy and Family Leave) Bill – First Reading – 15th June 2022

Dan Jarvis MP introduced a Private Members Bill (PMB), the Protection from Redundancy (Pregnancy and Family Leave) Bill; a Bill to make provision about protection from redundancy during or after pregnancy or after periods of maternity, adoption or shared parental leave. The bill was read for the first time.

Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Bill – First Reading – 15th June 2022

Greg Clark MP introduced a PMB, the Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Bill; a Bill to make provision about causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress to a person in public where the behaviour is done because of that person's sex; and for connected purposes.

The Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Bill – First Reading – 15th June 2022

Stuart C McDonald MP introduced a PMB, the Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Bill; A Bill to make provision about leave and pay for employees with responsibility for children receiving neonatal care.

Public Order Bill – Committee Stage – 21st June 2022

In the committee stage of the Public Order Bill the addition of the new Clause 1 – 'Offence of interference with access to or provision of abortion services' was discussed. Dr Rupa Huq MP requested that the clause in her name be read a second time. APPG on PDRH member Sarah Jones MP was one of those who spoke in favour of the clause, citing personal experience while visiting such a clinic in the course of her work. Given the option to put the new clause to a vote, Dr Rupa Huq MP chose to withdraw the motion as she felt that it could be improved upon as a result of the discussion.

The Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Bill – Second Reading – 15th July 2022

The PMB was introduced by Stuart C McDonald MP and read for a second time. APPG on PDRH member Hannah Bardell MP complimented Mr. McDonald on bringing the bill and spoke about the difficulty faced by parents attempting to work and make time to visit their children in the neonatal unit, particularly relevant as one of her own staff had suffered these problems. APPG on PDRH member Lyn Brown MP also spoke in support of the bill, she cited research from the charity Bliss, saying that for every week their baby is in hospital, parents end up having to spend an extra £282 on average and that for many people that is simply not possible without incurring a huge and debilitating debt. Mr. McDonald closed the debate by thanking members from both sides of the House for their overwhelming support of the bill.

Public Order Bill – Report Stage – 18th October 2022

During the consideration of the bill a number of amendments were discussed, which included the new clause eleven 'Offence of interference with access to or provision of abortion services'. Various members spoke in favour of the new clause, including APPG on PDRH members Caroline Lucas MP and Sarah Jones MP, who pointed out that *"everyone has a right to access healthcare without fear of intimidation"*. The clause was put to a vote, which was passed by 297 votes for to 110 against. The APPG on PDRH had fully briefed our Commons members and requested that they attend and vote where possible, consequently we had an excellent turnout of twenty members attending and voting (out of a possible 34 HoC members – our 5 SNP members do not vote on devolved issues).

Protection from Redundancy (Pregnancy and Family Leave) Bill – Second Reading – 21st October 2022

The PMB was introduced by Dan Jarvis MP and read for a second time. During the debate Tulip Siddiq MP cited a report as to how COVID-19 had exacerbated job inequality, she informed the House that according to a TUC report 25% of new mothers and pregnant women had said that they had faced some sort of discrimination during the pandemic, whether that was being made redundant, being forced to go on furlough or being told they should take sick leave because they were pregnant.

Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Bill – Second Reading – 9th December 2022

The PMB was introduced by Greg Clark MP and read for a second time. During the debate APPG on PDRH member Catherine West MP stressed the importance of properly resourcing the enforcement of the Bill, should it pass into law. After widespread approval of the Bill was voiced by those present Greg Clark MP ended the debate by thanking the members who had taken part and stressing the importance of the Bill in contributing to a cultural change in attitudes towards sex-based harassment.

The Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Bill – Third Reading – 20th January 2023

The PMB was introduced by Stuart C McDonald MP and read for a third time. After a widespread show of support from across the House the bill was passed.

Protection from Redundancy (Pregnancy and Family Leave) Bill – Third Reading – 3rd February 2023

The PMB was introduced by Dan Jarvis MP and read for a third time. APPG on PDRH member Catherine West MP expressed support for the bill because it would help families to stay in work during a challenging time for the economy. After a show of wholesale support for the Bill Dan Jarvis MP thanked those present for their contributions and for helping the 54,000 women who are laid off each year because of pregnancy.

Public Order Bill – Consideration of Lords Amendments (Buffer Zones) – 7th March 2023

During consideration of the Lord's amendments there was considerable discussion of APPG on PDRH member Baroness Sugg's amendment on buffer zones around abortion clinics. APPG on PDRH member Hannah Bardell MP expressed frustration at the number of male MPs who were intent on standing up and telling women that they should *"put up with being harassed when they are just seeking healthcare"*. Stella Creasy MP and APPG on PDRH member Sarah Jones MP thanked Baroness Sugg for her hard work on the amendment. Sarah Jones MP also pointed out that clarifying the law on buffer zones would make the work of the police in this area much easier, as they are currently dealing with some confusion around what is acceptable. After a vote on changing Baroness Sugg's amendment was split Ayes: 116 v Noes: 299, the amendment was moved unchanged.

Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Bill – Report Stage and Third Reading – 24th March 2023

After some discussion of amendments, the Question was put and agreed to. The PMB was read the Third time and passed. During the summing-up statements Chris Philip MP said that the legislation was just part of the wider work to protect women and girls that was being undertaken by The Government and made a reference to the Child Marriage Bill brought to the House by APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Pauline Latham and to the FGM legislation that was led by APPG on PDRH member and former Co-Chair Baroness Sugg.

Debates

Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2022 – 16th June 2022

During a debate of the Delegated Legislation Committee under the heading 'That the Committee has considered the Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2022 (SI, 2022, No. 554)' The SoS for Northern Ireland (NI), Brandon Lewis MP, pointed out that the will of the House had already been established

through votes on the topic of abortion in 2019, 2020 and 2021 and that today's debate was to ensure the implementation of abortion services in NI. Brandon Lewis MP said that the services currently in place still fall far short of what is required by law and he had a legal duty to implement the CEDAW recommendations to ensure that women and girls have access to abortion services. Tonia Antoniazzi MP asked the SoS for NI to outline the steps he planned to take to implement services as soon as possible. The meeting ended with a vote of the committee and the motion was passed 11 votes for to 2 against.

Black Maternal Health Awareness Week 2022 – 2nd November 2022

A debate on [e-Petition 301079](#), 'Improve Maternal Mortality Rates and Health Care for Black Women in the UK' was brought to the House by Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP, who informed those present that black women are four times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth, women of mixed heritage are three times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth and Asian women are twice as likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth. Black babies have a 121% increased risk of stillbirth and a 50% increased risk of neonatal death. Asian babies have a 55% increased risk of stillbirth and a 66% increased risk of neonatal mortality. Black women have a 43% higher risk of miscarriage and black ethnicity is now regarded as a risk factor for miscarriage. A recent study into maternity care for black and Asian women found that 43% of women surveyed reported feeling discriminated against. Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP asked the Government to launch an enquiry into institutional racism and racial bias in the NHS, as well as in the field of medical education. During the debate APPG on PDRH member Yasmin Qureshi MP said that black and Asian women and their partners are not being listened to, are not being respected and are certainly not being cared for. When they voice pain or concern during pregnancy or childbirth, they are often branded as aggressive or angry, while dangerous stereotypes about the strong black woman mean that they are often not offered the same treatment as white women. Meanwhile, the lack of cultural competency in medical training in our country means that many complications are not spotted early enough. She claimed that the Government had done nothing to address this inequality and that over the last 12 years, maternal mortality for black women has actually increased from 28 deaths per 100,000 in 2013 - 2015, to 34 per 100,000 in the years 2016 - 2018. She concluded that the UK needs a national strategy to tackle health inequality as a matter of urgency, which must include a commitment to eradicating the mortality gap between black, Asian and ethnic minority women and white women.

Legal Rights to Access Abortion – 28th November 2022

A debate on [e-Petition 619334](#), relating to legal rights to access abortion was brought to the House by Tonia Antoniazzi MP, who informed the House that the original petitioner is a dual national - a UK and US citizen - who was moved to start her petition by the recent overturning of Roe v. Wade in the United States. Dame Maria Miller MP pointed out that English women are treated as potentially criminal when they access abortions, when the Government have legislated to ensure that women in NI are not treated as criminals. Stella Creasy MP argued that a woman's right to choose is something that the majority of people in this country believe should be a right for women and that multiple public opinion surveys backed this up. After some debate from pro- and anti-abortion MPs Alex Cunningham MP asked The MoS, MoJ, Edward Argar MP, if he could foresee an early opportunity for the House to make a decision on whether abortion should be decriminalised. Mr. Argar replied that members might wish to submit a Private Member's Bill in the new session to that effect. Tonia Antoniazzi MP summed up the debate by thanking the petitioner and the people who signed the petition for their interest in the need to address the Bill of Rights and abortion. She said, *"We have a long way to go and I believe that we can continue to have the debate and engage with more Members across the House"*.

Violence Against Women and Girls: Sentencing – 2nd February 2023

Cherilyn Mackrory MP opened the debate on the subject 'That this House has considered sentencing for violence against women and girls'. She opened by stating that *"effective sentencing is one of the tools we can use to deter perpetrators, and it also encourages victims of violence to come forward"*. She stated that one in three women will experience violence by a man they know and that women suffer an average of 35 assaults before they ring

the police. Cherliyn Mackrory MP went on to suggest that the language used in parliament should ensure two things. First, victims of violent crime and abuse must be assured that the police, courts and society as a whole are on their side, which means stopping the dangerous language suggesting that this Government have somehow decriminalised rape. And secondly that politicians also need to encourage and properly resource the good practice that has been shown to work around the country, so that arrests can be made quickly, and so that conviction and sentencing is based on clear evidence that is gathered swiftly, with as little further distress to victims as possible. Peter Gibson MP claimed that tackling VAWG continues to be a key focus for the Government and cited legislation brought about by Conservatives in this area, including the Children Act 1989, the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and his own Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Act 2022. Ellie Reeves MP said that tougher sentences were needed to act as a deterrent.

Government Support for Breastfeeding and the 2023 Lancet Series – 20th February 2023

APPG on PDRH member Alison Thewliss MP introduced a debate in her name on the importance of breastfeeding, saying in her opening remarks that *“According to the World Health Organisation, breastfeeding has the potential to prevent 800,000 child deaths globally each year”*. She went on to say that “Breastfeeding has proven health benefits across high-income and low-income settings alike: it reduces childhood infectious diseases, mortality and malnutrition and the risk of later obesity; mothers who breastfeed have decreased risk of breast and ovarian cancers, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.” Despite this, she claimed, around the world and here in the UK, *“we see a growth and embedding of commercial milk formula in our culture.”* She referenced three different Lancet papers on the marketing of formula milk and suggested that the government needed to make sure that currently poorly enforced rules around the marketing of breastmilk substitutes were not scrapped all together. Alison Thewliss MP also noted a link between inadequate maternity rights and poor working conditions with difficulties for many mothers to breastfeed. She told the House that she had, prior to Brexit, asked about the prospect of the UK Government joining the countries that have fully implemented the WHO’s international code of marketing of breastmilk substitutes and was told that the UK’s membership of the EU presented a barrier to doing that. She asked the PUSS for HSC, Neil O’Brien MP, to tell her when he aims to implement the code in full and if he would agree to meet the authors of The Lancet reports and representatives of the all-party parliamentary group on infant feeding and inequalities to discuss further what the Government intend to do in response to these findings? The Minister replied that work was currently under way on the delivery of a new infant feeding survey, which will provide valuable information on infant feeding behaviours and other related factors and that the results of the survey should be available in 2024.

Overseas Aid: Child Health and Education – 22nd February 2023

Matt Rodda MP opened the debate on overseas aid, child health and education by saying that 1 in 10 people in the World lived in poverty. He deplored the scrapping of the 0.7% target by the Government, which he said has left the UK presiding over a declining aid budget. He further claimed that attempts to rebadge other spending as aid, including the plan to spend £3 billion from the development budget on the cost of housing refugees, *“has knocked down the pillars on which the UK’s international leadership was built, and it has damaged Britain’s credibility around the world”*. He added that the “botched” merger of DFID and FCO has undermined delivery. APPG on PDRH member Gareth Thomas MP agreed with Mr. Rodda that the Government need a timetable to get back on track to 0.7% and quoted the charity ONE’s estimate that, as a result of the cuts in development assistance, some 3.7 million girls worldwide would no longer receive a decent education. He also quoted the IDC report which had said that there would be *“significant and abrupt cuts to programmes focused on education, economic empowerment, and sexual and reproductive services targeted at women and girls in Pakistan”*. APPG on PDRH member Lyn Brown MP criticised the Government’s ‘short-term’ approach to aid and said that overseas aid has to happen within a long-term and sustainable plan if it is to be effective. There is no room for opaque decisions or last-minute announcements, and no room for wasteful spending

by the HO. Matt Rodda MP closed the debate stating, *“I hope the Minister will take back the messages from today to his colleagues and will think about how we can get back on track with the 0.7% target.”*

International Women’s Day – 9th March 2023

The annual IWD debate was opened by Dame Maria Miller MP, who talked about the having just returned from the CSW conference in New York with 17 other parliamentarians (3 of whom had attended on behalf of the APPG on PDRH) and the harrowing stories they had heard from women from around the world while there. APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson MP spoke about the dangers of non-contact sexual offences escalating if left unchecked, as in the case of Wayne Couzens. Vicky Ford MP paid tribute to APPG on PDRH co-chair Pauline Latham MP and member Baroness Sugg for their work on the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (minimum age) Bill to combat child marriage. APPG on PDRH member Hannah Bardell MP, like some other MPs, paid tribute to women in their constituencies who had died as a result of male violence and then went onto express approval for the Government’s focus on the rights of women and girls in their ID strategy, but to condemn the cut in international aid. Closing the debate The Minister for Women, Maria Caulfield MP, spoke about the publication of the first Women’s Health Strategy for England and girls’ education, which she said was a priority both at home and in ID.

Oral Parliamentary Questions

Violence Against Women and Girls – 25th April 2022

During Oral Questions to the HD, Alexander Stafford MP asked the PUSS, HO, Rachel Maclean MP, what steps her department is taking to tackle VAWG. The Minister explained that since publishing the cross-Government Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls’ strategy last July, the HO has launched a communications campaign to challenge perpetrators and to drive rejection of these crimes. They have also supported the introduction of a new national policing lead and provided more than £27.5 million for 79 local projects to improve women’s safety in public spaces. APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson MP said that she welcomed the Government’s making male VAWG a strategic policing requirement, but that following on from the news today about sexual offences taking record times to get to court the Select Committee on Home Affairs also recommend that all police forces should have specialist rape and sexual assault units and asked when the Government would make sure that all police forces have specialist rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO) units within their constabulary. Rachel Maclean MP answered that the Government planned a forensic look across the whole system across all the police forces, which would include a strategic and comprehensive approach to training police officers. APPG on PDRH member Sarah Jones MP announced that new figures today show that sexual offence victims face the longest ever wait for their day in court, with some rape victims waiting up to four years. Of the three hundred rapes committed today, fewer than three perpetrators will make it to the inside of a courtroom, let alone the inside of a prison cell. She asked if perpetrators are being let off and victims of this crime are being let down. Rachel Maclean MP replied that the introduction of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill would set out the stronger sentences, the increase in electronic tagging for these perpetrators and a raft of protections to keep women and girls safer.

Maternal Health Disparities – 26th April 2022

During Oral Questions to the Women and Equalities Department Olivia Blake MP and Helen Hayes MP asked the Minister for Women, Maria Caulfield MP, what discussions she has had with the SoS for HSC on racial inequalities in maternity care. The Minister explained that the Government had set up the maternity disparities taskforce to tackle those disparities in February last year. She claimed that they would be spending £7 million to ensure that 75% of black, Asian and minority ethnic women are being cared for by the same midwife during their pregnancies, because we know that continuity of carer improves outcomes for those women. In addition to this there will be £165 million going into funding maternity services overall. There is £95 million to pay for 1,200 more midwives and another 100 consultant obstetricians.

Women's Services – 27th April 2022

APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson MP and Rosie Duffield MP asked Brandon Lewis MP, SoS for NI, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of resources for women's services in NI. He replied that it is unacceptable that women in NI are unable to access the same basic healthcare support that is available in the rest of the UK. He said that he is committed to return to Parliament directly following the Assembly elections in May and, if necessary, will make regulations to ensure that services are commissioned. Dame Diana Johnson MP asked if he have a date in mind when women in NI will be able to access this service that this House voted for over two years ago, Brandon Lewis MP reiterated that he would return to the House soon after the May elections if that has not been progressed by the DoH to lay the regulations to ensure that these services are provided.

Violence Against Women and Girls: Prosecutions – 26th May 2022

During Oral Questions to the Attorney General, APPG on PDRH member Ruth Cadbury MP, along with Kate Osborne MP and Andrew Gwynne MP, asked the Attorney General, Suella Braverman MP, what steps she is taking to increase the number of prosecutions relating to VAWG. The Minister maintained that tackling VAWG is a central mission of this Government and that she is working very closely with the Lord Chancellor and the Home Secretary to get a whole-system response to this challenge. She informed the House that that there has been a notable change in the volume of prosecutions, which has increased by more than 10% from quarter 2 to quarter 3 in 2021 - 2022. In addition to this the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 has set out provisions to increase the sentences to be served by rapists and others convicted of sexual assault.

Topical Questions – FCDO – 8th June 2022

During Topical Questions to the FCDO, Steven Bonnar MP asked the Minister for Women and Equalities, Elizabeth Truss MP, what discussions has she had with her colleagues in the FCDO about the impact of the aid cuts on women and girls, when according to an equalities assessment undertaken by the FCDO, the Government were aware that women and girls were more likely to be harmed by cuts to the UK foreign aid budget. Elizabeth Truss MP replied that she was very clear in her appearance at the IDC that the FCDO are restoring the budget for women and girls for development, including providing 12 years of education for all girls.

