



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



ANNUAL REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES 2023/2024

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

Annual Review 2023/2024

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FOREWORD



Baroness Hussein-Ece OBE

The APPG on PDRH 2023 – 2024 annual report covers activities that members have engaged in within the UK Parliament and abroad in the past year and highlights important moments in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

I would like to thank all of our members for their ongoing commitment to SRHR and for their work in this area over the last year.

The UK APPG on PDRH has this year recruited six new active members 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 continue to emphasise in debates, during question-time and at national meetings and international conferences 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 participated in this year's Japan G7 parliamentary conference and study visit in April 2023, Uganda study tour in May 2023, Rwanda study tour and Women Deliver Conference in June 2023, Paris RCOG Conference in October 2023, World London Food Summit in November 2023, Tanzania/Zanzibar study tour in February 2024, New York Commission on the Status of Women in March 2024, all held meetings with other likeminded parliamentary champions to share experiences for a stronger global voice.

Andrew Mitchell, the UK Minister for Development, launching the Foreign and Commonwealth Department's (FCDO) White Paper on International Development in November 2023 reiterated his support for women and girls and SRHR, including safe abortion, through policy, investment and diplomacy.

Despite this political support and an increase in overall UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2023 to £15.37 billion, amounting to 0.58% of gross national income (GNI) from £12.8 billion, equivalent to 0.51% of GNI in 2022, SRHR does not receive the 10% disbursement target as agreed at consecutive International Parliamentary Conferences on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development statements of commitments. In 2022 UK SRHR disbursement was 4.38% of ODA and global SRHR disbursement was 5.68%.

The International Development Committee (IDC) inquiry and report published in January 2024 this year, noted that FCDO's funding levels run contrary to their policy aspirations, although some funding was reinstated to UNFPA, IPPF and MSI Reproductive Choices, which is welcome.

APPG on PDRH officers, other members and staff have been in regular communications with FCDO Ministers and staff throughout the year and of particular importance was the appointment of David Cameron as Foreign Secretary and Baroness Sugg (previous APPG on PDRH Co-chair) as his Special Adviser in November 2023.

From a national perspective, I am pleased to highlight buffer zones around abortion clinics coming into law via the Public Order Act in May 2023, which is yet another huge win for pro-choice campaigners and women and girls in England and Wales. And in October 2023 a woman was found guilty of handing over a three-year-old British girl for female genital mutilation (FGM) during a trip to Kenya, in the first conviction of its kind, which will hopefully deter practising communities.

We currently have around 200 court cases pending or in process, similar to the Carla Foster case, on telemedicine abortion, which has been the focus of the national abortion campaign work and Diana Johnson MP's and Stella Creasy MP's amendments to the Criminal Justice Bill.

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

In 2024 - 2025, the APPG on PDRH will continue to scrutinise, monitor and hold the new UK Government to account for their political and financial commitments to SRHR through Private Members' Bills, amendments to Government bills, parliamentary questions, debates, conferences, study tours, meetings, letter writing and media activities.

A handwritten signature in black 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 and Staff

The APPG on PDRH has around 80 members from all parties and both Houses. There are now four named officers only as per new APPG rules that came into force in March 2024.

Co-Chairs



Baroness Hussein-Ece OBE
(Liberal Democrat)



Virendra Sharma MP
(Labour)

Vice-Chairs



Tommy Sheppard MP
(Scottish Nationalist Party)



Baroness Jenkin of Kennington
(Conservative)

**Parliamentary and Policy
Advisor**

Ann Mette Kjaerby

**Parliamentary Administrator
and Researcher**

Mikki Francis-Lawton

New APPG on PDRH members

The below six parliamentarians joined the APPG on PDRH this year following their attendance on study tours and at meetings in Parliament.



Apsana Begum MP

Apsana Begum has been the Labour MP for Poplar and Limehouse since 2019. She graduated with a BA in politics from Queen Mary University of London in 2011 and completed a postgraduate diploma in law and community leadership at The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London in 2012. From 2011 - 2013, she worked in the role of Executive Support and Admin for Tower Hamlets Council. She was a Workforce Diversity Project Officer for Tower Hamlets Homes from 2014 - 2015, and Equality and Diversity Officer for Queen Mary University of London from 2016 - 2018.

She is chair of the APPG on Domestic Violence and Abuse. From 2020 - 2024 she sat on the Education Committee.



Rupa Huq MP

Dr Rupa Huq has been the Labour MP for Ealing Central and Acton since 2015. From 1998 - 2004, she was a lecturer at the University of Manchester and from September 2004 - 2015 she was a senior lecturer in Sociology and Criminology at Kingston University. She has also taught Media and Cultural Studies.

She is Chair of the APPG on Single Parent Families and Vice-Chair of the APPG for Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Professionals and an Officer of the APPG on Rights of the Rohingya, the APPG for Environment, Social and Governance and the APPG For Children. In June 2020 Dr Huq joined the Panel of Chairs within Parliament. She has been a member of the Commons Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee since March 2022.



Kim Johnson MP

Kim Johnson has been the Labour MP for Liverpool Riverside since 2019. She sits on the Women and Equalities Committee, Home Affairs Committee, Education Committee and the Speaker's Advisory Committee on Works of Art.

She is the chair of Squash – a nutrition, arts and training initiative whose cafe won a BBC Food and Farming award. Kim Johnson MP is a long-serving community and union activist, having been deputy chair of Unison's National Black Members Committee, Creative Diversity Manager for Liverpool's Capital of Culture bid team as well as working on Labour's Sure Start and childcare strategy at the Department for Education.

She is Secretary of the APPGs on Somaliland and Showing Racism the Red Card.

**John McDonnell MP**

The Rt Hon. John McDonnell MP has been the Labour MP for Hayes and Harlington since 1997. In 1981 he was elected to the Greater London Council (GLC) as the member for Hayes and Harlington. And became Chair of Finance, responsible for the GLC's £3 billion budget. After the abolition of the GLC he became Head of Policy at Camden Council and was Chief Executive (CE) of the Association of London Government before being elected in 1997 as the Labour MP for Hayes & Harlington, West London.

He was Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer from 2015 - 2020. He is Vice-Chair of the APPG on Vaccinations for All. He sits on the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee and previously sat on the Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Bill Committee in 2022.

**Baroness Janke**

Baroness Janke entered the House of Lords (HoL) in 2014 as a Liberal Democrat (LD) peer. Previously a teacher of economics and modern languages, she became the first non-Labour leader of Bristol City Council for many decades after the 2003 elections when she led an all-party administration. At the 2005 elections the LD party became the largest party and took minority control of the Council under Janke as Leader until 2007, when a combined vote of Labour and Conservatives voted them out. In February 2009, she returned to the position of leader of Bristol City Council, following the resignation of the Labour cabinet. She stood down as leader in May 2012.

**Lord Rennard**

Lord Rennard entered the HoL in 1999 as a LD peer. He was Director of Campaigns & Elections for the LDs from 1989 - 2003, and CE of the party from 2003 - 2009. He is a Patron of The Crescent, a centre in St Albans which provides help and support to those living with, or otherwise affected by HIV.

He is Vice-Chair of the APPG on Smoking and Health.

APPG on PDRH Aims and 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 and one to an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) in February 2024 to ensure new APPG rules were adhered to including having four officers only.

- 24th April 2023 committee meeting
- 3rd July 2023 committee meeting and AGM
- 20th November 2023 committee meeting
- 26th February 2024 committee meeting and EGM

Please find agendas and committee/AGM/EGM minutes enclosed at appendix 1.

APPG on PDRH SRHR Briefing Meetings

The UK APPG organised and co-hosted nine SRHR briefing meetings in Parliament for APPG on PDRH members this year.

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), MSI Reproductive Choices (MSI) and Ipas briefing meeting on Roe vs Wade, 24th April 2023, HoC, London


The APPG on PDRH organised above briefing meeting on global abortion rights as a follow up to the June 2022 US Supreme Court ruling overturning the landmark Roe vs Wade case which legalised abortion in 1973. Experts from RCOG, MSI and Ipas outlined the global impact the decision had globally and gave recommendations on how the UK Government might help mitigate its consequences.

The problem we face

An increasingly sophisticated, well funded , global anti-choice - and anti-gender - opposition	Emergence of prominent populist and conservative policies legitimises and raises profile of the anti-choice
Anti-rights narratives framing SRHR as neo-colonial, Western agendas threatening traditional, family values	Conflation of the anti-abortion agenda with other rights issues (LGBTQI+, CSE, gender equity)

However, on a day-to-day basis our programmes still contend with more traditional, long-standing opposition, particularly in restricted contexts (religious institutions, pressure from authorities, community opposition) and the effects of abortion stigma.


MSI slides from briefing meeting



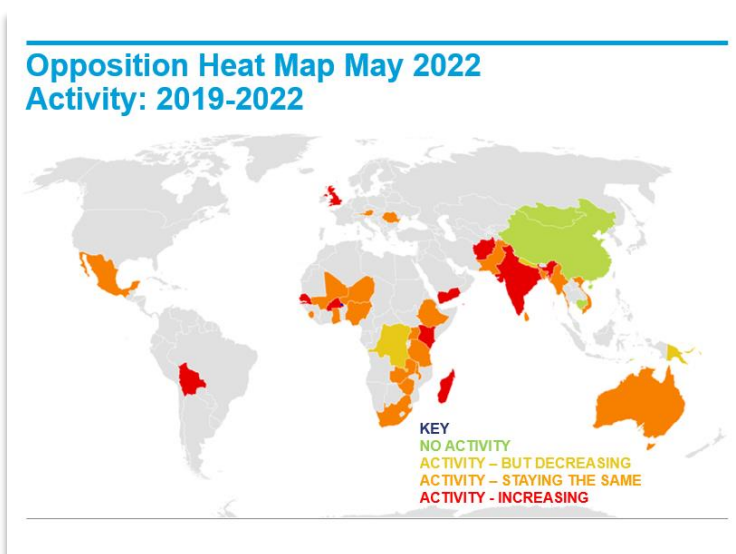
Many Cultural Imperialists are pushing for their own version & vision of change in Africa- abortion, sexual immorality, population control, unfettered liberalism, gender theory...

But Africans are awake and aware and we will not kneel before them because the era of colonialism is behind us.

-Dr. Akinola Ekeolu



MSI Reproductive Choices



Opposition 'Heat map'

Presenters noted that the UK government is supportive of SRHR, including abortion, referenced in the recently published FCDO Women and Girls Strategy and numerous opportunities exist for the UK government to provide global leadership by making bold commitments on comprehensive SRHR including abortion at UN and international meetings and by funding services and advocacy and via soft diplomacy.

Please find enclosed sample presentations as appendix 2

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), UNFPA and UK SRHR Network World Population Day (WPD) reception, 11th July 2023, HoL, London



World Population Day Invitation

The APPG on PDRH co-hosted the 2023 WPD reception with IPPF, UNFPA and the UK SRHR Network.

The annual World Population Day reception saw 150 guests including MPs, peers, embassy-, private sector, NGO- and donor representatives gather to celebrate this special day with the theme: 'Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities'.

The following embassies were represented: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Haiti, Sri Lanka, Slovenia, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Turkey.

Baroness Hussein-Ece welcomed delegates outlining why SRHR is important with the following points:

- 51% of the global population are women and girls – so it has to be important
- Women and girls are sexual beings, as are men/boys – but women/girls bear the brunt of this ordinary/ and for some regular human activity
- If we leave the issue of pleasure aside, the reality is grim for too many women and girls
- 50% of pregnancies in Low Middle-Income Countries - 111 million annually - are unintended
- A woman dies every two minutes due to pregnancy or childbirth - there were 287,000 maternal deaths worldwide in 2020
- Worryingly and a particular factor is that 218m women have an unmet need for contraception – i.e. they do not want to get pregnant - but do not have the means to access/use it
- From an economic perspective - for every \$1 invested in FP/contraception and maternal health in low-income countries, \$8.40 is accrued by averting unintended pregnancies and reducing the demand for and cost of maternal and other health services – so investing in SRHR makes economic sense

Baroness Hussein-Ece also presented the most recent APPG on PDRH achievements in the UK, namely telemedicine becoming a permanent option for women and girls via an amendment to the Health Care Bill, The Istanbul Convention being ratified by the UK Government, Child Marriage finally becoming illegal after years of efforts with a punishment of 7 years in prison. Virginity testing and hymenoplasty is now also illegal and safe access zones around abortion clinics came into place via the Health Care Act.

The Right Honourable Lord Ahmad, Minister of State (MoS), FCDO delivered the key-note speech and outlined FCDO's continued commitment to SRHR and its focus on women and girls.

Mina Barling, Director of External Relations, IPPF, made the closing speech and outlined IPPF's SRHR activities in-country and the impact they have on individual women and girls and communities.



Lord Ahmad, MoS, FCDO



Baroness Hussein-Ece, Co-chair APPG on PDRH



Baroness Sugg with NGO representatives



Baroness Barker and Viscount Craigavon with NGO representative

RCOG briefing meeting, 15th November 2023, HoC, London



Lord Patel, Theo Clarke MP, Dr Ranee Thakar and Virendra Sharma MP at briefing meeting

A round table briefing meeting was organised for Ranee Thakar, RCOG President and staff to brief APPG on PDRH members on RCOG's latest work and direction. A highlight was RCOG's latest report: 'Getting Back on Track: the case for reinvestment in global SRHR', which outlined UK's track record on global SRHR and had testimonies from RCOG members on the impact of cuts to UK ODA. The report can be found [here](#).

Reference was also made to making rhetoric a reality: Women & Girls Strategy, Ending Preventable Deaths/Health Systems Strengthening Paper, International Development White Paper and RCOG's latest strategic direction, which is to champion gynaecological health and improve training for obstetric fistula repair. RCOG has also undertaken work in the area of FGM and Abortion Care with reference to telemedicine as an additional safe pathway.

A round table discussion followed the presentation with discussion around opportunities for collaboration between RCOG and the APPG on PDRH.

Equimundo Fathers Report launch, 16th November 2023, HoL, London

The APPG on PDRH co-launched the 2023 State of the World's Fathers (SOWF) report produced by [Equimundo: Center for Masculinities and Social Justice](#) (formerly Promundo US) as part of the global fatherhood campaign, [MenCare](#).

Baroness Barker, APPG on PDRH officer welcomed the audience to the launch, the fifth Fathers Report and the third to be launched in the UK Parliament. Baroness Barker shared her hope it would help to recognise the increasing diversity of both fatherhood and parenthood in the UK and the challenges they present. She acknowledged the recent win for women's rights in the UK – that from 17th November 2023, women will finally be allowed to [access contraception from a local pharmacy rather than from a doctor](#).

Baroness Barker then introduced Gary Barker, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Equimundo, and Nikki van der Gaag, lead author on the report, to present its findings.

Gary Barker noted that the SOWF 2023 report revealed that thousands of women and men across the world are calling for care to be central to their lives, but this can only be addressed by a fundamental

overhaul of power structures, policies and social norms around both paid and unpaid care work. The report asserted that these changes are critical in order to advance gender equality, recognising care as the foundation that holds society together and enables it to function.

New research conducted for the report across seventeen countries showed that women and men across the world have multiple caregiving responsibilities, to children, the elderly, disabled family members, homes, neighbours, friends and extended families. Men say they are doing and want to do more, but barriers to equal sharing – structural, norm-based, workplace, individual and financial – remain. Despite many taking on more caring responsibilities during the pandemic and more countries and companies putting in national care plans, including paid parental leave, the data reveals that too few workplaces support men's care, too few policies and politicians even consider men's caregiving and too few boys grow up seeing it exhibited by their own fathers. The report noted that there is an urgent need to break the binary and for men and boys to join the 'unfinished revolution' and centre care as much as women and girls to achieve care equality.



World Father's Report launch invitation

The report also revealed several promising examples of successful care policies and programmes around the world and proposed a series of recommendations for urgent structural action.

Please see link to full report [here](#)

Please see link to Executive Summary [here](#)

Jeremy Davies from the UK's [Fatherhood Institute](#) talked of his organisation's vision for positive, involved fathers, which leads to positive outcomes for children and endorsed Brearley's call for six weeks' well-paid leave for fathers in their baby's first year. The Fatherhood Institute has a [Parliamentary petition](#) calling for two weeks' paternity leave and a dedicated 'daddy month' of parental leave, all paid at 90% of salary. He said: "There is a fundamental problem in UK policy, which is that fathers are positioned as earners and not caregivers. And that is what he wants to change." He dismantled the myth that dads are often not around: 95% of fathers in the UK attend their baby's birth; 95% jointly register the birth; when their child is aged five, 94% of fathers are either living with or in contact with them; and by the time their child is aged 17, this percentage has only fallen to 85%. He said that: "if we want fathers to do more at home, we need to let them spend more time there" he argued, laying out ten recommendations to improve gender equity by supporting fathers.

Marvyn Harrison, founder of the group Dope Black Dads, spoke movingly of his own experience and of how he set up the organisation to support other Black fathers like himself to be good dads. He said: "As Black guys we do not have the same access and abilities to be able to hold space in the same way. My white friends don't

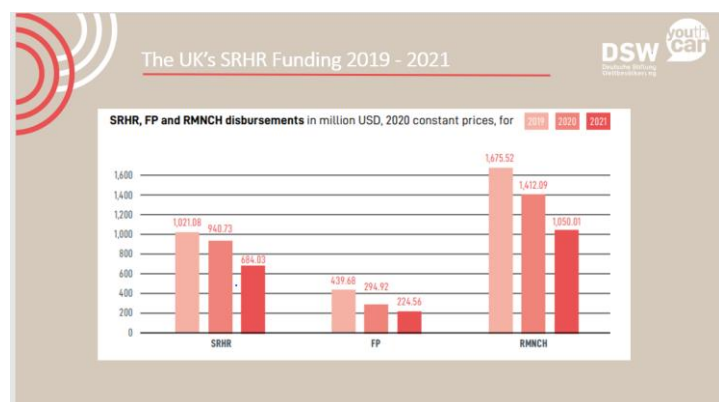
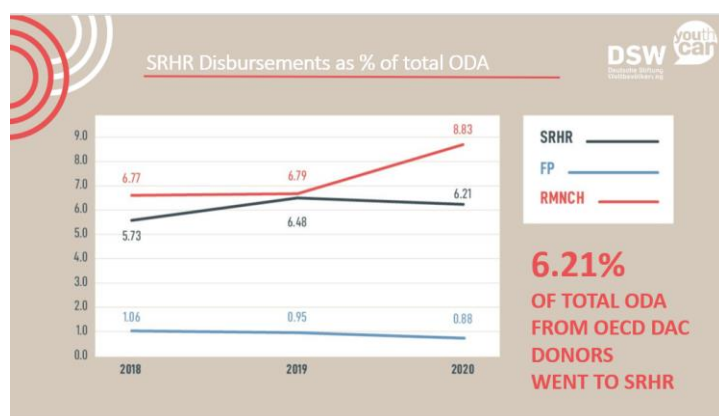
have the same informational code to share in the context of my spaces. I am alone. So very often I turn to Black mothers, who have more healthy information about being a dad than Black men.”

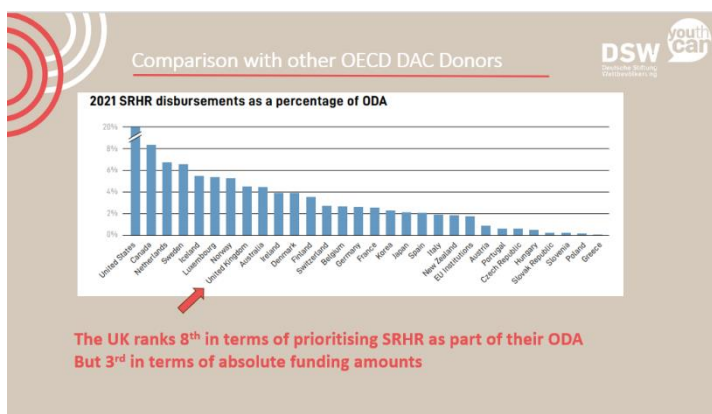
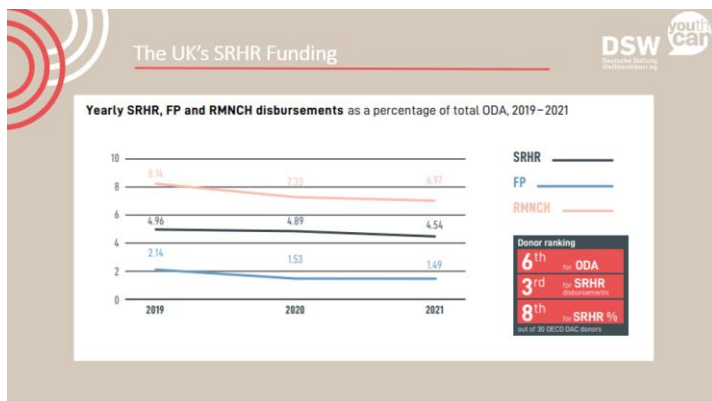
He said: *“Black men find it easier to be outside their families than inside their families,”* and spoke of his own route back into his family, *“peacefully and without being oppressive.”*

The discussion that followed from the packed audience was lively, and included questions about non-binary parents, about culture change, positive examples from the Global South, financial barriers and about whether six weeks’ statutory leave for fathers was ambitious enough.

UK SRHR Network and Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW) briefing meeting on UK ODA funding streams to SRHR, 20th November 2023, HoC, London

Steffie Neyens from DSW presented their latest ‘Donors Delivering for SRHR Report’ findings at above meeting. They used the methodology developed by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). From 2019 - 2020 the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donor’s SRHR funding increased significantly, this trend continued into 2021 at a lower rate. Two-thirds of donors increased their spending, but the overall increase between 2019 - 2021 was largely due to a strong increase of SRHR disbursements by the USA. Selected slides presented can be seen here:

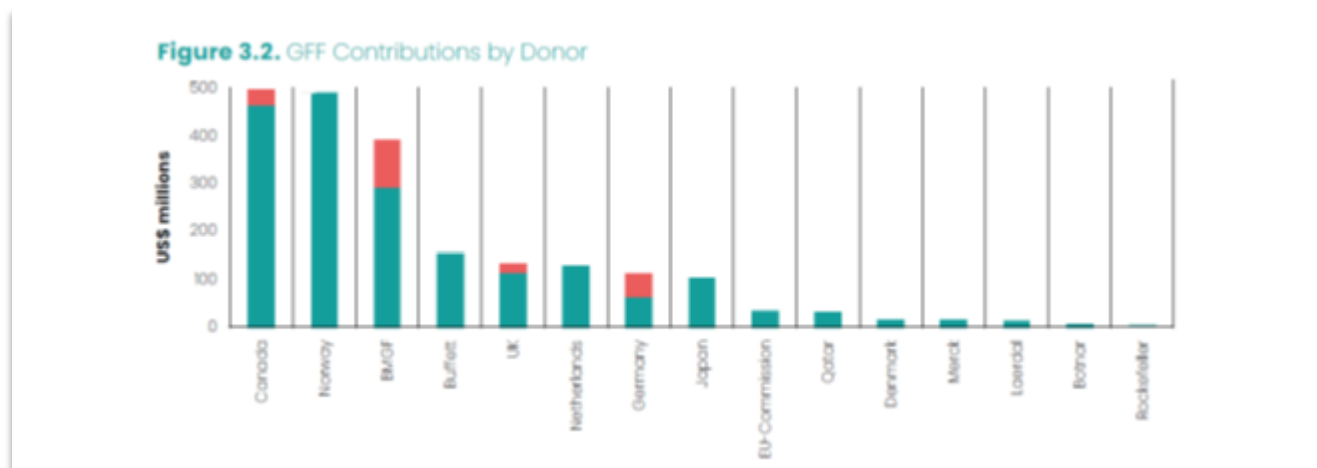




A discussion followed on USA ODA under Donald Trump vs Biden administrations and UK ODA decline over recent years. It was noted that looking at ODA for longer periods is more useful for parliamentarians.

Heather Knight, UK SRHR Network, outlined funding to UNFPA. UNFPA Supplies Partnership being a thematic fund for contraceptives, separate from UNFPA Core Resources. It is the largest procurer of donated contraceptives in the public sector working in 54 countries on this project. UK is the top donor to UNFPA Supplies Partnership, with a commitment of £60m per year in 2024 - 2025. The UK Government's contributions are usually multi-year, so may fluctuate. There was no 2021 disbursement, but funding has been restored and importantly the UK remains the top donor. The FCDO is currently developing their new commitment to UNFPA.

Heather Knight then outlined The Global Financing Facility (GFF), established in 2015, to which the UK is the leading donor. UK has pledged to date: £30m 2017 - 2020; £65m 2020 - 2024 and £80m 2025 - 2030 (+ £18m dependent on evaluation). The GFF is 'a multi-stakeholder partnership' housed at the World Bank that supports country-led efforts to improve the health of women, children and adolescents. It is a multi-donor trust fund that seeks to mobilise further financing from domestic resources, align external donor funding and private sector resources. Country processes were outlined. 67 countries are currently eligible to receive funding.



Due to time constraints the Global Fund to fight AIDS. TB and Malaria and FP2020 - 2030 were only referenced briefly.

Please find presentations attached as appendix 3

Durham University (online) briefing on The Criminal Justice Bill (CJB) and Abortion, 19th December 2023

Above online meeting was set up between Dr Emma Milner, Durham University; Stella Creasy MP and the APPG on PDRH secretariat to discuss the university's latest research on abortion and Stella Creasy MP's amendment to the CJB.

Dr Emma Milne's research looked at the English and Welsh criminal justice systems' response to women who end their own pregnancies. She found that the law is currently being applied incorrectly in certain cases, going beyond the intention of Parliament and failing to recognise the vulnerability of the women involved, instead punishing those who are perceived to have failed to be 'good' mothers. Abortion still sits within the criminal law and the case studies examined in her research demonstrated that the offences of procuring a miscarriage, child destruction and concealment of birth are being misused by prosecutors, so having devastating consequences on individual vulnerable women and putting women's rights at risk.

Research publication can be found [here](#).

Stella Creasy MP received follow up information on specific case studies and also received the Reproductive Rights publication to assist her in her parliamentary activities on decriminalising abortion and available [here](#).

Unitaid briefing meeting, 28th February 2024, HoC, London

The above in-person briefing meeting was set up between Janet Ginard and Matthew Lindley, Unitaid; Molly Thompson, STOPAIDS, Virendra Sharma MP and APPG on PDRH secretariat for an overview and update on Unitaid's current work and future strategic direction on its Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (RMNCH) portfolio. The issue of UK ODA to Unitaid funding was discussed and in response Virendra Sharma MP signed their campaign letter to Minister Andrew Mitchell on future Unitaid.