Women's Right to Reproductive Healthcare: United States – 28th June 2022

APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson MP asked an Urgent Question (UQ) of the SoS for FCDA if she will make representations to the Government of the USA about ensuring that women's rights to access reproductive healthcare are protected as part of her Department's work on promoting human rights internationally. The Minister for Asia and the Middle East, Amanda Milling MP, replied that access to abortion services in the USA is a matter for the USA Supreme Court and for authorities in individual states. Dame Diana Johnson MP pointed out that there is growing concern that the decision may lead to the overturning of rights in other areas, including access to contraception and same-sex relationships and asked if the Minister could confirm that the Government will continue to support and fund reproductive healthcare programmes, including access to terminations, around the world in light of the USA's decision? She added that this decision would give renewed impetus to far-right American groups already organising on rolling back the Abortion Act 1967 in this country. Amanda Milling MP replied that *"the UK is proud to defend and promote universal and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights, including safe abortion, which are fundamental to unlock the potential agency and freedom of women and girls. We will continue to press for strong and supportive language in the UN and other international forums."* APPG on PDRH member Alison Thewliss MP paid tribute to activists in Scotland who were securing buffer zones around abortion clinics and asked what the Minister was doing to prevent the influence on these islands of US-based extremist groups. APPG on PDRH member Liz Saville-Roberts MP asked the Minister to guarantee that this Government will not interfere with women's reproductive rights in Wales, although this question was not answered. APPG on PDRH member

Hannah Bardell MP asked the minister to support groups campaigning for buffer zones around abortion clinics, the Minister replied that this is a matter for the HO who keep it under review.

Written Parliamentary Questions

Members of Parliament tabled a wide variety of SRHR, FP and population-related written PQs this year on the following subjects, which are available on the APPG on PDRH [website](#):

Abortion

Abortion: Analgesics

Abortion: Children and Young People

Abortion: Clinics

Abortion: Demonstrations

Abortion: Drugs

Abortion: Northern Ireland

Abortion: Protests

Abortion: Telemedicine

Abortion and Contraceptives

Afghanistan: Females

Africa: Genito-Urinary Medicine

Africa: Mortality Rates

Armed Conflict: Sexual Violence

Babies and Mothers: Deaths

Bangladesh: Genito-Urinary Medicine

Bangladesh: Maternal Mortality

Bangladesh: Mortality Rates

Botswana: Contraceptives

British Pregnancy Advisory Service: Merseyside

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Chlamydia: Health Services

COE Parliamentary Assembly

Contraceptives

Contraceptives: Females

Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Developing Countries: Pregnancy

Development Aid

Development Aid: Equality

Development Aid: Family Planning

Development Aid: Females

Development Aid: Gender Equality

Development Aid: Genito-urinary Medicine

Development Aid: Genito-urinary Medicine and UN Population Fund

Development Aid: UNFPA

Ethiopia: Abortion

Female Genital Mutilation

Females: Equality

Females: Health Services

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: Development Aid

GBV

Gender Based Violence

Gender Based Violence: Development Aid

Genito-Urinary Medicine

Genito-Urinary Medicine: Clinics

Gonorrhoea

HPV: Vaccination

Health Services: Females

Health Services: Women

Human Papillomavirus: Screening

Infant Mortality
Lesotho: Contraceptives
Malawi: Contraceptives
Maternal Mortality
Maternity Services
Maternity Services: Death
Maternity Services: Finance
Menopause: Health Services
Myanmar: Development Aid
Nigeria: Abortion
Nigeria: Armed Forces
Pakistan: Maternal Mortality
Period Poverty
Sexually -Transmitted Infections: Afro-Caribbeans
Sierra Leone: Abortion
Trichomoniasis: Ethnic Groups
UN Population Fund
USA: Abortion
Uganda: Maternal Mortality

Early Day Motions

EDM1168 – Care provision for pregnant migrant women – 19th April 2022

Stephen Timms MP, 26 signatures

That this House welcomes the publication by the RCM of its position statement and accompanying pocket guide for midwives and maternity support workers on caring for pregnant migrant women; notes these women are at higher risk of experiencing poor outcomes for themselves and their babies, and that midwives and maternity support workers have a duty of care to all women, regardless of their immigration status; believes that a woman's immigration status should not be the deciding factor as to whether she can access maternity care; further believes that workforce and service planning should take into account the particular needs of pregnant migrant women for compassionate support, effective communication and continuity of care, which are essential to reduce inequality of outcomes; calls for such women not to be relocated by the immigration authorities after 20 weeks of pregnancy and for women to be settled into suitable accommodation as early as possible in pregnancy to minimise disruption during this critical time; is concerned that charges for maternity care deter some women from seeking maternity care; and calls on the Government to revoke all maternity-related NHS charges without delay.

EDM28 – Abortion Rights in the United States – 11th May 2022

Diane Abbott MP, 43 signatures

That this House expresses its grave concern about the series of attacks that have been launched in the United States on a woman's right to choose; notes that the leaked opinion of the US Supreme Court overturning the judgement of Roe v Wade has been authenticated; is aware that poorer women and many from ethnic minorities already experience severe difficulties in exercising their reproductive rights and that this situation could become much worse; further notes that anti-choice campaigners in the United States are attempting to build support overseas, including in this country; and resolves to support a strong defence of a woman's right to choose in this country and internationally.

EDM138 – Ratification of the Istanbul Convention – 7th June 2022

Gavin Newlands MP, signatures 57

That this House notes that 8th June 2022 will mark ten years since the UK signed the Istanbul Convention on protecting women and girls from violence; commends the work by IC Change and other groups in campaigning for the UK's ratification of the treaty; welcomes the recent announcement by the Home Secretary that the bulk of the treaty will be ratified by 31st July 2022; acknowledges the work by the former hon. Member for Banff and Buchan, Eilidh Whiteford, in proposing and having passed by Parliament in 2017 the legislation enshrining the requirement to ratify the convention; recognises the imperative for national and international action to tackle violence against women and girls; further notes with concern that two reservations have been attached to ratification, including provisions aimed at protecting migrant women and children; believes that all women should mean all women and that migrant communities deserve equal protection under the Convention; and looks forward to the full ratification of the Convention with no reservations as quickly as possible.

EDM141 – Findings of Birthrights Report – 8th June 2022

David Linden MP, signatures 11

That this House highlights the findings of Birthrights report, Systemic racism, not broken bodies; emphasises the importance of the findings of the report, which confirm that black, Asian, and mixed ethnicity women are more likely to experience baby loss and

illness, become seriously ill themselves and have a worse experience of care during pregnancy and throughout childbirth; advocates for the conclusions of the report, particularly a commitment to anti-racism by all maternity and neo-natal services alongside a commitment to ensure that more black and brown women and birthing people decision-makers in their care and the wider maternity system; and calls for the safe and inclusive maternity and birthing experience for all parents.

EDM188 – Cervical Screening Awareness Week – 20th June 2022

Nadia Whittome MP, 23 signatures

That this House notes the week commencing 20th June 2022 is Cervical Screening Awareness Week; recognises that cervical screening can save lives and stop many cervical cancers; understands that almost one in three currently do not take up their invite; appreciates that cervical screening isn't easy for everyone; highlights that Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust provide information and support for anyone who needs them; and calls for all hon Members to support this important week.

EDM216 – Abortion Rights – 28th June 2022

Charlotte Nichols MP, 36 signatures

That this House is deeply concerned at the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States to overturn the longstanding Roe v Wade decision that provided federal protection for the right for women to choose an abortion and maintain the safety and autonomy of their bodies; fears that consequent restrictions across swathes of the US will harm millions of women and that the loss of safe services will lead to many unnecessary deaths; sends solidarity and support to the majority of the US population who oppose this appalling decision; and reaffirms the right for women in the UK to access safe, legal abortion procedures.

EDM245 – Cervical Cancer Screenings – 4th July 2022

Jim Shannon MP, 8 signatures

That this House notes the importance of attending cervical cancer screenings when invited; further notes the work done by the Public Health Agency in encouraging women to ensure cervical cancer screenings are carried out regularly; notes the devastating number of women who are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year; is aware that on average 81 people are diagnosed and 21 people die of cervical cancer in NI each year; notes that this screening is not just a test for cancer but is also a preventive measure; understands that it is not an easy procedure for many women but helps save lives; and highlights the importance of accepting cervical cancer screening invitations and that support is there should the process become distressing or cause anxiety.

EDM313 – VAT on Period Pants – 19th July 2022

Tracey Crouch MP, 24 signatures

That this House calls on the Government to zero rate VAT on period pants in line with other menstrual products such as pads, cloth pads and menstrual cups; notes that period pants are sustainable and reusable and have 5-6 times less carbon footprint than tampons or pads; recognises research that shows throughout the pandemic, over a million girls aged 14-21 in the UK struggled to access period products, with many forced to cut back on other essential items in order to purchase sanitary items; and further notes that the current classification of period pants as a garment means that a 20 per cent VAT rate on period pants makes an environmentally and financially sustainable alternative more expensive.

EDM361 – Dr Hugh Nicolson and research into new treatments for Ovarian Cancer – 6th September 2022

Kenny MacAskill MP, 6 signatures

That this House commends Dr Hugh Nicolson, previously a pupil at North Berwick High School, on being at the forefront of ground breaking research into new treatments for ovarian cancer; understands that the project undertaken by NHS Tayside with scientists looking at how ovarian cancer cells become resistant to treatment and how this could be reversed; congratulates Dr Nicolson on his key role in the study, designing, optimizing and carrying out all the experiments which formed part of his 85,000 word thesis; praises the important part that the patients at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee played in donating precious samples that formed the backbone of the study; understands that through the analysis of these samples, scientists were able to discover how cells become resistant to chemotherapy drugs and how they can become 'resensitised' to create more effective treatments for the disease; thanks Dr Nicolson for his ground breaking works; and wishes him all the best for the future.

EDM374 – Loss and Damage Action Day 2022 – 8th September 2022

Wera Hobhouse MP, 42 signatures

That this House acknowledges Loss and Damage Action Day, which is taking place on 22nd September 2022, to highlight the severe impacts of climate change already affecting communities around the world; notes that climate change induced loss and damage is projected to cost between \$290bn and \$580bn a year by 2030 in developing countries alone, and that at present this cost is set to fall on the communities affected, who have done little or nothing to cause the problem; further notes that communities in the UK are also increasingly affected by the escalating impacts of climate change, including this summer's wildfires; believes that the UK and other developed countries have a responsibility to provide financial support to developing countries experiencing loss and damage; calls on the Government to pledge its support for a loss and damage finance facility ahead of COP27 in November; and further calls on the Government to prioritise this issue in its diplomatic efforts during the remainder of the UK's COP26 Presidency.

EDM619 – 16 Days of activism against gender-based violence campaign – 28th November 2022

David Linden MP, 24 signatures

That this House supports 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence which is an annual international campaign which commenced this year on 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and will run until Human Rights Day on 10th December; recognises that violence against women and girls is the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide; notes with regret that violence against women and girls is estimated to affect more than one in three women, a figure that has remained largely unchanged over the last decade; commends the objectives of the campaign which include calling for global action to increase awareness, galvanizing advocacy efforts and sharing knowledge and innovations to end violence against women and girls once and for all; and advocates for all to take part in the 16 Days of Activism and amplify the important work of women's rights activists.

EDM711 – Global Hunger and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (No.4) – 15th December 2022

Tony Lloyd MP, 16 signatures

That this House is concerned by the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia, where severe drought has left 9.9 million people facing hunger and 24 million in need of humanitarian assistance; highlights that 2.2 million children in Ethiopia are acutely malnourished; recognises the role that climate change plays in the scale and severity of this crisis; highlights that the UN has listed Ethiopia in the top five countries in need of humanitarian aid; highlights that the World Food Programme was only able to reach 10 per cent of mothers and children across northern Ethiopia needing nutrition support in August due to a lack of funding and supply shortages; emphasises the effects of the conflict in Tigray which has displaced hundreds of thousands and left 90 per cent of the region's population in acute need of food assistance; notes that between April 2021 and June 2022 at least 1,900 children under five died from malnutrition in Tigray; further notes that the World Food Programme says aid shipments to Tigray are not meeting needs, and that although roads into the region have opened since the peace agreement, delivery remains constrained; is dismayed that the world is set to fail the UN SDG of Zero Hunger by 2030; and calls on the Government to (a) do all it can to ensure sufficient humanitarian aid reaches Tigray, (b) support international and non-governmental humanitarian organisations operating in Ethiopia, and (c) restore the commitment to spending 0.7 per cent of GNI on international aid.

EDM816 – Preconception care strategy – 31st January 2023

Siobhan McDonagh MP, 11 signatures

That this House concurs with the WHO that preconception preparation enables the healthy pregnancy and confident parenthood that addresses the transmission of disparities in life chances across the generations; recognises that providing educational, biomedical, behavioural and social health interventions for young people, women and prospective parents prior to conception is of fundamental importance in improving pregnancy outcomes and children's subsequent physical and mental health, development, resilience and educational aptitude; understands that the importance of preconception care is accepted by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities within the Department for HSC; congratulates the UK Preconception Partnership for working across health, education and charitable sectors to normalise preconception preparations for a healthy pregnancy and parenthood and Children's Alliance for recommending the benefits in its Guide: Children's Health and Wellbeing, Reversing the Damage; and calls upon the Government to ensure that integrated preconception care is available to all people in the UK and prioritised in policy content across every Government Department.

House of Lords

Written Ministerial Statements

Hymenoplasty – 16th March 2022

The PUSS, Minister for Technology, Innovation and Life Sciences, Lord Kamall, read out MoS, Minister for CMH Gillian Keegan MP's statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 16th March 2022).

Northern Ireland Update – 24th March 2022

The PUSS for NI, Lord Caine, read out SoS for NI, Brandon Lewis MP, statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 24th March 2022).

Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan – 30th March 2022

SoS for HO, Baroness Williams of Trafford, read out SoS for the HD, Priti Patel MP's statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 30th March 2022).

Provisional Statistics on International Development 2021 – 28th April 2022

Minister for South and Central Asia, North Africa, UN and the Commonwealth, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, read out the statement made by the Minister for Europe and North America, James Cleverly MP, in the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 28th April 2022).

The Government's Legislative Programme (Northern Ireland) 2022-2023 – 11th May 2022

PUSS for NI, Lord Caine, read out SoS for NI, Brandon Lewis MP, statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 11th May 2022).

International Development Strategy – 16th May 2022

The Minister for South and Central Asia, North Africa, UN and the Commonwealth, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, read out the statement made by the SoS for FCDO, Elizabeth Truss MP, in the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 16th May 2022).

Ratification of the Istanbul Convention – 17th May 2022

The SoS for HO, Baroness Williams of Trafford, read out SoS for the HD, Priti Patel MP's statement from the HoC. (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 17th May 2022)

Northern Ireland Update – 19th May 2022

The PUSS for NI, Lord Caine, read out SoS for NI, Brandon Lewis MP, statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 19th May 2022).

Women's Health Ambassador – 20th June 2022

The Minister for South and Central Asia, North Africa, UN and the Commonwealth, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, read out the statement made by the PUSS, Minister for Patient Safety and Primary Care, Maria Caulfield MP, in the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 20th June 2022).

International Development – 0.7 per cent of GNI on ODA target 2021 – 19th July 2022

The Minister for South and Central Asia, North Africa, UN and the Commonwealth, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, read the statement from the Minister for Asia and the Middle East, Amanda Milling MP, on the publication of the FCDO's Annual Report and Accounts 2021-2022 (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 19th July 2022).

Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan – Annual Report to Parliament 2021 – 19th July 2022

The Minister for South and Central Asia, North Africa, UN and the Commonwealth, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, read a statement from the Minister for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Vicky Ford MP (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 19th July 2022).

Work of the Home Office – 5th September 2022

The SoS for HO, Baroness Williams of Trafford, read out SoS for the HD, Priti Patel MP's statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 5th September 2022).

Public Order Bill – 24th October 2022

The PUSS for HO, Lord Sharpe of Epsom, made a statement on the Public Order Bill, informing the House that on Tuesday 18th October an amendment was inserted into the Public Order Bill by the HoC during a free vote. Clause 9 establishes designated areas (buffer zones) around abortion clinics where interference with people accessing or providing abortion services would be an offence. He concluded by saying that that he was sure this House will naturally wish to debate and scrutinise this amendment further.

Northern Ireland Update – 24th October 2022

The PUSS for NI, Lord Caine, read a statement from the SoS for NI, Chris Heaton-Harris MP (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 24th October 2022).

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria – 14th November 2022

The Minister for South and Central Asia, North Africa, UN and the Commonwealth, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, read a statement from the Minister for Development and Africa, Andrew Mitchell MP, (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 14th November 2022).

Northern Ireland Finances 2022/2023 – 24th November 2022

The PUSS for NI, Lord Caine, read a statement from the SoS for NI, Chris Heaton-Harris MP (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 24th November 2022).

Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative Strategy – 28th November 2022

The Minister for South and Central Asia, North Africa, UN and the Commonwealth, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, read a statement from the SoS for FCDA, James Cleverly MP. (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 28th November 2022).

Human Rights and Democracy Report 2021 – 9th December 2022

The Minister for South and Central Asia, North Africa, UN and the Commonwealth, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, read a statement from the SoS for FCDA, James Cleverly MP. (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 9th December 2022).

Work of the Home Office – 19th December 2022

The PUSS for HO, Lord Sharpe of Epsom, read a statement from the SoS for the HD, Suella Braverman MP (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 9th December 2022).

Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls – 21st February 2023

The PUSS for HO, Lord Sharpe of Epsom, read a statement from the SoS for the HD, Suella Braverman MP (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 21st February 2023).

UK Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan 2023-2027 – 23rd February 2023

The Minister for South and Central Asia, North Africa, UN and the Commonwealth, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, read a statement from the PUSS - FCDO, Leo Docherty MP (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 23rd February 2023).

International Women and Girls Strategy (2023-2030) – 8th March 2023

The Minister for South and Central Asia, North Africa, UN and the Commonwealth, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, read a statement from the SoS for FCDA, James Cleverly MP (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 8th March 2023).

FCDO Programme Allocations – 30th March 2023

The Minister for South and Central Asia, North Africa, UN and the Commonwealth, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, read a statement from the Minister for Development and Africa, Andrew Mitchell MP (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 30th March 2023).

Maternity Investigation Programme – 30th March 2023

The PUSS, Minister for the Lords, Lord Markham, read a statement from the PUSS (Minister for Mental Health and Women's Health Strategy) and PUSS (Minister for Women), Maria Caulfield MP (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 30th March 2023).

Legislation

Women, Peace and Security Bill – First Reading – 8th June 2022

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Hodgson of Abinger, introduced The Women, Peace and Security Bill; A PMB to support women in UK sponsored and supported conflict prevention, peace processes, mediation and diplomatic delegations; to ensure systematic gender consideration and responsiveness in UK foreign and defence policy; and for connected purposes.

Women, Peace and Security Bill – Second Reading – 28th October 2022

Baroness Hodgson of Abinger read her PMB a second time, opening the debate by playing tribute to the UK's work on women, peace and security and preventing sexual violence in conflict. She pointed out that, as Britain redefines its role in the world in the wake of Brexit and the pandemic, it is a time to build on all the investment and good work that has gone before and fight the growing challenges to gender equality and that this bill is another tool through which we can demonstrate our commitment and, more importantly, the implementation of our promises. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Sugg spoke in favour of the bill, saying that she had been delighted to see just last week that the UK was among the leaders of a landmark statement at the UN on SRHR. She expressed a hope that the UK will continue this leading role in international fora, and the Bill will help ensure that we do. Baroness Sugg also urged the FCDO to publish the long-promised Women and Girls' Strategy. APPG on PDRH Vice-Chair Baroness Northover also stressed that this was an area where the UK Government have a strong track record over many years. But that the cut in aid and the merging of DFID with the FCO has not helped the UK's reputation. She welcomed Andrew Mitchell MP as the lead ID in the FCDO and expressed the hope that he *"will help to make international development much more strategic in the department, recognising that women and girls need to be front and centre. That includes, for example, a major emphasis on family planning and reproductive health and rights"* and enquired if the Minister could inform us whether the FCDO will increase once again support in this area. She was followed by APPG on PDRH Secretary, Baroness Uddin, who also expressed support for the Bill and enumerated several examples of conflicts in the last century where systematic rape of women had occurred. APPG on PDRH Officer Lord Hussain and APPG on PDRH members Lord Purvis of Tweed and Lord Collins of Highbury also spoke in favour of the Bill. Baroness Hodgson summarised that *"There has been support from all around the House. The Bill simply enshrines into legislation what the Government say they support. I very much hope that we can all reflect on today's debate and find a way of working together to improve the Bill so that it is acceptable to the Government but also practical and impactful."*

Public Order Bill – Committee Stage – 22nd November 2022

During the committee stage of the Public Order Bill, various amendments to Clause 9 'Offence of interference with access to or provision of abortion services' were discussed. Baroness Sugg welcomed the Government's commitment at Second Reading to introduce zones around all clinics in England and Wales to ensure that women are able to access their legal right to abortion without harassment or intimidation. A number of amendments to clarify the wording of the clause were discussed. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Watkins of Tavistock, who had co-signed the amendments with Baronesses Sugg and Barker, pointed out the vulnerable state of mind of women accessing the services. The necessity of the buffer zones clause was debated by many of the anti-abortion MPs present who argued that the clause was 'criminalising prayer'. Clause 9 was moved without amendments.

Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Bill – First Reading – 23rd January 2023

Baroness Wyld introduced The Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) PMB and the Bill was read for the first time.

Public Order Bill – Report Stage – 30th January 2023

During the report stage of the Bill further amendments to Clause 9 dealing with buffer zones around abortion clinics were discussed. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Sugg, who had drafted Amendment 45, pointed out that the necessity for the clause had been debated thoroughly at the earlier stages, but that what was needed now was to amend the clause as it was received from the Commons to make it compliant with human rights. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Thornton supported this view, informing the House that the new amendment “*complies with the EHRC, recognises differences and proposes a framework that reflects the issues as they pertain to abortion provision in England and Wales*”. Division on Amendment 45 called. Division called off after three minutes due to lack of support for the Not-Contents when the Question was put a second time. Amendment 45 was agreed.



Baroness Sugg in Public Order Bill Debate, 30th January 2023

Public Order Bill – Third Reading – 21st February 2023

At the third reading of the Public Order Bill further amendments to the ‘Buffer Zone Clause’ were discussed. Baroness Sugg explained the ‘clarifying amendments’ in her name “*Amendments 1 to 4 make it clear that for an offence to be committed under Clause 10(1), the person mentioned in subsection (1)(a) to (1)(c) must be in the safe access zone for abortion clinics. Amendment 5 is a change in wording though not in intent, to follow current Ministry of Justice practice to refer only to a fine, as is done elsewhere in this Bill.*” Amendments 1-5 were consequently agreed.

Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Bill – Second Reading – 24th March 2023

Baroness Wyld introduced the Second Reading of the PMB and outlined the key components of the legislation, which would create a statutory entitlement to neonatal care leave, a statutory entitlement to neonatal care pay and make consequential amendments to other legislation, including adding references to neonatal care leave and pay where relevant. Neonatal care leave and pay will be available to each employed parent of babies who are admitted into neonatal care up to the age of 28 days and who have a continuous stay in hospital, or in other specified care settings, of seven full days or more. Neonatal care leave will be a day-one right, meaning that it will be available to an employee from their first day in a new job. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Lord Patel, formerly an obstetrician, spoke movingly in favour of the bill from his personal experience. The bill was consequently read a second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Bill – First Reading – 27th March 2023

Lords by Lord Wolfson of Tredegar introduced The Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public PMB and it was read for the first time.

Debates

Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence – 27th June 2022

Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town opened the take-note debate 'That the Grand Committee takes note of the CoE Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, laid before the House on 17th May'. She expressed delight that, ten years on from the very month when the Government signed the convention, they have finally tabled it for ratification, but raised concerns the Committee had about the reservation that the Government have added. Namely, that those women whose immigration status relies on that of their partner, in cases where it is the partner who is the perpetrator have no rights to residency status, so are forced to stay with their abuser or lose their right to residency. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Sugg supported this concern, saying that the Government were in danger of creating a two-tier system where migrant women were given a lesser status and fewer protections from violence. Baroness Sugg continued by asking the Minister when the FCDO's Women and Girls' Strategy will be published and welcomed the Foreign Secretary's commitment to restore funding to women and girls to pre-cuts levels. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover also expressed amazement that it had taken the UK ten years to reach the stage of ratifying the Convention and expressed dismay at the Government's exceptions, stating that it was *"astonishing that after a decade of foot-dragging, the Government now wish to have these exclusions. They are totally incompatible with our signature to the SDGs, and the position we have taken in our overseas programmes, if nothing else."* In his summing up Lord Sharpe of Epsom addressed the length of time taken in the ratification, saying that if the Government were to ratify a treaty before it was compliant with all its provisions, it would go against clear, long-standing government policy and risk being in breach of their legal obligations. On the subject of the exemptions the minister said that several other countries had ratified the Convention with exceptions, but that the Government's position might be reviewed in the light of the evaluation of the support for migrant victims scheme pilot.

Women's Health Strategy for England – 21st July 2022

Following the announcement of the publication of the Women's Health Strategy for England on 20th July, a debate was held in the HoL, opened by APPG on PDRH member Baroness Thornton who welcomed the 'rather late and delayed' strategy and the appointment of Professor Dame Lesley Regan as the first ever women's health ambassador for England. She also applauded the plan to remove barriers to IVF for female same-sex couples and the investment in ending inequalities of care for BAME women accessing maternity services. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Barker followed this by likewise welcoming Dame Lesley Regan to her new role and the praising the work that she had done in the report on contraceptive and reproductive healthcare, pointing out that every £1 spent on contraception is a saving of £9 in public health services and that if you invest that £1 in maternity services, the return-on-investment increases to £33. She also welcomed the statements made about access for same-sex couples to assisted reproduction. Baroness Penn, in summing up, said that the reason why SRH, and abortion in particular, were not covered in depth in this strategy was that the Department of HSC is developing an action plan to improve SRH, including ensuring that women can continue to access robust and high-quality abortion services, which they aim to publish this later this year.

UK Asylum and Refugee Policy – 9th December 2022

During a debate moved by the Archbishop of Canterbury 'That this House takes note of the principles behind contemporary UK asylum and refugee policy, and of the response to the challenges of forced migration.' Lord Sahota pointed out that many women awaiting progress on their asylum applications are forced to work in the sex industry to make ends meet and that many women face domestic violence as a result of being taken advantage of by predators.

Official Development Assistance – 15th December 2022

Lord Bruce of Bennachie opened the debate 'That this House takes note of His Majesty's Government's (HMG) approach to Official Development Assistance spending' in the place of APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover, who was unable to attend. He talked about his work in the IDC between 2005-2015 and stated that *"If poverty reduction was or is to be sustained, people need access to clean water and safe sanitation; health systems need to be established and sustained; girls and women need access to education and to reproductive health, including family planning, assistance during childbirth and safe abortion; and there needs to be an end to child marriage and female genital mutilation"*, he condemned the merger of DFID and the FCO and the cut to ODA. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Sugg also spoke of the UK's previous successes in ID, saying that we had much to be proud of but much we still needed to work on. She concentrated on two areas – Malaria, which disproportionately impacts women and girls, particularly pregnant women – and the recent cuts to UK aid, telling the House that a few weeks ago, at an international conference (the ICFP), she had *"shared a panel with an African parliamentarian. Who publicly criticised our actions, explaining how they were told that funding to provide women with contraception would be stopped, immediately, leaving them no time to find alternative resources. These are our partners and our allies who we have let down"*. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Hodgson of Abinger spoke of the rollback of the rights of women and girls globally. Saying *"The COVID pandemic hugely increased violence against women and the increase of conflict has fuelled abuse and sexual violence, as we so graphically heard at the PSVI conference two weeks ago. At the moment, the humanitarian response to GBV and SRHR is very underfunded. To achieve gender equality, women and girls need control over their own lives and bodies. Access to contraception is key. I am also concerned that the focus on maternal mortality has been lost."* She also pointed out the importance of the access to safe abortion, saying *"Safe abortion care saves lives, as every year, through lack of access to abortion, there are some 35 million dangerous backstreet abortions, resulting in the death of at least 23,000 women, with millions more left with injuries and disabilities."* APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan, APPG on PDRH Treasurer Baroness Jenkin of Kennington and members Lord Purvis of Tweed and Lord Collins of Highbury also spoke in the debate condemning the reduction to ODA.

International Women's Day – 10th March 2023

Baroness Scott of Bybrook opened the annual IWD debate 'That this House takes note of IWD and steps to support the education of women and girls in the United Kingdom and worldwide'. In her introduction she praised the FCDO's new International Women and Girls Strategy, made reference to her colleagues (which included 3 of our own members, attending on behalf of the APPG) at the UN CSW in New York and talked of the UK's commitment to girls' education worldwide. She also welcomed the appointment of Dame Lesley Regan as Women's Health Ambassador and the new Women's Health Strategy. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Barker talked about the "swingeing" FCDO cuts to ODA, which *"not only jeopardised particular programmes, services, the availability of medical interventions, drugs and treatments; they also did something far more serious but less commented upon. They jeopardised the 40 years of research that has gone into work on infectious diseases such as HIV"*. APPG on PDRH Treasurer Baroness Jenkin of Kennington spoke of the inequalities facing women in Afghanistan, where girls have been banned from going to school and women from university and women have been banned from various activities and jobs or told they can only do so if with a male chaperone. However, she spoke positively of the Government's focus on girls' education in both the new International Development Strategy and the Women and Girls Strategy published earlier this week, pointing out that investments in school-age girls have the highest returns in tackling future inequalities saying *"Achieving universal girls' education would practically end child marriage, halve infant mortality and drastically reduce early childbearing—some of the main drivers of gender inequality in the first place."* APPG on PDRH member Baroness Watkins of Tavistock talked about Dame Lesley Regan's report Better for Women, which highlighted the need to keep women in the workforce by embedding their health issues in workplace policies. Two common debilitating conditions mentioned are postnatal depression and the menopause, which can have significant physical and mental health consequences, making working life difficult, when it is well known that work is a really important preventer of mental ill-health. A survey conducted by Wellbeing of Women found that nearly a quarter had considered leaving their jobs because of the menopause. A study for the DWP estimated that if 0.6 million more postmenopausal women worked full-time, £20 billion could be added to GDP. The report recommended that the UK Government introduce mandatory menopause workplace education, training and policies to help keep women in work and to break the stigma associated with menopause.

Oral Parliamentary Questions

International Development Strategy – 6th June 2022

During oral questions Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale asked HMG when they will announce their new International Development Strategy. The MoS, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and FCDO, Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park, replied that the Government had published their UK strategy for ID on 16th May this year. APPG on PDRH member Lord Purvis of Tweed asked the Minister why the Government were not preparing for restoration of spending 0.7% of GNI on ODA. Lord Goldsmith responded that Government have committed to returning to 0.7% as soon as possible. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked why the Strategy did not include any specific prioritisation of nutrition, despite the Government's commitment at the recent summit to spend £1.5 billion over the next eight years and if the Government plan to keep to their previous commitment of reaching 50 million children, women and adolescent girls with nutrition-relevant programmes by 2025. Lord Goldsmith answered that *"educating girls, supporting their empowerment and protecting them against violence remains a key priority area for the Government"*. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Sugg interjected asking if, in relation to the women and girls spending commitment, could he confirm that that restoration of funding will happen in this financial year, and by how much the funding will be increased. Lord Goldsmith replied that the Foreign Secretary had confirmed that the FCDO will spend £745 million on bilateral women and girls' programmes this financial year and that this will restore bilateral spending to 2020-2021 levels.

Women's Rights to Reproductive Healthcare: United States – 28th June 2022

The MoS, FCDO, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, repeated an Answer to a UQ in the HoC by the Minister for Asia and the Middle East, Amanda Milling MP (see HoC Oral Parliamentary Questions: Women's Right to Reproductive Healthcare: United States – 28th June 2022). After the answer was read APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury pointed out that the overturning of Roe v Wade would give oxygen to the evangelical right across all continents and asked what the Government would do to support women, particularly civil society groups and other women's groups, to ensure that their human right to choose abortion if they need it is protected. Lord Ahmad replied that it is important that we stand up for the right for women to have access in this way, but that what is happening in the USA is a matter for the US, but the UK will retain its strong and principled stand in this respect. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Barker asked if, given that an incoming USA Government might reinstate a global gag at any time, the Government could pledge to reinstate some of the funding to UNFPA, which had been cut by 85%. She further asked if the Government could decriminalise abortion in this country. Lord Ahmad replied that various initiatives and discussions are currently under way to ensure the ability of every woman who so chooses to have rights and access to such facilities and that he could confirm that the Government have already allocated £60 million of funding to women and girls.

Maternity and Neo-Natal Services – 25th October 2022

Baroness Cumberlege asked HMG what steps they intend to take to implement the recommendations of the report by Dr Bill Kirkup on maternity and neonatal services in East Kent: "Reading the signals", published on 19th October. The PUSS, Department of HSC, Lord Markham, replied that it was the Government's intention is to review the recommendations alongside existing work to improve maternity outcomes, including the recommendations from the Ockenden report. He said that working with NHS England, the Government has also established an independent working group chaired by the RCM and the RCOG. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Blackstone asked if the Government accept that more funding is needed now for training and to support programmes to improve clinical practice and if so, how much funding the Government are prepared to allocate and when? She said that according to the HSC Select Committee recommends up to £350 million for staffing alone. Lord Markham replied that the Government have actually put £95 million on top of the £127 million investment into this area, but what is most important is outcomes not investment. He pointed out that there has been a reduction in stillbirths of 19% since 2010,

a reduction in neonatal mortality over 24 weeks of 36%, and a reduction in maternal mortality of 17%. APPG on PDRH Vice-Chair Lord Patel asked the Minister to agree to meet with Bill Kirkup, the author of the report, who has developed a matrix of standards of safety and outcomes that would apply to all maternity units to make them all high calibre, high standard and safe. Lord Markham said that his colleague Dr Caroline Johnson MP had already met with Dr Kirkup this week and they have undertaken to come back in the next four to six months with where we are on each of the recommendations.

Violence against Women and Domestic Abuse – 1st December 2022

Baroness Gale asked HMG what plans they have to remove the reservation on Article 59 of the CoE Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, now that they have ratified the convention. The PUSS, HO, Lord Sharpe of Epsom, replied that the Government are committed to tackling VAWG and were therefore delighted to ratify the Istanbul Convention in July and it came into force in the UK on 1st November. He said that they are carefully considering the findings of the Support for Migrant Victims Scheme pilot evaluation to ensure that migrant victims are supported effectively and remain committed to making a timely decision on whether it is appropriate to maintain our reservation on Article 59 of the convention. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Sugg asked if the Minister was able to give any more clarity on a timeline for that reconsideration. Lord Sharpe replied that the Government have also considered the recommendations in the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Safety Before Status report, and the follow-up report is due to be published before the end of this year. Under the terms of the Domestic Abuse Act, the Government has 56 days to respond to that, so the extension of the MVS pilot covers that 56 days and the Government will be responding within that timeframe.