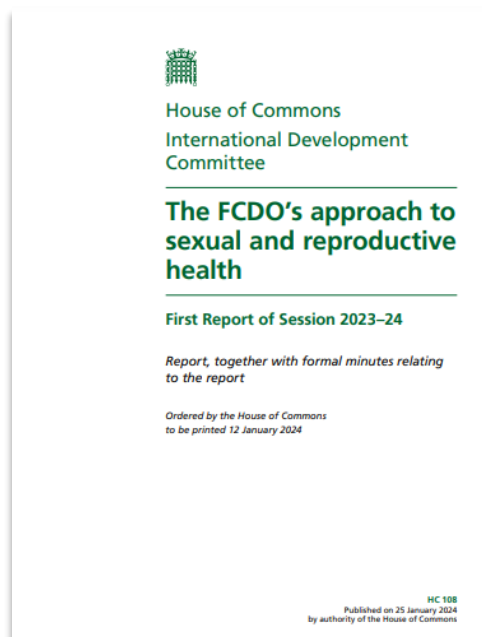
Please find campaign letter signed and response attached as appendix 4



Virendra Sharma MP with Unitaaid delegation

International Development Select Committee (ID SC) Report on FCDO SRHR Approach briefing meeting, 26th February 2024 (postponed to May 2024)

Sarah Champion MP, Chair of IDC, was invited and due to brief members on the ID SC Report on SRHR, but unfortunately sent her apologies last minute. The meeting was rescheduled to May 2024. The APPG on PDRH submitted written evidence to the report which is available [here](#).



International Parliamentary Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD PoA, Commission on Population and Development (CPD) and ICPD+30 Review briefing meeting, 27th March 2024, HoL, London

UNFPA and UK SRHR Network representatives met with APPG on PDRH members ahead of the IPCI ICPD PoA conference in Oslo and CPD in New York to provide some background information to the two events and the ICPD+30 Review process.

Monica Ferro and Vanessa Kortekas, UNFPA London office, noted that the IPCI ICPD in Oslo was the 8th IPCI PoA and marked the 30th anniversary of the Cairo Conference. The conference will promote dialogue among parliamentarians from all regions of the world on the implementation of the 1994 ICPD PoA. Around 200 parliamentarians from all regions of the world are due to attend.

Previous IPCI conferences, all with UK APPG on PDRH representation, were in Ottawa 2001, Strasburg 2004, Bangkok 2006, Addis Ababa 2009, Istanbul 2012, Stockholm 2014 and Ottawa 2018.

Parliamentarians from 112 countries will issue a forward-looking inclusive declaration confirming their commitment to upholding universal SRHR. This statement of commitment is an advocacy tool for parliamentarians at country level.

The CPD, an intergovernmental mechanism held annually in New York, will play a primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the ICPD PoA. The CPD monitor, review and assess the implementation of the ICPD PoA at the national, regional and international levels.

UNFPA and UK SRHR Network Representative, Heather Knight, then outlined SRHR UN/NGO facts and recommendations for the above events and referenced important documents including the UNFPA State of World Population 2023 Report: '8 Billion Lives, Infinite Possibilities: the Case for Rights and Choices' and its key messages, summary messaging on demographics, Ipas report on anti-rights agenda, International Sexual and Reproductive Right Coalition (ISRRC) messaging for CPD/ICPD+30 and Plan International's briefing on Climate Change: Focus on Girls and Young Women.

Ipas report is available [here](#).

Reference was made to the 57th session of the CPD having a negotiated outcome document and the adoption of a Political Declaration reaffirming the commitment to the ICPD PoA; accelerate - implementation of the ICPD agenda; increase ODA as well as domestic resource mobilisation; strengthening data systems at country level; realising SRHR for young people; and recognising that the implementation of the ICPD PoA is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The ICPD+30 Review process will culminate at the Summit of the Future in September 2024 in New York.

A round table discussion followed with general support on travel, logistics and how to be part of the negotiating team at IPCI ICPD PoA. Baroness Hussein-Ece and Baroness Northover were registered to attend IPCI ICPD PoA, Oslo and Hannah Bardell MP and Apsana Begum MP were registered to attend the CPD, New York.

External SRHR Briefing Meetings

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

4th April 2023: World Health Organization (WHO) 'Global Infertility Prevalence Estimates' webinar

18th April 2023: Global Justice Centre (GJC) Human Rights event 'Crisis: Abortion in the USA after Dobbs'

19th April 2023: UNFPA 2023 SWOP report launch: '8 billion lives: Infinite possibilities – the case for rights and choices'



20th April 2023: GJC webinar: 'Intersectional Feminist Practice in International Criminal Justice: Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes in Ongwen'

16th May 2023: HIP webinar: 'Knowledge, Beliefs, Attitudes and Self-efficacy: Strengthening an individual's ability to achieve their reproductive intentions'

18th May 2023: FCDO webinar: 'Global Health Strategic Framework'

25th May 2023: John Hopkins University webinar: 'Sustaining PHE activities in Kenya and Uganda'

30th May 2023: FP2030 webinar: 'The Future of the Modern Contraceptive Method Mix: Innovative Technology'

31st May 2023: High Impact Practice (HIP) webinar: 'Improving Patient Care and Safety with Caesarean Delivery in Low- and Middle-Income Countries'

6th June 2023: European Parliamentary Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF) and Fertility Europe webinar: 'The Imperative of Equal Access to Fertility Treatments across Europe and Coregroup webinar: Localization Conversation: Strategies for supporting community-based actors to increase access to health care'



7th June 2023: Progress Educational Trust (PET) webinar: 'National Health Service (NHS) Fertility Treatment – Wouldn't it be NICE to have a workable guideline?' Steve McCabe MP, a member of the APPG on PDRH, spoke at this event

13th June 2023: Global Government Forum webinar: 'The doctor will see you now – future of healthcare post-COVID'

14th June 2023: PET webinar: 'Counselling and Assisted Reproductive: When, Why and by Whom should it be offered?'

15th June 2023: Plan International webinar: 'Supporting Adolescent Girls' Education (SAGE) Programme in Zimbabwe: Endline Results and Recommendations and SAGE webinar: Programme Endline Evaluation report'

28th June 2023: WHO webinar: 'Clinical practice handbook for quality abortion care'

29th June 2023: DSW report launch: 'Donors Delivering for SRHR'

4th July 2023: RCOG reception and report launch: 'Getting Back on Track: The case for reinvestment in global SRHR'



RCOG report launch with Sarah Champion MP

27th July 2023: SRHR Network briefing meeting with FCDO

10th August 2023: PMNCH webinar: 'Interview Opportunity around findings from first 700,000 (of expected 1 million) results from What Young People Want Global Survey'

4th September 2023: WHO webinar on sexual health

12th September 2023: APPG Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) briefing meeting with Minister Mitchell

26th September 2023: WHO webinar: 'Celebrating 50 years of Contraceptive Research: Harnessing WHO's Scientific Leadership in Contraception to Achieve Developing Goals'

5th October 2023: SRHR Network subgroup MNCH briefing meeting with FCDO

18th October 2023: Abortion Rights briefing meeting in Parliament: 'Abortion Doesn't Belong in Court: The Case for Decriminalisation'



Abortion Rights meeting in Parliament

30th October 2023: WHO webinar: 'Civil Society Organisations (CSO) – Youth consultation on General Programme of Work (GPW14)'

7th November 2023: Fertility Europe – European Fertility week: 'Minds Matters – Empowering Infertility Patients with Psychological Support'

8th November 2023: Family Health International (FHI) webinar: 'Prepositioning and Management of health logistics in health emergencies and humanitarian response'

13th November 2023: UK SRHR Network briefing meeting with FCDO

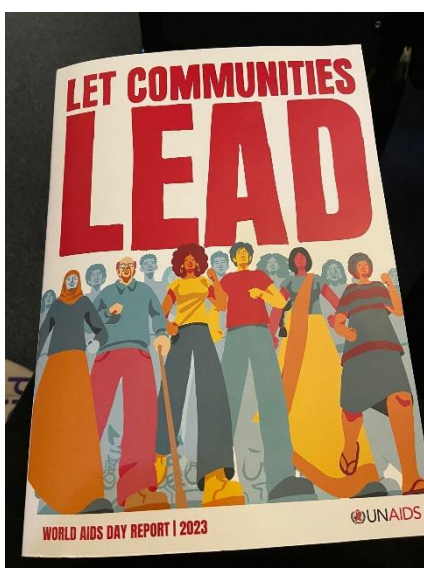
15th November 2023: White Ribbon Alliance webinar: 'Walking the Implementation Journey – Resources for effective introduction and scale-up of self-care interventions'

21st November 2023: Equilibres et Populations (Equipop), Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI), Rosa Luxemburg webinar: 'Face au Backlash and WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and PMNCH and partners webinar: Climate change across the life course: Evidence to Action'

22nd November 2023: FCDO White Paper Statement reception with Minister Mitchell

23rd November 2023: UK SRHR Network briefing meeting on GFF

28th November 2023: APPG HIV/AIDS and STOPAIDS World Aids Day - briefing event



World Aids Day Briefing



29th November 2023: Amnesty and The International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) webinar: 'SRR defenders'

4th December 2023: WHO webinar: 'Sexual Health and Maternal Health'

6th December 2023: Reproductive Health Matters (RHM) webinar: 'Digital Justice and SRH' and United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU – IIGH), Path, Gender & Health Hub et al virtual Forum 2023 webinar: 'Evidence, Voice, Action: Catalysing Change for Gender Equality in Health'

11th December 2023: John Hopkins University (JHU) webinar: 'Transforming Family Planning: Moving Towards a Stronger Human Rights-Based Approach' and Ipas webinar: 'Shuman Rights Promoter or Pariah: The US Record on Abortion'

12th December 2023: Implementing Best Practice (IBP) Initiative webinar: 'Strengthening Partnership with Faith Actors in Family Planning'

16th January 2024: USAID, Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) et al webinar: 'Using Technology to Improve Girls' Learning: Girls' Education Challenge'

25th January 2024: The Guttmacher Institute webinar: 'How Evidence – Based Advocacy Fuels a Post-Roe Future'

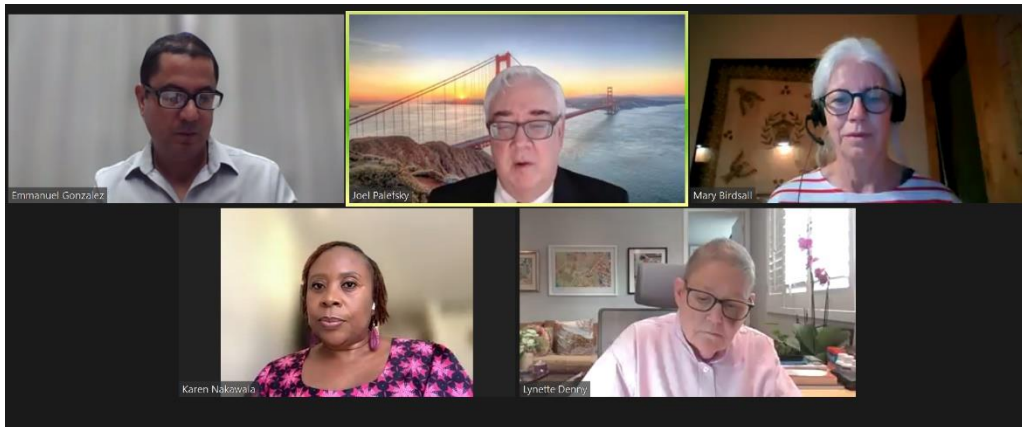
14th February 2024: EPF report launch: 'European Contraceptive Atlas 2024 report'

22nd February 2024: LeighDay annual conference on Women's Rights in Healthcare

28th February 2024: APPG HIV/AIDS and STOPAIDS round table briefing meeting chaired by Baroness Barker: 'Women's Health'

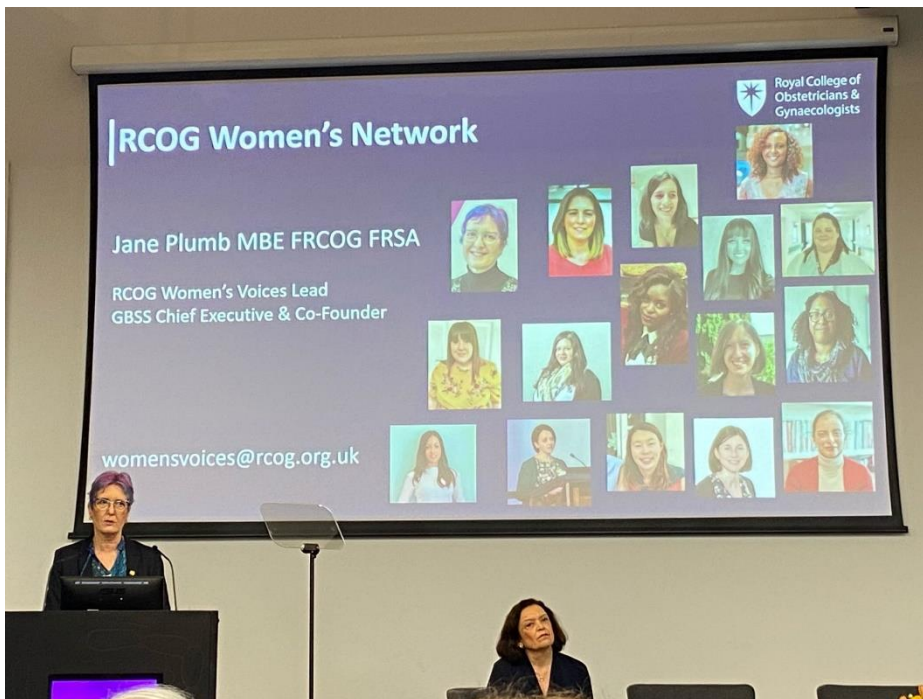
29th February 2024: UK SRHR Network briefing meeting with FCDO

4th March 2024: WHO International Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Awareness Day High Level Panel event



HPV Awareness Day Event

7th March 2024: RCOG and PET International Women's Day (IWD) event on Gynaecological Health and StemEmbryo research/legislation



RCOG and PET IWD Event

19th March 2024: FCDO and Equal event: 'Research on Maternal, Neonatal Health (MNH) Prioritisation in Conflict-Affected Settings'

20th March 2024: University of Bristol Law School one day abortion law reform event

26th March 2024: PMNCH and WHO webinar: 'Self-care'

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). Baroness Northover attended three EPF meetings and co-organised events this year: EPF council meeting in Motovun, Croatia, April 2023; EPF council meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, July 2023 held in conjunction with the Women Deliver conference, which Tommy Sheppard MP and Ann Mette Kjaerby also attended and an EPF council meeting in Rome, Italy, November 2023 in connection with the EPF G7 Parliamentary workshop on Population, Demography, and Fertility co-organised with AIDOS, which Ann Mette Kjaerby also attended. Agenda items discussed at EPF meetings included a new code of conduct, the ICPD at 30 Review process, EU treaties, national parliamentary activities, EPF research and workplan, European Parliamentary elections and brainstorming for parliamentary engagement in 2024.



Baroness Northover in Croatia with EPF Council delegates

Rupa Huq MP participated in the EPF study tour to Panama and El Salvador in September 2023 and subsequently joined the APPG on PDRH. As a follow up to the study tour she and Ann Mette Kjaerby participated in an online meeting with other study tour delegates in October 2023 which resulted in the drafting of a declaration on abortion available [here](#) for delegates to adopt at a national level.

Baroness Mobarik, who participated in the EPF study tour to Tanzania/Zanzibar in January 2023, tabled a follow up written PQ on the crackdown on LGBT rights in Tanzania and Human Rights in El Salvador. See [here](#):

15th May 2023: To ask HMG whether the torture, mistreatment and disappearance of LGBT individuals in Tanzania have been confirmed and if so, what action HMG have taken.

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.

APPG member Rupa Huq MP also tabled a written question:

20th March 2024: To ask the Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, what discussions he has had with his El Salvadorean counterpart on the 30-day state of emergency in that country; and what reports he has received on the potential impact of the state of emergency on (a) women and girls (i) in rural areas and (ii) generally and (b) other vulnerable groups.

Since the state of emergency was declared in March 2022, UK officials have continued to encourage the authorities in El Salvador to uphold international human rights standards and constitutional protections in respect of all groups, including women and girls. I [Minister Rutley] have discussed the security situation in El Salvador with counterparts including the Vice President and the Foreign Minister and have underlined the importance of a balance between the reduction of violent crime and the continued protection of human rights. Officials continue to engage with civil society to assess the wider impact of the state of emergency.

Rupa Huq MP participated in the EPF UNECE ICPD+30 consultation meeting in Geneva, Switzerland 18th – 20th October 2023 and was due to join the EPF study tour to Egypt, March 2024, which unfortunately had to be cancelled.



Rupa Huq MP at UNECE ICPD+30 meeting in Geneva

EPF study tour reports can be found on the APPG on PDRH website [here](#).

EPF continues to monitor anti-choice activities in Europe and information sharing has been useful for UK parliamentary debates on abortion. In April 2023 EPF circulated a Global Parliamentary Petition regarding the Anti-Homosexual Bill 2023 adopted by the Parliament of Uganda, which was signed by APPG on PDRH members and in July – August 2023 an EPF petition was circulated asking for an improvement to abortion legislation in Malta, which was likewise signed by several APPG on PDRH members. Malta has the most restrictive abortion laws in Europe i.e. until 2023, abortion was illegal without any exceptions and is now illegal except in cases where the life of the pregnant woman is at risk.

In November 2023 Baroness Barker attended the EPF/Basque APPG seminar: 'Sexual and Reproductive Health Under Pressure: Reactions of Governments and Parliaments' in Victoria-Gasteiz, Spain.

The APPG on PDRH has responded to various inquiries from EPF this year in relation to their publications: Contraceptive -, HPV -, Infertility - and Funding/Policy Atlas and linking EPF to the UK national APPG on SRH. EPF publications are available [here](#).

In November 2023 EPF received a link to the new FCDO White Paper on International Development and in December 2023 a link to The Father's Report launched in the UK Parliament, as a follow up to discussions at the G7 Demographics meeting in Rome with reference to the need for policies on paternity leave to ensure gender equality. Communications on buffer zones and UK oral parliamentary questions (PQs) on the subject have also been shared, alongside FCDO ID White Paper highlights on SRHR and responses to written PQs on the ICPD+30 Review.

In December 2023, Ann Mette Kjaerby attended the annual EPF APPG secretariat meeting in Naples, Italy alongside other APPG on PDRH secretariats. This annual meeting took place on 4th – 5th December 2023 with the main aim of discussing EPF's work and how to share best APPG practices among national APPGs. Of particular importance this year were discussion and updates on EPF Council of Europe (CoE) activities, The Global Parliamentary Alliance for Health, Rights and Development (GPA), media presence and activities by national APPGs, constitutionalising abortion in European countries, forthcoming European, USA, India and Indonesia General Elections (GE), ICPD+30 processes and national efforts and The Summit of the Future, the sharing of APPGs' country-specific challenges and initiatives. It was highlighted at the meeting that the UK faces a reduction in SRHR funding but parliamentary advocacy undertaken to restore it and Denmark focuses on abortion rights and combating anti-gender trends. Several countries, including France, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Romania, Albania, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and North Macedonia, shared various initiatives on abortion, Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), gender equality laws, and more.



EPF Secretariats' Retreat, Naples, Italy, December 2023

APPG on PDRH members have attended numerous EPF webinars this year including 6th June 2023 on Fertility Europe webinar: 'The Imperative of Equal Access to Fertility Treatments across Europe' and 14th February 2024 on the EPF European Contraceptive Atlas 2024 report launch.

In August 2023 all APPG on PDRH members received EPF's annual activity report, in December 2023 UK PQs on the ICPD+30 review were shared with EPF and in February 2024 APPG on PDRH leaflet and template was shared, as was information on the UK Criminal Justice Bill and abortion amendments.

Study Tours

APPG on PDRH study visit, Mahama Camp, Rwanda, 16th July 2023



Tommy Sheppard MP and Baroness Northover at maternity hospital in Mahama Camp, Rwanda

The APPG on PDRH in collaboration with UNFPA, Rwanda organised a mini-study visit for Tommy Sheppard MP and Baroness Northover to Mahama Camp in Rwanda the day prior to the Women Deliver Conference, Kigali, Rwanda.

Tommy Sheppard MP, Baroness Northover and Ann Mette Kjaerby were met by UNFPA Rwanda representatives in Kigali and driven to the camp.

Upon arrival delegates were introduced to the running and organisation of the camp, with UNFPA as the collaborating partner in charge of the SRHR activities.

The camp has just over 55,000 refugees living on site and is located in the Kirehe district in the Eastern Province of Rwanda. It was established in 2015 when 160 hectares of land were allocated to host refugees. Minema (Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management) administrates the camp and is responsible for the security and protection of the refugees in coordination with UNHCR. The camp also hosts 1775 new asylum seekers from The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) who arrived at the end of 2022.

Please see full Mahama camp briefing attached at appendix 5



Tommy Sheppard MP and Baroness Northover visiting Mahama Camp, Rwanda

Delegates were escorted around the camp and encouraged to speak to residents and staff. Visits included stops at the adolescent SRH service/youth corners in Mahama I, visit to the maternity ward, FP, post-natal and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services. The project with teen mothers was showcased, where young mothers were taught enterprising and business skills including mushroom farming, soap making and tailoring.



Young mothers learning 'life/business skills' at Mahama camp, Rwanda



A visit was also made to the general medical centre in the camp.



Contraceptive display in Family Planning Clinic, Mahama Camp

The study visit was highly appreciated by delegates and as a follow up to the visit, Baroness Northover referenced findings in a UK Parliamentary debate in January 2024 with an extract available [here](#):

Last July, I was in Rwanda for a major conference on women's rights. While I was there, I visited, with the UNFPA, the Mahama refugee camp in eastern Rwanda. Overseen by the UNHCR, this houses 60,000 refugees, largely from Burundi, but also from other countries in the region which have been suffering conflict. There are strong cultural similarities between the refugees and their hosts. Full provision is made for housing, schools, and training. There are villages led by local leaders, markets for stallholders, and a bus service to enable travel to work. We visited impressive health clinics, which covered a range of care, including minor operations, vaccinations, malnutrition care and mental health services. What is more, the local population can access these facilities, so they can see a benefit from having refugees among them.

Let us contrast this with what the UK plans to do for those seeking assistance at our borders. None of

EPF study tour, El Salvador, September 2023



Rupa Huq MP in El Salvador on study tour

Rupa Huq MP participated in EPF's El Salvador/Panama study tour in September 2023, report available [here](#).

APPG on PDRH study tour, Tanzania/Zanzibar, 10th – 17th February 2024



David Concar, British High Commissioner and APPG on PDRH study tour delegates Baroness Jenkin, Baroness Hodgson, Tommy Sheppard MP, Apsana Begum MP and Kim Johnson MP

The APPG on PDRH initially organised a study tour to India in November 2023 but this was cancelled last minute as visas were not granted. Instead, a study tour was arranged with a slightly amended cross-party delegation to Tanzania/Zanzibar, 10th – 17th February 2024.

This delegation was led by Baroness Jenkin and Baroness Hodgson (Conservatives), officers of the APPG on PDRH, with the following parliamentarians: Kim Johnson MP (Labour), Apsana Begum MP (Labour) and Tommy Sheppard (SNP), Secretary of the APPG on PDRH.

The study tour was hosted by UNFPA, Tanzania supported by MSI's affiliate organisation MS Tanzania (MST), IPPF and member organisation Chama cha Uzazi na Malezi Bora Tanzania (UMATI) and EngenderHealth.

The aim of the study tour was to strengthen UK parliamentarians' knowledge of SRHR and international development and to enhance the membership of the APPG on PDRH.

Prior to departure, the study tour delegates were briefed in the UK Parliament by representatives from the British High Commission Tanzania, UK FCDO, UNFPA, MSI, MS Tanzania, IPPF, UMATI and EngenderHealth.

Whilst visiting Tanzania/Zanzibar, delegates held meetings with David Concar, The British High Commissioner and Kemi Williams, The Deputy High Commissioner's team, Moker/Development Director and staff; members of the Tanzanian Parliament and Zanzibar's House of Representatives, Deputy Speaker and Deputy Minister of Health, Tanzania House of Representatives; Mark Bryan Schreiner, UNFPA Country Representative and his team; Mr V. S. Chandrashekar, MST Country Director and his team, Suzana Raphael Mkanzabi, UMATI Executive Director and her team, Moke Magoma, EngenderHealth's Country Representative and his team and met with SRHR peer educators and entrepreneurs.

Delegates also met with religious leaders, Tanzanian Government medical doctors, matrons, nurses, midwives, health volunteers and SRHR clients and the Central Medical Store ED and his team. Study tour delegates saw a variety of Government FP, maternal, SRHR and GBV activities supported by UNFPA, MST, UMATI and EngenderHealth, both in hospital and clinic settings and at outreach and 'pop up' facilities.



Tommy Sheppard MP visits Medical Stores, Tanzania

The study tour delegates discussed FP, maternal and neonatal health, services for adolescents, demographics, HIV/AIDS, menstrual regulation, post-abortion care, cervical cancer, HPV and vaccinations, gynaecological cancers, GBV including domestic violence, child marriage and FGM.

Outreach services and demand generation with and for youth populations were prominent in discussions, as were service provisions for vulnerable and often left-behind populations as well as the financing of services including via ODA from the UK Government and the national budget.

Religion, culture, polygamy, post-abortion care and fertility were prominent in all discussions, as was the country's large 'youth bulge' and the demographic dividend. The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) - just above 100 per 100,000 births, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) - around 4 per woman, high adolescent birth rate - around 140 per 1,000 girls aged 15-19; and GBV were referenced at numerous site visits.

The strict abortion law in Tanzania (i.e. only permitted to save the woman's life) combined with poverty, gender inequality, child marriage and deep-rooted cultural barriers and practices were notable contributors to the country's maternal morbidity and mortality rates, alongside postpartum haemorrhage (PPH), pre-eclampsia and obstructed labours. A delay in referrals and transport to access emergency obstetric care in a timely manner was often referenced.

Throughout the study tour, the Tanzanian Government officials and health workers, UN-, NGO officials and clients thanked the UK Government for its long-standing support to the country, with particular emphasis on support to the SRHR sector, with requests for renewed commitments to support women and girls' SRHR in the country.

The British High Commission has been a long-standing partner and collaborator in Tanzania including on SRHR, but the UK ODA cut in Tanzania in 2020 – 2021 at 66 - 67% was the largest cut to any country in Africa. The British High Commission reiterated that its work in Tanzania on Women and Girls will remain strong including on SRHR and that funding will continue for at least another 2 years and then be scaled up with a focus on youth, contraception, post-abortion care

and reaching marginalised populations.

Study tour delegates noted good civil society engagement with authorities and leaders and numerous innovative initiatives to educate and engage youth on SRHR to create demand for FP and SRHR services. Various methods of contraceptives were available at sites visits and free at point of delivery, but cultural barriers, stigma, myths, pressure to produce children and a lack of knowledge often stopped teenagers from accessing services. Condom use was low but HIV prevalence equally low and mainly seen in high-risk groups. Rape and GBV were of concern, particularly in Zanzibar and receiving attention with specialised 'one stop' centres for survivors to aid their recovery and through the process of prosecuting the perpetrator. Poverty was often cited as a reason for rape survivors settling out of court.

The aim of the study tour to introduce, broaden and deepen delegates' understanding of core FP, SRHR, GBV and international development in Tanzania/Zanzibar, with a particular reference to FCDO-supported projects, was accomplished.

Kim Johnson MP and Apsana Begum MP subsequently joined the APPG on PDRH and committed to take action on SRHR in the UK Parliament alongside existing members.