UK Aid to Afghanistan – 11th January 2023

Lord Browne of Ladyton asked HMG what steps they intend to take in response to the report by the ICAI UK aid to Afghanistan: Country portfolio review, published on 24th November 2022; and in particular, its assessment that *"channelling funding in such high volumes through weak state institutions distorted the political process and contributed to entrenched corruption"*. The MoS, FCDO, Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park, replied that the UK Government welcomes the Commission's report and provided their formal response on 10th January. He continued that the Government recognise that large-scale financial support in conflict-affected contexts can come with considerable risk and that the Government will work with ICAI and colleagues across departments to fully assess the impact of these recommendations on wider government policies and will continue to press the Taliban Government to recognise the inalienable rights of women and girls. APPG on PDRH Member Lord Purvis of Tweed pointed out that UK support to the Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund, which was the biggest part of UK support under the previous Government, is now delivered through the World Bank and that part of that work is for women's economic empowerment, which is now impossible to deliver. He asked the Minister what mechanisms are in place for reassurance that UK taxpayers' money is not being provided through multilateral bodies which are directly or indirectly facilitating the Taliban in persecuting and repressing women? The MoS replied that the UK Government continues to work with the international community, including the G7, the G20 and various UN bodies, to press the Taliban to reverse their decision and to try to understand the implications of the recent ban, particularly in relation to women and girls working in NGOs, to try to ascertain the best possible mechanisms the UK Government can use to support those NGOs to continue their work. APPG on PDRH Vice-Chair Baroness Hodgson of Abinger asked how, now that women are being prevented from working for NGOs, the Government ensure that aid reaches women-headed households, which are the poorest of the poor and now have no means of support. Lord Goldsmith replied that it is very difficult for NGOs in that country to deliver the kinds of services and support that they provided, which is why the Government's principal goal has to be to heap pressure on the Taliban to reverse their decision. Until that decision is reversed, he observed, there is no easy answer to this question.

Afghanistan: British Council Staff – 9th February 2023

APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Hussein-Ece asked HMG what progress they have made in helping relocate former British Council staff, living in danger in Afghanistan since 2021, who qualify for the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme. The MoS, FCDO, Lord Ahmad, replied that progress continues to be made to support those eligible under the first year of pathway 3 of the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme and the Government have now allocated around 60% of the 1,500 available places to the British Council contractors, GardaWorld contractors and Chevening scholars, including their dependents. He added that an increasing number of individuals are now also safely in a third country and being provided with UK-funded accommodation and other support, while awaiting further checks prior to travelling to and securing accommodation in the UK. Baroness Hussein-Ece pointed out that British Council teachers were recruited and directly employed by the British Council, to teach English and inclusion to combat violent extremism and she asked, given that this British Council work was supported by the UK Government's ODA budget, what further action the FCDO is taking to ensure that the British Council honours its obligations and responsibilities to those it employed in Afghanistan and does more to help those who have not got the means to buy visas to get out to safety in a third country. Lord Ahmad said that the Government work very closely and have regular meetings with the British Council and get regular updates on progress. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury pointed out that there are 9,000 people who are still at risk in Afghanistan and that we owe a duty to them.

Maternity Services – 9th February 2023

APPG on PDRH member Lord Patel asked HMG what steps they intend to take in response to the CQCs Maternity Survey 2022, published on 11th January. The PUSS, Department of HSC, Lord Markham replied that the Government will continue to closely monitor progress in improving the standard of maternity care across the country and have made significant investment into maternity and neonatal services, with £127 million announced in 2022 to go into the maternity system to help to increase the NHS maternity workforce and improve neonatal care. Lord Patel expressed his approval that the Minister, the honourable Maria Caulfield MP had met with Dr Kirkup, the author of the report and his hope that the Government would take seriously the need for zero tolerance of mothers dying in our maternity units and zero tolerance of normally formed babies dying or being damaged in childbirth. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Manzoor asked what the Government are doing to take steps to address the lack of continuity of care, currently only offered to 37% of women. Lord Markham replied that this is being built into the workforce plan, starting with ensuring that we have new people coming in. He informed the house that 1,200 graduates are now going into training each year. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Barker claimed that reports show that the current system of treating maternity and reproductive health services on an episodic basis is costly and inefficient. She asked the Government to review that so that we can begin to go back to the system where staff were trained in both maternity and general nursing so we could treat women on the basis of the whole of their lifestyle and get back to doing the most important jobs, such as making postpartum contraception available, which in the end would not only enable women to be treated more safely, but also save the NHS money. Lord Markham replied that her question deserves a more detailed reply than he could give here in 30 seconds, but that he agreed and would follow up with a more detailed response.

Women's Safety – 8th March 2023

Baroness Donaghy asked HMG what steps they are taking to improve women's safety from domestic violence and in the streets. Lord Murray of Blidworth, the PUSS, HO, replied that the Government have provided £125 million through the safer streets and safety of women at night funds and announced new measures to crack down on domestic abusers, including the locations of domestic abuse protection order pilot sites. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Janke pointed out that confidence on the part of women that sexual and violent crimes against them will be properly investigated is at an all-time low and asked what will be done to make sure that the police focus on the crime and the offender rather than on undermining the reputation of the victim. Lord Murray answered that his department wanted to ensure that women and girls have confidence in the police and in January had launched a fund worth £36 million for police and

crime commissioners to increase the availability of interventions for domestic abuse perpetrators. He expressed a hope that these measures would generate increased confidence among women and girls. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Thornton asked if it was time to take the offence of indecent exposure more seriously, and how might that be achieved. Lord Murray replied that the Government planned to support the upcoming Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Bill and pointed to the money that has already been spent under the safer streets fund and the safety of women at night fund.

Written Parliamentary Questions

Members of Parliament tabled a wide variety of SRHR, FP and population-related written PQs this year on the following subjects, which are available on the APPG on PDRH [website](#):

Abortion
Abortion: Clinics
Africa: Development Aid
British Nationals Abroad: Marriage
Cervical Cancer Screening
Columbia: Peace Negotiations
Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
Democratic Republic of Congo: Development Aid
Developing Countries: Females
Development Aid
Development Aid: Health Services
Domestic Abuse
Forced Marriage
Female Genital Mutilation: Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions
Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions
Female Genital Schistosomiasis: Health Services
Gender Based Violence
Genito-Urinary Medicine: HIV Infection
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: Females
HIV Infection: Discrimination
HIV Infection: Health Services
HIV Infection: Menopause
HIV Infection: Prescription Drugs
HIV Infection: Research
Maternity Services: Ethnic Groups
PHE Reproductive Health, Sexual Health and HIV Innovation Fund
Pakistan: Females
Pregnancy: Humanitarian Aid
Preventative Medicine
South Africa: Contraceptives
Sudan: Humanitarian Aid
USA: Gender Based Violence
Ukraine – Armed Forces
Victim Support Schemes: Women
Zimbabwe: Maternal Mortality

UK GOVERNMENT MEETINGS, CORRESPONDANCE, CONSULTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

The FCDO Ministerial team April 2022 - March 2023



The Rt Hon Liz Truss MP

*FCDO Secretary of State and Minister for Women and Equality
September 2021 – September 2022*



The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP

*FCDO Secretary of State
September 2022 – present date*



Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

*Minister of State (Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and UN) and the Commonwealth & Prime Minister's Special Representative on PSVI
June 2017 – present date*



Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP

*FCDO Minister of State for International Development
October 2022 – present date*



The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP

*FCDO Minister of State (Indo Pacific)
October 2022 – present date*



Leo Docherty MP

*FCDO Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Europe)
October 2022 – present date*



David Rutley MP

*FCDO Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
(Americas and Caribbean)
October 2022 – present date*



The Rt Hon Amanda Milling MP

*FCDO Minister of State (Asia and the Middle East)
February 2022 – September 2022*



Vicky Ford MP

*FCDO Minister of State for Development
September 2022 – October 2022*



Helen Grant MP

*Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Girls' Education
January 2021 – present date*



Alicia Herbert OBE

*Special Envoy for Gender Equality
January 2021 – present date*

Other Management and Representatives please see here: [Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-commonwealth-development-office)

The FCDO SRHR civil service team is situated in the Global Health and C-19 Directorate within the Human Development Department. Its remit includes policy on HIV, FP, FGM and the continuum of sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health.

UK Government Meetings & Correspondence

APPG on PDRH officers, other members and staff have been in regular communications with FCDO Ministers and staff via emails, letter writing and virtually as well as at in-person meetings.

In the spring 2022, conversations were held with FCDO and British HC, Uganda in connection with the forthcoming APPG on PDRH study tour to Uganda. In May - June 2022 study tour delegates met with Kate Airey, British High Commissioner, Uganda to discuss UK support to SRHR in-country including support to the UK WISH and RISE programmes and the UNFPA supplies partnership.



Kate Airey , British HC, Uganda with Study Trip Delegates

In April 2022 Baroness Sugg wrote to Amanda Milling MP, MoS, FCDO welcoming her in her new position, highlighting the importance of SRHR and requested a meeting to discuss her SRHR priorities and the forthcoming WPD reception. A positive response was received with her agreeing to be the key-note speaker at the July 2022 WPD reception in HoL, this was subsequently not possible for the Minister to enact (please see Briefing Meetings Section for further information).

In September 2022 Baroness Hussein-Ece wrote to James Cleverley MP, SS, FCDO, welcoming him in his new position, highlighting the importance of SRHR and requesting a meeting to discuss SRHR. Vicky Form MP, MoS, FCDO and the Minister for Development responded and highlighted her support to SRHR and availability to meet with members. She referenced the International Development Strategy published in May 2022 as well as the forthcoming Women and Girls Strategy soon to be published and FCDO using its full range of levers at its disposal to deliver on the 3Es (Educating girls, Empowering women and Ending VAWG).

Securing a meeting with the relevant Minister with the SRHR portfolio was deferred several times due to the numerous ministerial changes this year, but eventually came to fruition. Likewise, it has been difficult to maintain a close dialogue with SRHR civil servants due to the merger of DFID into FCO and various staff change-overs. However, a meeting between APPG on PDRH members and the new FCDO minister and civil servants finally took place in February 2023 when Andrew Mitchell MP was appointed, Minister, FCDO and later MoS for ID.

In attendance at 6th February 2023 meeting were:

Andrew Mitchell MP, MoS for ID, FCDO

Reema Butt, SRHR team, Global Health Directorate, FCDO

Helen Bryer, Head SRHR team, Global Health Directorate, FCDO

Baroness Sugg

Baroness Jenkin

Baroness Hodgson

Baroness Blackstone
Baroness Mobarik
Baroness Gohir
Baroness Uddin
Viscount Craigavon
Lord Hussain
Dan Carden MP
Anthony Mangnall MP
Virendra Sharma MP
Peter Bottomley MP
Sarah Champion MP
Tommy Sheppard MP

Baroness Sugg welcomed Andrew Mitchell MP to the round table meeting and he proceeded by outlining the UK's leadership and commitment to women and girls and SRHR/FP globally. He acknowledged the difficulties with a reduction in UK ODA including disbursements to SRHR/FP, but reiterated that collaboration and partnerships with businesses, pharmaceuticals, trusts and foundations should be explored and promoted to secure an increase in funding.

He made reference to his recent travel undertaken to review FCDO SRHR programmes, the forthcoming CSW in New York and FP Conference in Rwanda and UK's International Development Strategy published in May 2022 and the soon to be published Women and Girls' Strategy, which he noted as being a leap forward for women's and girls' rights.

A question-and-answer session followed with a focus on how UK will demonstrate leadership on SRHR with the reduction in funding as the UK International Development Strategy published in May 2022 did not reference any commitment to ODA spend on SRHR unlike the 2015 strategy. Reference was made on spending ODA where most needed and effective with a focus on fragile and conflict effected states with partners tackling root causes of instability, conflict and human suffering.

ID strategy SRHR highlight extracts here:

'Our work will focus on delivering honest, reliable investment, providing women and girls with the freedom they need to succeed, stepping-up our life-saving humanitarian work and taking forward our commitments on climate change, nature and global health.'
"Para 16. Empower women and girls, unlocking the social, economic and political agency of all people:

- drive progress on universal, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) including on the fight to end FGM and other harmful practices;*
- work to ensure women's voices are heard at all social, political and economic levels. It is essential they can hold leaders to account without fear and participate fully in the economy; and*
- improve economic security for girls and women, targeting the longstanding inequalities women and girls face. These include the unpaid care burden, and lack of access to and control over, for example, land, finance, digital connectivity and skills, information and services"*

The International Development Strategy outlined a significant shift to bilateral funding stating: *"By 2025, three quarters of funding will be spent this way."*

In May 2022 the APPG on PDRH received a letter from FCDO in response to written evidence submitted to its International Strategy. Sarah Champion MP, Chair of the ID Select Committee and member of the APPG on PDRH said in response to the newly published Strategy: *"A double whammy against the global poor... This scant document is little more than a rehash of existing slogans when what the aid sector needs is vision. The document is advocating aid for trade."*

In November 2022 Baroness Hussein-Ece and Pauline Latham MP wrote to Lord Ahmad requesting participation in the forthcoming PSVI Conference in London due to the lack of parliamentary involvement. A

positive response was received and all members of the APPG on PDRH were subsequently personally invited to attend (please see Conference Section for further information).

In December 2022 the APPG on PDRH communicated with FCDO in connection with the forthcoming Malta Bill on abortion, in January 2023 communications related to APPG on PDRH annual reports and activities including hearings and reports and in March 2023 communications related to the numerous UK parliamentary delegations attending CSW in New York and meetings with the UK UN Mission in New York (please see International Conferences Section for further information).

Please find sample communications and letters enclosed at appendix 10

UK Government & ID Committee Consultations

The APPG on PDRH submitted written evidence on 6th September 2021 in response to FCDO request for written evidence to its International Development Strategy. The strategy was finally published May 2022.

Please find submission enclosed at appendix 11

The UK APPG on PDRH submitted written evidence in April 2023 in response to the UK ID Select Committee inquiry on SRHR. Oral evidence sessions are progressing with evidence already presented by CBM UK, Kaleidoscope Trust, Salamander Trust, Global Inclusive Health at Humanity & WHO, Frontline AIDS, MSI, UNFPA, PSI, FSRH, Orchid Project and ActionAid. Andrew Mitchell MP, Minister for ID, FCDO is due to give evidence in September 2023.

Please find submission enclosed at appendix 12

UK Government Publications

[UK government's strategy for international development](#) – 16th May 2022

[FCDO Services Annual Report and Accounts 2021 to 2022](#) – 7th July 2022

[UK humanitarian framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) – 10th November 2022

[Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative \(PSVI\) Conference 2022](#) – 28th November 2022

[Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative strategy](#) – 28th November 2022

[Addressing the climate, environment, and biodiversity crises in and through girls' education](#) – 8th December 2022

[UK women, peace and security national action plan 2023 to 2027](#) – 23rd February 2023

[International women and girls strategy 2023 to 2030](#) – 8th March 2023

The UK Government's Strategy for International Development

May 2022



CP 676

UK Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan 2023-2027



International Women and Girls Strategy 2023–2030



INTERNATIONAL FUNDING TO FP/SRHR & HIV/AIDS

In 2020, the UK Government announced a temporary reduction in ODA from 0.7% of GNI to 0.5% of GNI. The UK Government committed to return to spending 0.7% as soon as the fiscal situation allows.

FCDO published the Annual Report and Accounts for 2022 – 2023 on 17th July 2023 and these are available here: [Annual Report & Accounts for 2022–23](#).

Summary extracts and key points from FCDO annual report 2022 – 2023:

- *Provisional ODA:GNI ratio for 2022 was 0.51%*
- *UK ODA in 2022 was £12,774 million, an increase of £1,352 million (11.8% increase) on 2021. It was 14,000 million in 2020*
- *UK bilateral ODA spend in 2022 was £9,447 million while UK multilateral ODA was £3,327 million*
- *In 2022, £3,686 million of ODA was in the form of in-donor refugee costs (28.9% of UK total ODA). This represents a £2,634 million increase compared to 2021 when its share of total ODA was 9.2%*
- *FCDO spent £7,636 million in 2022 compared with £8,175 million in 2021 (a decrease of £539 million). The FCDO's share of total UK ODA stood at 59.8% in 2022 compared to 71.6% in 2021*
- *non-FCDO spend on ODA in 2022 was £5,138 million, compared with £3,248 million in 2021 (an increase of £1,891 million). The non-FCDO share was 40.2%, up from 28.4% in 2020*
- *In 2022, total FCDO ODA attributed to a specific region decreased by 3.3% to £2,514 million. Africa and Asia received a reduced share of ODA, with the share to Africa decreasing from 52.3% to 44.1% (£1,109 million). Europe, the Americas and Pacific received an increase in ODA, with the volume of FCDO ODA to Europe increasing from £61 million to £310 million*
- *Europe, Americas and Pacific experienced an increase in FCDO region-specific bilateral ODA in 2022 with Europe receiving £310 million (up £249 million, 405% from 2021), the majority of which was for the benefit of Ukraine. The share of region-specific bilateral ODA this represented increased from 2.4% to 12.3%.*

UK ODA contribution to UN & International NGOs

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
UNFPA - Core	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000
UNFPA - Non-core	203,290,000	94,690,000	87,470,000	120,470,000	148,880,000	189,930,000	69,660,000	57,320,000	97,510,000
United Nations Population Fund - Total	223,290,000	114,690,000	107,470,000	140,470,000	168,880,000	209,930,000	89,660,000	65,320,000	105,510,000
IPPF - Non-core	9,600,000	9,040,000	6,430,000	0	5,480,000	34,940,000	49,170,000	42,530,000	22,230,000
IPPF - Total	9,600,000	9,040,000	6,430,000	0	5,480,000	34,940,000	49,170,000	42,530,000	22,230,000
WHO - Core	14,500,000	14,500,000	14,500,000	19,500,000	29,500,000	34,500,000	5,000,000	97,600,000	97,750,000
WHO - Non-core	84,510,000	102,150,000	88,670,000	111,400,000	142,640,000	150,180,000	215,900,000	35,530,000	43,650,000
WHO - Assessed contribution (DHSC)	11,500,000	11,830,000	12,000,000	12,190,000	12,790,000	13,000,000	13,260,000	12,490,000	13,400,000
WHO - Total	110,510,000	128,480,000	115,170,000	143,090,000	184,930,000	197,680,000	234,160,000	145,610,000	154,800,000
UNICEF - Core	48,000,000	48,000,000	48,000,000	48,000,000	48,000,000	48,000,000	48,000,000	24,000,000	8,000,000
UNICEF - Non-core	275,130,000	287,590,000	353,970,000	400,070,000	401,460,000	429,220,000	412,740,000	201,540,000	202,170,000
UNICEF - Total	323,130,000	335,590,000	401,970,000	448,070,000	449,460,000	477,220,000	460,740,000	225,540,000	210,170,000
UNAIDS - Core	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	2,500,000	8,000,000
UNAIDS - Total	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	2,500,000	8,000,000
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria - Core	285,000,000	100,000,000	152,940,000	317,060,000	360,000,000	370,000,000	476,000,000	380,000,000	434,000,000
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria - Total	285,000,000	100,000,000	152,940,000	317,060,000	360,000,000	370,000,000	476,000,000	380,000,000	434,000,000
UN Women - Core	12,500,000	12,500,000	12,500,000	12,500,000	12,500,000	12,500,000	12,500,000	5,750,000	0
UN Women - Non-core	490,000	4,190,000	8,310,000	6,850,000	4,900,000	13,400,000	6,910,000	3,430,000	4,700,000
UN Women - Total	12,990,000	16,690,000	20,810,000	19,350,000	17,400,000	25,900,000	19,410,000	9,180,000	4,700,000
MSI - Non Core	15,661	19,717	22,941	46,342	62,344	46,716	48,433	33,283	21,274
MSI - DFID - Programme Partnership Agreement	5,441	3,265	4,353	0	0	0	0	0	0
MSI - Total	21,101,000	22,982	27,274	46,352	62,344	46,716	48,433	33,283	21,274

Source: Statistics on International Development: Final UK Aid Spend 2021 and HoL Hansard; MSI funding figures by MSI

DFID/FCDO bilateral expenditure directly targeting HIV & AIDS

Input Sector Code	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018	2019	2020	2021
13041 HIV/AIDS including STI Prevention	69	50.3	37.5	25.7	21.5	22.7	9.8	6.8	5.2	9 *	6 *
13042 HIV/AIDS including STI Treatment and Care	27.3	40.2	10.9	8.1	5.7	4.4	2.5	3.2	3.1		
Grand Total	96.3	46.1	48.4	33.8	27.2	27.1	12.3	10.1	8.28	9	6

* This is code "13040" and is the official OECD DAC code for both "13041" and "13042". These codes were defined and solely used by former DFID. They did not exist in former FCO spend data and would not provide a complete picture for the FCDO.

DFID/FCDO bilateral expenditure directly targeting Reproductive Health

Input Sector Code	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018	2019	2020	2021
13010 Population Policy and Administrative Management	6.1	5.4	11.5	4.3	3.1	3.9	6.3	4	6	11	7
13021 Reproductive Health Care	108.9	36.7	49.4	55.4	46.3	51.4	49.8	45.5	49.4	109 *	55 *
13022 Maternal and Neonatal Health	121.4	125.8	163.4	207	124.7	122.5	134	117.3	99.3		
13030 Family Planning, Health	43.8	109.7	127	124.5	121	108.2	159.1	174.5	252.1	164	129
13081 Personnel Development for Population and Reproductive Health			9.3	12.9	18.6	21	22.7	17.1	15	11	3
Grand Total	280.1	277.6	360.6	404.1	313.7	307.2	371.9	358.5	421.3	293	194

* This is code "13020" and is the official OECD DAC code for both "13021" and "13022".
In 2018 UK Government started tracking bilateral ODA January – December as opposed to UK financial year April – March.

UK Bilateral ODA: 20 top recipients



UK ODA level 1970-2022 (£ millions)

Figure 1: UK ODA levels (£ billions) and ODA:GNI ratios (%), 1970 - 2022

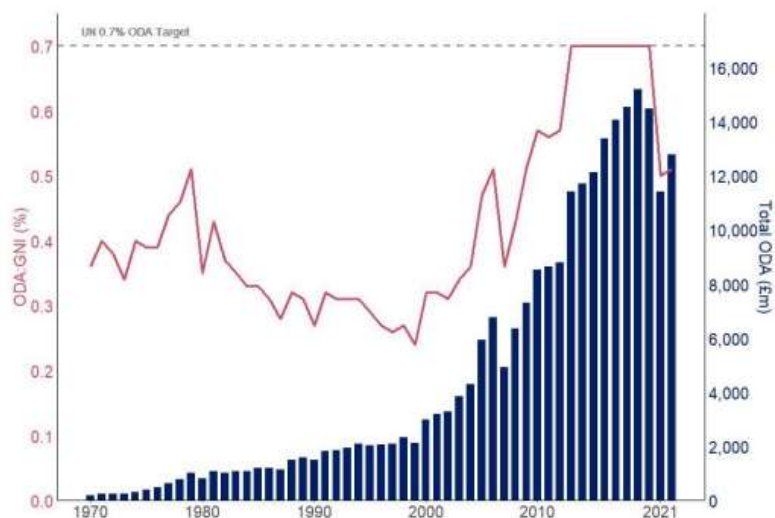


Figure 1 legend: The blue bars represent UK ODA spend from 1970 to 2022, the pink line is the calculated ODA:GNI ratio from 1970 to 2022 and the grey dashed line is the 0.7% ODA:GNI target set by the United Nations General Assembly in 1970. From 2018 onwards, ODA has changed from being measured on a cash basis to being measured on a grant equivalent basis, following a decision taken by the DAC in 2014.³

Provisional ODA from DAC Donors, 2022

Figure 17: Provisional ODA from DAC donors, 2022

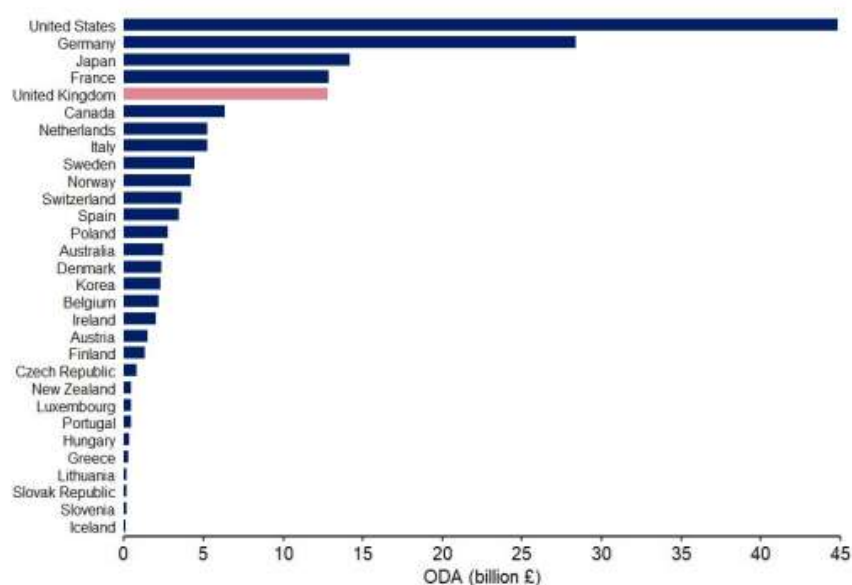


Figure 17 legend: Comparing the UK ODA (billion £) spend with other DAC donor countries in 2022. The UK spend is highlighted in pink with the other donors in dark blue. Note that provisional 2022 spend from other DAC donors is used in this chart.

Provisional ODA/GNI ratios from DAC Donors, 2022

Figure 18: DAC donors' provisional ODA:GNI ratio, 2021 and 2022

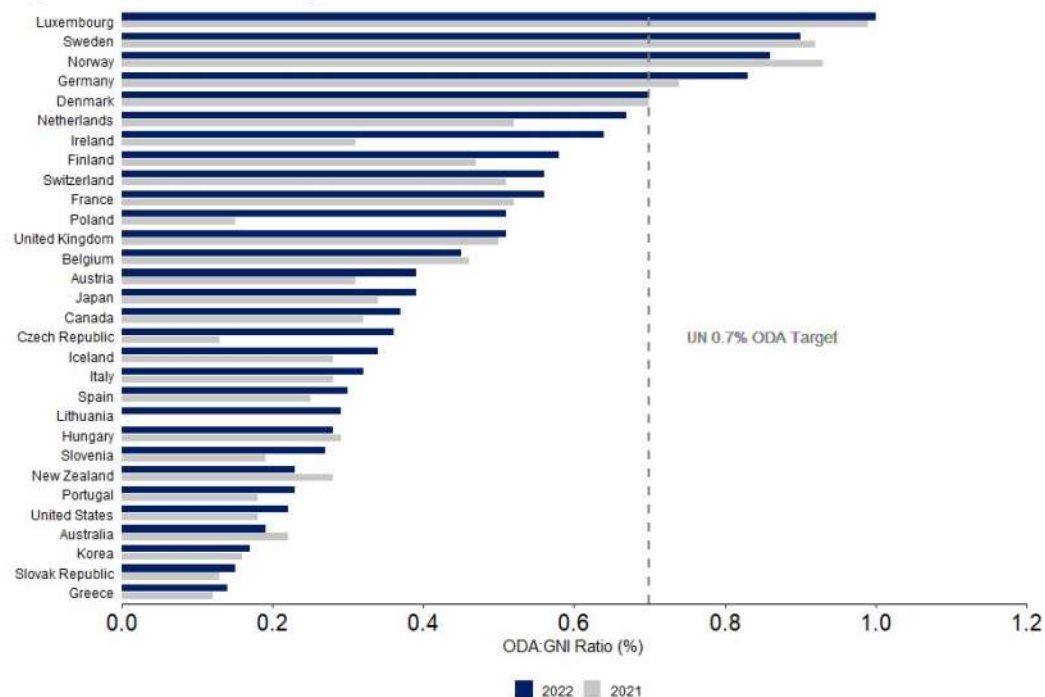


Figure 18 legend: ODA spend in terms of GNI comparing 2021 and 2022 spend for each DAC donor country (ODA:GNI ratio). In dark blue is the 2022 ODA:GNI ratio and in grey is 2021 ratio. The vertical dashed line indicates the 0.7% ODA:GNI UN target. Note that provisional 2022 spend from other DAC donors is used in this chart²⁶ and Lithuania became a member of the DAC in 2022 and therefore did not report ODA spend in 2021.

Below are latest UK SRHR ODA funding figures available from EPF Donor's Delivering on SRHR 2023 report here: [DD_Report2023_v6_spreads-1.pdf \(donorsdelivering.report\)](#)

The report notes that;

"The UK has a long tradition of strongly supporting SRHR in its international cooperation however total disbursements as percentage of ODA reduced drastically i.e., 26.8% between 2019 to 2021 after the announcement of a reduction in UK total ODA from 0.7% of GNI to 0.5% of GNI.

The UK has various strategies of importance to SRHR, including:

- *2021 Ending Preventable Deaths of Mothers, Babies and Children approach paper;*
- *2022 International Development Strategy*
- *The Action Plan on Girls' Education also includes a specific policy commitment to FP2030*
- *2023 International Women and Girls' Strategy which has a focus on neglected areas of SRHR, including safe abortion, comprehensive sexuality education, support for women with disabilities and SRHR in humanitarian emergencies and also acknowledges that the global rollback on women and girls' rights, which is well funded and well organised, is one of the SRHR's greatest threats.*

In 2020 and 2021, the UK provided annual totals of £2.25 billion and £1.28 billion, respectively, of bilateral ODA to countries/regions classed as fragile or conflict affected (FCAS) where gender equality was identified by project teams either a significant or principal aim of the spend. This amount represented 23.6% and 17.9% of total UK bilateral ODA in these respective years. The list of FCAS are defined by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

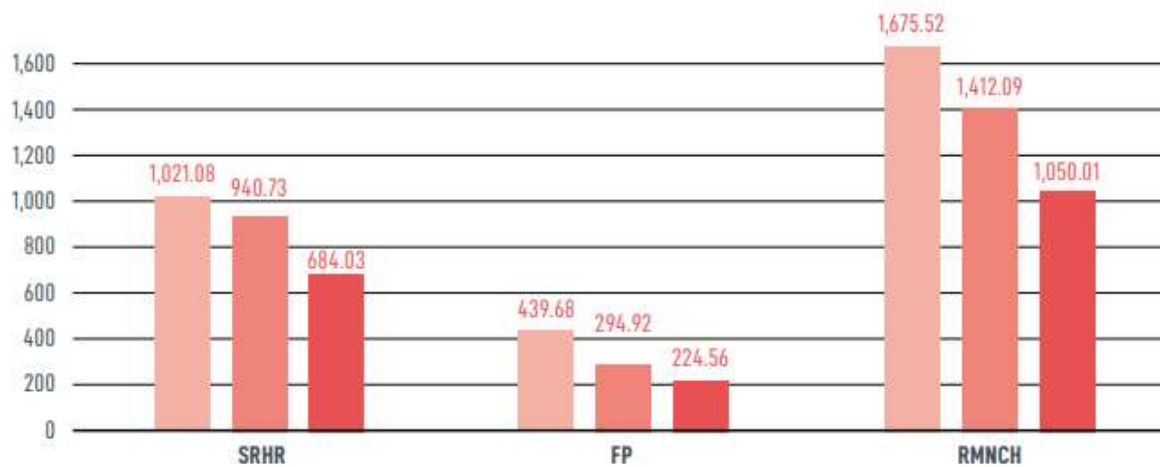
The FCDO will continue to prioritise efforts to address the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and girls, as set out in the new Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan and the International Women and Girls Strategy, including to ensure a strong focus on gender equality in our programming.

UK SRHR ODA Disbursements 2020 and 2021

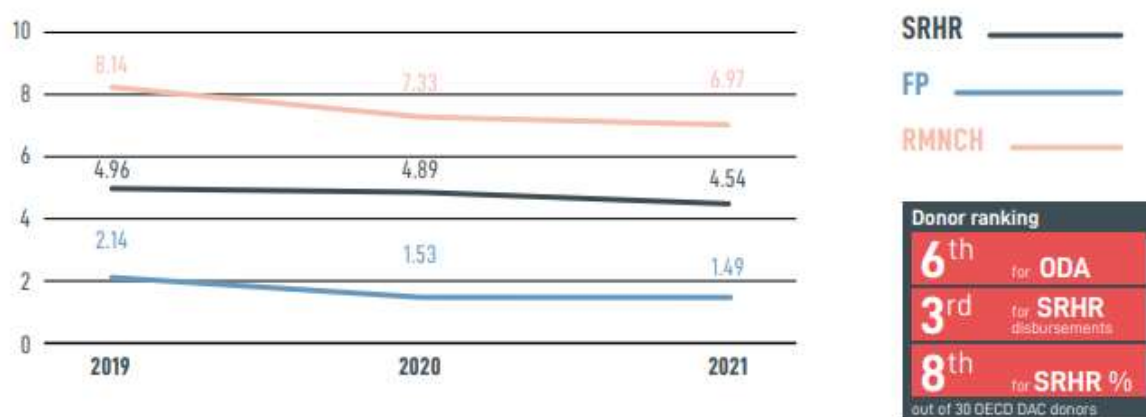
	Total UK SRHR	Core Multilateral UK SRHR	Bilateral UK SRHR	Yearly SRHR disbursement as % of total UK ODA
2020	£645.34m	£311.52m	£333.82m	4.89%
2021	£469.25m	£263.18m	£206.07m	4.54%

UK SRHR, FP & RMNCH Disbursements 2019 - 2021

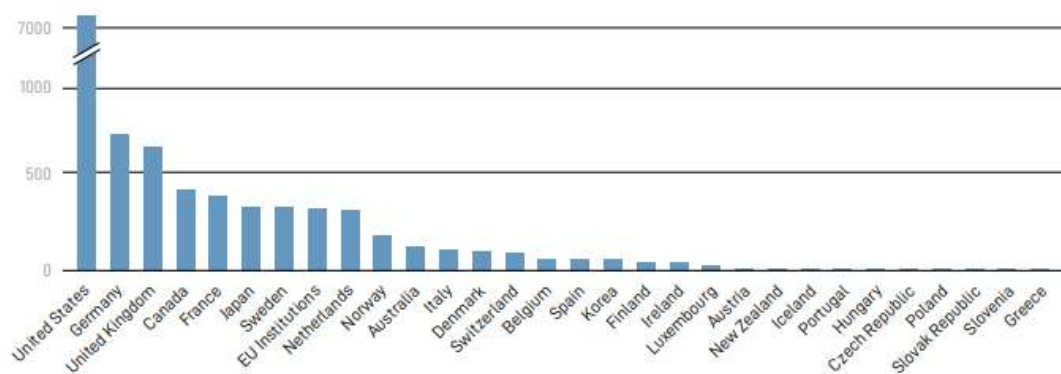
SRHR, FP and RMNCH disbursements in million USD, 2020 constant prices, for 2019 2020 2021



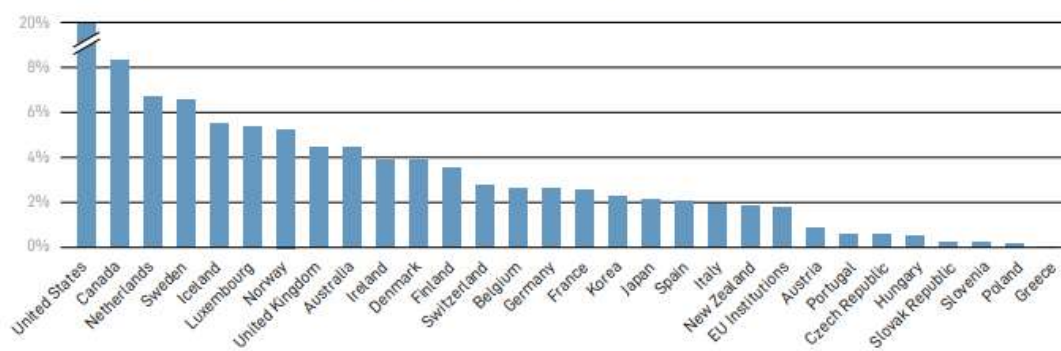
Yearly SRHR, FP and RMNCH disbursements as a percentage of total ODA, 2019–2021