APPG on PDRH Recommendations from study tour:

- Increased domestic funding to comprehensive FP and SRHR services as per the Abuja commitment (15% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to health and continued and renewed commitments from UK Government ODA, with particular reference to reducing MMR and supporting the WISH and UNFPA supplies programmes
- New, sustainable UK bilateral SRHR programmes to be delivered in partnership with UN, NGOs, the private sector and the Tanzanian government, including support for improved access to quality adolescent and youth responsive SRH services and demand-generating activities. SRHR programmes to include Unijet; HPV vaccinations and treatment possibilities for cervical abnormalities, health worker exchange between UK and Tanzania/Zanzibar
- Support evidence-informed social behaviour change communication packages to increase demand for FP and SRHR services to aid the demographic dividend, social and economic progress and sustainable development with a particular focus on male and religious leaders' active participation
- Progressive Tanzania SRHR laws and policies to be agreed and implemented as per the Tanzanian Parliament's and populations' wishes, with particular reference to liberalising abortion law to save young girls lives in particular rape survivors, keeping girls in school by addressing period poverty, teenage pregnancies, and preventing child marriages.

General Written Briefings

APPG on PDRH members have received 37 weekly APPG on PDRH Future Business/newsletters this year, which outline HoC and HoL business including debates and questions, where members have the opportunity to raise important FP and SRHR issues.

This weekly update also includes latest SRHR policies, funding, research, programme activities and press, as well as briefing events/meetings and conferences for members to register and join to be updated and supported in their FP and SRHR parliamentary advocacy.

All APPG on PDRH Future Business/newsletters disseminated can be viewed [here](#).

Oral and written PQs have also been disseminated as and when relevant for members to table for Secretary of State (SoS) for FCDO-, Chancellor of the Exchequer-, Justice Secretary-, SoS for Health and Social Care (HSC) and Minister for Women and Equalities, to respond to.

Question subjects included; In April 2023, Crackdown on LGBT organisation in Tanzania; May 2023, ODA to SRHR (£200 million to WISH programme 2024 – 2029 to Sub-Saharan Africa) and UNFPA SWOP Report launch 2023; June 2023, SRHR ODA; June 2023, Section 58 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 and abortion; July 2023, ODA to SRHR; September 2023, FGM and Child Marriage; October 2023, SRHR ODA; November 2023, ICPD+30 Review and Private Members Bill (PMB) on SRHR deadlines/reminder shared with members; December 2023, SRHR funding; January 2024, UK fertility and DNA testing; January 2024, Nexplanon implant tax increase by 35%; February 2024, FCDO International Strategy on Women and Girls, restoration of ODA to SRHR and ICPD+30 and GFF and SRHR funding; and March 2024, El Salvador and 30-day state of emergency and abortion.

Individual and specific briefings have also been disseminated to members in response to requests in support of parliamentary debates, legislation, questions and presentations at conferences and listed here:

14th April 2023: Baroness Barker received briefings for her Gender and Equality and SRHR presentation at the Asian Forum for Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), Japan

25th April 2023: All members received briefings on Roe vs Wade from RCOG, MSI, Ipas and the GJC

13th June 2023: Select members received British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) briefing on women in England being sentenced to 28 months in prison after using abortion pills to end their pregnancy

14th June 2023: All members received 30 healthcare and women's rights organisations briefing leaflet on Section 58 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 and BPAS abortion law statement

June 2023: Tommy Sheppard MP and Baroness Northover received information on important side events at Women Deliver Conference, Rwanda

26th September 2023: Rupa Hug MP received information on UK FCDO support to El Salvador as follow up to EPF study tour and online meeting after

September/October 2023: Virendra Sharma MP received SRHR briefing for Westminster Hall October debate on the SDGs

30th October 2023: Baroness Hussein-Ece shared article on British police testing women for abortion drugs with members

7th November 2023: All members received information on PMB ballot date and potential subjects listed here:

- Decriminalisation of abortion – In 2021 Baroness Barker's bill reached 2nd reading stage in HoL - [Abortion Bill \[HL\] - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#) and in 2019 Diana Johnson MP reached 2nd reading stage in HoC - [Abortion Bill - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#)
- Feminist response to Disaster Management – The World Bank and University College London have published reports on this subject.
- Feminist Foreign Policy - Baroness Sugg wrote an article about this back in December 2021 for RUSI. Labour Foreign Policy Group also published an article on this subject in March this year. The LSE published a strategic update on this subject last month 'Is Feminist Foreign Policy driving progress for women's representation in diplomacy?'
- Women, Peace and Security Bill – Baroness Hodgson's bill got as far as 1st reading in HoC last session [Women, Peace and Security Bill \[HL\] - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#)

15th November 2023: Baroness Barker received briefing for Father's Report launch in Parliament

17th November 2023: Sarah Champion MP, Harriett Baldwin MP and Chris Elmore MP were successful in the PMB ballot so received reminder about subjects relating to SRHR

21st November 2023: Lord Rennard received The Guttmacher Institute and UNFPA Report: 'Adding it up' and Thea Clarke MP received RCOG briefing as requested

22nd November 2023: Select members received information on FCDO White Paper and SRHR highlights prior to the paper's launch in the UK Parliament

29th November 2023: All members received link to poiliticshome.com requesting signatures for Stella Creasy MPs' amendment on abortion to the CJB

31st November 2023: Baroness Northover received APPG on PDRH summary update for EPF EC meeting

8th December 2023: Baroness Hussein-Ece and Baroness Northover received information on 'demographic winter' and 'great replacement' theories referenced in the UK Parliament

12th December 2023: Baroness Hussein-Ece and Baroness Northover received information on the GFF disbursement of funding to SRHR and the British International Finance Institution (BII)

December 2023/January 2024: Baroness Northover received briefing on ID and Climate change in support of her debate in HoL

28th January 2024: Stella Creasy MP received Ipas abortion briefings as requested and Baroness Northover received Mahama camp study visit information to highlight in debate

19th February 2024: Baroness Hussein-Ece and Baroness Northover received IPCI ICPC+30 NGO briefings prior to attending the Conference in Oslo

6th and 8th March 2024: Baroness Barker and Baroness Northover received briefing for HoL International Development debate

7th March 2024: Select members received update on the new UK APPG rules

13th March 2024: Baroness Hussein-Ece and Baroness Northover received IPCI ICPD PoA and ICP+30 briefings

A summary list of parliamentary statements, legislation, debates, Early Day Motions (EDMs) and PQs highlighting SRHR issues can be found on the APPG on PDRH website here: <https://www.appg-pdrh.uk/in-parliament> and important parliamentary business highlighted in the parliamentary section in this annual report.

General Collaboration, Meetings and Correspondence

The APPG on PDRH continuously communicates and collaborates with a variety of national and international SRHR organisations and stakeholders including: UNFPA, IPPF, MSI, UK SRHR Network, Plan International UK, Center for Reproductive Rights, Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health (FSRH), RCOG, BPAS, Abortion Rights; Ipas, 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; academic institutions, other national and international 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, latest FCDO policy papers and international leadership on SRHR, the ICPD+30 Review, ID SC inquiry on SRHR and the CJB and abortion.

UNFPA



APPG on PDRH officers, members and staff have met in person, at events, during conferences and study tours with Dr Natalia Kanem, UNFPA ED and country -, London - and New York representatives and staff.

In August 2023 Matthew Jackson handed over the UNFPA London office to Monica Ferro and an online introductory meeting took place. Of particular importance and collaborative activities this year were the APPG on PDRH study tours to Mahama Camp, Rwanda in connection with Women Deliver Conference in June 2023 and study tours organised to India, November 2023 and finally to Tanzania/Zanzibar, February 2024 co-hosted by UNFPA. Numerous meetings were held to discuss and coordinate the study tours to ensure a smooth running upon arrival to the countries. Discussion and collaboration was also instigated in connection with the ICPD+30 Review process, parliamentary questions and joint parliamentary briefing meetings.

Members attended the UNFPA SWOP report launch in April 2023 and in April 2024 Apsana Begum MP, a new member of the UK APPG on PDRH, co-hosted the UNFPA 2024 SWOP report launch in the UK Parliament.

The July 2023, UNFPA co-hosted the annual World Population Day reception with IPPF and UK SRHR Network and in November 2023 there was a joint briefing meeting on UK ODA to SRHR.

Throughout the year information has been shared and discussions evolved around FCDO statements and policy papers, parliamentary debates, ID select committee inquiry on SRHR, UNFPA's UK public funding campaign, UNFPA office retreat in London with a parliamentary tour and UNFPA head office received UK contacts for campaign activities as requested, which were Bekky Ashmore, chair of UK SRHR Network Rebekah.Ashmore@plan-uk.org; Gender and Development Network general email comms@gadnetwork.org; FSRH - All Party Parliamentary Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health here:

APPG@fsrh.org; APPG on Climate contact here: [contact — All-Party Parliamentary Group for Climate and Security \(appgclimsec.uk\)](https://www.all-party-parliamentary-group-for-climate-and-security.org/)

The APPG on PDRH membership list was shared as requested in December 2023 and quarterly and annual APPG on PDRH activity reports were sent to UNFPA head office as per Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNFPA and the APPG on PDRH.

Please find sample communications enclosed at appendix 6

IPPF



APPG on PDRH officers and staff have met in person, at events and conferences with Dr Alvaro Bermejo, IPPF Director General (DG), IPPF country- and head office representatives and staff.

In April 2023 Baroness Barker was invited via IPPF to speak at the Asian Parliamentary Forum Global conference of parliamentarians on population and development: Toward the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit, Tokyo, Japan. At this event Baroness Barker outlined APPG on PDRH activities of particular interest to Asian parliamentarians on the subject: Gender Emancipation and Equality. Whilst in Japan Baroness Barker also visited national SRHR projects, supported by IPPF.



Baroness Barker speaking at GCPPD, Japan

At the annual World Population Day reception 2023 IPPF was the main co-host and Mina Barling, Director of External Relations, IPPF spoke at this event alongside Baroness Hussein-Ece and Lord Ahmad.

Throughout the year information has been shared on FCDO statements and policy papers, parliamentary debates and the ID Select Committee inquiry into SRHR and UK ODA.

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 postponed.

Please find sample communications enclosed at appendix 7

MSI Reproductive Choices



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

In April 2023, MSI presented their findings on the global impact of Roe vs Wade at the APPG on PDRH briefing meeting and in August 2023 MSI Sierra Leone kindly hosted Dr Laura Spooner as per Baroness Jenkin's request. Dr Laura Spooner being a retired doctor with an interest in FP and SRHR.

Throughout the year information has been shared on FCDO statements and policy papers, parliamentary debates, UNDP-UNFPA-UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Special programme on Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproductive survey on abortion stigma, ID Select Committee inquiry into SRHR, WHO survey on abortion stigma; UK ODA and UK abortion provisions in connection with the amendments on abortion to the CJB and abortion buffer zones introduced via The Public Order Bill 2023 and UK Government consultation in January 2024 on the latest draft non-statutory guidance for abortion clinic Safe Access Zones.

In February 2024 APPG on PDRH study tour delegates visited MSI clinics and spoke to staff to gain insight into FP and SRHR service provisions in Tanzania/Zanzibar.

MSI has shared briefings in support of parliamentary debates including for the important International Women's Day debate in March 2024.

Please find sample communications enclosed at appendix 8

UK SRHR Network



APPG on PDRH has communicated regularly with UK SRHR Network chairs and individual members. This year Heather Knight job-shared the chair with Bethan Cobley, MSI whilst Bekky Ashmore was on maternity leave.

APPG on PDRH was represented at several UK SRHR Network meetings this year in July 2023, October 2023, November 2023 and February 2024 with presentations by FCDO representatives on FCDO programme activities, forthcoming FCDO policy papers and UK ODA. SRHR NGO campaign activities have been shared as have letters sent to Ministers via the network. This year also saw a joint UK SRHR Network and APPG on PDRH briefing meeting in Parliament.

Members of the UK SRHR Network also prepared and sent APPG on PDRH briefings for parliamentary debates at short notice.

Please find sample communications enclosed at appendix 9

BPAS, FSRH, RCOG, MSI, Centre for Reproductive Rights and University of Bristol

The APPG on PDRH has been in regular communications with SRHR NGOs, RCOG and Universities and the UK APPG on SRH to discuss, liaise, collaborate and agree on messaging on abortion and abortion reform in connection with the CJB and abortion amendments tabled by Diana Johnson MP and Stella Creasy MP this year. Diana Johnson MP's amendment was to remove offences that make it illegal for a woman to perform a self-abortion in response to the Carla Foster prosecution this year and Stella Creasy MP was to decriminalise abortion fully.

Communications also related to a letter to the UK PM and petition in June 2023 on Carla Foster's imprisonment and London protest. Select members signed BPAS petition: Decriminalise abortion to protect the rights of women seeking abortion. In July 2023 communications were in relation to Maria Miller MP's PMB: Offences Against the Person Act 1861 (Sentencing Guidelines) Bill and in February 2024 in connection with HoL special inquiries application. In February 2024 Baroness Hussein-Ece signed BPAS' open letter to The Times on abortion.

Please find letter enclosed at appendix 10

In June 2023 and February 2024 NGO abortion briefings were disseminated to members and on 20th March 2024 APPG on PDRH was represented at the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) and University Bristol event: 'The Future Directions in Abortion Law Reform, to help strategies on the best way forward for abortion reform in the UK'.

Please find enclosed agenda at appendix 11

At the above meeting, WHO presented its abortion guidelines and Leah Hctor from CRR presented international human rights law and standards. Both presentations were subsequently sent to APPG on PDRH members and a hard copy of CRR report: 'Pathways for Change', was delivered to Stella Creasy MPs office with country case studies on abortion reforms and available here:

https://reproductiverights.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Pathways-to-Change_English_6-3-24.pdf

Other APPG on PDRH meetings and communication with SRHR organisations of interest, are listed here:

- April 2023: Communications with James Cole, StopAIDS about The Global Parliamentary Petition on Anti-Homosexuality; Harri Lloyd-Williams, Public Health Wales, requested to be on APPG on PDRH circulation emails for Future Business/News and Jessica Parish, FSHR with regards to their International Education Programme for Healthcare Professionals working in SRH
- June 2023: Communications with Journalist Sian Norris on Carla Foster's imprisonment and Eylem Atakav, University of East Anglia, on HoL film screening on 22nd June 2023 on Domestic Violence

- 15th August 2023: Ann Mette Kjaerby met with Matthew Lindley for an update on Unitaid activities and to discuss proposed forthcoming India study tour and the possibility of delegates visiting Unitaid factories during study tour
- August 2023: Communications with Marge Berer, Abortion Rights on UNFPA public fund raising and PET with regards to same-sex IVF treatment in the UK
- 26th September 2023: Ann Mette Kjaerby met with Professor Maya Unnithan, Sussex University, to discuss latest research and the proposed forthcoming APPG on PDRH India study tour
- November 2023: Communications with Gender and Development Network with regards to a briefing meeting on FCDO International Women and Girls' Strategy and written PQs.

Please find sample communications enclosed at appendix 12

Press

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:

- 13th June: Dame Diana Johnson MP quoted in [The Daily Mail](#) article about Carla Foster
- 14th June: Dame Diana Johnson MP quoted in The Independent article about COVID services during the pandemic
- 15th June: [Politics.co.uk](#) reports on Dame Diana Johnson MP's urgent question regarding Carla Foster
- 18th June: [The Times](#) reports on letter signed by various APPG on PDRH members to the Prime Minister (PM) asking for jailed mother Carla Foster to be released
- 2nd August: Sarah Champion MP was quoted in [BBC News](#) after appearing on Radio 4 talking about cuts to ODA
- 19th September: EPF [report](#) on first day of El Salvador study tour, attended by Rupa Huq MP
- 20th September: EPF [report](#) on second day of El Salvador study tour, attended by Rupa Huq MP
- 21st September: EPF [report](#) on third day of El Salvador study tour, attended by Rupa Huq MP
- 22nd September: EPF [report](#) on last day of El Salvador study tour, attended by Rupa Huq MP
- 24th October: Theo Clarke MP was the subject on articles in [The Telegraph](#), [The Independent](#) and [The Evening Standard](#) amongst others after her heartfelt testimony in her Birth Trauma debate
- 3rd December: [Politics at Home](#) published an article about Sarah Champion MP's proposed amendments to the Victims and Prisoners Bill to tackle VAWG
- 7th December: Fathers' report article
- 4th January: [ChamberUK](#) published an article on IVF provision to same-sex couples by Baroness Barker
- 17th January: Baroness Sugg mentioned in an article about abortion clinic buffer zones in [Cosmopolitan](#) Magazine.
- 29th January: [ChamberUK](#) published an article about IVF provision from Baroness Hussein-Ece
- 8th February: Baroness Sugg was mentioned in a [Daily Mail](#) article about the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill
- 12th February: Abortion action - letter sent to the editor of the Sunday Times
- 19th February: [ChamberUK](#) published article on LGBT+ History Month mentioning Baroness Barker's panel appearance to discuss fertility treatment – also viewable to [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#)
- 22nd March: [The Independent](#) article about the Foetal Sentience Bill quoted Baroness Barker
- 25th March: Baroness Barker wrote an article – 'The battle against HIV will not be won without women' for [Politics.co.uk](#)

Pardon women convicted over abortion, say MPs



Article in The Times

Social media

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

Top Follower followed by 4,442 people



Parliamentarians for Global Action

@PGAction FOLLOWS YOU

Empowering and Mobilizing Legislators as Champions for Human Rights, Democracy, and a Sustainable World. 🌐
Retweets ≠ Endorsements

[View profile](#)

April 2023 : *Black maternal health event, hysteroscopy trauma, Ireland abortion working group, Baroness Barker's visit to girls' safe space café on Japan trip, Baroness Barker speaks at pre G-7 event on SRHR, HPV awareness, BPAS Drs For Choice event, bridging the digital gender divide by teaching girls to use technology, RCOG president tweets about APPG on PDRH Roe v Wade event, UK Black Maternal Health Awareness Week, pregnant women and unborn children at risk in Sudan, abortion hearing in Poland, global falling birth rates, FP2030 on World Population, white ribbon promise against GBV, Women and Equalities Commission on disparities in maternal deaths, US Supreme Court on mifepristone, APPG on PDRH attend in-person launch of UNFPA 8 Billion Strong report, 3-day waiting period before abortions in Ireland, gender and climate change, cheaper prescriptions for HRT in UK, IDC inquiry on FCDO approach to SRHR, APPG on PDRH attendance at Abortion after Dobbs online event, briefing paper on abortion rights after Dobbs in US, UNFPA support women in Malawi, British Association of Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) HIV Workshop event, 'Crisis Pregnancy Centres' spreading misinformation on abortion, UNFOA on PMS, BASHH Annual Conference, Kenya free maternal health services, women in UK pressured into medical over surgical abortions, period poverty, abortion pills in US, enabling UHC with the private sector, Google retaining data about web searches on abortion, WHO Labour Care Guide, UNFPA on girls education and contraception link, CSE, World Health Day, GBV in Palestine, MSI digital health partnership in Ghana, UNFPA mobile midwives in Afghanistan, Mexican activists help Americans access abortion care, US anti-abortion groups in UK*

May 2023: *Menstrual Hygiene Day, abortion law in South Carolina, ICFP Zero Maternal Deaths webinar, education, child marriage and menstrual health webinar, APPG on PDRH attendance at FPRH webinar on PHE activities in Uganda and Kenya, APPG on PDRH in-person attendance at LSHTM event on SACHA study, UK Government partnership with UNFPA in Tanzania, climate crisis effect on women and girls, FCDO on child marriage, FIGO webinar on c-sections in low and middle income countries, Guardian article on endometriosis awareness, House of Lords debate on UNFPA report, STIs and HIV, International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, UNFPA distributes dignity kits to transgender people in Bangladesh, Indonesia abortion laws, maternity hospitals in Syria under fire, IDC hearing on FCDO's approach to SRHR, UNFPA on sexual violence in Sudan, figures in maternal mortality in UK, UN International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, anti-choice 'crisis pregnancy centres' in UK, Ukrainian refugees struggle to access SRH services, VAT on period products, G7 commitment to end HIV, UK sexual health services written question, US Supreme Court on mifepristone, IDC hearing on humanitarian crisis in Sudan, UNFPA on maternal mortality, Guttmacher on US maternal health crisis, teen contraception rates, sexual violence in DRC, sex education in UK schools, over-the-counter birth control in USA, EU ratifies Istanbul Convention, WHO on postpartum bleeding trials, UNFPA 8 Billion report, child marriage, emergency contraception in UK, midwife care, fertility rates, abortion in North Carolina, FIGO on comprehensive sexuality education, abortion buffer zones, Uganda anti-homosexuality law, buffer zones in Scotland*

Top Tweet earned 599 impressions

APPG on PDRH members including @meralhece @LizBarkerLords @LPNorthover @BaronessWatkins and @liz_sugg signed @DianaJohnsonMP's letter to the PM asking for justice for Carla Foster, sentenced to prison for inducing an abortion beyond legal cut-off #TimeToAct #AbortionIsHealthcare twitter.com/cazjwheeler/st...

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[View Tweet activity](#)[View all Tweet activity](#)

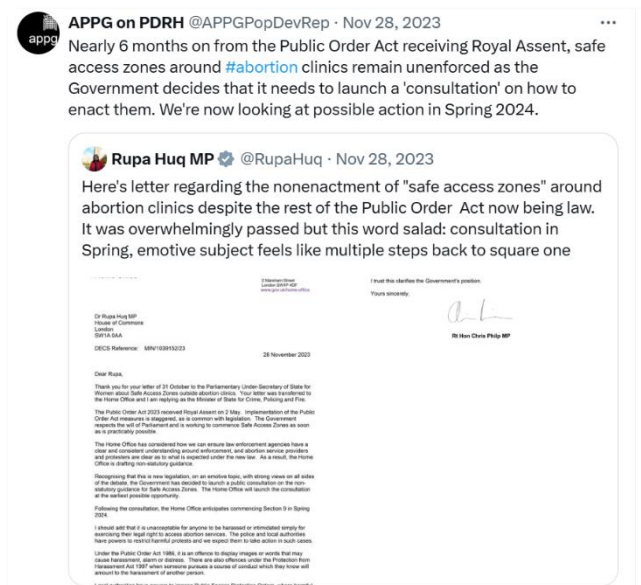
June 2023: SRHR for LGBTQ people, APPG attendance at FIGO webinar on c-sections in low-income countries, obstetric fistula, disparities in healthcare for black women, APPG attendance at EPF event on fertility treatment across Europe, BASHH Annual Conference, #ClapBackOnThePatch campaign, 72-hour detention limit for pregnant women, preventable maternal deaths, EPF's HPV Prevention Atlas, UK abortion laws, HIV and the menopause, Abortion Rights Scotland protest, petition to decriminalise abortion, Donors Delivering Report, SRHR for refugees, Written question on STIs to FCDO, Royal College of Midwives survey, International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, event on child marriage, improving access to abortion in Spain, abortion laws in Poland, APPG on PDRH attendance at webinar on supporting girls' education in Zimbabwe, APPG on PDRH attendance at RCOG Annual Conference, Countdown 2030 event on UHC, MSI Choices on preparing for contraceptive appointments

July 2023: GBV in militarised settings, article on rise of STIs in UK, FOI shows women in prison seven times more likely to have a stillbirth, EU countries have barriers to assisted reproduction according to marital status, safe access zones, maternal outcomes in US are public health crisis, FCDO on girls' education, UNFPA on GBV, abortion law in Poland, NHS changes IVF rules after same-sex couple's campaign, APPG on HIV/AIDS policy brief release, Women Deliver Conference, IDC launches inquiry into FCDO disability policy, #ZeroHIVStigmaDay, IPPF session at Women Deliver Conference, BPAS on abortion law, MSI on abortion law, UNFPA report on racism in US maternity system, Carla Foster released on appeal, UNFPA on WD pre-conference meeting, IDC on FCDO Annual Report and Accounts, Westminster Hall Debate on HIV Action Plan, Germany's commitment to SRHR spending, Iowa abortion law, APPG on PDRH study trips while at WD Conference, 50th anniversary of IPAS, US FDA approves over-the-counter contraceptive pills, World Population Day reception, Australia announce removal of some restrictions on dispensers of abortion medication, World Population Day Debate in Westminster Hall, BMJ report on FP services in Afghanistan, World Population Day, FCDO and FGS, #MenstrualMondays, US votes to protect abortion rights, PSVIC, Pro-choice demonstration, VAWG in Sudan, HIV and mental health, Global Goals, Uganda HIV services, End Fistula, cost of living leads to rise in abortion

August 2023: Research on HIV and the menopause, study shows 68% report problems accessing PrEP, abortion laws in Venezuela, Care International on World Humanitarian Day, 16 US states ban gender-affirming care and abortion, rape as a weapon of war, research shows women taking a painkiller alongside abortion pill more effective, 'Pregnancy Crisis Directory' removed from NHS website, webinar on reproductive coercion, people needing abortions in Hungary travelling to Austria to avoid 'degrading' counselling sessions, Terrence Higgins Trust report on SRH services in UK show half of all requests denied, 13% of maternal deaths in Venezuela from unsafe abortion, menopausal symptoms and work ability, Menstrual Monday, abolishment of Tampon Tax, VAT on Period Pants, referendum to enshrine abortion rights in Ohio, facts on unsafe abortions, National Conference on Adolescent and Youth Health and Development, World Breastfeeding Week, breastfeeding and HIV, paid maternity leave, breastfeeding and work, Women and Equalities Committee enquiry into women's reproductive health, child marriage cases spike by 50%, Stand up for Choice demonstration, Government Equalities Impact Assessment on aid cuts, Sarah Champion on Radio 4 on aid cuts

September 2023: MSI on International Safe Abortion Day, Black Maternal Mental Health Action Week, IPPF on International Safe Abortion Day, right to safe abortion care in Kenya, APPG on PDRH represented at webinar on contraception to help achieve SDGs, World Contraception Day, UNFPA funding highlights, timetable for Black Maternal Mental Health Action Week Conference, importance of child nutrition on SDGs, UNFPA in Libya, EPF study tour to El Salvador, Gates Foundation pledge \$100m to UNFPA, Protection from Sex-Based Harassment in Public Bill becomes law, IVF rights in Hong-Kong, Pathfinder World Contraception Day webinar, WHO phone-app supporting abortions webinar, BPAS on Theo Clarke birth trauma debate, Women and Equalities Commission publish Government response to their Honour Based Abuse inquiry, PrEP stops HIV infection, EPF to Malawi, Women's Reproductive Health Survey, Mexico SRHR, buffer zones for abortion clinics, tackling stigma around periods, APPG on HIV/AIDS meeting, Baroness Barker on RSHE, HPV vaccination for men, free contraception for women aged 27-30 in Ireland, EPF study tour to Malawi, APPG on PDRH represented at WHO webinar on sexual wellbeing and maternal health, UNFPA in Pakistan, World Sexual Health Day

October 2023: MSI's work in crisis settings, Nobel Prize given to contraceptive pill study, France adds the right to an abortion to the constitution, APPG on PDRH represented at webinar on Youth Consultation on GPW14, some US states exclude mental health as abortion exemption, MSI urge HO to enforce buffer zones around abortion clinics, ICFP webinar on FP's role in maternal and child health and nutrition, pregnant women in Gaza, CARE International distribute hygiene products in Gaza, HoC debate on Birth Trauma, Baroness Sugg on attitudes to abortion survey, The Lancet study on pregnant adolescents in LMICs, FIGO 2023 Conference, International Day of the Girl, UN on child marriage, MSI on girl's education, Baroness Sugg at FIGO 2023 Conference, WHO on postpartum haemorrhage, UNFPA report on climate crisis, FIGO2023 Conference, EPF Global Contraception Policy Atlas, APPG members at FIGO Annual Conference, HPV Atlas, CARE International work in Afghanistan, obstetric fistula, UNFPA assistance in Libya