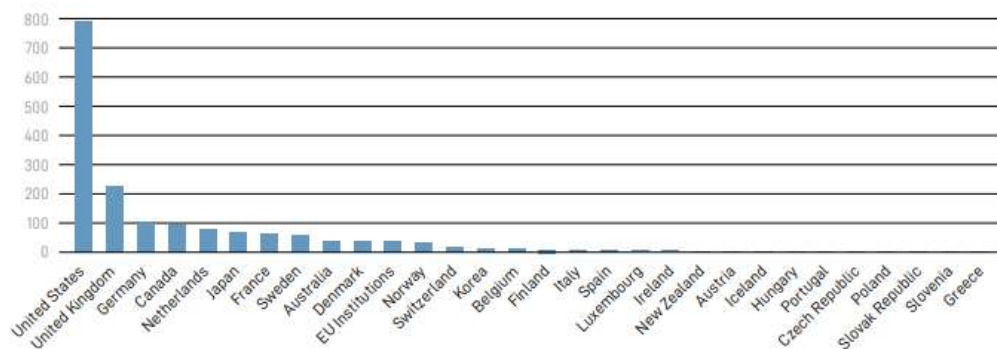
2021 SRHR disbursements in million USD, 2020 constant prices



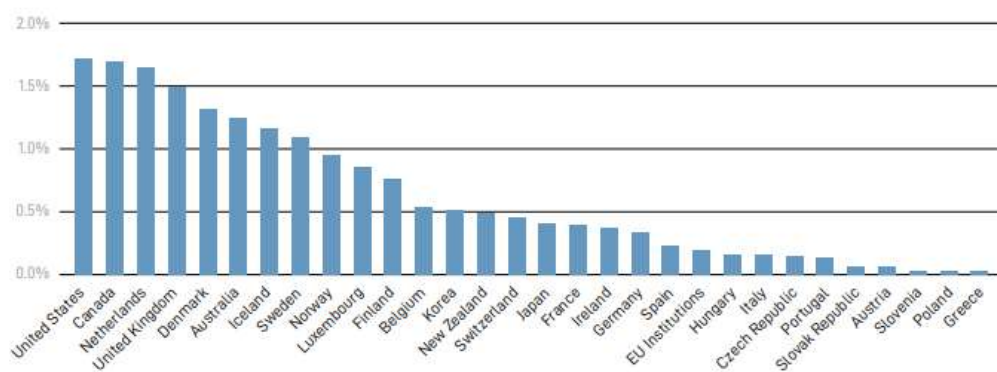
2021 SRHR disbursements as a percentage of ODA



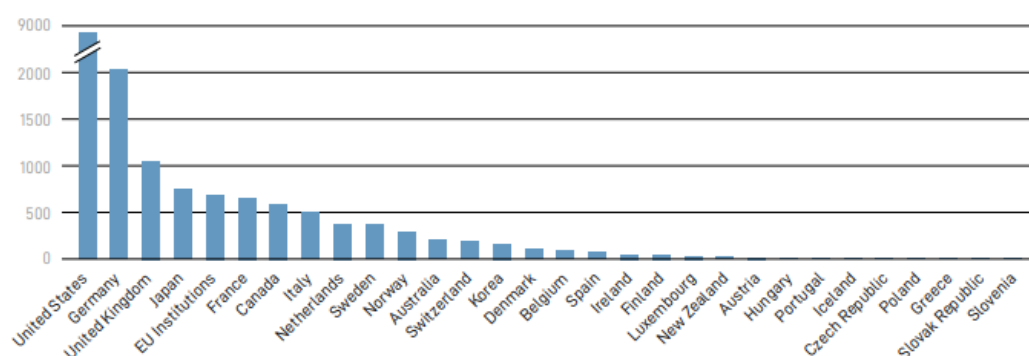
2021 FP disbursements in million USD, 2020 constant prices



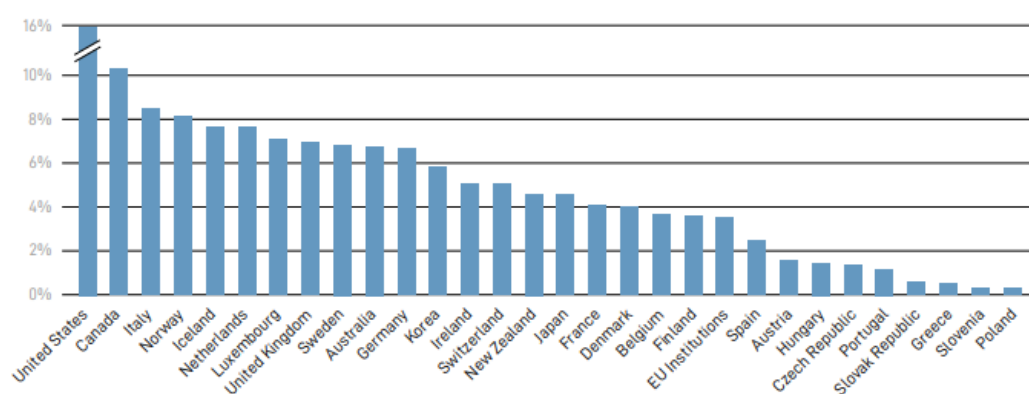
2021 FP disbursements as a percentage of ODA



2021 RMNCH disbursements in million USD, 2020 constant prices



2021 RMNCH disbursements as a percentage of ODA



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

GPA and UNFPA conference: A Caribbean - African Dialogue: Investing in young people's health and futures: ensuring equitable access to reproductive health information and services, 10th – 11th May 2022, Barbados



Baroness Northover with GPA and UNFPA delegation, Barbados, Caribbean conference

Baroness Northover attended above GPA conference alongside 20 MPs and Ministers from Caribbean-, Africa-, Americas- and European regions alongside UNFPA representatives and commodities experts. This was a GPA event focusing on young people's health and futures and the need to ensure equitable access to reproductive health information and services.

The event was organised as a continuation of the work started during the first Caribbean congress on adolescent and youth health (CCAYH) organised by the Caribbean community (CARICOM) in Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago) on 14th – 17th October 2019.

The event provided a platform for parliamentarians from around the world to discuss, share ideas and ultimately, to advocate for better health care, expanding human rights and to meet the SDGs, both in their home countries and abroad with a particular focus on adolescents.

Despite recent socioeconomic growth in the LAC region, adolescent fertility rates in the region remain high—the second highest in the world after sub-Saharan Africa—with major inequities between and within countries. Girls from families in the lower wealth quintile, with lower levels of education, and from Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities are disproportionately affected by adolescent pregnancy.

Baroness Northover presented and reflected on the UK 10-year Teenage Pregnancy Strategy introduced 1999 – 2010 and beyond and highlighted its challenges and progression to aid discussions at the meeting.

The event was a unique opportunity to inspire action and to mobilise the political will and coordination that is urgently needed to ensure equitable access to reproductive health information and services, especially to adolescent girls.



Baroness Northover speaking at GPA conference, Barbados

CHOGM, Commonwealth Women's Forum, 20th – 22nd June 2022, Kigali, Rwanda



Baroness Sugg and Pauline Latham MP attended Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), including the Women's Forum, 20th – 22nd June 2023 and the VAWG side event on 22nd June. FCDO Commonwealth policy unit provided support and advice prior to and during the event.

At the Women's Forum around six hundred delegates and sixty speakers discussed issues as diverse as women's leadership, economic empowerment, preventing VAWG, climate change, cervical cancer, peace and security as well as how to hold governments accountable on their gender commitments. The Women's Forum outcome document handed to the Foreign Affairs Ministers at CHOGM included below important references:

- *increased resources to strengthen gender equality and women's empowerment in all spheres;*
- *disaggregated data was a repeated theme;*
- *link economic empowerment with access to quality education for all;*
- *the economic empowerment of women is not possible without addressing VAWG first; and*
- *cervical cancer elimination is a health equity and social justice concern that transcends gender.*

The final CHOGM communique had numerous references to SRHR highlighted below:

- *Para 8: Women and children comprise the vast majority of refugee populations, and face significant risks of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as lack access to lifesaving SRH services;*
- *Para 80: Heads committed to increasing efforts to support affordable, timely, equitable access to quality health services, including SRH services and safe, efficacious and affordable medicines, diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines; and*
- *Para 87: Heads further underscored the importance of equitable access to quality SRHR services.*

Leaders full communique, statements et al are available here: [CHOGM 2022 Communiqué, Leaders Statement and Declarations on Delivering a Common Future | Commonwealth \(thecommonwealth.org\)](https://thecommonwealth.org/2022/07/29/chogm-2022-communique-leaders-statement-and-declarations-on-delivering-a-common-future)



Side Event on Violence Against Women and Girls - CHOGM

GPA, UNFPA and WHO conference in connection with the 24th International AIDS Conference: Ending inequalities, ending HIV – the role of parliamentarians in achieving SRHR for all, 29th July – 2nd August 2022, Montreal, Canada



Baroness Northover with GPA delegation, UNAIDS conference, Montreal

Baroness Northover attended the 2022 annual AIDS conference and spoke at the GPA parliamentary side conference which had attendance from Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, North America and Europe. The Conference's motto was 'Follow the science' and therefore the GPA meetings focused on how scientific evidence is a powerful tool for MPs to improve policies, practices and laws in the context of vulnerable groups such as women and girls, the LGBTQI+ community and drug users.

GPA delegates attended a wide-ranging programme at the conference which IAS organised. UNFPA as well as the WHO Department of Global HIV, hepatitis and STI programmes (HHS) held several key plenary and satellite sessions that the parliamentarians attended after the opening ceremony, alongside several short sessions throughout the conference. The main topics of side sessions were: re-engage and follow the

science; a cure and vaccines for HIV; Indigenous responses to HIV; health and human rights; HIV in armed conflicts and strengthening health systems.

UNFPA led several conference panels, where they underlined the links between reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention and care. A ground-breaking UNFPA-co-sponsored satellite session tied HIV prevention efforts to the much-anticipated rollout of the new HPV vaccine. HHS held a number of key plenary and satellite sessions to present new guidelines, to introduce the new Global Health Sector Strategies on, HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs for the period 2022 - 2030, launched a new joint UNICEF-UNAIDS-WHO initiative on ending AIDS in children and shared its latest scientific and normative work.

Throughout the conference delegates engaged in various activities at the 'Global Village' area where communities held stands demonstrating the application of science and quality leadership and conference delegates and the general public were able to witness how science translates into community action and intervention.

At the GPA side-conference, discussions continued among parliamentarians on their role in tackling the AIDS pandemic within the bigger frame of SRHR, highlighting a human rights-based approach and the importance of self-care. During these GPA-led sessions, MPs also benefitted from the dialogue held together with different leaders from WHO and UNFPA.

Throughout the conference parliamentarians were given the opportunity to share, to learn and to connect with science, civil society and peers.

Baroness Northover spoke at the GPA closing session 'Progress in advancing SRHR and ICPD PoA as a contribution to tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic' alongside Dr B. B. Rewari, Regional Advisor for Hepatitis/HIV/STIs in the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia; Elizabeth Benomar, UNFPA Global Coordinator of HIV/AIDS; Sebastian Simon Kapufi MP (Tanzania); Dr Rewari from WHO and Ms Benomar from UNFPA with Petra Bayr MP (Austria and chair of EPF) in the chair.

Please find enclosed GPA report at appendix 13

EPF Parliamentary Dialogue on SRHR in Fragile Contexts International Cooperation and Humanitarian Action, 12th – 13th September 2022, Vitoria, Basque country, Spain



EPF delegation at Spanish Conference, Vitoria, Spain

Pauline Latham MP, Baroness Northover and advisor Ann Mette Kjaerby were invited to attend above dialogue on SRHR in Fragile Context, co-organised between EPF and The Spanish APPG on PDRH.

Pauline Latham MP was due to share national examples; identify new partnerships, needed research and findings and identify concrete legislative actions parliamentarians could develop on their return home at national, EU and global level to protect girls and women in fragile contexts. Due to Queen Elizabeth's sudden death, Pauline Latham MP sent her apologies. Baroness Northover managed to attend the latter part of the conference. The UK presentation was instead shared with the organisers, which aided the dialogue between parliamentarians from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Spain, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania,

Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Ukraine and representation from IPPF, Profamilia from Colombia, academics from the universities of Ghent and Venezuela and UNFPA representatives.

Iñigo Urkullu, President of the Basque Government, opened the meeting alongside Basque MP Inigo Iturrate, an active member of the Spanish APPG on PDRH. Both outlined their support for SRHR and the need for increased support to SRHR in emergency and humanitarian situations. The UNFPA country representative from Ukraine followed outlining current challenges in their country. Amongst the many challenges he referenced the interruption of prenatal care, which had a knock-on effect on an increase in maternal complications. The acute lack of resources was also referenced, along with an increase in sexual violence following conflict.

The various presentations highlighted the lack of political debate around SRHR in conflict settings and the media's lack of coverage surrounding fundamental human rights including access to SRHR services.

Delegates present reiterated the importance of mobile clinics in conflict settings, work with women's organisations and data gathering. The MISP was discussed and promoted along with standards and protocols for security forces and the judiciary system. The Vice-President of SEDRA-FPFE, Estela Buendía, noted that international law must be followed in conflict settings and Paul Ortega, Director, Basque International Cooperation, reaffirmed his commitment to gender equality and SRHR to protect against the increase in anti-choice activity in-country.

Parliamentarians at the meeting committed to strengthening action on SRHR in conflict settings to reach the SDGs.

Petra Bayr said in her closing speech: *"The good news is that we are sitting here as parliamentarians and we can put discussions into actions. We have values, we believe in rights and that makes us strong together"*.

Leigh Day's 5th Women's Rights in Healthcare conference: Discrimination and inequality in Women's Health Care, 6th October 2022, London, UK



The APPG on PDRH was represented at above Leigh Day's 5th Healthcare Conference, which focused on discrimination and inequality in women's healthcare. Speakers this year included nurse practitioners, who had seen first-hand shortfalls in and around maternity care, an expert researcher, whose study into the discrimination of women's health was unparalleled and discussions on the impact of being visually impaired on women's healthcare and women who shared their own experiences facing discrimination.

Baroness Helena Kennedy KC was the keynote speaker and gave a historic, global overview and examples of discrimination and inequalities including in the UK. Other speakers included, Suzanne White, Leigh Day, Chair; Donna Ockenden, Maternity Review; Sandra Igwe, The Motherhood Group, Dr Elinor Cleghorn, Author of Unwell Women, Lady-Marie Dawson-Malcolm, Spinal Injuries Association Whitney and Megan Bacon-Evans, Fertility campaigners for same-sex couples; Becky Harrison and Hetal Bapodra, Blind Parents UK and Geeta Nayar, MASIC.

The conference was recorded and is available here: [Women's Rights in Healthcare Conference 2022: Discrimination and Inequality in Women's Healthcare | Leigh Day](#)

EPF event at World Health Summit, 15th – 18th October 2022, Berlin, Germany



EPF delegation at World Health Summit, Berlin

Baroness Northover attended above Summit as part of the EPF delegation alongside seven parliamentary colleagues from other European countries and the Middle East.

More than 4,100 people, from 141 countries, attended the World Health Summit in Berlin and at least 60,000 took part online. This was the first time EPF was invited to participate at this Summit and members of parliament were active participants with other stakeholders and WHO officials.

The Summit provided the opportunity for the parliamentary delegation to immerse themselves in the more technical aspects of SRHR in the hope that this would boost their efforts to advocate for better SRHR, and for EPF, as a network, to strengthen its bilateral collaboration with WHO.

Throughout the Summit, the EPF delegation actively participated in the discussions on SRHR topics that ranged from sustainable financing of WHO to the promotion of SRHR as a means of promoting global peace. Each MP that participated provided examples from their own country, which allowed for an enriching and educational discussion for those who may have not been familiar with these country-specific contexts.

This Summit was marked by high-level representation as was seen by the opening speeches from the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and the Director-General of WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. During the Summit, several important topics were discussed, such as: investment for health and well-being, climate change and planetary health, architecture for pandemic preparedness and response, digital transformation for health, food systems and health, resilience and equity of health systems, and global health for peace.

Crucially, there was a particular importance placed on women's health, as was noted by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in the opening ceremony, where he stressed that women have been among the hardest hit during the COVID pandemic and that they are shouldering an increased burden of care, in families and as frontline workers. He added that this must change and that all people need inclusive, impartial and equitable access to health services, to deliver universal health coverage, including neglected mental healthcare services.

This focus on women was seen very clearly at the summit as SRHR sessions and workshops were especially prominent. It was in these sessions that the parliamentary delegation had the opportunity to contribute to meaningful discussion with senior members of WHO as well as other NGOs and international organisations. These sessions highlighted WHO's commitment to strengthening funding for SRHR as well as looking for how parliamentarians could become more engaged on SRHR issues.

Please find enclosed report at appendix 14



Baroness Northover speaking and Neil Datta, EPF at World Health Summit, Berlin

International Conference on Family Planning, 14th – 17th November 2022, Pattaya City, Thailand



Baroness Sugg, Baroness Northover, Tommy Sheppard MP, Advisor Ann Mette Kjaerby and Administrator Mikki Francis-Lawton attended the twice-postponed International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) in Pattaya, Thailand in November 2023.

The 2022 ICFP brought the FP and reproductive health community together to strengthen the collective movement to achieve universal access to FP by 2030 as an essential element of UHC. It was a unique opportunity to reconvene this community more than two years after COVID-19 was declared a pandemic and global emergency, providing delegates with a unique look into challenges and triumphs, weaknesses and resilience. Pandemic mitigation measures forced health systems and individuals in need of contraception to adapt, with innovations like telehealth services and community-based distribution of FP. These novel adaptations underscored the value of strong health systems and provided a robust foundation for future innovations that address emerging reproductive health needs.

The GPA brought a varied delegation of 22 MPs from eighteen different countries to participate in the International Conference on Family Planning: Family Planning & Universal Health Coverage: innovate, collaborate, accelerate, underscoring the fundamental role that FP plays in achieving UHC to mark the new population landmark of 8 billion people on this planet.

Each day of the conference, MPs attended several panels and community sessions all around sixteen conference tracks such as gender equality, empowerment and reproductive rights. During the two closed GPA sessions, the MPs had the chance to listen to Dr Natalia Kanem, UNFPA ED, Dr Samukeliso Dube, FP2030 ED, Ms Diene Keita, UNFPA DED and Dr Pascale Allotey, WHO Director of SRH/HRP on the added value of strengthening collaboration with these agencies to advance/work more with evidence-based legislation.



Baroness Northover speaking at GP panel event, FP Conference, Thailand



GPA Parliamentarians including Baroness Northover, Baroness Sugg and Tommy Sheppard MP

Throughout the conference the whole GPA delegation discussed multistakeholder partnerships, the availability of data to make governments accountable, the involvement of men and religious actors in FP, women's empowerment and much more.

Baroness Northover spoke at the GPA panel on funding to SRHR alongside Catlin Tenita (MP from Romania), Dr Ruth Labode (MP from Zimbabwe), Oleksiy Zhmerenetskyi (MP from Ukraine) and Dr Chaudhry Mazhar Iqbal (MP from Pakistan) with Moderator: Jeremie Zoungrana, (Director Nigeria Country Office, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation).

Country representatives at above event discussed how their differing levels of national income played a role in their capacity to implement SRHR programmes and policies. EPF's 'SRHR Funding Atlas' was also launched at this event to aid the discussion.

Baroness Sugg spoke at the GPA panel on how can Parliamentarians, intergovernmental organisations and the private sector play a vital role in legislating for promoting and implementing FP programmes in both low- and middle-income countries and in donor countries' development policies? Also presenting on this panel were Esther Passaris (MP from Kenya); Goedeke Liekens (MP from Belgium), Dr Gifty Addico,

UNFPA Chief of Commodity Security; Michael C. Pergine, Organon Head of Global Policy and Neil Datta, EPF ED was the moderator.

The main pillars of the International FP conference were:

- *the importance of delivering more country-led, sustainable, equitable and resilient access to FP by strengthening national health systems through sustainable financing and public/private partnerships;*
- *the decolonisation and regionalisation of donors' programmes and funding to create a more equal system in the international co-operation;*
- *the community-based and youth-led approaches towards achieving a more inclusive and universal access to reproductive healthcare; and*
- *the importance of adapting the issue of contraception and sexual education taking into account cultural sensitivities so that people understand and embrace the real benefit of family planning.*

The APPG on PDRH hosted an exhibition stall at the conference representing its Hearing Report on Girls' Education and SRHR. Numerous delegates had their photo taken to promote the messaging of linking SRHR and Girls' Education via their social media (please see Hearing Reports section for further information).

Please find link to the FP Conference programme and event here: [International Conference on Family Planning 2022 \(dryfta.com\)](https://www.dryfta.com/International-Conference-on-Family-Planning-2022)



Baroness Sugg with parliamentary colleagues, ICFP, Thailand

As well as attending the conference, delegates used the opportunity to meet and speak with numerous UN, NGO- and business representatives including FP Alicia Herbert, UK's Special Envoy for Gender; Alvero Bermejo, DG, IPPF and Simon Cooke, ED, MSI. Members also visited the exhibition hall.

Please find enclosed EPF report at appendix 15

Tommy Sheppard MP, Baroness Sugg and Baroness Northover 3 'take home messages' from the conference were;

Tommy Sheppard MP:

- *We should not be complacent about our provisions of sexual health advice and abortion services in the UK. Many of our neighbours are doing better. France is about to make access to abortion a constitutional right and Norway is extending advice services to all girls under 16;*
- *We need to press for abortion advice and provision to be included in comprehensive sexual health care services and ensure we as a donor country do not shy away from this because of policy in recipient countries; and*
- *We need to consider the merits of funding social media programmes aimed at young men and women to encourage attitudinal change towards sexual health and contraception in particular.*



Tommy Sheppard MP with APPG on PDRH Poster, FP Conference, Thailand

Baroness Sugg:

- *The importance of learning and collaboration with Parliamentarians on both domestic SRHR issues and international development policy;*
- *The 2022 Funding Atlas - very helpful to have a comparison across countries. UK doing OK but no country yet delivering the 10% SRHR funding requested. A \$60bn shortfall in required funding to address unmet need to 2030; and*
- *The importance of engaging with and listening to youth activists when designing and delivering policy.*



Baroness Sugg at exhibition stall, FP Conference, Thailand

Baroness Northover:

- *I had not realised quite how influential the 2012 Family Conference co-hosted by DFID and the Gates Foundation had proved to be. For me that certainly shows that political leadership and commitment is absolutely vital. It led to the commitments running up to 2020 (FP2020), and now the renewed commitments, and structures to deliver this by 2030 (FP2030);*
- *However, it was clear that simply getting FP within reach of women was not enough. Women need to be able to access family planning, possibly often requiring male permission, and it needs to be suitable for them; and*
- *I was hugely struck by the fact that half of pregnancies are unintended. If I got this right from Natalia Kanem, 60% of these end in abortion, half of which are unsafe. Therefore, we must continue the fight to preserve and extend women's rights to safe abortion.*



Baroness Northover with student delegates, FP Conference, Thailand

UK Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) Conference, 28th – 29th November 2022, London, UK



Several members of the APPG on PDRH, including Baroness Hodgson and Baroness Northover and advisor Anne Metter Kjaerby, attended the 2022 UK PSVI Conference in London. This year marked 10 years from the launch of the PSVI by the UK's former Foreign Secretary William Hague MP and Angelina Jolie.

The conference brought together over fifty government ministers, other government representatives, experts and survivors from around the world, with the shared mission on ending conflict-related violence.

The conference concentrated on the following strategic objectives on conflict-related sexual violence;

- *the global response;*
- *prevention, including by addressing the root causes such as harmful gender norms;*
- *justice for all survivors and holding perpetrators to account by driving action and best practice to create accountability; and*
- *supporting survivors and children born of sexual violence in conflict, including by amplifying their voices and tackling stigma*

More than 50 countries signed a UK-led declaration to end the scourge of sexual violence in conflict and around 40 countries, including the UK, made national commitments outlining the steps they will take to tackle sexual violence in conflict.

Full conference programme and declaration is available here: [International Ministerial Conference on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative 2022: overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-ministerial-conference-on-preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict-initiative-2022-overview)

Countries agreed to take action to address triggers such as gender inequality, remove the stigma faced by victims and make sure national laws are in place to prosecute perpetrators. Around 40 countries, including Colombia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Japan went further and set out national commitments on the practical steps they will take to tackle these crimes and make a difference on the ground. For example, Nigeria has committed to champion the [Murad Code](#), a UK-backed code of conduct to ensure that the experiences of survivors of sexual violence in conflict are documented ethically and effectively. The USA committed \$10 million over 2 years to support civil society organisations to document sexual violence in conflict in line with the Murad Code. President Biden also issued a memorandum setting out the USA's intention to promote accountability for conflict-related sexual violence, including through economic sanctions, visa restrictions, and additional measures and authorities.

UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly MP said at the conference: *"Rape in war violates international values as severely as the use of chemical weapons. We must hold perpetrators to account and deliver justice for those affected. By signing this declaration, we are clear that sexual violence in conflict is a line that should never be crossed. Now is the time to take real action globally to end this horrific crime."*

UK MoS, FCDO and the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon said: "In the last 10 years, we have come a long way, but we know that much more must be done, both to help survivors and to prevent others from suffering such violence. Rape, torture, sexual violence is real, it is happening today. It is a shocking reality of our world in 2022. Our aim is to make a long-lasting, tangible change in the lives of survivors, while preventing others from going through similar horrific ordeals in the future. We owe it to the courageous survivors who are an inspiration to us all."

Importantly, FCDO launched its new 3-year strategy to tackle sexual violence in conflict, which will be backed by up to £12.5 million of new funding and available here: [Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict-initiative-strategy)



Baroness Hodgson at PSVI Conference, London

PET annual conference: Making fertility treatment fair, 7th December 2022, London, UK (online)



The APPG on PDRH was represented at this annual conference. Sarah Norcross, Director of PET welcomed all delegates to the conference and Professor Dame Lesley Regan presented an overview of women's health agenda in the UK. Dr Gitau Mburu, WHO followed with a global overview of fertility care and Julia Chain outlined the HFEA's work to improve access and outcome to fertility treatment.

Presentations and discussion followed on how countries compare with regards to fairness of fertility treatment with examples from Turkey, Belgium, Germany and Italy, along with egg freezing, disparities in fertility care and outcome for black people, fairness of treatment for trans people, fertility in males after spinal cord injury and the issue of giving hope of a better future on fertility treatment.

Please find full programme at appendix 16

EPF delegation at UN 67th CSW session: Innovation and technological change and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, 6th – 17th March 2023, New York, USA

Baroness Sugg, Baroness Northover and Baroness Hussein-Ece were on the 2022 EPF parliamentary delegation to CSW with colleagues from Belgium, Croatia, France, Italy, Norway and Spain. The aim of this visit was for delegates to learn more about CSW processes and to discuss innovation and technological change and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

During the week-long session, delegates participated in various plenary sessions and side events, and conducted a number of meetings with EU, UNFPA and UK officials, Fòs Feminista, the Global Partnership Forum on CSE, the GEF Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and SRHR, Plan International, SheDecides and the Holy See.



Baroness Hussein-Ece and Baroness Sugg with colleagues and EPF and UNFPA staff, CSW New York

One of the events attended by the delegation was a panel discussion on the role of parliamentarians in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The EPF vice president Bojan Glavašević MP, Croatia, highlighted the important role that parliamentarians can play in promoting SRHR and urged for greater political will to address these issues.

Another panel discussion EPF members attended was organised by IPU/UN Women on the role of parliamentarians in advancing gender equality through technology.



Delegates meet with The Holy See, CSW New York

A meeting of particular interest to the UK delegation was with the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the UN. During the meeting delegates learned about the Holy See's involvement in the CSW process. While having the status of an Observer, the Holy See does engage in the CSW and other inter-governmental processes joining forces with other like-minded states. A debate followed with the Holy See representatives and EPF delegates agreeing to disagree on many critical aspects regarding women bodily autonomy, especially around issues such as securing access to safe and legal abortion.

Whilst at CSW the EPF delegation visited Population Council's Center for Biomedical Research (CBR) centre. EPF delegates were introduced to latest contraceptive research and innovative products that protect the health and well-being of millions of people worldwide. The delegation learned about their new projects, such as the two fast dissolving inserts: one for the prevention of pregnancy, HIV and other STIs and one for protection against HIV, HSV-2 and HPV; Nestorone Testosterone gel for male contraception and Nestorone for multiple sclerosis.

UK APPG on PDRH -, UK IPU- and UK Women and Equalities Committee delegates also attended private meetings including a reception with Lord Ahmad, UK MoS for the Middle East, South Asia and the UN and the UK Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN, Dame Barbara Woodward.

Throughout the conference delegates discussed and advocated for the inclusion of a gender perspective in all aspects of development and for the elimination of discrimination and VAWG.

Please find attached EPF full report at appendix 17

APPG COLLABORATION



UK APPG secretariats, HoL IWD stall

The UK APPG on PDRH secretariat continue to exchange information and support the establishment and activities of other APPG secretariats in the UK and abroad. Support has been given via email communications, telephone conversations as well as virtual and in-person meetings.

Action for Global Health (AfGH) continue to instigate and coordinate on-line meetings, events and liaison between UK APPGs working on International Health related issues, which has been beneficial to all involved.



AfGH collaborators

Meetings and communications in the spring related to a proposed Global Health Westminster Hall debate and a joint parliamentary side-event linked to the first-ever international LGBTQI+ 'Safer To Be Me' conference scheduled for April 2022, UK. As the date was approaching a number of charities signed an open letter to Boris Johnson MP, PM saying they would not lend their support for the conference due to the Government's stance on conversion therapy, which eventually resulted in the conference being cancelled and likewise the joint APPG side event planned.



In September 2022 discussions were held in connection with the Global Fund replenishment campaign hosted by High Commission of the Republic of South Africa in the UK, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Global Fund and in March 2023 an IWD event was co-organised (please see Briefing Meetings Section for further information).

Throughout the year global health reports have been shared as have individual APPG briefing meetings of interest to other APPGs and their members.

Administrative information, update and support amongst APPGs continues to ensure all are up to date with latest COVID-19 regulations and meetings, photo exhibitions in parliament and latest Standards Committee reports on APPGs. The APPG on PDRH response letter to the Standards Committee inquiry and report was also shared. The surrounded transparency of lobbying and various APPG guidance notes have also been discussed.

The APPG on PDRH secretariat and members have communicated regularly via bilateral means with the APPG on SRH and the FSRH in connection with EPF studies on their EPF contraceptive Atlas, Tortoise inquiry into APPG funding, joint events on crisis pregnancy and the criminal justice system and importantly the UK Women's Health Strategy published in July 2022 available here: [Women's Health Strategy for England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/women-s-health-strategy-for-england). Advice was also provided this year to FSRH Education Programme for Healthcare Professionals working in SRHC.

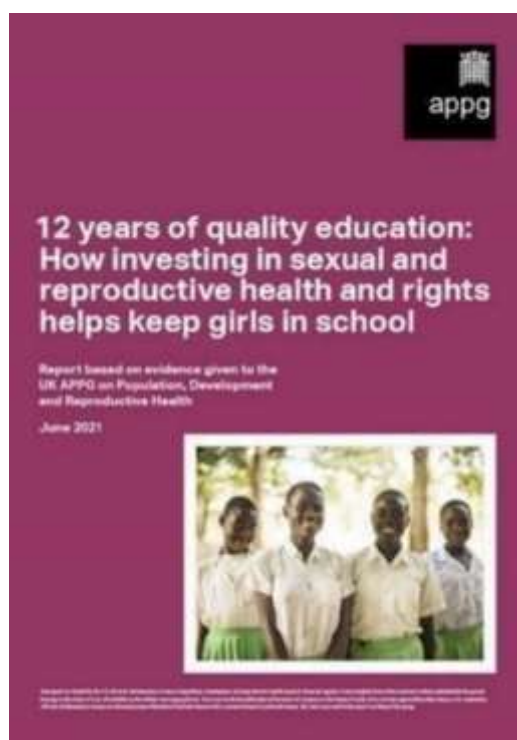
The APPG on PDRH also communicated and have met regularly with the APPG on HIV/AIDS secretariat to discuss funding and the UNAIDS conference and a virtual meeting was held with the new APPG LGBTIQI secretariat in November 2022 to provide administrative support.

In January 2023 APPG on PDRH advised STOPAIDS on APPG study tours and throughout the year intermittent support has been given to the Australian APPG on SRHR with reference to APPG guidelines, activities and letter writing.

Please find sample communications enclosed at appendix 18

APPG ON PDRH HEARING REPORTS & FOLLOW-UP

12 years of quality education: How investing in SRHR helps keep girls in school, June 2021



The UK APPG on PDRH continues to follow up, promote and disseminate its hearing report: 12 years of quality education: How investing in SRHR helps keep girls in school.

The report was sent to James Cleverley MP, SS FCDO in September 2022 with a letter congratulating him on his appointment, highlighting the importance of SRHR and its links to Girls' Education, which received a positive response.

The Hearing reports and extracts from the report were submitted as written evidence to FCDO's call for evidence to its International Development Strategy published in May 2022 and its Women and Girls' Strategy published in March 2023.

Below are five summary highlights referenced:

- *Women and girls are often the most marginalised, vulnerable and left behind. Prioritising women and girls' SRHR will ensure social and economic progress and SD (please see: Guttmacher Institute and UNFPA publication '[Adding It Up: Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health 2019](#)' for a cost benefit analysis);*
- *Success in 2030 will include meeting the education targets of 40 million more girls in school and 20 million more reading. In order to achieve this ambitious goal, it is clear that the SRHR of girls and young women are critically important. Girls with both education and access to rights-based FP are more able to choose marriage timing and choice, to plan their families or whether to have children and to decide to take on productive livelihoods. The APPG on PDRH has just published its latest hearing report on girls' education and SRHR outlining the importance of linking SRHR and girls' education, available here: [12 years of quality education: How investing in sexual and reproductive health and rights helps keep girls in school](#);*
- *The UK government should return to spending 0.7% of GNI on ID as soon as possible, in order to achieve the SDGs and retain its reputation as a world leader on SD, including on climate change, leading up to COP26;*
- *The UK government must champion human rights, ensure the protection of human rights defenders, in particular women and girls, and lead a global push-back on closing space for civil society; and*
- *The UK government have demonstrated global leadership in FP/SRHR and are best placed to continue to champion comprehensive SRHR, which include safe abortion services, comprehensive sexuality education, ending FGM and child marriage, in line with the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission definition on SRHR.*

The APPG on PDRH also successfully submitted an abstract of the Hearing Report to the International FP Conference and secured an exhibition poster stall. Below posters were developed from the report and exhibited with staff available to answer questions to visiting delegates.



A placard was also developed and delegates were encouraged to pledge their support to universal SRHR for all via their social media.

The report was also promoted and circulated at the EPF International FP parliamentary side conference to engage parliamentarians in this subject to support and secure the rights of girls globally.

Throughout the year the report has been available for interested parties to pick up at APPG on PDRH receptions and briefing meetings.

The full report with recommendations is available on the APPG on PDRH website [here](#).



Baroness Northover visiting APPG poster at ICFP, Thailand



Louise Upton MP, Australia



Maitane Ipiñaza MP – Basque Country



Mathura Bikash Tripura, Director - Zabaranga, Bangladesh



Neil Datta - EPF



Palikena Kaude - Plan Intl, Malawi



Pankaj Bhattarai, ADRA Nepal



Prof. Nyovani Madise, African Institute for Development Policy

WHO DECIDES? We trust women: Abortion in the developing world & the UK, March 2018



The UK APPG on PDRH continues to follow up on its hearing report: Who decides? We trust women – Abortion in the developing world and the UK.