November 2023: Theo Clarke MP wins award for birth trauma speech, EPF's SRHR Donor Funding Atlas launch, safe access zones remain unenforced, PrEP Awareness Week, #16DaysOfActivism to End GBV, decriminalisation of abortion in UK, APPG on PDRH represented at World AIDS Day Conference, struggle to access period products in Gaza could lead to illness, Women and Equalities Committee session on Women's Reproductive Health, Nepal earthquake leaves pregnant and breastfeeding women struggling to access care, birth trauma question in PMQs, APPG on PDRH represented at UNFPA event on menstrual health awareness, Sarah Champion MP tweets article on child marriage, destigmatisation of AIDS, IDC White Paper on International Development, APPG on PDRH represented at Equipop webinar, contraceptive pills to be available without prescription in UK, EPF launches Asia-Pacific Contraceptive Atlas, Ranee Thakar of RCOG attends APPG on PDRH briefing meeting, World Vasectomy Day, cervical cancer elimination, APPG on PDRH represented at Self Care for UHC webinar, NHS promises to eliminate cervical cancer by 2040, Uganda teenage pregnancy rate, FP2030 webinar on SRHR in emergencies, FP2030 webinar on menstrual health and FP, US anti-choice group doubles its spending, survey to understand contraceptive experiences of women from all backgrounds, climate emergency and women and girls, Baroness Barker asks question about HIV transmission, Kansas abortion laws, Davina McCall Contraceptive Justice webinar, use of Kangaroo Mother Care for premature babies, tampon that tests for STIs developed, sexual assault in DRC, Baroness Sugg on safe access zones

December 2023: Sarah Champion MP on UK Aid, UNFPA work to end AIDS in Namibia, abortion law review in Denmark, rising cost of formula impacts families, UNFPA appeal to raise \$1.2billion in 2024, Theo Clarke MP at RCOG, Guttmacher Institute on state abortion policies, Dallas woman leaves Texas to get help for nonviable pregnancy, MSI Mexico new clinic in Cancun, age-appropriate RSE, APPG on PDRH represented at UNFPA Supplies webinar, Baroness Hussein-Ece on sexual violence in conflict, UNFPA work in Gaza, Gender and Health Hub virtual forum, independent clinics provide the majority of abortion care in USA, denying safe abortion care is femicide, #16DaysOfActivism to End GBV, endometriosis care needs to improve, COP28 event on climate change and SRH, IDC questions FCDO on progress toward SDGs

January 2024: C2030 Europe report on RSE, Zambia passes law against child marriage, C2030 Europe report on European support to SRHR globally, BPAS on reclassification of 'morning-after pill', study shows that lack of access to abortion increases rates of depression and anxiety, cervical screening challenges for homeless people, elimination of cervical cancer, abortion law in Britain, announcement for EPF Contraception Policy Atlas Launch, FGM event announcement, EDM on cervical cancer prevention, APPG on PDRH represented at Guttmacher webinar, Sarah Champion MP on integrating FGS awareness into FCDO SRH planning, HPV vaccination levels in UK, women and children are majority of casualties in Gaza, ongoing crisis in Sudan includes GBV, 'Decolonising Development Aid' webinar, #CervicalCancerProtectionWeek, report on anti-choice harassment on Channel 4, Andrew Mitchell MP on girls' education, Center for Reproductive Rights State Constitutions tool, Guardian article on NHS staff

reporting women who procure own abortions, integrating FGS with SRHR programming, BBC article on NHS staff reporting women who procure own abortions, International HPV Awareness campaign, abortion in Texas, BBC article on abortion buffer zones, UK maternal deaths at 20-year high, Women's Health Strategy priorities, abortion in Andorra, PrEP not reaching everyone who needs it in UK, Government consultation on safe access zones, Latvia ratifies Istanbul Convention, paper on FGS Strategy, Women and Equalities Committee session on VAWG, UNFPA help women and girls in Rohingya camp, Black Maternal Health Conference UK 2024, UNFPA in Bangladesh, US anti-abortion group fund campaign in Ukraine, companies need to take SRH of employees seriously, #STIAwarenessDay, IDC review on UK Aid, sexual violence in Sudan, new drug for endometriosis, Lesotho Youth Clinic gives 'VIP' access to SRH, global warming leads to increase in stillbirths, Italy seeks to introduce new barriers to abortion access, HIV in Indonesia, Demographic Dividend webinar, obstetric fistula, UNFPA Pacific 'dignity' kits, UK woman found not guilty of 'illegal' abortion, free contraceptives in Ireland, pregnant women denied care in Gaza, UK Pregnancy Laws, US Republicans want to revoke access to 'abortion pill', vaccines help increase number of live births in Uganda, MMR worldwide, World Abortion Laws Map, abortion ban cost Texas woman her life, menopause counselling



February 2024: BPAS decriminalisation of abortion campaign, Martha's Law ruling in hospitals, APPG on PDRH Study Tour to Tanzania, HoL Pre-Term Birth Committee meeting, girls in crisis settings 2.5x more likely to be out of school, EFP's Contraceptive Policy Atlas, child marriage up to 40% in some countries, Theo Clarke MP's Birth Trauma Inquiry, Brook's Big Period lessons online, progress in endometriosis research, APPG on Birth Trauma, FP essential to reaching SDGs, National HIV Testing Week, Women's Health APPG roundtable meeting, Guttmacher Institute USA State Policy update, FCDO Girl's Education project, UNFPA working in Gaza, International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM, French National Assembly pass bill protect right to abortion in constitution, EPF meeting in Warsaw, UNFPA Executive Board Meeting, BPAS on cervical screening, Dame Diana Johnson MP on Safe Access Zones, how UNFPA responds to GBV in emergencies, EPF at girl's education in Africa event

March 2024: Meta and Google accused of restricting SRH information, newborns' birth weights in Gaza too low, 1 in 5 Britons think abortion should be criminalised, latest issue of BJOG, MSI Reproductive Choices in Nigeria, impact of birth trauma, rise in women taken to court for abortion, Black Maternal Health Conference 2024, APPG on PDRH represented at webinar on MNH in conflict-affected areas, ending child marriage, Home Office 'robs' ODA budget article, UNFPA help with menstrual products in Gaza, study on birth trauma in same-sex couples, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 68 in New York, child marriage and education, UNFPA present dignity kits at FCDO, International Women's Day, update on child marriage in Washington, France makes abortion a constitutional right, access to menstrual products, APPG on PDRH represented at Global Gynaecological Healthcare event, DHSC women's health information on website, cervical cancer awareness, HoL IWD debate, EPF European Contraceptive Atlas, STOPAIDS digital event, Birth Trauma inquiry, APPG on PDRH represented at HPV Awareness Day event, FCDO IWD event, MSI RC impact in 2023, IDC on aid situation in Gaza, HPV Awareness Day

Parliamentary Statements, Legislation, Debates, Questions and EDMs

APPG on PDRH members and other parliamentarians have continued their SRHR parliamentary advocacy this year and include amendments to Government Bills, PMBs, debates, PQs and EDMs.

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

Full information and transcripts are available on the APPG on PDRH's website [here](#).

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

Sudan – 17th April 2023

The MoS for FCDO, Andrew Mitchell MP, made a statement on the situation in Sudan, condemning the violence in Khartoum and across the country, where innocent civilians and relief personnel have lost their lives and calling on the leaders of both sides in this conflict to end the violence and de-escalate tensions. Harriet Baldwin MP, Alison Thewliss and Kim Johnson MP spoke in the ensuing questions, which touched on the disproportionate effect on women and girls of the conflict, including forced marriage.

Sudan – 2nd May 2023

The MoS for FCDO, Andrew Mitchell MP, updated the House on the ongoing situation in Sudan, where a ceasefire had been extended by a further 72 hours. The ensuing questions touched on the likelihood of sexual violence and what measures the Government were taking to avoid it.

Rape and Sexual Violence: Criminal Justice Response – 10th July 2023

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (PUSS) for the Home Department, Sarah Dines MP, made a statement on measures to improve the criminal justice response to rape and sexual violence. Amongst the questions following the statement APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson MP asked why specialist rape investigation teams were still not in place in every police force and what could be done about this.

International Development White Paper – 21st November 2023

The MoS for FCDO, Andrew Mitchell MP, made a statement following up on his written statement of 18th July 2023, announcing the Government's International Development White Paper. APPG on PDRH members Sarah Champion MP and Anthony Mangnall MP were amongst those asking questions of the Minister on climate finance and biodiversity.

Written Ministerial Statements

Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan – Annual Report to Parliament 2022 – 25th April 2023

The PUSS for FCDO, Leo Doherty MP, informed the House that the FCDO, together with the MOD, were publishing the 2022 annual report on progress against the UK's fourth National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The report outlined the progress made in 2022, including work in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, Syria and Yemen.

The 0.7% of GNI ODA Target: 2022 – 17th July 2023

The MoS for FCDO, Andrew Mitchell MP, updated the House on the Government's position on the promise to restore ODA to the previous level of 0.7% of GNI from the current level of 0.5%. The FCDO annual report and accounts reported that the 0.7% target was not met in 2022. He confirmed that the principles for a return will be met when, on a sustainable basis, the Government are not borrowing for day-to-day spending and underlying debt is falling. The most recent assessment, set out in HM Treasury's autumn statement 2022, showed that the principles for a return to 0.7% had not been met.

Afghanistan: Aid and Support – 17th July 2023

The MoS for FCDO, Andrew Mitchell MP, made a written statement updating the House on the UK's assistance to Afghanistan. Since April 2021, HMG has disbursed over £532m in aid for Afghanistan. This financial year HMG has made a commitment of £100m and plans an additional £151m for next financial year. HMG remains committed that at least 50% of people reached with UK aid in Afghanistan will be women and girls, a commitment met in 2021 - 22 and on track to be met for 2022 - 23.

International Development White Paper – 18th July 2023

The MoS for FCDO, Andrew Mitchell MP, informed the House of the Government's intent to publish an International Development White Paper later this year, which would set out how the UK would work against extreme poverty and climate change in a changing world.

New International Financing Facility for Education (IFFEd) – 8th November 2023

The MoS for Development and Africa, Andrew Mitchell MP, informed the House that he had laid a Departmental Minute which describes a new liability the FCDO is undertaking to support education in Lower Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). IFFEd is a new, innovative multi-donor instrument that will use a combination of donor guarantees and grants to unlock significant affordable finance for education in LMICs. Working through the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), IFFEd will address this gap in the education aid architecture. The initial MDBs to participate in IFFEd are the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). More MDBs will be able and encouraged to join in the future.

International Development White Paper – 20th November 2023

The MoS for Development and Africa, Andrew Mitchell MP, announced the publication of the Government's International Development White Paper. He expressed the Government's intention to put women and girls centre stage while investing in health and education systems.

Public Health Update – 29th November 2023

The SoS for HSC, Victoria Atkins MP, made a written statement on HMG's commitment to ending new HIV transmissions in England by 2030. NHS England is currently operating a bloodborne virus emergency department opt-out testing programme for HIV, and Hepatitis B and C for 34 emergency departments across London, Manchester, Salford, Brighton and Blackpool, focusing on areas with extremely high HIV prevalence. HMG is committing to new research to evaluate the expansion of HIV opt-out testing to a further 46 emergency departments, in areas across England where there is high HIV prevalence. Funding will support 12 months of testing for each emergency department, to begin during the next financial year.

Sudan Update – 30th November 2023

The MoS for Development and Africa, Andrew Mitchell MP, updated the House on the situation in Sudan and the UK's support to the Sudanese people. Since the outbreak of conflict on 15 April, more than 6.3m people have been displaced, including over 1.3m people who have fled to neighbouring countries, seeking safety, protection and assistance. 25m people are in urgent need, but constraints on humanitarian access mean insufficient aid is reaching them. There is mounting evidence of atrocities against civilians, including rape and sexual violence. The UK has provided £36m in humanitarian aid for 2023 - 2024.

Women's Health Strategy Update – 17th January 2024

The SoS for HSC, Victoria Atkins, made a written statement one year after the publication of the Women's Health Strategy, to update the House on priorities for 2024. The priorities were outlined as 1) Improving care before, during and after pregnancy, 2) Improving care for gynaecological conditions and menstrual problems, 3) Expanding women's health hubs, 4) Tackling disparities and improving support for vulnerable women and 5) Boosting research on women's health.

Pharmacy First Launch – 31st January 2024

The PUSS, Minister for Public Health, Start for Life and Primary Care, Andrea Leadsom MP, informed the House that the Pharmacy First Service was to be launched in community pharmacies in England that day. One feature of the new initiative is a contraception service, which enables community pharmacists to initiate and manage oral contraception. The delivery plan has made more funding available for this service so that up to half a million women will be able to access oral contraception through their pharmacy.

Progress Report on the implementation of the Rape Review Action Plan – 19th February 2024

The Lord Chancellor and SoS for Justice, Alex Chalk MP, made a written statement on the publication of a fifth progress report on the End-to-End Rape Review Action Plan (published June 2021). The report details the improvements made over the last six months. The action plan has been extended until December 2024. To assist in driving improvements in the criminal justice system, HMG has recruited a new Independent Advisor to the Rape Review, Professor Katrin Hohl.

Baby Loss Certificates – 22nd February 2024

The PUSS, Minister for Mental Health and the Women's Health Strategy, Maria Caulfield MP, informed the House that Baby Loss Certificates had been launched that day. Either parent is entitled to a Certificate of Baby Loss if they have experienced a loss under 24 weeks gestation, are at least 16 years of age and at least one parent was living in England at the time of the loss. Additionally, this will be offered on a retrospective basis to those who have already experienced a baby loss since 1st September 2018. This cut-off date will be continually assessed, and HMG will extend eligibility as soon as feasible.

Legislation

Criminal Justice Bill: First Reading – 14th November 2023

A Bill to amend the criminal law; to make provision about criminal justice (including the powers and duties of the police) and about dealing with offenders; to make provision about confiscation and the use of monies in suspended accounts; to make other provision about the prevention and detection of crime and disorder; to make provision about begging, rough sleeping and anti-social behaviour; to make provision about the police; and for connected purposes was brought to the Commons by the SoS for the Home Department, James Cleverly MP and read for the first time.

Criminal Justice Bill: Second Reading – 28th November 2023

The Criminal Justice Bill was introduced by the SoS for the Home Department, James Cleverly MP and read for the second time. During the ensuing debate APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson MP raised the issue of section 58 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, which criminalises abortion, as an outdated piece of legislation and pointed out that many professional bodies such as RCOG, RCM, FSRH and BPAS were supportive of the decriminalisation of abortion. This suggestion was supported by Dame Maria Miller MP, APPG on PDRH member Sarah Champion MP and Stella Creasy MP.

Fertility Treatment (Employment Rights) Bill: First Reading – 11th December 2023

A PMB to require employers to allow employees to take time off from work for appointments for fertility treatment; and for connected purposes was brought to the Commons by Nickie Aiken MP and read for the first time. The House was prorogued in May 2024 before the bill reached its Second Reading.

Criminal Justice Bill: Committee Stage – Fourteenth Sitting – 25th January 2024

During the Committee Stage of the bill the addition of two new clauses (1 and 2) relating to the 'removal of women from the criminal law related to abortion' was discussed. At the end of the sitting the amendments were withdrawn. Future amendments on decriminalisation were later added to the bill by APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson MP and by Stella Creasy MP, however the House was prorogued in May 2024 while the bill was still in the Report Stage.

Debates

Abortion: Offences Against the Person Act – 15th June 2023

In light of the ongoing trial of Carla Foster, APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson MP asked an Urgent Question of the SOS for Justice "*if he will make a statement on section 58 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861.*" APPG on PDRH member Alison Thewliss MP spoke in the ensuing debate in favour of the decriminalisation of abortion.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Overseas Aid – 12th July 2023

APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion MP, opened the debate by moving "*That this House has considered sexual and reproductive health and rights and overseas aid*", having received the oral evidence taken before the IDC on 23rd May and 4th July 2023, on the FCDO's approach to sexual and reproductive health. APPG on PDRH members Daniel Poulter MP and Theo Clarke MP also spoke in the debate.



Sarah Champion MP opens debate on SRHR and overseas aid

HPV Vaccinations – 19th July 2023

Sir Paul Beresford MP moved "*That this House has considered HPV vaccinations*". It was noted that the uptake of HPV vaccination had slowed during the pandemic and that this needed to be addressed.

Hyperemesis Gravidarum Awareness – 19th July 2023

Sara Britcliffe MP moved "*That this House has considered awareness of hyperemesis gravidarum*". The PUSS for HSC, Maria Caulfield MP, offered to organise a roundtable meeting with The Women's Health Ambassador, Dame Lesley Regan, to discuss the possibilities of future research into the condition.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Sustainable Development – 17th October 2023

Dr Matthew Offord MP moved *“That this House has considered water, sanitation, hygiene and sustainable development”* following the submission of oral evidence taken before the IDC on 28th February 2023, on WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), HC 1174; Written evidence to the IDC, on WASH, reported to the House on 19th April 2023, HC 1174. APPG on PDRH members Sarah Champion MP, Pauline Latham MP and Lyn Brown MP spoke in the ensuing debate.

Baby Loss Awareness Week – 19th October 2023

Helen Morgan MP, Co-Chair of the APPG on Baby Loss, moved *“That this House has considered Baby Loss Awareness Week”*. She explained that Baby Loss Awareness Week had taken place the previous week, while the House was in recess and is an important moment to support any family who has lost their baby and to ask whether anything more can be done to prevent other families suffering. One year on from the Ockenden Report, she asked the Minister to update us specifically on the progress made and on the outlook for maternity services and safe levels of staffing in the future.

UN Sustainable Development Goals – 19th October 2023

Vicky Ford MP moved *“That this House has considered the UN Sustainable Development Goals”*, following the fifth Report of the IDC, Extreme poverty and the Sustainable Development Goals, HC 147, and the Government response, HC 1177. The debate was chaired by APPG on PDRH member Hannah Bardell MP, APPG on PDRH members Virendra Sharma MP and Lyn Brown MP spoke in the debate.

Birth Trauma – 19th October 2023

APPG on PDRH member Theo Clarke MP moved *“That this House notes that many women across the UK experience birth trauma; and calls on the Government to take steps to support women experiencing birth trauma.”* Ms. Clarke also announced that she had launched an APPG on Birth Trauma, which she co-chairs with Rosie Duffield MP.

IVF Provision – 24th October 2023

Kate Osborne MP moved *“That this House has considered the matter of IVF provision”*, stating that LGBT+ couples were subject to a higher financial cost than mixed-sex couples, having to privately fund up to ten rounds of private IVF before being eligible for NHS provision. APPG on PDRH member Hannah Bardell MP spoke and also congratulated Ms. Osborne on bringing the debate to the house.

Economic Growth – 14th November 2023

In a debate on economic growth, leading on from the King’s Speech, Stella Creasy MP raised the subject of out-of-date abortion legislation and expressed the hope that it would be addressed in the upcoming Criminal Justice Bill.

Violence Reduction, Policing and Criminal Justice – 15th November 2023

In a debate on violence reduction, policing and criminal justice, APPG on PDRH member Dr Rupa Huq MP discussed the buffer zones around abortion clinics and the lack of movement on implementing this, APPG on PDRH member Alison Thewliss MP discussed reforms to minimise VAWG and the situation faced by pregnant women in Gaza.

National HIV Testing Week – 8th February 2024

Charlotte Nichols MP moved *“That this House has considered National HIV Testing Week”*. APPG on PDRH member Sir Peter Bottomley MP spoke in the debate about the importance of getting tested and encouraging others to do so by example and without stigma.

Israel and Gaza – 27th February 2024

Following an update from the MoS for FCDO, Andrew Mitchell MP, on the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, APPG on PDRH members Sarah Champion MP, Liz Saville Roberts MP, Caroline Lucas MP and Apsana Begum MP spoke in the debate.

Relationship Education: LGBT Content – 18th March 2024

The House held a debate on e-petitions 630932 and 631529, one of which was asking for LGBT content to be removed from RSE curriculums and one asking for it to be included, APPG on PDRH member Sarah Champion MP spoke in favour of age-appropriate education.

Oral Parliamentary Questions

Maternity Care: South-West – 25th April 2023

Wera Hobhouse MP asked the PUSS for HSC, Maria Caulfield MP, what steps their Department is taking to improve access to maternity care in the south-west. The Minister replied that the £7.6m health and wellbeing fund is funding 19 projects across England to reduce health disparities in new mothers and babies.

Maternal Health Disparities – 26th April 2023

Olivia Blake MP and Helen Hayes MP asked the Minister for Women, Maria Caulfield MP what recent discussions she has had with the SoS for HSC on tackling maternal health disparities. The Minister replied that the Government had set up the maternity disparities taskforce to tackle inequity in maternal health care for women from Black, Asian and economically deprived backgrounds and described its work.

Harassment and Violence against Women and Girls – 26th April 2023

Sharon Hodgson MP asked the PUSS for the Home Department, Sharon Dines MP, what recent steps the Government has taken to tackle harassment and VAWG. In the ensuing debate APPG on PDRH member Yasmin Qureshi asked if the Government planned to make spiking a criminal offence.

NDAs: Sexual Assault, Harassment and Misconduct – 16th May 2023

Layla Moran MP asked the MoS, MoJ, Edward Argar, what discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the use of non-disclosure agreements in sexual assault, harassment and misconduct cases. The Minister agreed to meet with the member and others to discuss next steps.

Domestic Abuse Victims: Courts – 16th May 2023

Holly Mumby-Croft MP asked the MoS, Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Edward Argar MP, what steps he is taking to support victims of domestic abuse through the court system. The Minister answered that HMG are more than quadrupling funding for victims and witness support services by 2024 - 25 and are recruiting to increase the number of independent sexual violence advisers and independent domestic violence advisers to more than 1,000 by the same time. He also said that through the groundbreaking Domestic Abuse Act 2021, HMG has introduced new protections and support for victims of domestic abuse at court.

Visa Applications from Afghanistan: Women and Girls – 22nd May 2023

Munira Wilson MP asked the Minister for Immigration, Robert Jenrick MP, what steps their Department is taking to support women and girls applying for UK visas from Afghanistan. The Minister responded that more than 24,000 people have arrived in the UK from Afghanistan under or since Operation Pitting. He said that there is not a visa application centre in Afghanistan for security reasons, but those who have left the country can make a visa application in the normal way and that the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) is designed to support vulnerable people such as women and girls at risk.

Violence against Women and Girls – 25th May 2023

APPG on PDRH members Dr Rupa Huq MP and Ruth Cadbury MP asked The Attorney General, Victoria Prentis MP, what steps she is taking to increase the proportion of cases relating to VAWG that are prosecuted. The Attorney General replied that since the launch of the joint action plan, HMG has seen a significant increase in charge volumes for adult rape since January 2021. Dr Huq pointed out that 1 in 9 cases is dropped before reaching court due to lengthy waiting times.

Domestic Abuse Prosecutions – 25th May 2023

Selaine Saxby MP and Bob Blackman MP asked The Attorney General, Victoria Prentis MP, what steps the Crown Prosecution Service is taking to support the prosecution of domestic abuse cases. The Attorney General replied that HMG is committed to increasing the volume of prosecutions and supporting more victims of domestic abuse and that victims now have much longer to report offences.

Healthcare for Women – 6th June 2023

Judith Cummins MP and Sarah Owen MP asked the PUSS for HSC, Maria Caulfield MP, what steps their department was taking to improve healthcare for women. The Minister pointed to HMG's Women's Health Strategy for England and said that good progress was being made towards the eight priorities in its first year, from introducing the HRT pre-payment certificate to the £25m roll-out of women's health hubs across the country. APPG on PDRH member Steve Brine MP pointed out that women living with HIV in England did not have equal rights when it came to IVF treatment.

Cervical Screening and Ovarian Cancer – 11th July 2023

Sharon Hodgson MP asked The Minister for Social Care, Helen Whately MP, what steps were being taken to increase awareness of (a) cervical screening and (b) ovarian cancer. The Minister replied that HMG funds community events to raise awareness of ovarian cancer and NHS England is working to increase cervical screening take-up by providing more convenient appointments, including at weekends and evenings.

Topical Questions – 12th July 2023

During questions to the Minister for Women and Equalities, Dame Maria Miller MP asked the Minister, Kemi Badenoch MP, to support a campaign she was running to support victims of domestic abuse in her constituency. The Minister agreed that it is important that people know where to go for help when they have experienced domestic abuse and noted that HMG are providing police and crime commissioners with dedicated ringfenced funding for at least 900 independent sexual violence and domestic abuse advisers and will fund an additional 100, bringing the total to more than 1,000 by 2025.

Afghanistan: Rights of Women and Girls – 18th July 2023

APPG on PDRH member Ruth Cadbury MP asked the MoS, FCDO, Andrew Mitchell MP, what steps he is taking to support the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. The Minister replied that HMG is working with international partners to urge the Taliban to reverse its decisions to ban women from working for the UN and NGOs, and to deny girls access to education.

Violence Against Women and Girls – 12th September 2023

John Cryer MP, Debbie Abrahams MP and Ruth Jones MP asked the MoS, MoJ, Edward Argar MP, what steps his Department is taking to reform the criminal justice system to help tackle VAWG. The MoS answered that HMG has already taken significant action to strengthen the criminal justice system's response to VAWG, including through the end-to-end rape review, driving up prosecutions and the introduction of new protections for victims through the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

HIV: Emergency Department Opt-out Testing – 17th October 2023

Peter Gibson MP asked the PUSS for HSC, Neil O'Brien MP, what recent assessment he had made of the effectiveness of emergency department opt-out testing for HIV. The PUSS noted that Provisional NHS data shows that opt-out testing has found around 700 cases of HIV during its first year. In total, it has found more than 2,000 cases of blood-borne diseases, including hepatitis B and C.

Menopause: Workplace Support – 13th November 2023

During questions to the SoS for Work and Pensions, Simon Jupp MP asked the SoS, Mel Stride MP, what steps his Department is taking to help improve workplace support for women experiencing the menopause. Mr Stride informed that House that 64% of his Department's staff are female and they have a menopause and workplace policy, which sees 350 menopause ambassadors across the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) network.

Violence Against Women and Girls: Legislation – 21st November 2023

Owen Thompson MP, Joanna Cherry MP, Marion Fellows MP, Andrew Western MP and Kirsten Oswald MP all asked the PUSS for Justice, Laura Farris MP, what reforms their department is making to the criminal justice system to tackle VAWG. Ms Farris said that Since 2010, HMG has transformed the legislative landscape on tackling VAWG by creating new criminal offences of stalking, non-fatal strangulation and coercive control and has implemented comprehensive modern slavery and domestic abuse laws, and outlawed insidious harms, such as revenge porn and the so-called "rough sex" defence to murder.

Violence Against Women and Girls – 27th November 2023

Julie Marson MP asked the PUSS for the Home Department, Laura Farris MP, what steps their Department is taking to tackle VAWG. Ms. Farris answered that in the last three years HMG has passed new laws covering domestic abuse, street harassment and online safety and last year HMG added violence against women to the strategic policing requirement, placing it on equivalent footing to terrorism.

Safer Streets Fund – 15th January 2024

Marie Rimmer MP asked the PUSS for the Home Department, Laura Farris MP, what assessment the Home Secretary has made of the potential impact of the safer streets fund on the safety of women and girls. Ms Farris replied that since 2020 HMG has invested £150m across the two funds and the evaluation of round one of the safer streets fund, published in January last year, showed that the investment was boosting trust in the police and making communities feel safer.

Topical Questions – 15th January 2024

During questions to the Home Department APPG on PDRH member Dr Rupa Huq MP asked the Home Secretary, James Cleverly MP, why the implementation of safe access zones for women accessing abortion clinics was being delayed by a consultation, despite having been passed as part of the Criminal Justice Act. The Home Secretary answered that if Dr Huq wrote to him on the issue, he would endeavour to find out the details.

Oral Answers to Questions – 17th January 2024

During questions to the PM, Sara Britcliffe MP thanked the PM for the announcement that specialist maternal mental health services will be available to women in every part of England by March. The PM replied that HMG are committed to the Women's Health Strategy and that he was pleased that the reforms will make a difference to women across the country in the future.

Violence Against Women and Girls – 17th January 2024

Jeff Smith MP and Nicola Richards MP asked the Minister for Women and Equalities, Kemi Badenoch, what steps she is taking with cabinet colleagues to tackle VAWG. The Minister answered that tackling

VAWG is one of HMG's key priorities and that they are making progress in delivering various cross-Government workstreams, including the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls' Strategy and the Rape Review Action Plan.

Domestic Abuse – 7th February 2024

APPG on PDRH member Kim Johnson MP asked the PUSS for the Home Department, Laura Farris MP, whether she has had recent discussions with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner on taking steps to help tackle so-called honour-based abuse. Ms Farris reported that she had met with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner regularly, and that the last joint visit was to a refuge for minoritised women for whom honour-based abuse was a specific issue. She also reported that HMG's forced marriage unit has provided support services to more than 300 cases in the past year and that the national honour-based abuse helpline has helped more than 2,500 people in the past 12 months.

Healthcare for Women – 5th March 2024

APPG on PDRH member Lyn Brown MP asked the SoS for HSC, Victoria Atkins MP, what steps she is taking to improve healthcare for women. Ms Atkins answered that women's health is one of her top priorities and that HMG has already improved access to contraception and the treatment of urinary tract infections through Pharmacy First, announced £50m of funding for research on maternity disparities and other health conditions affecting women and set the expectation that each integrated care board area will have at least one women's health hub operating this year. APPG on PDRH member Theo Clarke MP asked as a follow-up question what action HMG was taking to address the risk of suicide among new mothers. The Minister replied that an important announcement about suicide prevention had been made the previous day, elements of which addressed exactly the concerns that she raised and that HMG has also announced that within eight weeks or so of giving birth new mothers will be asked by GPs whether they are okay. APPG on PDRH member Alison Thewliss MP asked a further question regarding whether the Minister would meet with the charity Amma Birth Companions, a charity who support asylum seekers and refugees giving birth alone. The Minister replied that she would ask ministerial colleagues to meet with the charity.

Gynaecology Treatment – 5th March 2024

Sarah Green MP asked the Minister for Health and Secondary Care, Andrew Stephenson MP, what steps their department is taking to reduce waiting times for gynaecology treatment. The Minister replied that NHS England has been doing targeted work to help trusts with the longest waiters to support gynaecology patients in the community where appropriate and to find specialist services that can treat them as quickly as possible.

HIV Action Plan – 20th March 2024

Peter Gibson MP and Maggie Throup MP asked the Minister for Equalities, Stuart Andrew MP, what recent steps HMG had taken to implement the HIV action plan. The Minister answered that HMG's 2021 HIV action plan sets out actions to achieve no new HIV transmissions by 2030 in England. To deliver that, the Department of HSC is investing more than £4.5m between 2021 and 2025 to deliver the HIV prevention programme.

Menopause: Workplace Support – 20th March 2024

Gerald Jones MP asked the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, Mims Davies MP, what steps HMG are taking to help support women experiencing menopause at work. The Minister replied that in March 2023 she had appointed Helen Tomlinson as the Government's first menopause employment champion. She went on to say that HMG is working with employers to increase awareness and develop policies to support women experiencing the impact of menopause at work and recently launched new guidance on the Help to Grow portal to empower businesses to educate their organisations about menopause.

Israeli Victims of Sexual Abuse by Hamas – 20th March 2024

Nicola Richards MP asked the Minister for Women and Equalities, Kemi Badenoch MP, what discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on support for Israeli victims of sexual abuse by Hamas. The Minister replied that she was working closely with cabinet colleagues on the issue and that last week she had met with the Hostage and Missing Families Forum, and that the PM and the Foreign Secretary had also done so in recent months.

Victims of Domestic Violence: Court Proceedings – 26th March 2024

Duncan Barker MP asked the PUSS for Justice, Laura Farris MP, what steps their Department is taking to help ensure that victims of domestic violence are protected throughout court proceedings. The Minister cited the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 as transformative for victims, giving as an example that up-front legal aid is available to all domestic abuse victims seeking a protective order, without having to establish evidence of abuse. In addition she informed the House that perpetrators are prohibited from cross-examining their victims and victims are entitled to the support of an independent domestic violence adviser throughout the process.

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
Abortion: Demonstrations
Abortion: Drugs
Abortion: Emergency Calls
Abortion: Northern Ireland
Abortion: Telemedicine
Abortion: Training
Accident and Emergency Departments: HIV Infection
Afghanistan: Development Aid
Afghanistan: Earthquakes
Afghanistan: Girls
Afghanistan: Humanitarian Aid
Afghanistan: Women
Afghanistan: Women's Rights
Africa: Female Genital Mutilation
Africa: HIV Infection
Armed Conflict: Gender Based Violence
Armed Forces: Sexual Offences
Baby Care Units
Bilateral Aid: Equality
Bilateral Aid: Gender Based Violence
Bilateral Aid: HIV Infection
Bilateral Aid: Women
British Pregnancy Advisory Service: Standards
Cervical Cancer: Screening
Childbirth
China: Abortion
Civil Servants: Maternity Leave
Clinics: Contraceptives
Columbia: Equality
Columbia: Gender Based Violence
Commonwealth: HIV Infection
Contraceptives
Contraceptives: Anaesthetics
Contraceptives: Endometriosis

Contraceptives: Fees and Charges
 Contraceptives: Nottingham
 Contraceptives: Women
 DNA: Screening
 Darfur: Sexual Offences
 Democratic Republic of Congo: Sexual Offences
 Demonstrations
 Developing Countries: Female Genital Mutilation
 Developing Countries: Genito-Urinary Medicine
 Developing Countries: Poverty
 Development Aid
 Development Aid: Climate Change
 Development Aid: Climate Change and Poverty
 Development Aid: Equality
 Development Aid: Gender Based Violence and Poverty
 Development Aid: Genito-Urinary Medicine
 Development Aid: Gynaecology
 Development Aid: HIV Infection
 Development Aid: Research
 Development Aid: Staff
 Development Aid Training
 Domestic Abuse
 Domestic Abuse: Administration of Justice
 Domestic Abuse: Weather
 East Africa: Women
 El Salvador: Abortion
 Employment: Fertility
 Endometriosis
 Endometriosis: Diagnosis
 Endometriosis: Health Services
 Endometriosis: Medical Treatment
 Fertility: HIV Infection
 Fertility: LGBT+ People
 Fertility: Medical Treatments
 Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
 Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Health Education
 Forced Marriage Unit
 Forced Marriage: Children
 Gaza: HIV Infection and Tuberculosis
 Gaza: Humanitarian Aid
 Gender Based Violence
 Genito-Urinary Medicine
 Genito-Urinary Medicine and HIV Infection: Training
 Genito-Urinary Medicine: Clinics
 Genito-Urinary Medicine: Consultants
 Genito-Urinary Medicine: Expenditure
 Genito-Urinary Medicine: Finance
 Genito-Urinary Medicine: Health Professions
 Genito-Urinary Medicine: HIV Infection
 Genito-Urinary Medicine: Staff
 Genito-Urinary Medicine: Surveys
 Genito-Urinary Medicine: Young People
 Gynaecology
 Gynaecology: Northern Ireland
 Hamas: Gender Based Violence
 Hamas: Sexual Offences
 Health Services: Contraception
 Health Services: Women
 Hepatitis and HIV Infection: Screening
 Hepatitis and HIV: Screening
 HIV Infection
 HIV Infection and Viral Diseases: Screening

HIV Infection: Diagnosis
 HIV Infection: Discrimination
 HIV Infection: Disease Control
 HIV Infection: Drugs
 HIV Infection: Ethnic Groups
 HIV Infection: Health Education
 HIV Infection: Health Services
 HIV Infection: Prescription Drugs
 HIV Infection: Preventive Medicine and Screening
 HIV Infection: Research
 HIV Infection: Screening
 HIV Infection: Women
 Home Office: Training
 Hormone Replacement Therapy
 Hormone Replacement Therapy: Drugs
 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority: Licensing
 Human Papillomavirus: Vaccination
 IVF
 IVF: East Midlands
 IVF: LGBT+ People
 IVF: Older People
 Infant Mortality
 Infant Mortality and Miscarriage: Bereavement Counselling
 Infant Mortality and Miscarriage: Disadvantaged
 International Assistance: Education
 International Law: HIV Infection
 Iran and Syria: Minority Groups
 LGBT+ People: Health
 Maternal Mortality
 Maternal Mortality: Ethnic Groups
 Maternity Disparities Taskforce
 Maternity Disparities Taskforce: Disclosure of Information
 Maternity Disparities Taskforce: Membership
 Maternity Disparities Taskforce: Standards
 Maternity Services: Expenditure and Negligence
 Maternity Services: Safety
 Maternity Services: Staff
 Menopause: Health Services
 Menorrhagia: Health Services
 Mental Health Services: Mothers
 Midwives: Recruitment
 Miscarriage: Bereavement Services
 Miscarriage: Mental Health Services
 National Women's Prisons Health and Social Care Review: Genito-Urinary Medicine
 Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Act 2023
 Neonatal Mortality
 Northern Ireland Office: Menopause and Periods
 Ovarian Cancer: Medical Treatments and Screening
 PHE Reproductive Health, Sexual Health and HIV Innovation Fund
 Pakistan: Women
 Perinatal Mortality
 Pharmacy
 Pharmacy: Medical Records
 Pregnancy: Epilepsy
 Pregnancy: Mental Health Services
 Rape: Convictions
 Relationships and Sex Education
 Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund
 Sanitary Protection: VAT
 Schools: Sanitary Products
 Selective Serotonin Uptake Inhibitors: Sexual Dysfunction
 Sexual Assault Referral Centres

Sexual Assault Referral Centres: Finance
Sexual Offences: Criminal Proceedings
Sexual Offences: Sentencing
Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes
Sexually Transmitted Infections
Sexually Transmitted Infections: Disease Control
Sexually Transmitted Infections: Notifiable Diseases
Southern Health and Social Care Trust: Cervical Cancer
Sub-Saharan Africa: Women
Sudan: Armed Conflict
Surrogacy
Tropical Diseases
UK Menopause Task Force
UN Population Fund
United Nations
Western Sahara: Refugees
Women: HIV Infection

Early Day Motions

EDM1285 – Menstrual Hygiene Day – 12th June 2023

Dr Phillipa Whitford MP, 38 signatures

That this House calls on the Government to acknowledge the global Menstrual Hygiene Day by recognising the reality of period poverty in the UK, which has been exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis; notes that last year there was an 87 per cent surge in demand for free period products by women and people who menstruate; highlights that those on the lowest incomes currently have to choose between buying period products and buying food; celebrates the progressive policymaking in Scotland which is the first country in the world to address this problem and recognise that free access to and provision of period products for all is a right; and urges the Government to follow in these footsteps by rectifying these obvious and unacceptable inequalities, and to show real leadership in ensuring that free period products are as common a sight in public buildings as toilet rolls are today.

EDM1294 – Declaration on UN Day for Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict – 12th June 2023

Dame Angela Eagle MP, 25 signatures

That this House notes the UN's strong opposition to conflict-related sexual violence set out in resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1960, 2106, 2331 and 2467 and its designation of 19 June 2023 as the Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict; welcomes the UK's leadership role in the global campaign against such violence, including the November 2022 London ministerial conference at which 52 countries signed a protocol supporting accelerated action to prevent and prosecute such crimes and support survivors and victims; deplores that in conflicts in Ethiopia, Ukraine and elsewhere during the past year many thousands of women have suffered brutal conflict-related sexual violence and are still, like the hundreds of thousands more in the Rohingya, Uyghur, Yazidi and other communities, waiting for services and justice; and calls on the Government to press through the UN and its agencies for its excellent resolutions to be turned into reality, for international support and resources for tribunals and commissions investigating conflict-related sexual violence as war crimes, crimes against humanity or constitutive acts of genocide, for prompt prosecution of perpetrators, including those in the chain of command, for justice and support services for survivors, for the inclusion of women in peace negotiations and processes and for the burden of the campaign against sexual violence in conflict to be borne not by survivors and victims, but by perpetrators and those in positions of power.

EDM1341 – Endometriosis Awareness Campaign – 19th June 2023

Daisy Cooper MP, 25 signatures

That this House notes the struggles that more than one million women in the UK suffering from endometriosis face; recognises that no one should suffer from endometriosis or any health condition in silence; acknowledges that endometriosis can severely affect a woman's life and that there is very little public understanding of it; notes that proper diagnosis is essential for a women's well-being, and can improve mental health while empowering them to make informed decisions about planning for a family; supports the need to boost awareness and diagnosis education for better health outcomes; reaffirms that some women with endometriosis are entitled to certain rights and adjustments in the workplace under the Equality Act 2010; and calls on the Government to launch a wider awareness campaign on endometriosis to encourage women to get diagnosed and improve public understanding of the condition.

EDM1654 – 21st Annual Baby Loss Week in the UK – 16th October 2023

Steven Bonnar MP, 12 signatures

That this House acknowledges the 21st annual Baby Loss Week in the UK; notes that Baby Loss Week from 9 to 15 October 2023 is a special opportunity to mark the lives of babies lost in pregnancy or at or soon after birth; also notes that this year Baby Loss Awareness Week focuses on the steps along that journey, and how they are different for everyone; and both recognises and

appreciates the fantastic work being undertaken by Julie and Bryan Morrison at the Baby Loss Retreat based in North Lanarkshire to help support families at the most difficult of times across Scotland and the rest of the UK.

EDM1664 – Baby Loss Awareness Week and Employer’s Guidelines – 16th October 2023

Claire Hanna MP, 16 signatures

That this House marks Baby loss awareness week 2023; acknowledges the grief and pain of bereaved parents and families and remembers the much-loved babies that have passed; recognises that although Northern Ireland is the first place in Europe to pass legislation so that parents who experience baby loss before 24 weeks of pregnancy are eligible for statutory paid leave that the implementation of this Act has been delayed due to lack of a Northern Ireland Executive; understands that the Government has yet to bring forward similar provisions; further notes that in its 2022 survey on pregnancy and baby loss in the workplace, the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development found that fewer than 26 per cent. of organisations had specific policies in place to support their employees; urges the Government to work with employers and industry bodies in all regions to develop guidelines and put in place policies; and calls on the Government to introduce a bill in the next parliamentary session.

EDM82 – Safe Access Zones - 20th November 2023

Bell Ribiero-Addy MP, 16 signatures

That this House celebrates the legislative introduction of Safe Access Zones around abortion clinics and buildings offering abortion services in the Public Order Act 2023; notes that although the Act received Royal Assent on 2 May 2023, provisions within the Act about Safe Access Zones, as outlined in section 9, have yet to come into force and require the introduction of a statutory instrument, as outlined in section 35(5) of the Act; is concerned that, until Safe Access Zones are enforced, pro-life protestors are permitted to continue staging protests outside abortion facilities, potentially hindering access to services and intimidating service users and staff; acknowledges that Safe Access Zones are a key instrument to protecting women’s access to healthcare and their right to choose; and therefore calls on the Home Secretary to bring forward a statutory instrument to enforce Safe Access Zones around abortion clinics and buildings offering abortion services without further delay.

EDM131 – Verification of Gestational Age for At-home Abortions – 29th November 2023

Carla Lockhart MP, 19 signatures

That this House welcomes the introduction of the At Home Early Medical Abortion (Review) Bill [HL] that seeks a review into the risks to women of at-home abortion under current law; expresses its support for the Bill; calls on the Government to reinstate in-person medical appointments before abortion pills may be prescribed to determine the gestational age of a baby and to ensure women seeking abortion are not facing coercion; notes that recent illegal late-term abortions of viable unborn babies would not have been able to occur had in-person appointments to accurately assess gestational age been required; further notes that self-performing a late-term medical abortion away from a clinical environment without in-person medical supervision puts the lives of women at considerable risk; and calls on the House to reject proposals that would likely lead to a worsening of the situation and the lives of many more women being endangered, by removing offences that make it illegal to perform a self-abortion right through to birth.

EDM299 – Cervical Cancer Prevention Week 2024 –18th January 2024

Dr Philippa Whitford MP, 37 signatures

That this House notes that 22 January marks the start of Cervical Cancer Prevention Week 2024, which is an opportunity to highlight the vital importance of HPV vaccines and cervical screening in the prevention of cervical cancer and their potential to thereby contribute to the elimination of cervical cancer; acknowledges that there are significant inequalities in the uptake of cervical screening and HPV vaccines; recognises the work of Jo’s Cervical Cancer Trust in providing public information and individual support; and encourages hon. Members to support Cervical Cancer Prevention Week by raising awareness and sharing campaign resources with their constituents.

EDM388 – Women and Girls in Global Conflict Zones – 19th February 2024

Sarah Dyke MP, 8 signatures

That this House notes with concern that the number of women and girls living in conflict zones worldwide reached 614 million in 2022; recognises the gendered risks conflict poses to women and girls through sexual violence, lack of healthcare, food insecurity, disruption to education and trafficking; acknowledges that women in conflict-prone areas may also experience climate instability; further recognises other difficulties faced by women with disabilities and civilians who identify as LGBTQ+; concurs with the UN statement that misogyny is a common thread in the spread of conflict and violent extremism; further notes the upcoming 25th anniversary of UN Resolution 1325; expresses support for women and girls affected by global conflict, including Israeli and Palestinian women targeted with sexual violence by Hamas, Gazan and Ukrainian women taking on healthcare responsibilities amidst failing infrastructure, and women and girls displaced in Sudan; calls for the UK’s aid budget to be restored to 0.7% of gross national income; further calls for the UK Government to sign the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action; calls for civilian access to health to be prioritised during conflict; also calls for women and girls to have their rights and access to justice preserved and defended; and further calls for women and girls to be integral to peace-building processes all over the world.

EDM535 – University of Aberdeen Course on the Impact of Female Genital Mutilation – 20th March 2024

Kirsty Blackman MP, 16 signatures

That this House commends the University of Aberdeen for its efforts in training the next generation on the impact of female genital mutilation (FGM); notes that since its free online course on this topic launched in 2022, over 1,000 learners have participated; and welcomes that it continues to expand the capacity of the course to ensure that anyone with an interest in women's health feels prepared to deal with FGM in a professional capacity.

EDM570 – Female Genital Mutilation Legislation in The Gambia – 26th March 2024

Patricia Gibson MP, 16 signatures

That this House expresses its deep concern regarding the Gambian National Assembly's consideration of a Bill which would repeal that country's ban on female genital mutilation (FGM); offers its unqualified condemnation of the practice of FGM; considers FGM to be a violation of the human rights of girls and women, including the right to freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the right to physical integrity, and the rights of the child; notes the World Health Organization evaluation of the practice as one which has no health benefits and can lead to excessive bleeding, urinary problems, shock, psychological problems and even death; recognises that the United Nations Population Fund estimates that over four million girls are at risk of FGM each year; believes that no justification for the practice can be found from the religion of either Islam or Christianity; understands that FGM has been outlawed in The Gambia since 2015 with the imposition of fines and prison sentences of up to three years for individuals who engage in the practice, and life imprisonment in instances where the practice led to death; further understands that the bill has been referred to a parliamentary committee for further consideration before moving to a final vote of all members of the Gambian National Assembly; and urges lawmakers in The Gambia to retain the ban on FGM and uphold the human rights of Gambian women.

House of Lords

Written Ministerial Statements

Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan – Annual Report to Parliament 2022 – 25th April 2023

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, MoS for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and UN at FCDO, read out PUSS for FCDO, Leo Doherty MP's, statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 25th April 2023).

The 0.7% of GNI ODA Target: 2022 – 17th July 2023

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, MoS for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and UN at FCDO, read out MoS for FCDO, Andrew Mitchell MP's, statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 17th July 2023).

Afghanistan: Aid and Support – 17th July 2023

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, MoS for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and UN at FCDO, read out MoS for FCDO, Andrew Mitchell MP's, statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 17th July 2023).

International Development White Paper – 18th July 2023

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, MoS for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and UN at FCDO, read out MoS for FCDO, Andrew Mitchell MP's, statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 18th July 2023).

International Development White Paper – 20th November 2023

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, MoS for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and UN at FCDO, read out MoS for FCDO, Andrew Mitchell MP's, statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 20th November 2023).

Public Health Update – 29th November 2023

Lord Markham, PUSS, Minister for the Lords, read out SoS for HSC, Victoria Atkins MP's, statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 29th November 2023).

Sudan Update – 30th November 2023

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, MoS for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and UN at FCDO, read out MoS for Development and Africa, Andrew Mitchell MP's, statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 30th November 2023).

Women's Health Strategy Update – 17th January 2024

Lord Markham, PUSS, Minister for the Lords, read out SoS for HSC, Victoria Atkins MP's, statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 17th January 2024).

Progress Report on the implementation of the Rape Review Action Plan – 19 February 2024

Lord Bellamy, PUSS for Justice, read out The Lord Chancellor and SoS for Justice, Alex Chalk MP's, statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 19 February 2024).

Baby Loss Certificates – 22nd February 2024

Lord Markham, PUSS, Minister for the Lords, read out PUSS, Minister for Mental Health and the Women's Health Strategy, Maria Caulfield MP's, statement from the HoC (see HoC, Ministerial Statements, 22nd February 2024).

Legislation

Protection from Redundancy (Pregnancy and Family Leave) Bill: Order of Commitment – 17th April 2023

A PMB to make provision about protection from redundancy during or after pregnancy or after periods of maternity, adoption or shared parental leave, was brought to the House by Baroness Bertin. The order of commitment was discharged.

Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Bill: Order of Commitment – 25th April 2023

A PMB to make provision about leave and pay for employees with responsibility for children receiving neonatal care was brought to the House by Baroness Wyld. The order of commitment was discharged.

Protection from Redundancy (Pregnancy and Family Leave) Bill: Third Reading – 19th May 2023

The Protection from Redundancy (Pregnancy and Family Leave) Bill was read for the third time. The Bill received Royal Assent on 24th May 2023.

Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Bill: Third Reading – 23rd May 2023

The Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Bill was read for the third time. The Bill received Royal Assent on 24th May 2023.

Women, Peace and Security Bill: Third Reading – 14th July 2023

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Hodgson of Abinger introduced the Bill for its third reading. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury spoke in support of the bill and expressed the hope that he and Baroness Hodgson could work cross-party to ensure that it becomes law. Parliament was prorogued before the scheduled first reading of the bill in the HoC.

Foetal Sentience Committee Bill: First Reading – 27th November 2023

A PMB to make provision for a Foetal Sentience Committee to review current understanding of the sentience of the human foetus and to inform policymaking; and for connected purposes was brought to the House by Lord Moylan and read for the first time.

At-Home Medical Abortion Bill: First Reading – 29th November 2023

A PMB to require the SoS to conduct a review into the risks associated with at-home early medical abortions; and for connected purposes was brought to the House by Baroness Eaton and read for the first time. Parliament was prorogued before the bill made any further progress.

Abortion (Gestational Time Limit) Bill: First Reading – 7th December 2023

A PMB to lower the gestational time limit for abortion from twenty-four weeks to twenty-two weeks was brought to the House by Baroness O’Loan and read for the first time. Parliament was prorogued before the bill made any further progress.

Still-Birth Definition Bill – 11th December 2023

A PMB to amend the definition of still-birth to apply from 20 weeks into a pregnancy; and for connected purposes was brought to the House by Baroness Benjamin and read for the first time. Parliament was prorogued before the bill made any further progress.

Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill – 29th January 2024

During the Bill’s second reading in the HoL, APPG on PDRH member Baroness Northover referenced and praised the Mahama refugee camp, which she had visited with UNFPA on a trip to Rwanda and contrasted it unfavourably with the provision that the UK had made in Kigali.

Foetal Sentience Committee Bill: Second Reading – 22nd March 2024

The Foetal Sentience Committee Bill was brought to the House and read for a second time. During the ensuing debate APPG on PDRH member Baroness Barker called the bill “*unprecedented government interference in the ethics and practices of abortion care*” and claimed that the bill proposed circumventing expert guidelines because of ideological disagreement and would cause a rollback of women’s rights. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Thornton also claimed that the bill put ideological differences over expert opinion and that “*The Bill would leave a woman’s right to access to care at the whim of a committee focused solely on the foetus, with no remit to consider women’s experience, needs or rights*”. Parliament was prorogued before the bill made any further progress.

Debates

Relationship and Sexuality Education (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 – 28th June 2023

The Grand Committee considered the Relationships and Sexuality Education (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Regulations 2023, introduced by Lord Caine, which seek to update the education curriculum in Northern Ireland to make age-appropriate, comprehensive and scientifically accurate education on SRHR, covering contraception and access to abortion, a compulsory component of the curriculum in all grant-aided schools in Northern Ireland. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Thornton pointed out that the SoS is legally obliged to implement these measures under recommendation 86(d) of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

International Development White Paper – 23rd November 2023

The House debated the statement on the International Development White Paper, which had been read out by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury criticised the Government’s reduction of ODA from 0.7 to 0.5% of GNI and the decision to merge the Department for

International Development (DFID) and the FCO. He pointed out that women and girls have been among the biggest losers from the decisions of recent decades and claimed that every single decision that comes across Andrew Mitchell MP's desk must consider whether it does more to empower and enable women and girls to succeed, or less. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Blackstone pointed out that there had been huge cuts to SRHR and asked how much extra funding would be made available by the plans in the White Paper and whether it would cover safe abortion. The Minister replied that SRHR is a specific objective and priority within his work on preventing sexual violence in conflict and assured the House that HMG has instructed and has been looking at programmes with that framework.

Climate Change: Impact on Developing Nations – 11th January 2024

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Northover moved "that this House takes note of the United Kingdom's contribution to international development, in particular with regard to the impact of climate change on developing nations." and gave a summary of the UK's contributions to international development in recent years, as well as noting some of its shortfalls. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Blackstone asked Lord Benyon, what HMG's criteria were for returning ODA to 0.7% of GNI, which was echoed by APPG on PDRH members Lord Purvis of Tweed and Lord Collins of Highbury.