Numerous meetings and discussions were held in the spring 2022 amongst APPG on PDRH – and APPG SRHR members, colleges and NGOs to strategies and plan campaign work to ensure the continuation of telemedicine abortion after COVID-19 which was due to end August 2022. Numerous op-eds and articles were drafted and some published (please see Press Section for further information). Members tabled PQs and briefings were disseminated to MPs/peers in support of parliamentary debates and letters were sent to ministers.

Please find sample letters enclosed at appendix 19

In March 2022 Baroness Sugg and Baroness Barker tabled an amendment in the HoL to the Health and Care Bill to retain telemedicine abortion, this secured a vote of 75 content and 25 not content and passed. Later in March 2022 the amendment secured a vote of 215 to 188 in the HoC against Government policy. This saw the biggest change to abortion care in England since the 1967 Abortion Act and a huge win for pro-choice campaigners and women and girls in England and Wales.

Creating buffer zones around abortion clinics to stop women and girls being harassed at a difficult time, has received increased attention this year. Stella Creasy MP tabled an amendment to the Public Order Bill in October 2022 in the HoC and won the vote by 297 to 110. In November 2022 and the spring of 2023 several members participated in the HoL debates on abortion buffer zones and a HoL vote in March 2023 ensured the amendment passed with 299 against 166 votes. The Public Order Act received Royal Assent on 2nd May 2023, which means that there are now safe access zones around abortion clinics in England and Wales. Interference with any person's decision to access, provide, or facilitate the provision of abortion services within the 150m zone is now an offence and the police have powers to enforce the safe access zones and an offence will carry an unlimited fine. This was yet another huge win for pro-choice campaigners and women and girls in England and Wales.

The Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* in June 2022, holding that there was no longer a federal constitutional right to an abortion in the USA has caused substantial concern nationally as well as globally. Twenty-two USA states now ban abortion or restrict the procedure earlier in pregnancy than the standard set by *Roe v. Wade* and the effect it is reverberating around the world, possibly restricting access in other countries.

In July 2022 members of the APPG on PDRH signed a Global solidarity statement in response to the erosion of abortion access and rights in the USA. An EDM was also tabled on *Roe v Wade* and signed by members (please see Parliamentary Section for further information).

Please find statement attached at appendix 20

In June 2022 Stella Creasy MP announced her decision to table an amendment to the forthcoming British Bill of Rights to give women the fundamental right to an abortion, the Government bill however was shelved.



In August 2022 FSRH & RCOG published a statement calling on the UK Government to de-criminalise abortion across the UK. This statement followed several cases of women being prosecuted for ending their pregnancies while police launched dozens of investigations into suspected breaches of the law in the past 10 years.

A case of particular prominence in England was the 'Carla Foster' case - a mother who was jailed for illegally taking abortion tablets to end her pregnancy during lockdown. Carla Foster, 45, admitted illegally procuring her own abortion when she was between 32 and 34 weeks pregnant during the COVID-19 pandemic and was imprisoned. She was later released from prison after the Court of Appeal reduced her sentence.

In September 2022 select members participated in the Abortion Rights March for Choice, which started at The Fawcett Statue, Parliament Square.

In October 2022 members of the APPG on PDRH signed an abortion petition on Polish women being imprisoned.

Please find petition enclosed at appendix 21

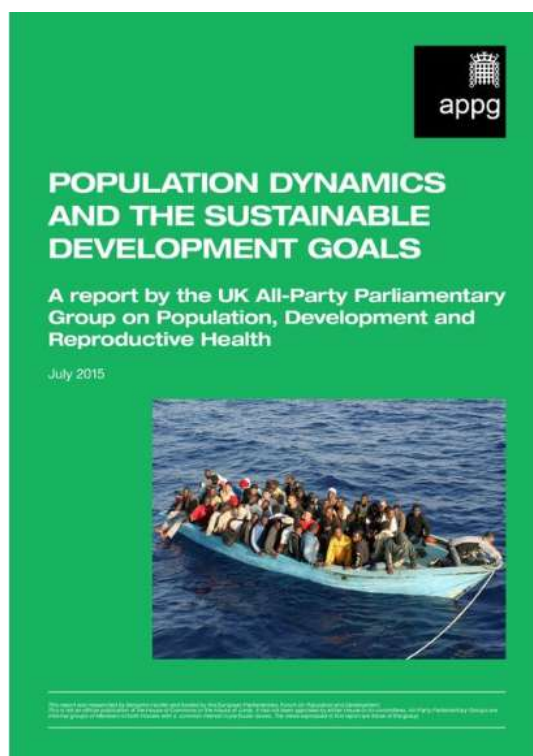
In November 2022 select members participated in the Westminster Abortion Petition debate on Abortion and the Human Rights Bill (please see Parliamentary Section for further information).

The Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations came into force in 2021 and statements were made in the UK Parliament that services should be available by 31st March 2022 at the latest. Services were finally commissioned formally by the Secretary of State on 2nd December 2022. The NI Department of Health responded and acknowledged the “legal requirements placed on it by the Secretary of State”:

However, there are still some issues. Clinicians in NI have flagged an ongoing lack of recruitment in many Trusts, which results in reduced services and the number of referrals for early medical abortions are increasing and putting significant pressure on services that are still fragile. There have also been calls for the DoH in NI to take steps to increase awareness around access to abortion services and contraception and wider SRH.

The full report and its recommendations are available on the APPG on PDRH website [here](#).

Population Dynamics & the SDGs, July 2015



The APPG on PDRH continues to follow up on its hearing report: Population Dynamics and the SDG, emphasising the importance of universal access to SRHR and the role of population dynamics and achieving SD and its interplay with climate change. The UNECE ICPD+30 review in 2024 will include a thematic strand on demographics and the SDGs.

Baroness Northover in International Women's Day debate on 17th March 2022; *"We all know that we face the climate emergency, which the noble Baroness, Lady Armstrong, mentioned. This will roll back women's rights globally. The poorest and most vulnerable women and girls are often the most vulnerable to climate change, and often lack the resources required to adapt to it to ensure the protection of their livelihoods and well-being. With increasing drought, women and girls are expected to travel longer distances to collect water and firewood, exposing them to further sexual and gender-based violence. The destruction of households and livelihoods has become a reality for communities hard hit by climate change. In some cases, this loss of livelihood leads to increases in transactional sex and the risk of teenage pregnancies. Women are especially vulnerable in conflict, which will be promoted by climate change."*

Baroness Jenkin of Kennington in ODA debate on 15th December 2022 said; *"We know that women and girls are particularly affected by these crises: the east Africa hunger crisis, climate change, and conflicts such as Ukraine and its spillover effects all impact women and girls disproportionately. The rights of girls in so many countries are going backwards and we in this country should count our blessings every day. There is an urgent need to accelerate outcomes for gender equality, strengthen women's and girls' leadership and prioritise a locally led approach. When you invest in women and girls and their rights, especially reproductive rights, and their education, you invest in entire communities. For example, decreasing gender gaps in employment alone can significantly stimulate economic growth and increase global wealth by \$160 trillion, which is urgently needed, now more than ever."*

Baroness Sugg in ODA debate on 15th December 2022 said; *"An estimated 80% of people displaced by climate change are women and girls. The economic effects of extreme weather events can contribute to girls dropping out of school, push girls to early and forced marriage and divert funding away from reproductive and sexual health services. All of this undermines their long-term opportunities and our hopes for truly sustainable development."*

The full report and its recommendations are available on the APPG on PDRH website [here](#).

A Childhood Lost: A Report on Child Marriage in the UK & the Developing World, November 2012



The APPG on PDRH continues to follow up on its hearing report: A Childhood Lost. A report on child marriage. Importantly this year Pauline Latham MP's PMB: Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 passed both houses in April 2022 and came into effect February 2023.

The legal age of marriage and civil partnerships has now been raised to 18 in England and Wales. Previously, people could get married at 16 or 17, as long as they had parental consent. The new law importantly applies to cultural or religious marriages also that are not registered with the local council.

This new Act will transform the life chances of many girls. Under the new rules, children will not face penalties but adults who facilitate their marriage could face up to seven years in jail and a fine. This will include adults who take children abroad to carry out the marriage.

The bill sped through Parliament without much opposition, but it has taken years for campaigners and parliamentarians to get to this stage.

The new law will empower young people who are at risk and the threat of prison will act as a deterrent for those trying to arrange any marriage for under-18s. But it is likely to take time for that information to trickle down to the communities it will most effect.

Baroness Jenkin submitted a written PQ: *To ask HMG whether there have been any child marriage convictions in the UK since the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 came into effect in February 2023.*

The UK is a world leader in the fight to stamp out the practice of forced marriage, with our dedicated Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) leading efforts to combat it both at home and abroad. The new legislation which came into force in February this year is intended to proactively close potential loopholes and make prosecution under the existing law easier by removing the need to prove the use of coercion, which may require evidence from the victim. The FMU has undertaken a range of activity to raise awareness of the extended offence.

Data on convictions for criminal offences is published by the Ministry of Justice. The latest publication is to December 2022, before the extended offence came into force.

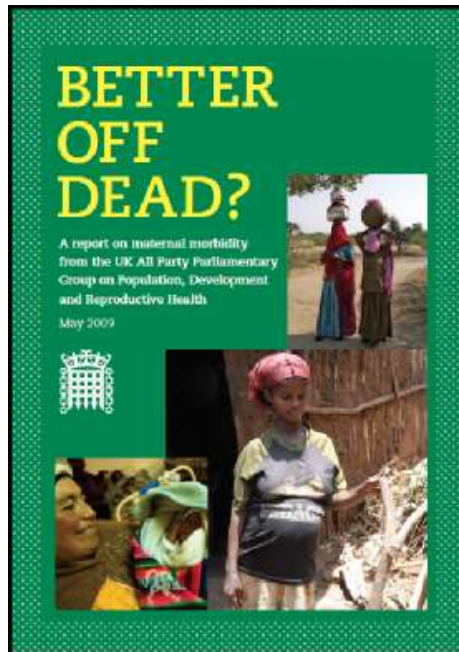
Additionally, we protect both adults and children with our Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPOs) and have criminalised the breach of FMPOs once in place. The number of forced marriage protection orders made in (1) 2019, (2) 2020, (3) 2021 and (4) 2022 can be found in the table attached

Year	Disposals		Total orders made
	Orders made ³		
	with power of arrest attached ¹⁰	without power of arrest attached ¹⁰	
2019	144	441	596
2020	124	196	320
2021	114	210	324
2022	108	238	346

See full Act and process here: [Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Minimum Age\) Act 2022 - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#)

The full hearing report with its recommendations is available [here](#).

Better Off Dead? A report on maternal morbidity, May 2009



The APPG on PDRH continues to promote its 2009 hearing report: Better off dead? A report on maternal morbidities.

In November 2021 Baroness Sugg tabled an amendment to the Health and Care Bill banning virginity testing and hymenoplasty. This amendment made it illegal to carry out, offer or aid and abet virginity testing or hymenoplasty in any part of the UK. The amendment passed both houses and the Health and Care Act received Royal Assent in April 2022 making it illegal for UK nationals and residents to do these things both within and outside the UK.

In August 2023 the UK Government issued multi-agency guidance on virginity testing and hymenoplasty available here: [Virginity testing and hymenoplasty: multi-agency guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115444/virginity_testing_and_hymenoplasty_multi-agency_guidance.pdf)

The report can be downloaded from the APPG on PDRH website [here](https://www.appg-pdrh.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/Better-Off-Dead-Report.pdf).

Return of the Population Growth Factor: Its impact upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), January 2007/May 2009



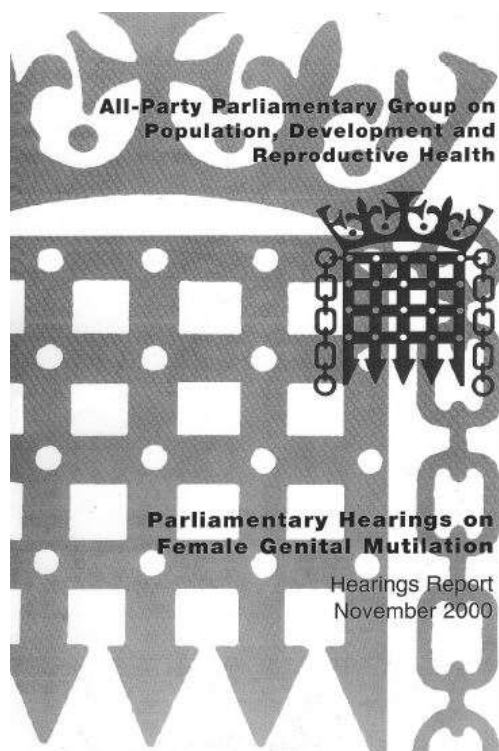
The APPG on PDRH's 2007 hearing report: Return of the Population Growth Factor: Its impact upon the MDGs and the 2009 updated summary leaflet can be downloaded from the APPG on PDRH website [here](#).

The Missing Link! Linking Sexual & Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS, October 2004



The APPG on PDRH 2004 hearing report, 'The Missing Link!', can be downloaded from the APPG on PDRH website [here](#).

Female Genital Mutilation, November 2000



The first and only FGM conviction in the UK took place in February 2019, since then there has been only one prosecution in 2022, which did not lead to a conviction for the offence.

Below sets out the number of FGM protection orders issued for the period 2019-2022 in England, Wales and NI which are routinely published and can be found in the Family Court Statistics Quarterly series available on gov.uk.

2019	2020	2021	2022
199	136	54	71

UK Government information on FGM can be found here: [Female genital mutilation: resource pack - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/84842/female_genital_mutilation_resource_pack.pdf)

The FGM hearing report can be downloaded from the APPG on PDRH website [here](https://www.appg-pdrh.org.uk/).

PUBLICATIONS

APPG Activity Reports

Annual Activity Reports have been published since 1993/1994 to the present date and can be found on the APPG on PDRH website [here](#).

Hearings/Surveys/Reports

12 years of quality education: How investing in sexual and reproductive health and rights helps keep girls in school, June 2021

WHO DECIDES? We trust women: Abortion in the developing world and the UK, March 2018

Population Dynamics and the Sustainable Development Goals, July 2015

A Childhood Lost: A Report on Child Marriage in the UK and the Developing World, November 2012

Return of the Population Growth Factor: Its Impact upon the Millennium Development Goals, Updated Summary and Graphs/Tables, July 2009

Better Off Dead: A Report on Maternal Morbidity, May 2009

Return of the Population Growth Factor: Its Impact upon the Millennium Development Goals, January 2007 (Main Report and Executive Summary Report (translated into German and French))

The Missing Link: Linking Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS, October 2004 (Main Report, Executive Summary and Recommendations Report and CD-ROM)

Female Genital Mutilation: Report on Parliamentary Hearings and Survey on FGM, May 2000

Taking Young People Seriously: Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health for the Next Generation, Report of the Parliamentary Hearings held on 6th and 13th May 1998

Development Strategies for the 21st Century: The South-South Partnership in Population and Development, Report of the Parliamentary Hearing, March 1997

Working with Parliamentarians and Government Officials, Report on Workshop, London, March 1996

Implementing the Cairo ICPD 1994 Programme of Population, Reproductive Health and Development, European Parliamentary Forum for Action Report, Brussels 1995

Women's Rights and Sexual Health, Report of Consultations held with agencies involved in women's issues, 1995

The Well-Spent Pound: An assessment of AID Agency priorities for population activities, NGO Review 1993

European Agenda for Action on World Population, Report of the European Parliamentarians Conference, London 1992

ACCOUNTS

Please find APPG on PDRH accounts April 2022 - March 2023 enclosed at appendix 22

ACRONYMS

ACCM	Agency for Culture and Change Management
AfGH	Action for Global Health
AGM	Annual general meeting
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
APPG	All-Party Parliamentary Group
APPG on PDRH	All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health
BASHH	British Association of Sexual Health and HIV
BAME	Black and minority ethnic
BPAS	British Pregnancy Advisory Service
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CoE	Council of Europe
COMMAT	Commonwealth Medical Trust
CPD	Commission on Population and Development
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CMH	Care and Mental Health
CRR	Center for Reproductive Rights
CSE	Comprehensive sexuality education
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DFID	Department for International Development
DG	Director General
DoH	Department of Health
Dr	Doctor
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
EC	Executive Committee
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ED	Executive Director
EDM	Early Day Motion
EPF	European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (formerly the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development)
EU	European Union
FCDA	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs,
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
FGM	Female genital mutilation
FGM/C	Female genital mutilation/cutting
FGS	Female Genital Schistosomiasis
FORWARD	Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development
FP	Family Planning
FP2030	Family Planning 2030
FSRH	Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health (King's College, London)
GBV	Gender-based violence
GGR	Global Gag Rule
GJC	Global Justice Center
GNI	Gross national income
GP	General practitioner

HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMG	Her/His Majesty's Government
HO	Home Office
HoC	House of Commons
HoL	House of Lords
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
HSC	Health and Social Care
ICAI	Independent Commission for Aid Impact
ICFP	International Conference on Family Planning
ID	International development
IDC	International Development Committee
IPCI ICPD PoA	International Parliamentary Conference on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IWD	International Women's Day
LD	Liberal Democrat
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, queer (or questioning) and intersex
LSHTM	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
MISP	Minimal Initial Service Package
MMR	Maternal mortality rate
MoS	Minister of State
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
MSI	MSI Reproductive Choices (formerly, Marie Stopes International)
NA	Non-affiliated
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHS	National Health Service
NI	Northern Ireland
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPET	Progress Educational Trust
PoA	Programme of Action
PD	Population and development
PF	Prosperity Fund (UK Government)
PMC	Population Media Centre
PMB	Private Members' Bill
PPE	Personal protective equipment
PQs	Parliamentary questions
PSVI	Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative
PUSS	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
RCM	Royal College of Midwives
RCOG	Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
RMNCH	Reproductive Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health
RSE	Relationships and sex education
SD	Sustainable development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SRH	Sexual and reproductive health
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
SoS	Secretary of State
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
SWOP	State of the World Population
UHC	Universal health coverage

UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USA	United States of America
VAW	Violence against women
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
WISH	Women's Integrated Sexual Health
XB	Cross Bench(er)

APPENDICES

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