Myanmar: Health System – 29th February 2024

Lord Crisp asked a question for short debate "To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role that the United Kingdom could play in supporting health workers in Myanmar and contributing to the reconstruction of the country's health system.". He mentioned the problem of increased perinatal deaths in his opening speech. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Northover noted that the number of skilled birth attendants in Myanmar has fallen and infant mortality has risen, while there has been an increase in VAWG and asked what FCDO was doing to monitor this and to ensure that women and girls have access to FP. Lord Benyon, as answering minister, said that the UK was the largest funder of the multilateral Access to Health Fund and over 80% of the funding goes directly to local healthcare providers within Myanmar, providing assistance and training to help increase their resilience. He went on to say that these programmes have provided essential health services to approximately 3.3m vulnerable individuals in 154 townships in Myanmar over the last five years and that more than half a million women and children have received maternal, newborn and child health services.

International Women's Day – 8th March 2024

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Baroness Vere of Norbiton opened the debate, moving that "This House takes note of International Women's Day and the steps taken to promote the economic inclusion of women.". In her opening speech she spoke first about international policy and aid, particularly the importance of supporting women in fragile contexts and of putting women and girls centre in development policy. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Northover raised the importance of SRHR and asked HMG to restore the cuts to aid in this area. She also mentioned the disproportionate impact that climate change had on women and girls. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Hodgson of Abinger made reference to the APPG on PDRH study trip to Tanzania and how it had demonstrated to her the importance of providing access to contraception for women and expressed her hope that the Government would continue to fund UNFPA Supplies, citing the economic benefits of providing \$1 of contraception to save \$3 on the cost of unwanted pregnancies. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Barker mentioned how the overturning of Roe v Wade in the USA had been unpopular and restricted women's access to the labour market. APPG on PDRH members Baroness Uddin, Baroness Gohir and Baroness Thornton also spoke in the debate.

Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare – 19th March 2024

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Barker asked a short question for debate – "To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current level of provision for sexual and reproductive healthcare in England and the case for a workforce plan in this sector.". In her opening remarks Baroness

Barker declared her interest in the APPG on PDRH and APPG on HIV/AIDS and told the House *“My ongoing involvement in those APPGs reflects my very strongly held belief since I was a young woman that giving people, particularly young people, scientifically correct and fully inclusive sex and relationship education information not only protects them and enables them to study, work and live their lives to their full potential but benefits the whole of society in terms of health and economics.”* and outlined the crisis of sexual health services in England.

Oral Parliamentary Questions

Hate Crime – 24th April 2023

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Gohir asked the PUSS for HO, Lord Sharpe of Epsom, what assessment HMG have made of the incidence of each of the five monitored strands of hate crime in respect of the sex of the (1) victims, and (2) perpetrators; and why annual hate crime data are not routinely disaggregated by sex when published. The PUSS responded that police-recorded hate crime data, published annually on GOV.UK by independent Home Office statisticians, is not routinely disaggregated by sex of victim or perpetrator, but that on 1st April, police forces started to identify and record any crimes of violence against the person, as well as sexual offences, that are deemed to be motivated by hostility towards the victim's sex.

Childbirth: Black Women – 3rd May 2023

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Thornton asked the PUSS for HSC, Lord Markham what steps HMG is taking to address the fact that Black women are almost four times more likely to die in childbirth than White women. The Minister responded that more needed to be done to address maternal disparities and informed the House that local maternity and neonatal systems have begun to publish action plans to tackle disparities in outcomes and experiences in maternity care at a local level and also that the Maternity Disparities Taskforce, which held a meeting on 18th April, brings together experts from across the health system, government departments and the voluntary sector to explore and consider evidence-based interventions to tackle maternal disparities. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Manzoor asked if the Maternity Disparities Taskforce could also look at additional antenatal care that black and ethnic-minority women need because of underlying causes, and at the care they receive during labour? The Minister replied that he had been in discussion with Minister Caulfield about this that very morning.

United Nations Population Fund Report – 24th May 2023

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Anelay of St Johns asked the MoS for FCDO, Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park, whether HMG planned to support the recommendations in the UNFPA report **‘8 Billion Lives, Infinite Possibilities: the case for rights and choices’** and, if so, how. Lord Goldsmith answered that HMG endorsed the recommendations for rights and choices for all and that HMG has a strong relationship with UNFPA, with funding in place to support programmes that avert millions of unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions and prevent hundreds of thousands of maternal and child deaths. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Blackstone pointed out that an estimated 257m people do not have access to safe and reliable contraception and asked when HMG would restore FP programmes that had been cut because of the reduction in UK ODA from 0.7% to 0.5% of GNI. The Minister expressed a hope that this would happen as soon as possible but was not able to give a timescale. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury then enquired what impact the 85% cut to funding for UNFPA would have on women's health programmes. The Minister responded that he was unable to put numbers to the question, but that it remains a priority issue. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Hussein-Ece asked specifically what the FCDO is doing to guarantee that women have the ability and rights to make reproductive and sexual health decisions free from discrimination, coercion and violence and what specific programmes will underline these choices. Lord Goldsmith replied that in 2021, HMG was the second-largest global bilateral donor on FP and delivered on the 2017 summit commitment to spend an average of £225m a year on FP over five years to 2022. Between 2015 and 2020 HMG reached an estimated nearly 25.5m women and girls with modern methods of FP. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Sugg asked what HMG were doing to

institutionalise the Women and Girls Strategy across diplomatic networks. Lord Goldsmith assured the House that all posts would implement the strategy.

Offences Against the Person Act: Section 58 – 15th June 2023

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Thornton enquired what assessment HMG had made of the recent application of section 58 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. The Advocate-General for Scotland,



Baroness Blackstone asking a question about UNFPA report

Lord Stewart of Dirleton responded that HMG are committed to ensuring access to safe, regulated abortion for all women in England and Wales on the NHS and that it would be inappropriate for him to comment on specific criminal cases, especially those which may be subject to appeal proceedings, or on prosecution decisions made by the CPS independently of government. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Barker asked if the Minister would work with the royal colleges and professional bodies to review the guidance on women who have taken abortion pills being reported to the police. Lord Stewart answered that HMG would work with the relevant professional bodies. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Blackstone, the chair of the trustees at RCOG, asked what HMG would do to address the problem of medical staff being unable to perform medical abortions without fear of criminal prosecution. The Minister replied that RCOG would provide its staff with professional guidance and that HMG would work with them. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Sugg asked when the abortion clinic buffer zones would be introduced. The reply from Lord Stewart was that he was unable to give a specific date, but that HMG were working through the complexities of implementing border zones, and that the Home Secretary, speaking yesterday to the Home Affairs Select Committee, undertook to write to them to bring them fully up to date. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Northover asked why the UK were being so ‘timid’ as to uphold a law that much of the House had agreed was outdated, the Minister responded that the number of cases that actually go to court was very small and therefore considered on a case-by-case basis.

Uganda: LGBT People – 5th July 2023

Lord Fowler asked HMG what steps they will take in response to the recently announced measures of discrimination against LGBT people in Uganda. The PUSS for HO, Lord Sharpe of Epsom, replied the UK is appalled by the Government of Uganda’s decision and that HMG have made this clear to all levels of the Ugandan Government and continue to do so because the Anti-Homosexuality Act undermines the protections and freedoms of all Ugandans, will increase the risk of violence, discrimination and persecution and will set back the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Support for Migrant Victims – 12th July 2023

Baroness Gale asked the PUSS for HO, Lord Sharpe of Epsom, what progress HMG has made in evaluating the pilot of the Support for Migrant Victims scheme; and when they intend to rescind their

reservation on Article 59 of the Istanbul Convention. Lord Shape informed the House that HMG was carefully considering the findings of the Support for Migrant Victims scheme pilot evaluation to inform any future policy decisions and that once they had considered all the evidence, they would communicate their decision on the Article 59 reservation. APPG on PDRH Baroness Hussein-Ece countered that the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's report was thorough and the recommendations are very clear that *"We urgently need to put safety before immigration status when it comes to domestic abuse victims"*.

Folic Acid Fortification – 25th July 2023

Lord Rooker asked the PUSS for DHSC, Lord Markham, whether it remains HMG's policy to reduce the number of pregnancies affected by neural tube defects through mandatory folic acid fortification of bread flour. The Minister answered that HMG was committed to continuing with a policy of mandatory fortification of non-wholemeal wheat flour with folic acid. APPG on PDRH member Lord Balfe asked why HMG was taking so long to implement the policy. Lord Sharpe explained that there were concerns around side-effects with certain drugs, which needed investigation.

Afghanistan: Aid for Women – 11th September 2023

Lord Watson of Wyre Forest asked The MoS, FCDO, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, what steps HMG had taken to aid and support the women of Afghanistan since the departure of UK armed forces. The Minister answered that HMG prioritise support for women and girls in response to the Taliban's repression and have repeatedly urged the Taliban to reverse harmful policies. Additionally, he informed the House that he meets regularly with Afghan women and leaders to hear their concerns directly and that since April 2021, HMG has disbursed more than £532m to Afghanistan, giving 2.3m women access to food, healthcare and other essential assistance. At least 50% of beneficiaries of UK aid are women and girls. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Hussein-Ece enquired what support is taking place globally to support women and girls in Afghanistan. Lord Sharpe replied that HMG was working with key partners within the Islamic world and with key agencies, supporting 4.2m people with food assistance, of whom 2m are women and girls. The issue of nutrition is high on HMG's agenda, as well as empowerment through education.

Climate Financing – 17th October 2023

Lord Oates asked the PUSS, Department of Energy Security and New Zero, Lord Callanan, what discussions HMG has had with international counterparts about the commitment of delivering \$100 billion of climate financing made at COP 26, and when they expect it to be met. Lord Callanan responded that the UK COP 26 presidency had published a delivery plan with other contributors showing that they would meet the \$100 billion goal in 2023 and that at the Petersburg dialogue this May, developing countries had confirmed that this was on track. He also explained that HMG has worked with the Canadian and German governments to publish an open letter at the UN General Assembly explaining upcoming milestones and that the UK and other contributors are working with the OECD on a report by COP 28 on progress with regard to COP 21. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Sugg pointed out that women and girls were disproportionately impacted by climate change and cited a recent UNFPA report highlighting that rising temperatures have been linked to poorer maternal health and that extreme weather events are exacerbating inequalities because of the disruption to health services, including the loss of access to contraception. She enquired how HMG is ensuring that their climate finance properly addresses the needs of women and girls. The Minister replied that the FCDO's International Women and Girls' Strategy sets out the commitment to increase the proportion of international climate finance that will be gender-marked and to integrate gender and social inclusion objectives into HMG's climate finance programmes and strategies.

Black and Minority Ethnic Babies: Mortality Rates – 15th November 2023

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Thornton asked the PUSS for HSC, Lord Markham, what steps HMG are taking to reduce the mortality rates of black and minority ethnic babies, following the publication of research from the National Child Mortality Database. Lord Markham replied that HMG are committed to tackling disparities for parents and babies and are addressing this through the NHS three-year delivery plan

for maternity and neonatal services, which sets out how care will be made more equitable for women, babies and families. He also said that support is also provided through the universal public health programmes and programmes that target vulnerable families. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Manzoor asked the Minister what HMG were doing to address the shortage of midwives. Lord Markham replied that the NHS workforce had grown by 14%.

Abortion Clinics: Safe Access Zones – 20th November 2023

Baroness Deech asked the PUSS for HO, Lord Sharpe of Epsom, what progress HMG has made towards the implementation of safe access zones around abortion clinics as legislated for in section 9 of the Public Order Act 2023. Lord Sharpe replied that HMG will launch a public consultation on the contents of the guidance at the earliest opportunity, and following consultation they anticipate commencing Section 9 in spring 2024. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Thornton asked for an example of where it has previously been necessary to have this kind of public consultation and why there are months-long delays to the process when the will of the House was clear. The Minister answered that the guidance is not straightforward because of the broad nature of the prohibited behaviours. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Barker enquired whether the HO plans to be in touch with local councils, abortion care providers and the police in coming weeks to discuss how these zones are best implemented.

Nutrition for Growth Summit – 29th November 2023

APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked the MoS for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and FCDO, Lord Benyon, what discussions HMG has had with international counterparts ahead of the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris in 2024. Lord Benyon answered that the UK works closely with France and other partners to promote the integration of nutrition across multiple sectors and into multilateral programmes to increase financing for nutrition and build momentum ahead of the next nutrition for growth summit. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Northover enquired when HMG would restore the funding to the global nutrition budget, which they cut by 60% in 2021. Lord Benyon informed the House that HMG will be reviewing the £1.5 billion pledge next year and we may see increases as a result of that review. The Minister also urged members to refer to the FCDO's recent White Paper on International Development.

Sexually Transmitted Infections – 5th December 2023

Lord Black of Brentwood asked the PUSS for HSC, Lord Markham, what steps HMG is taking to tackle the increasing rates of STIs in England. Lord Markham responded that The UK Health Security Agency conducts comprehensive surveillance of STIs and supports local areas to use this data to inform sexual health services delivery and that HMG works with it and other stakeholders to explore options for the best use of both existing and innovative preventive interventions, as well as strengthening messages to the public on how to reduce the transmission of STIs. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Barker pointed out that in 2022 the rate of STIs went up by 22% and the public health budget was reduced by 29% and asked the Minister if it was time for an increase in that budget. Lord Markham countered that that was in comparison to a COVID year, when there was much less testing. And that in fact, if looked at versus pre-pandemic figures, the numbers are 16% down compared with 2019.

Poverty: International Development Aid – 15th January 2024

Lord Bruce of Bennachie asked the MoS for FCDO, Lord Ahmad, what plans HMG has to promote the end of absolute poverty through international development aid. The MoS replied that the UK aims to spend at least 50% of our bilateral aid in the least developed countries and also that the UK uses a range of levers, including our expertise and policy influence, to support our partners' development objectives. He mentioned that the UK spent almost £1 billion on global health in ODA in 2022. APPG on PDRH member Lord Purvis of Tweed pointed out the disproportionate impact on women and girls and asked why the aid to them had not been returned to pre-cut levels. Lord Ahmad responded that HMG's Women and Girls Strategy, which runs to 2030, has a specific focus on ensuring that we reach their objectives.

UN Sustainable Development Goals – 16th January 2024

APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked the SoS for FCDO, Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton, what steps he is taking to promote the implementation of the SDGs. Lord Cameron answered that the International Development White Paper sets out a re-energised agenda for the UK, working with partners, to accelerate progress on the SDGs by 2030. He also claimed that HMG would champion the SDGs throughout the key summits and meetings this year, and that he would be making a speech on the SDGs in Davos the following day.

Female Domestic Homicides: Black, Asian and Ethnic-minority Overrepresentation – 22nd January 2024

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Gohir asked the PUSS for the Home Office, Lord Sharpe of Epsom, what assessment HMG has made of whether Black, Asian and minority ethnic women are overrepresented in female domestic homicides; and what steps they are taking to safeguard them. The Minister replied that preventing domestic homicide is a key government priority, and that HMG has set out commitments to reduce it in the Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Hussein-Ece asked the Minister to comment on the barriers faced, particularly by women from Black and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, of counter-allegations and the risk of children being taken into care. The Minister responded that new police training was being rolled out in 34 areas.

Gender Equality – 24th January 2024

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Anelay of St Johns asked the MoS for EFRA and FCDO, Lord Benyon, further to the White Paper 'International Development in a contested world' published in November 2023 (CP 975), what step HMG is taking to achieve gender equality and the autonomy of all women and girls by 2030. Lord Benyon answered that the White Paper sets the course for transformative change, including countering efforts to roll back women's and girls' rights and builds on the new International Women and Girls Strategy, which commits to educating girls, empowering women and girls and ending GBV. In order to achieve this HMG will ensure that at least 80% of FCDO's bilateral ODA spend has a focus on gender equality by 2030.

Domestic Violence Refuges: Charities and Local Government – 4th March 2024

Baroness Donaghy asked the PUSS for Department of Levelling-up, Housing and Communities, Baroness Scott of Bybrook, what support HMG gives to charities and local government to provide places of safety for women subject to domestic violence. Baroness Scott answered that councils in England have a duty to provide support within safe accommodation to victims and their children under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and that since April 2021, HMG has provided more than £507m to councils across the country, including £129.7m for the years 2024-25, which will enable long-term commissioning decisions and give certainty to local providers such as specialist domestic abuse refuges.

UK Population Growth – 4th March 2024

Lord Moylan asked The MoS, Cabinet Office, Baroness Neville-Rolfe, what assessment she has made of the recent forecast by the Office for National Statistics that between 2021 and 2036 the UK population will grow by 9.9%, to 73.7m persons. Baroness Neville-Rolfe replied that the UK population is projected to increase by 6.6m, or 9.9%, by mid-2036. Of the total projected increase, 0.5m is projected to result from the higher number of births than deaths, and 6.1m from net international migration, but that the projections make no attempt to account for the impact of future policy on population movements or behaviours.

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](#):

Afghanistan and Iran: Women
Abortion
Abortion: Bone Diseases and Down's Syndrome
Abortion: Clinics
Abortion: Demonstrations
Abortion: Disclosure of Information
Abortion: Drugs
Abortion: Medical Records
Abortion: Statistics
Abortion: Telemedicine
Accident and Emergency Departments: HIV Infection
Afghanistan and Iran: Women
Afghanistan: Women
Africa: Abortion
Antimicrobials: Drug Resistance
Asylum: Pregnancy
Babies
Bangladesh: Rohingya
Birth Rate
Cervical Cancer
Childbirth
Contraceptives: Prescriptions
Contraceptives: Taxation
Contraceptives: Women
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
Darfur: Gender Based Violence
Developing Countries: Genito-Urinary Medicine
Development Aid
Development Aid: AIDS and HIV Infection
Development Aid: Climate Change
Development Aid: Genito-Urinary Medicine
Female Genital Mutilation
Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage
Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecution
Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions
Female Genital Mutilation: Protection Orders
Fertility: Medical Treatments
Forced Marriage: Children
Genito-Urinary Medicine
Genito-Urinary Medicine: Expenditure
Genito-Urinary Medicine: Finance
Gonorrhoea and Syphilis: Sick Leave
Hamas: Israel
Hamas: Sexual Offences
HIV Infection
HIV Infection: Development Aid
HIV Infection: Discrimination
HIV Infection: Disease Control
HIV Infection: Health Education
HIV Infection: Health Services
HIV Infection: Mental Health Services
HIV Infection: Women
Hong Kong: Demonstrations
IVF
IVF: LGBT+ People
Infant Mortality

International Conference on Population and Development
Israel: Gender Based Violence and Sexual Offences
Libya: Floods
Maternity Services: Finance
Maternity Services: Inspections
Maternity Services: Royal Commissions
Maternity Services: Standards
Medical Records: Domestic Abuse
Menopause: Employment
NHS: Software
Pakistan: Women
Perinatal Mortality
Pregnancy: Air Pollution
Pregnancy: Mental Health
Relationships and Sex Education
Schools: HIV Infection
Sexual Offences: Prosecutions
Sexually Transmitted Infections
Sudan: Sexual Offences
Tanzania: LGBT+ People
The Gambia: Women
UN Commission on the Status of Women
White Ribbon Day
World Health Organisation: Finance

UK Government Team, Meetings, Correspondence, Consultations and Publications

The FCDO Ministerial team April 2023 - March 2024



The Rt Hon Lord Cameron
FCDO Secretary of State, November 2023 – July 2024



The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
FCDO Secretary of State
September 2022 – November 2023



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 – July 2024



Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP
FCDO Minister of State for International Development/Africa
October 2022 – since April 2024 –
Deputy Foreign Secretary – July 2024



The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevellyn MP
FCDO Minister of State (Indo Pacific)
October 2022 – July 2024



Nusrat Ghani MP
FCDO Minister of State (Europe)
October 2022 – July 2024



David Rutley MP
FCDO Parliamentary Under Secretary of
State (joint with FCDO and Defra)
(Americas and Caribbean)
October 2022 – July 2024



The Rt Hon Lord Benyon
Minister of State (Climate, Environment and
Energy
November 2023 – July 2024



Alicia Herbert OBE
Special Envoy for Gender Equality
January 2021 – July 2024



Helen Grant MP
Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Girls'
Education
January 2021 – July 2024

For other Management and Representatives please see here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/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 and Correspondence

APPG on PDRH officers, other members and staff have been in regular communications with FCDO ministers and staff via emails and letter writing as well as at on-line and in-person meetings. Of particular importance this reporting year was the appointment of David Cameron as Foreign Secretary and Baroness Sugg (previous APPG on PDRH Co-chair) as his Special Adviser in November 2023.

Lord Jack McConnell, Co-Chair of the APPG for the UN Global Goals and Baroness Sugg hosted a private meeting with Andrew Mitchell MP on 12th September 2023 in Parliament and invited other APPG Chairs and Co-chairs interested in International Development to join this event. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss Andrew Mitchell's objectives for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, and his objectives for the FCDO White Paper, and was followed by a short workshop with senior FCDO officials to contribute to the consultation ahead of the FCDO draft White Paper on International Development, to be published in November 2023.

The APPG on PDRH was represented at this meeting where Vicky Ford MP highlighted the importance of UK Government's continued support for universal SRHR in their forthcoming White Paper and the importance of UK ministers being outspoken and supportive of SRHR at the UNGA due to an increase in anti-rights movements globally.

The APPG on PDRH was also represented at the 18th May 2023 Action for Global Health (AfGH) meeting with FCDO staff to discuss the FCDO Global Health Strategy Framework and UK SRHR Network meetings have also seen FCDO representation throughout the year.

In November 2023 Andrew Mitchell MP launched the FCDO White Paper in Parliament via a statement in the HoC Chamber and a briefing meeting followed in the Palace for parliamentarians and interested stakeholders where the APPG on PDRH was represented. Highlights on SRHR in the White Paper were disseminated to APPG on PDRH members.



Andrew Mitchell at ID White Paper Palace briefing meeting

In the spring of 2023, Andrew Mitchell was invited to speak at the APPG on PDRH annual World Population Day reception in July 2023, due to a prior engagement, Lord Ahmed kindly agreed to give the key-note speech at this annual event. This was an opportunity for members, embassy officials and the SRHR community to discuss the importance of SRHR, including in conflict settings, with Lord Ahmed.

Numerous communications have taken place throughout the year between the APPG on PDRH secretariat and FCDO staff. In April 2023 communications were in connection with the crackdown on LGBT organisations and people in Tanzania, in May 2023 in connection with Women Deliver Conference and Rwanda study trip to British High Commission, Rwanda for Tommy Sheppard MP and Baroness Northover and later in the year in connection with the planned APPG on PDRH study tour to India (which later changed to Tanzania/Zanzibar). In August 2023 discussion evolved around FCDO funding streams and in September 2023 the ICPD+30 Review in Geneva, October 2023.

In May 2023, UK Parliamentarians received a letter from Andrew Mitchell MP outlining The Chatham House meeting that took place in April 2023 and his pledge to reduce poverty and tackling climate change.

Andrew Mitchell MP, outlined 5 FCDO key areas of work to drive International Development:

- Partnerships and working together – no hand-outs
- Strengthen delivery of development – amplify the UK's voice in international fora
- Seven Initiatives to achieve the UK's aims – one being the Bridgetown Initiative to reform the international finance system and he referenced strengthening health systems and supporting women and girls
- To get public support for International Development – every penny to be well spent, including for UK population security
- Importance of branding and a new FCDO logo, as seen below



Please find enclosed select communication at appendix 13

UK Government and International Development Committee Consultations

FCDO International Development inquiry, September 2023

FCDO called for written submissions to its International Development White Paper in September 2023. The APPG on PDRH sent its remarks to Q4 only as per below:

The UK Government must urgently increase funding for FP/SRHR to 10% of UK ODA as per the International Parliamentary Conferences on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and focus its work on:

- FP and safe abortion care (medical abortion especially)
- Skilled birth attendants
- Cervical cancer prevention, detection and treatment
- GBV - in particular domestic violence, child marriage, FGM and online GBV for youth
- Promote the Minimal Initial Service Package in conflict
- Ensure CSE and SRHR service provisions for the hardest to reach, including the poorest of the poor, youth in- and out- of schools, people with disabilities, LGBTQI etc

APPG on PDRH publications of interest can be found [here](#). Of particular interest to the open call is the latest APPG on PDRH study tour report to Uganda 2022, which has the following recommendations:

- Increased domestic funding to comprehensive FP/SRHR services as per the Abuja commitment (15% of GDP to health) and continued and renewed commitments from UK Government ODA, with particular reference to reducing MMR and supporting the successful RISE and WISH and UNFPA supplies programmes;
- New, sustainable UK bilateral SRHR programmes to be delivered in partnership with NGOs and governments, including support for improved access to quality adolescent and youth responsive SRH services and CSE in and out of school;
- Progressive SRHR laws and policies to be agreed and implemented as per national parliaments and populations' wishes with accompanied financing;
- Strengthened girl's education to increase the chances of girls' social and economic empowerment. Keeping girls in school by addressing period poverty, preventing child marriages and teenage pregnancies;
- Improve SRHR/FP data collection and social media information packages especially for adolescents;
- Support evidence-informed social behaviour change communication packages to increase demand for FP/SRHR services to aid the demographic dividend, social and economic progress and sustainable development.

The APPG on PDRH also want to reiterate the importance of the UK Government strengthening technical support at country level in the area of FP/SRHR.

International Development Select Committee Inquiry into SRHR, Autumn 2023

The UK ID Select Committee conducted an inquiry in the Autumn 2023 into the FCDO's Approach to SRHR. The APPG on PDRH submitted written evidence.

The inquiry received written evidence and held oral hearing sessions on 5th May 2023, 4th July 2023 and on 12th September with Andrew Mitchell being questioned and full transcript available [here](#).

In July 2023, during the inquiry Sarah Champion MP, Chair ID SC initiated a HoC debate in Westminster Hall on SRHR (please see Parliamentary section).

The ID SC report on FCDO Approach to SRHR was published on 25th January 2024 and is available [here](#).

Report headlines and press release below:

'A girl in South Sudan will more likely die in childbirth than finish school':

'IDC reports on "devastating impact" of slashed UK aid "failing women and girls and marginalised people the world over"'

In 2020, nearly 300,000 women died from pregnancy and childbirth globally, almost 95% of them in low and lower middle-income countries; around 70% in Sub-Saharan Africa alone. 2.4 million babies died in their first month of life: 43% in Sub-Saharan Africa and 36% in central and southern Asia. Last year, the secretary general of the UN warned that global progress on women and girls' rights, to which SRHR are integral, is "vanishing before our eyes", with further criminalisation of LGBT+ people also. The World Health Organization said maternal health has declined in many parts of the world since 2016, halting 15 years of progress. Overall, so-called 'benign' gynaecological conditions affect more women and girls in low- and middle-income countries than malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS combined.

- [Read the report Summary \(HTML\)](#)
- [Read the full Report \(HTML\)](#)
- [Read the full Report \(PDF\)](#)
- [Inquiry: FCDO's approach to sexual and reproductive health](#)
- [International Development Committee](#)

But as the IDC reports today, since 2020 the UK has slashed aid spending on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), with a devastating impact on women and girls. Existing project budgets were cut or cancelled entirely, often with little to no notice. FCDO funding to multilateral organisations working on sexual and reproductive health was cut, with the deepest impact on the most marginalised, particularly women and girls and people with disabilities. This damaged both relationships with aid partners and recipients and the UK's reputation as a credible and serious partner in advancing SRHR globally.

International Development Committee Chair, Sarah Champion MP comments:

"Last year the UN declared that the world is failing girls and women, half our global population, with markers of equality and women's rights backsliding and decades of progress being lost. For any woman or girl in the world today, where she lives will determine how likely it is that she and her baby can survive beyond a pregnancy. A girl in South Sudan is more likely to die in childbirth than to finish secondary school. Even here in the UK maternal deaths are at their highest level in 20 years, but almost 95% of maternal deaths globally are in poorer countries. 70% of these women and girls die in Sub-Saharan Africa.

"The UK has had a long proud history of diplomatic and aid programming support of SRHR, but last year's Equalities Impact Assessment from the FCDO showed the horrifying numbers of women and girls, thousands upon thousands, who will once again face unsafe abortions and who will die in pregnancy or childbirth as a direct result of the UK's slashed aid spending.

"It is no good the new Foreign Secretary coming into Parliament and declaring that the UK is still a global aid superpower when we are failing on funding commitments; failing to set or achieve meaningful targets on sexual and reproductive health and rights - failing women, girls and marginalised groups the world over.

"It is time for the UK to make a new, meaningful commitment to women and girls and particularly the sexual and reproductive health and rights issues that so unequally impact them. It is time to put the money back coupled with impact and progress measured against meaningful targets. Our shared global Sustainable Development Goals are stalled or going into reverse: we will not progress until the rights of women, girls and marginalised groups are prioritised and funded."

The report states that in light of the acknowledged damage of the cuts, FCDO must change its approach. The Government should set new, real targets on ending preventable deaths of mothers, babies and children by 2030 and report regularly on its progress toward them. It should calculate a minimum percentage of bilateral Official Development Assistance to be spent on sexual and reproductive health and rights and make funding commitments on a multiyear basis: a basic requirement to maximise the effect and impact of aid spending that the UK has been failing on for too long.

Original multilateral funding commitments should be honoured, particularly to the UN Population Fund, and discretionary funding should be restored to pre-pandemic levels. This should include restoring funding to end the ongoing horror of female genital mutilation, and renewed diplomatic and cross-border efforts to end the practice wherever it occurs.

The Committee says that going forward the FCDO must:

- Ensure all SRHR programmes are accessible to all, under the principle of Leave No One Behind, including for programmes working on HIV and AIDS; and include marginalised and hard-to-reach people in the planning, development and delivery of SRHR aid programming.
- Ensure that these programmes reach people with disabilities by having a dedicated budget, baselines, targets and key performance indicators.
- Commit to defined spending levels on the development of health personnel in low-and-middle-income countries, as well as prioritising the development of health infrastructure, with a focus on water, sanitation and hygiene facilities (WASH).
- Integrate programming and care for female genital schistosomiasis – a little known but painful and debilitating disease affecting up to 56 million women and girls – into broader SRHR programming.
- Provide age-appropriate sex education on topics like menstruation, female genital schistosomiasis and WASH to empower local populations, increase the value of aid spending and improve outcomes.

UK aid programming needs a more integrated and complementary approach between different but overlapping aspects of sexual and reproductive health. Integrating services aimed at treating and preventing HIV and AIDS with those aimed at treating and preventing female genital schistosomiasis offers benefits for women's health and wellbeing, as well as accessibility, time and cost savings.

The UK Government's response to above report was published on 17th May 2024 and is available [here](#).

The APPG on PDRH did offer to co-host a launch of the IC SC SRHR report, but as unusual practice for the Committee to launch reports the APPG on PDRH instead organised a briefing meeting for members on report findings and initiated press activities on the publishing day. Written PQs were also tabled to highlight the report and its findings, however due to the UK GE being called, no replies were received to written PQs, so they will be re-tabled in the new Parliament.

UK Government Consultation on Safe Abortion Access Zones December 2023 - January 2024

The UK Government launched a consultation in December 2023 in response to the passage of the Public Order Act 2023, where the UK Parliament voted to introduce legislation to prohibit protests within 150 metres of an abortion clinic or hospital that provides abortion services. The Government's plan is to commence Section 9 of the Public Order Act 2023 i.e. to introduce 'buffer zones' in Spring 2024 and this consultation will support the non-statutory guidance, which will be published to ensure that law enforcement agencies have a clear and consistent understanding around enforcement. It will also provide information to abortion service providers and protestors about what is expected under the new law.

BPAS circulated their response to the consultation which was circulated to members and available [here](#).

UK Government Publications

Below are relevant, current and new publications of interest to SRHR stakeholders

14th December 2021

[Ending Preventable Deaths of Mothers, Babies and Children by 2030](#)

14th December 2021

[Health Systems Strengthening for Global Health Security and Universal Health Coverage](#)

16th May 2022

[The UK Government's Strategy for International Development](#)

10th November 2022

[The UK Humanitarian Framework](#)

8th March 2023

[International women and girls strategy 2023 to 2030](#)

22nd March 2023

[The UK's International Technology Strategy](#)

22nd May 2023

[Global Health Framework: Working Together Towards a Healthier World](#)

6th July 2023

[FCDO annual report and accounts 2022 to 2023](#)

27th July 2023

[UK Government Support for Girls' Education Worldwide](#)

29th August 2023

[' Delivering the UK's International Development Strategy: 2023 Progress Update](#)

20th November 2023

[International development in a contested world: ending extreme poverty and tackling climate change, a white paper on international development](#)

18th March 2024

[FCDO Digital Development Strategy 2024-2030](#)

April 2024

[Statistics on International Development Provisional UK Aid Spend 2023](#)

International Funding to FP/SRHR and HIV/AIDS

The UK government made a commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on ODA from 2013. The International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015 placed the commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on ODA in UK law from 2015 and in each subsequent calendar year. The UK spent 0.7% of UK GNI on ODA between 2013 to 2020. But in 2020, the UK government announced a temporary reduction to ODA spend from 0.7% to 0.5% of GNI, citing a severe economic downturn as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UK government has committed to returning to spending 0.7% when the fiscal situation allows it.

In July 2021, the government set out the two key tests that must be met on a sustainable basis in the fiscal forecast produced by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) before ODA spending can return to 0.7%:

- First, when the UK government are not borrowing to support day-to-day spending
- Second, when underlying debt is falling

FCDO published its final UK Aid Spend 2022 in September 2023 and it is available here: [Statistics on International Development UK aid spend 2022](#)

FCDO published its provisional UK Aid spend 2023 in April 2024 and it is available here: [Statistics on International Development Provisional UK Aid Spend 2023](#)

Provisional UK aid 2023 shows UK ODA to be £15,374m, an increase of £2,589m (20.2%) in 2022. The largest increases in the latest year's spend amongst non-FCDO contributors were: – Home Office, which spent £2,955 of ODA in 2023, an increase of £559m (23.3%). This was driven by an increase in ODA eligible support costs for asylum seekers in the UK.

Summary extracts and key points from FCDO final UK Aid spend 2022 here:

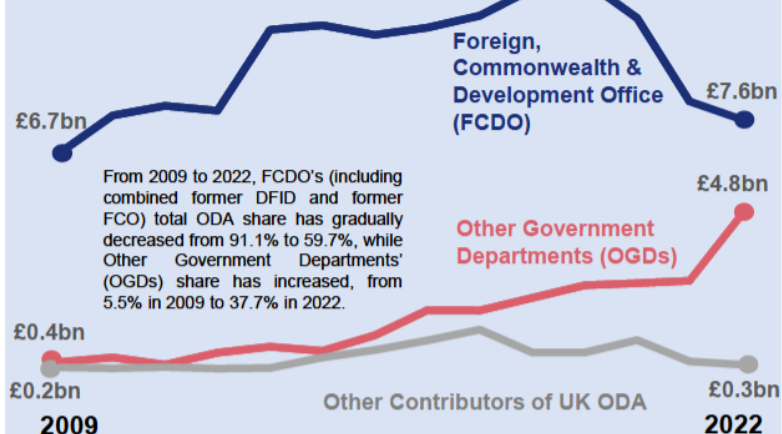
- The final ODA:GNI ratio was 0.51%, the actual spend was £12,786m, an increase of £1,363m (11.9% increase) on 2021.
- UK bilateral ODA spend was £9,640m (75.4% of total UK ODA) while UK core funding to multilaterals was £3,146m (24.6% of total UK ODA).
- In 2022, £3,690m of ODA was in the form of in-donor refugee costs (28.9% of UK total ODA). This represents a £2,638m increase compared to 2021 when its share of total ODA was 9.2%.
- FCDO spent £7,635m on ODA in 2022, compared with £8,175m in 2021 (a decrease of £540m). The FCDO's share of total UK ODA stood at 59.7% in 2022, a decrease from 71.6% in 2021.
- Non-FCDO spend on ODA (by Other Government Departments and other contributors of UK ODA) was £5,151m in 2022, compared with £3,248m in 2021 (an increase of £1,903m). The non-FCDO share was 40.3%, up from 28.4% in 2021.
- Africa remained the largest recipient of UK region-specific bilateral ODA in 2022 – accounting for 42.2%. However, in 2022 ODA to Africa decreased by £486m (28.1%) to £1,241m.
- The top three recipients of UK bilateral country specific ODA were Afghanistan (£353m), Ukraine (£342m) and Nigeria (£110m).
- The largest amount of bilateral ODA was focused on the sectors 'Refugees in Donor Countries' (£3,690m), 'Humanitarian' (£1,109m) and 'Health' (£966m).

In 2022 the UK provided £12.8bn of Official Development Assistance

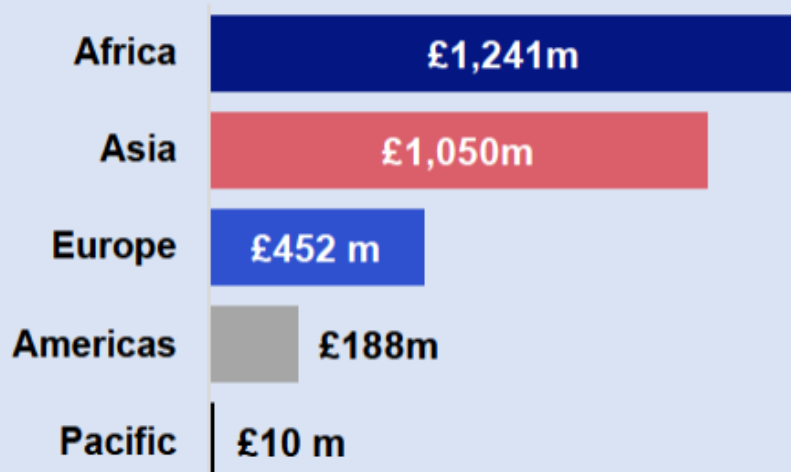
Headline figures

- 0.51% of GNI** The UK has spent in line with the government's decision to spend around 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income on ODA in 2022.
- 75.4%** of UK ODA was spent bilaterally (i.e. going to specific countries, regions or programmes).
- 59.7%** of UK ODA was spent by the FCDO.
- £353m** In 2022, Afghanistan was the largest bilateral recipient of UK ODA, at £353m.

Total UK net ODA: by contributor

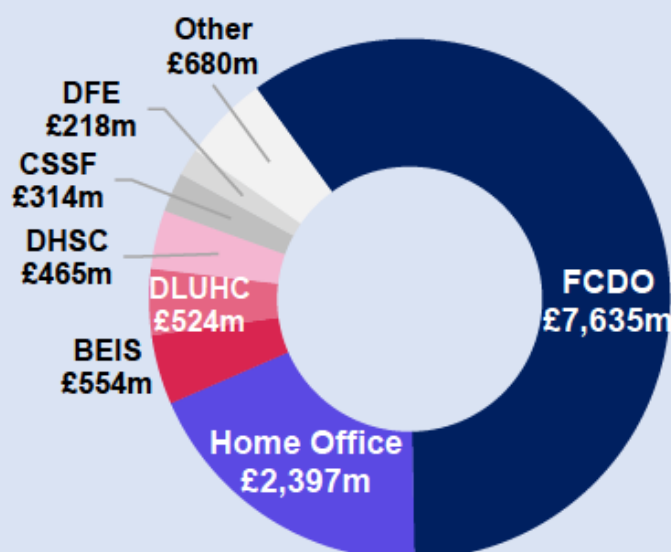


UK Bilateral ODA by region, 2022

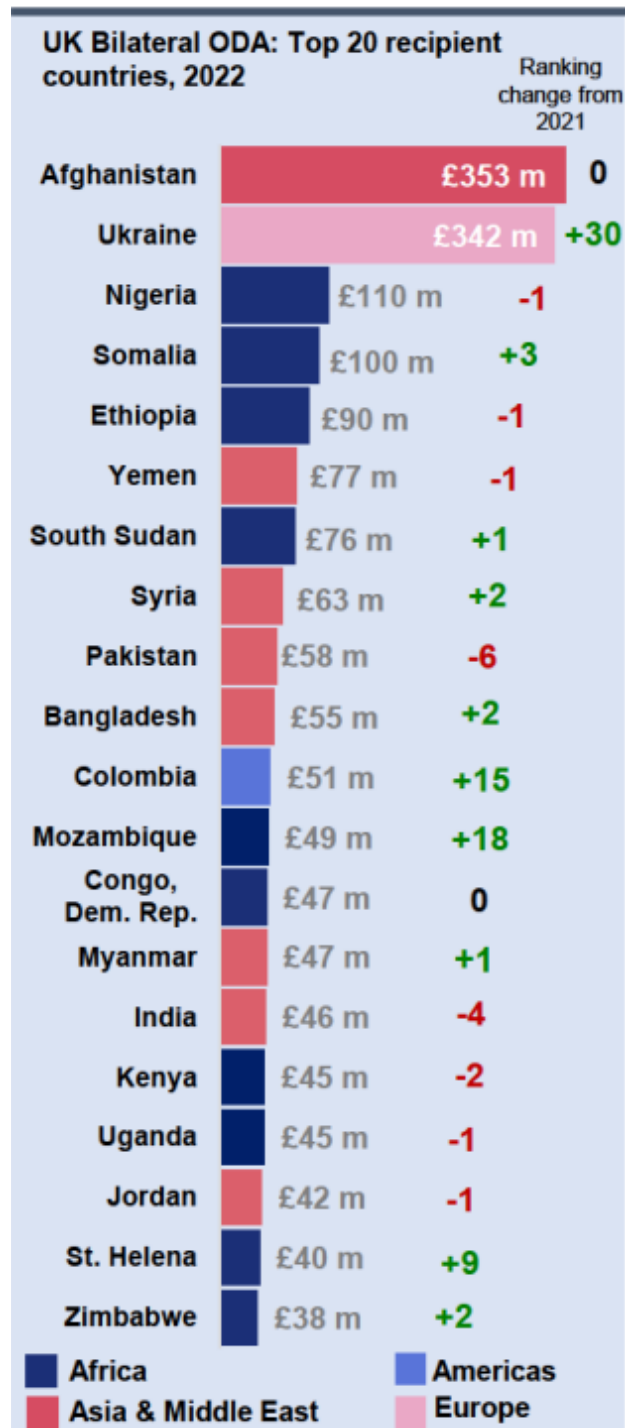
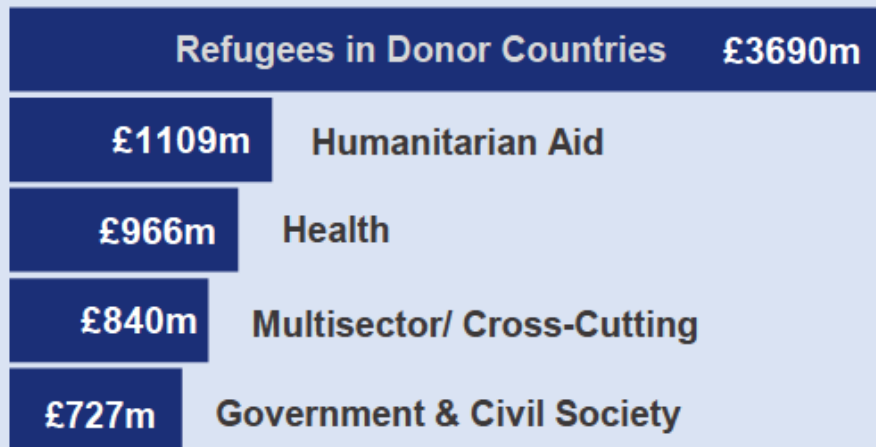


£6,699m of bilateral ODA was categorised as Developing countries unspecified, as it is not directly linked to an individual country or region.

Total ODA spend by contributor, 2022



UK Bilateral ODA: top 5 sectors, 2022



UK ODA contribution to UN and International NGOs, 2014-2023 (£ thousands)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
UNFPA - Core	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000
UNFPA - Non-core	120,470,000	148,880,000	189,930,000	69,660,000	57,320,000	88,510,000	93,333,000
United Nations Population Fund - Total	140,470,000	168,880,000	209,930,000	89,660,000	65,320,000	96,510,000	101,333,000
IPPF - Non-core	0	5,480,000	34,940,000	49,170,000	42,530,000	2,250,000	21,336,000
WHO - Core	19,500,000	29,500,000	34,500,000	5,000,000	97,600,000	97,750,000	112,000,000
WHO - Non-core	111,400,000	142,640,000	150,180,000	215,900,000	35,530,000	42,029,000	41,996,000
WHO - Assessed contribution (DHSC)	12,190,000	12,790,000	13,000,000	13,260,000	12,490,000	17,629,000	20,241,000
WHO - Total	143,090,000	184,930,000	197,680,000	234,160,000	145,610,000	157,413,000	174,237,000
UNICEF - Core	48,000,000	48,000,000	48,000,000	48,000,000	24,000,000	8,000,000	40,018,000
UNICEF - Non-core	400,070,000	401,460,000	429,220,000	412,740,000	201,540,000	174,240,000	183,342,000
UNICEF - Total	448,070,000	449,460,000	477,220,000	460,740,000	225,540,000	182,240,000	223,360,000
UNAIDS - Core	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	2,500,000	8,000,000	8,000,000
UNAIDS - Total	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	2,500,000	8,000,000	8,000,000
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria - Core	317,060,000	360,000,000	370,000,000	476,000,000	380,000,000	434,000,000	958,076,000
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria - Total	317,060,000	360,000,000	370,000,000	476,000,000	380,000,000	434,000,000	958,076,000
UN Women - Core	12,500,000	12,500,000	12,500,000	12,500,000	5,750,000	0	3,378,000
UN Women - Non-core	6,850,000	4,900,000	13,400,000	6,910,000	3,430,000	4,704,000	2,750,000
UN Women - Total	19,350,000	17,400,000	25,900,000	19,410,000	9,180,000	4,704,000	6,128,000
MSI - Non Core	46,342,000	62,344,000	46,716,000	48,433,000	33,283,000	21,274,000	20,585,000

Source: Statistics on International Development: Final UK Aid Spend 2022 and HoL Hansard; MSI funding figures by MSI

DFID/FCDO bilateral expenditure directly targeting HIV and AIDS, April-March 2013/14-2017/18 and calendar years 2018-2023 (£ millions)

Input Sector Code	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
13041 HIV/AIDS including STI Prevention	37.5	25.7	21.5	22.7	9.8	6.8	5.2	9 *	6*	7.9*	10.3*
13042 HIV/AIDS including STI Treatment and Care	10.9	8.1	5.7	4.4	2.5	3.2	3.1				
Grand Total	48.4	33.8	27.2	27.1	12.3	10.1	8.3	9	6	7.9	10.3

* 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, April-March 2013/14 -2017/18 and calendar years 2018-2023 (£ millions)

Input Sector Code	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
13010 Population Policy and Administrative Management	11.5	4.3	3.1	3.9	6.3	4	6	11	7	3.2	4.1
13021 Reproductive Health Care	49.4	55.4	46.3	51.4	49.8	45.5	49.4	109 *	55*	87.5*	88.3*
13022 Maternal and Neonatal Health	163.4	207	124.7	122.5	134	117.3	99.3				
13030 Family Planning, Health	127	124.5	121	108.2	159.1	174.5	252.1	164	129	107.6	132.5
13081 Personnel Development for Population and Reproductive Health	9.3	12.9	18.6	21	22.7	17.1	15	11	3	4.1	3.6
Grand Total	360.6	404.1	313.7	307.2	371.9	358.5	421.3	293	194	202.4	228.5

*This is code '13020' and is the official OECD DAC code for both '13021' and '13022'
In 2018 UK Government started tracking bilateral ODA Jan-Dec as opposed to UK financial year Apr-Mar

Figure 2: Total UK ODA by main delivery channel (%), 2018-2022

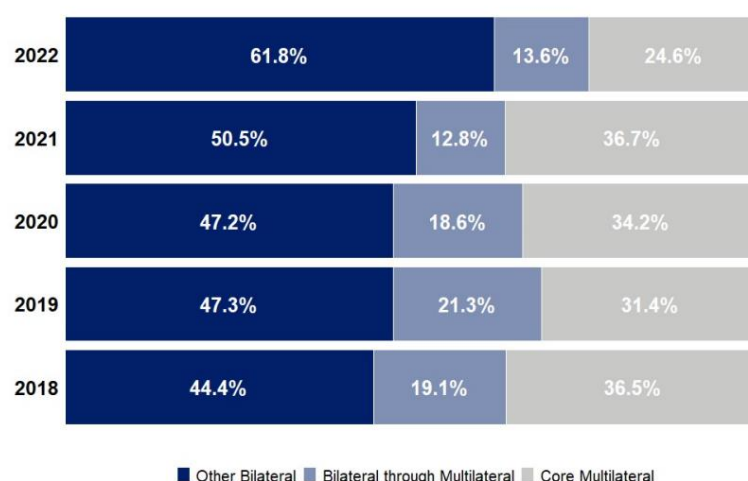


Figure 2 legend: Total UK ODA by main delivery channel. The bars for each year represent 100% of total UK ODA spend. The dark blue section represents the proportion of total UK ODA delivered through 'Other Bilateral' channels. The lighter blue represents the same measure but for ODA delivered through the 'Bilateral through Multilateral' channel. The grey section represents the proportion of total UK ODA that was channelled as core contributions to multilaterals, 'Core Multilateral'. Note, percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Figure 12: Bilateral ODA by major sector, 2021 & 2022

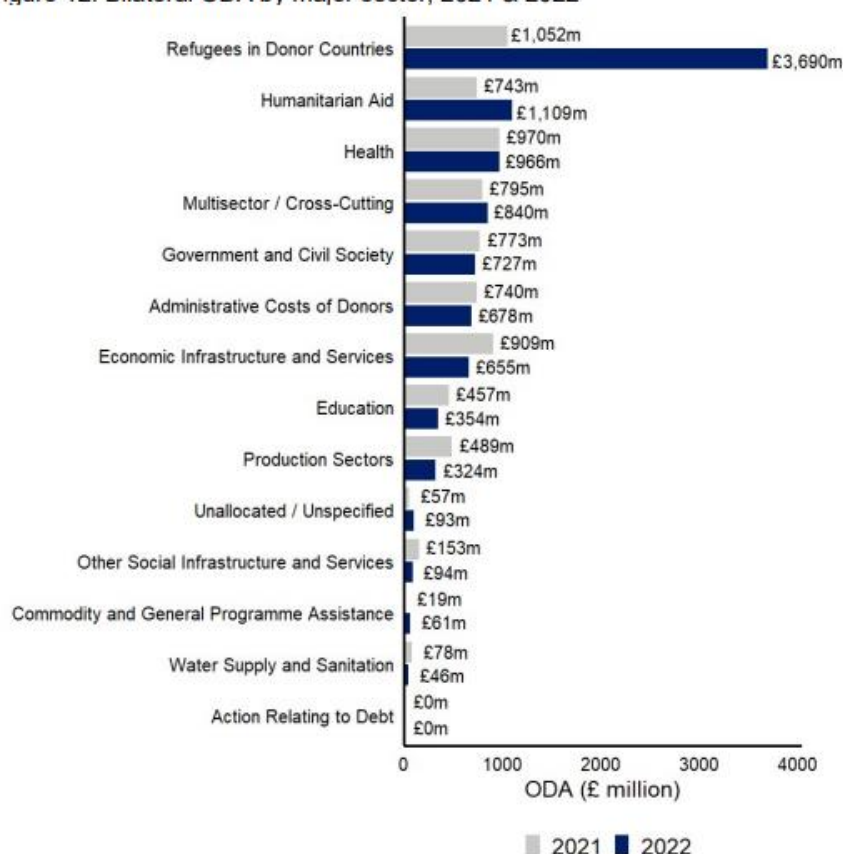


Figure 12 legend: Major Sector Spend – comparison between 2021 and 2022 bilateral ODA (£ millions). Major sectors are ordered from top to bottom by largest 2022 ODA spend. 2022 spend coloured in dark blue, 2021 spend in grey.

Figure 17: Provisional ODA from DAC donors, 2022

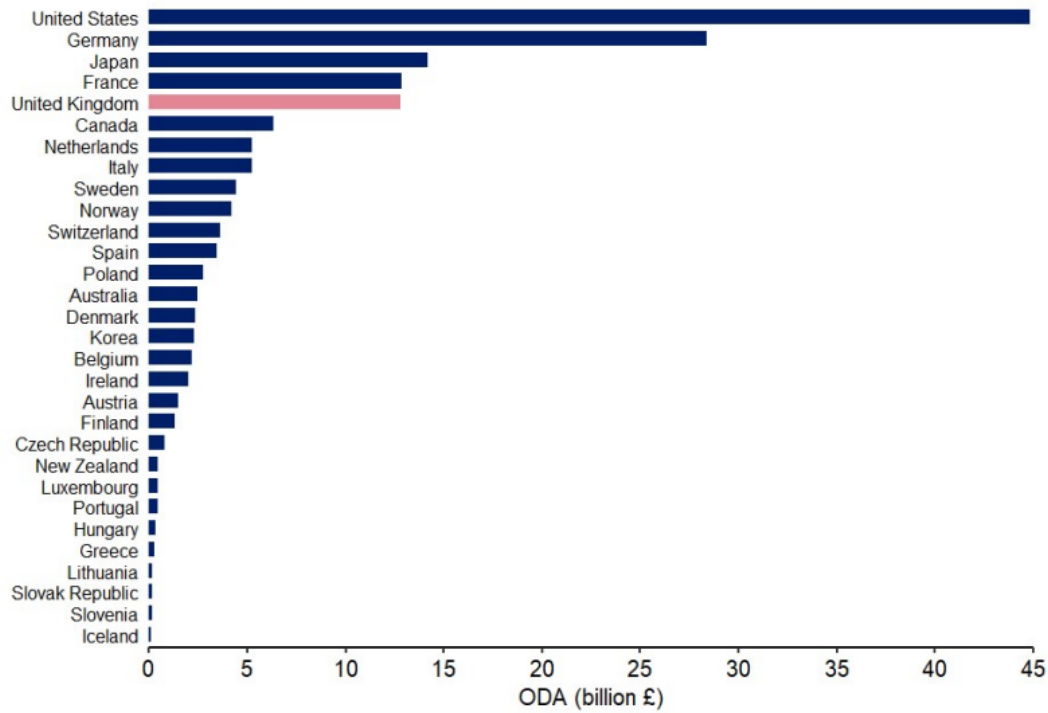


Figure 17 legend: Comparing the UK ODA (billion £) spend with other DAC donor countries in 2022. The UK spend is highlighted in pink with the other donors in dark blue. Note that provisional 2022 spend from other DAC donors is used in this chart.

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

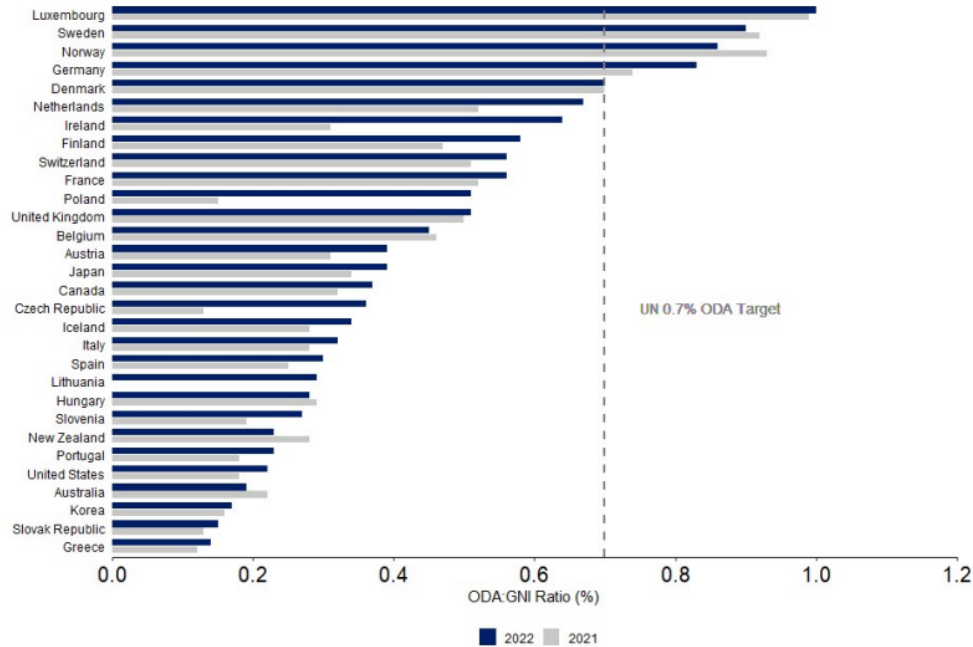


Figure 18 legend: ODA spend in terms of GNI comparing 2021 and 2022 spend for each DAC donor country (ODA:GNI ratio). In dark blue is the 2022 ODA:GNI ratio and in grey is 2021 ratio. The vertical dashed line indicates the 0.7% ODA:GNI UN target. Note that provisional 2022 spend from other DAC donors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

Figure 19: Map of the top fifteen highest recipients of total DAC Members bilateral ODA Spend and UK's Share by Country, 2021

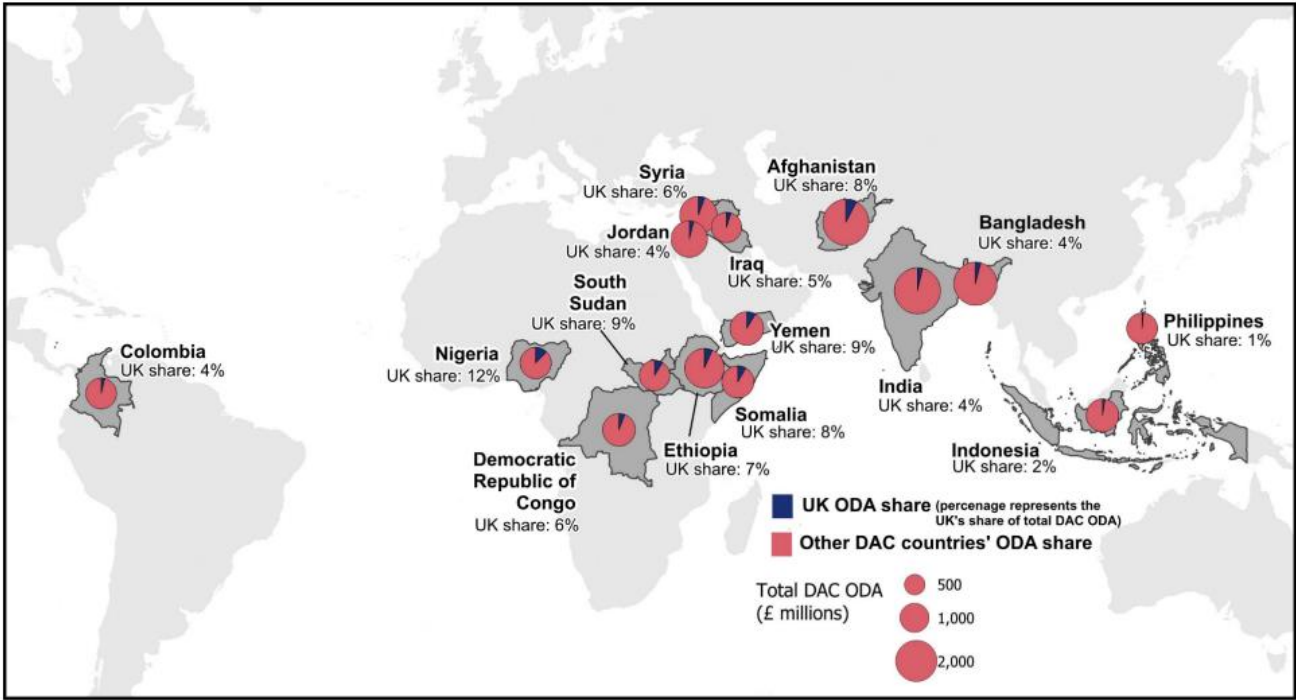


Figure 19 legend: Top 15 recipient countries of total ODA from the DAC donor countries in 2021 and the UK's share of ODA in these recipient countries (red) compared to other DAC countries ODA share (blue).

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

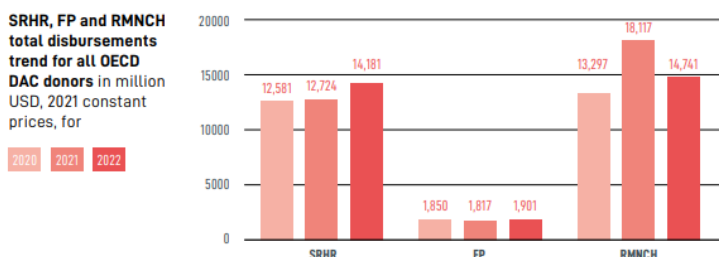


Figure 1 legend: The blue bars represent UK ODA spend from 1970 to 2022, the pink line is the calculated ODA:GNI ratio from 1970 to 2022 and the grey dashed line is the 0.7% ODA:GNI target set by the United Nations General Assembly in 1970. From 2018 onwards, ODA has changed from being measured on a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

Please see here DSW Donors Delivering for SRHR, April 2024 findings on global SRHR 2022 with extract below [DD Report 2024 FINAL spreads](#):

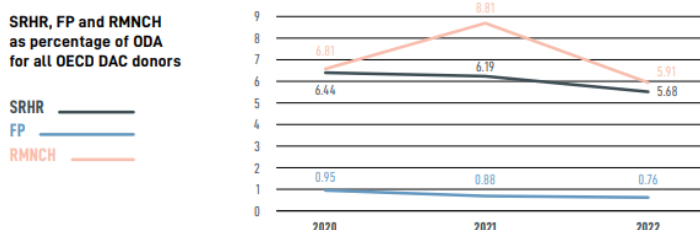
GLOBAL SRHR FUNDING INCREASED BY 11.5% IN 2022

Good news first: total donor investments in SRHR increased significantly in 2022! After a minor increase between 2020 and 2021, OECD DAC donors' total SRHR funding saw a more marked increase in 2022. Total FP funding also increased, while RMNCH spending saw a sharp decline.

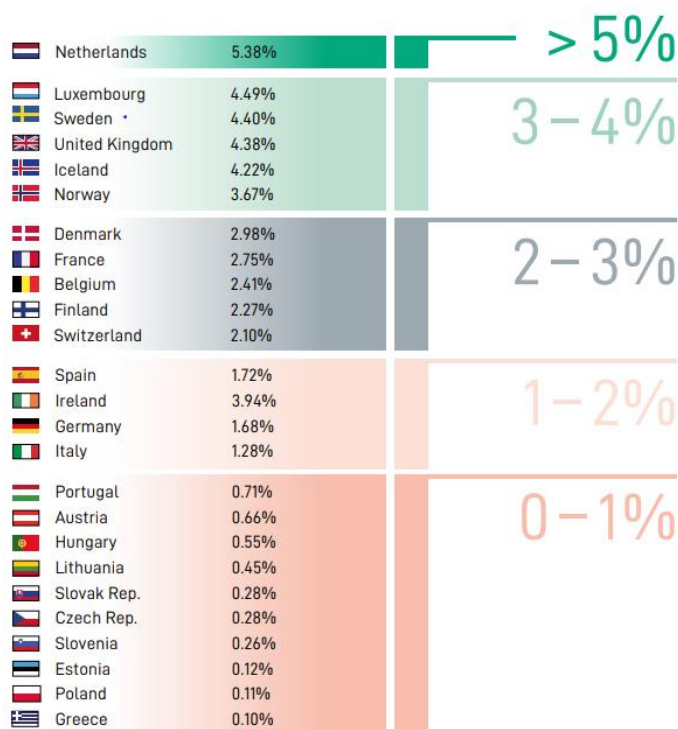


THE SHARE OF GLOBAL ODA SPENT ON SRHR DECREASED

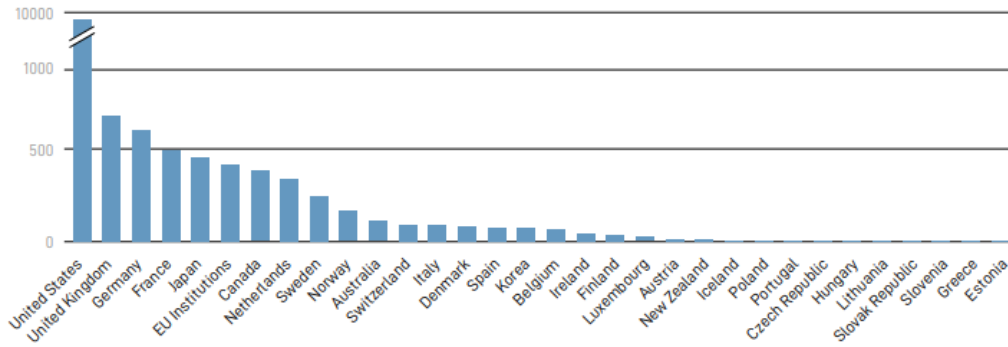
The bad news: SRHR funding did not grow at the same rate as overall ODA, which increased significantly by just over 20% in 2022 largely due to increases in humanitarian assistance and in-country refugee costs. The share of ODA dedicated to SRHR therefore saw a gradual decrease.



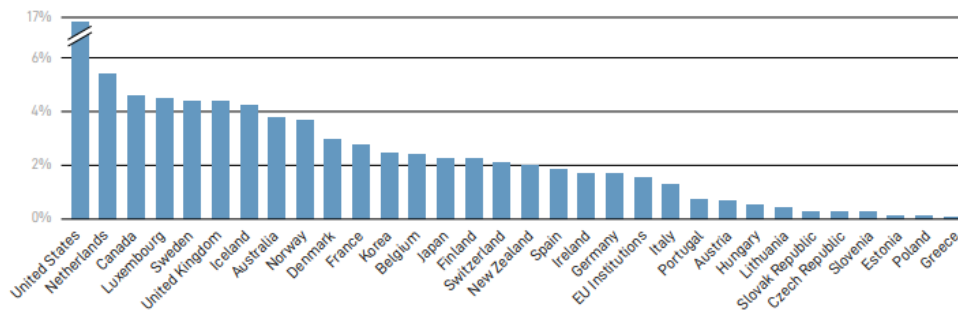
SRHR DISBURSEMENTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF ODA IN 2022



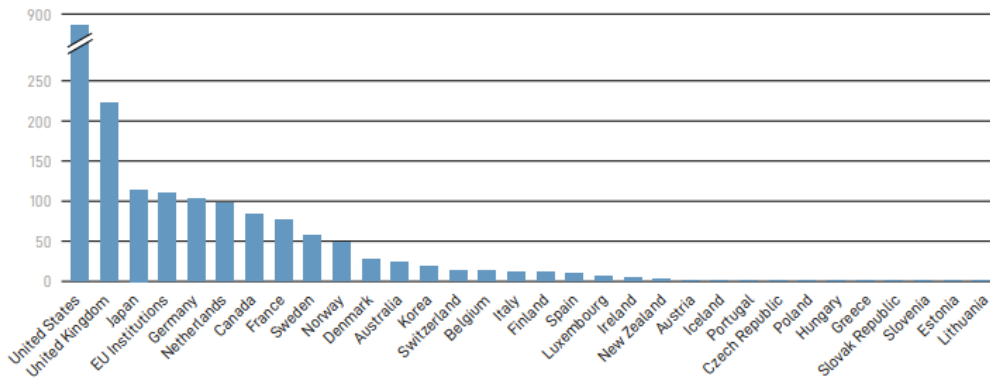
2022 SRHR disbursements in million USD, 2021 constant prices



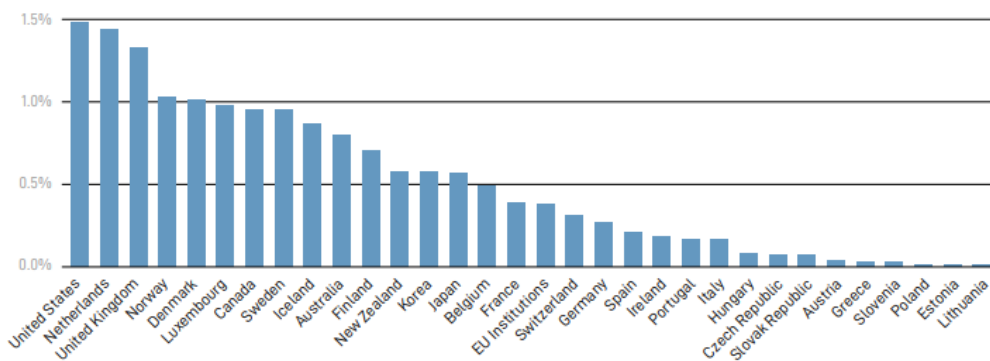
2022 SRHR disbursements as a percentage of ODA



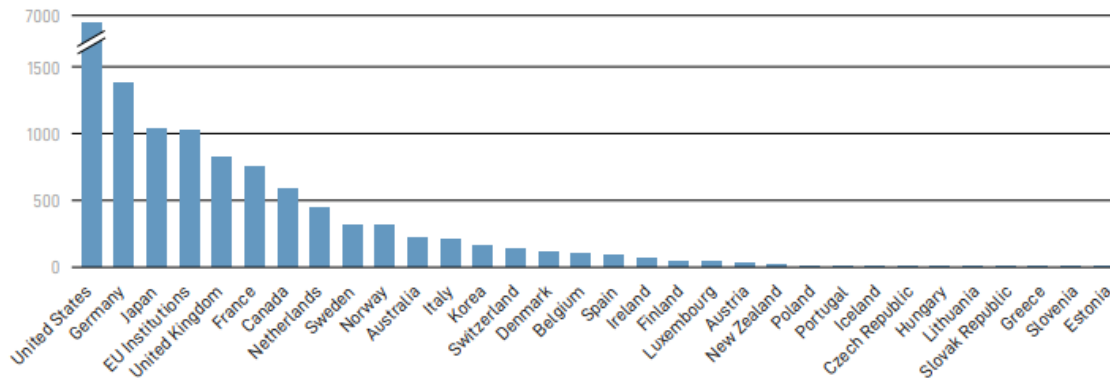
2022 FP disbursements in million USD, 2021 constant prices



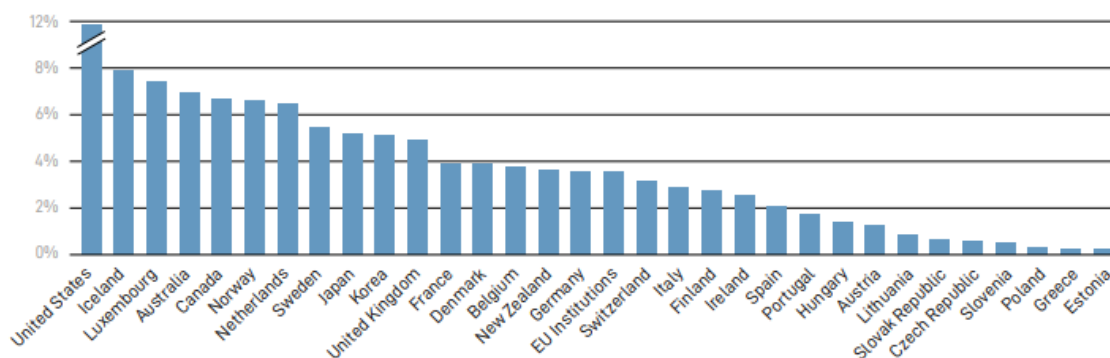
2022 FP disbursements as a percentage of ODA



2022 RMNCH disbursements in million USD, 2021 constant prices



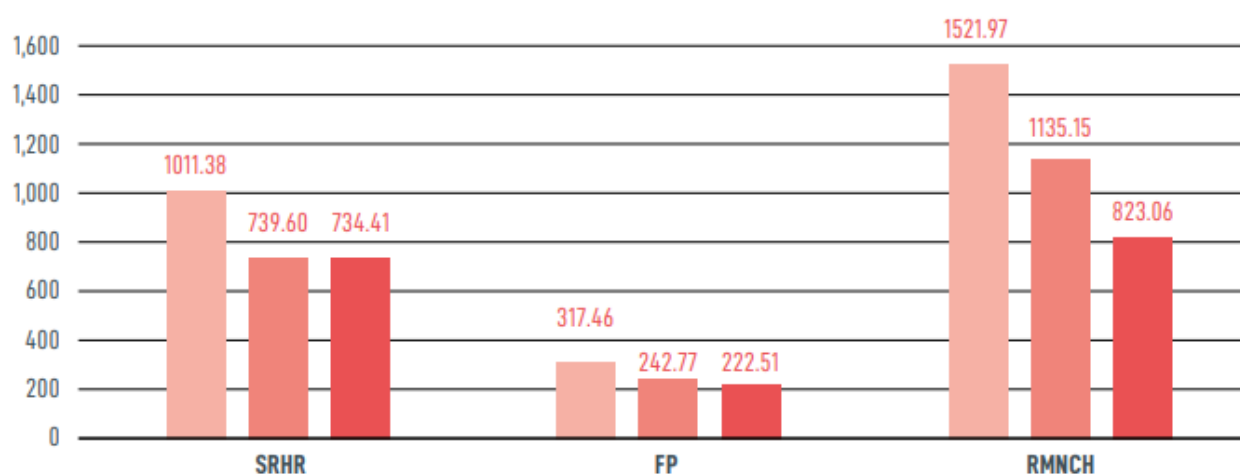
2022 RMNCH disbursements as a percentage of ODA



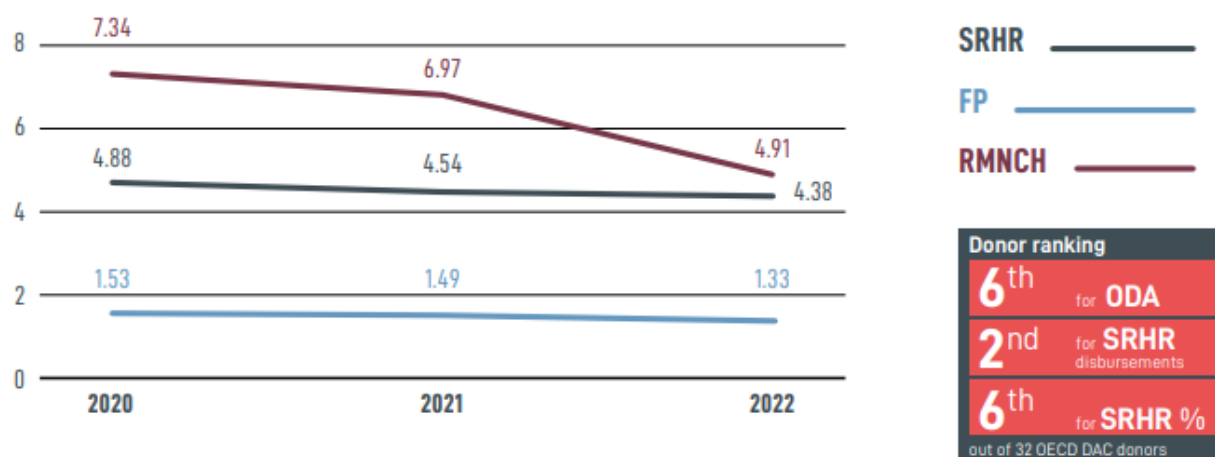
Extract from the DSW Report and graphs/tables below:

The UK has a long tradition of strongly supporting SRHR in its international cooperation, which is confirmed in more recent policies such as the 2023 International Women and Girls' Strategy. It takes a holistic vision on SRHR and includes a focus on neglected areas, such as safe abortion, CSE, and support for women with disabilities. The 2023 International Development White Paper puts forward the UK's new approach to development, commits to investing in comprehensive SRHR and to spearheading a campaign to tackle opposition to gender equality and SRHR. SRHR is included in various other strategies, including the 2021 Ending Preventable Deaths of Mothers, Babies and Children approach paper, and the 2022 International Development Strategy. The 2021 Action Plan on Girls' Education includes a specific policy commitment to FP2030. In 2020 the UK reduced its historically substantial ODA budget drastically to 0.5% of GNI. This also included significant cuts to SRHR programmes, such as an 85% cut to the UNFPA Supplies Partnership. As a result, the UK's disbursements to SRHR and RMNCH decreased remarkably between 2020 and 2022, and a similar change is seen in FP disbursement levels. Looking at disbursements as a percentage of ODA, the sharpest decrease is seen in RMNCH, while SRHR and FP saw more gradual decreases. Nevertheless, the UK almost made it to the top five funders championing SRHR as part of ODA.

SRHR, FP and RMNCH disbursements in million USD, 2021 constant prices, for 2020 2021 2022



Yearly SRHR, FP and RMNCH disbursements as a percentage of total ODA, 2020–2022



International Conferences

The Asian Parliamentary Forum conference: Global conference of parliamentarians on population and development: Toward the 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit, Tokyo, Japan, 25th – 26th April 2023



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. This event was co-hosted with the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP) and was organised to discuss the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflict, political conflict, environmental crises and other issues had on global health, human security and economic stagnation.

Delegates discussed parliamentarians' roles and responsibilities in addressing and overcoming these issues. They also deepened discussions on concrete measures together with representatives of international organisations, governments, private-sector companies and civil society and adopted a Declaration for the G7 and G20.

The Opening Ceremony was moderated by Keizo Takemi MP, Japan and Chair of AFPPD. H.E. Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister and Chair of APDA, then gave an address on behalf of the organiser, in which he called on the parliamentarians to find a way to reconcile rather than divide in the current global situation and to discuss a new version of "development" needed in the coming era.

Baroness Barker presented UK APPG on PDRH activities with particular reference to gender emancipation and equality. The full programme is available [here](#) and the final declaration submitted to Prime Minister H.E. Fumio Kishida, who chaired the G7 Hiroshima Summit is available [here](#) and full conference information available [here](#).



Baroness Barker speaking at Japan G7 parliamentary event

Baroness Barker visited IPPF supported SRHR programme whilst in Japan and her findings were relayed to APPG on PDRH committee members at the July 2023 committee meeting.

Please find Baroness Baker's report at appendix 14

Women Deliver Conference, Kigali, Rwanda, 17th – 20th July 2023



GPA parliamentarians at Women Deliver Conference, Rwanda

Tommy Sheppard MP, Baroness Northover and Ann Mette Kjaerby joined the GPA delegation at the Women Deliver 2023 Conference "Spaces, Solidarity, and Solutions" in Kigali, Rwanda.

As one of the largest multi-sectoral convenings dedicated to advancing gender equality, Women Deliver sparked dialogues among global stakeholders, identified opportunities to progress gender equality and promoted SRHR to improve the well-being of girls and women globally.

WD2023 convened 6,000 in-person participants and 200,000+ people online to address compounding issues impacting girls and women, from climate change to GBV, to unpaid care work and collectively

identified and actioned evidence-based solutions. The WD2023 theme highlighted the importance of enabling inclusive and co-created spaces to foster solidarity for sustainable solutions on gender equality.

Alongside the Women Deliver plenaries and side events, the two-day parliamentarians' forum included targeted thematic sessions with interventions from key selected leaders delivering for women and girls followed by open discussions. The GPA brought a varied delegation of 50 MPs from 46 different countries to participate and contribute to the discussion at the parliamentarians' forum and the WD2023 sessions and panels.



Women Deliver side event: Latin American NGO showcasing 'uterine apron' educational prop

During the parliamentarians' forum, the UK MPs heard inspiring speeches from Mukabalisa Donatille, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Rwanda Parliament; Mr Ian MacFarlane, Director, Division for Communication and Strategic Partnerships, UNFPA; Ms Ann Starrs, Director, Family Planning, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Dr Gifty Addico, Chief of the Commodity Security branch in the Technical Division, UNFPA; Dr Samukeliso Dube, ED, FP2030; Ms Noha Salem, Global Women's Health Policy Lead, Organon; J. Uduch Sengebau, Senior Vice President of the Republic of Palau and Minister of Justice, Republic of Palau and Dr Maliha Khan, President and CEO, Women Deliver.

The GPA forum highlighted the role of parliamentarians in advancing women's health and rights and promoting pro-SRHR legislation and funding.

Throughout the conference, the GPA delegation emphasised the importance of women's representation in politics and the need for greater gender equality in legislative bodies. Quotas for women's participation in politics were discussed as an essential tool for achieving gender balance in parliaments.



GPA parliamentary delegation on site visit planting trees, Ruhanga area



Baroness Northover planting a tree, Ruhanga area

Parliamentarians also had the opportunity to attend different sessions featuring EPF speakers and Baroness Northover and Tommy Sheppard MP participated in a study tour to a local school in the Ruhanga area with the Hope Iwacu Initiative, NGO empowering young women and youth in Rwanda, where trees were planted to reinforce the important link between SRHR and the environment.

Full Women Deliver Conference details can be found [here](#).

XXIV FIGO World Congress of Gynaecologist and Obstetrics, Paris, France, 9th – 12th October 2023



Baroness Hussein-Ece, Baroness Northover, Baroness Sugg and Ann Mette Kjaerby attended the 2023 FIGO World Congress hosted by FIGO and the Collège National des Gynécologues et Obstétriciens Français (CNGOF).

The FIGO's World Congresses brought together 8,000 obstetricians, gynaecologists, midwives, nurses, allied physicians, key decision makers, NGOs, patients, health and rights activist and other health professionals in the field of women's health and policy from 110 countries. There were 500 speakers and 100 sponsors showcasing impactful research and projects in all areas of women's health from across the world.



Baroness Hussein-Ece and Baroness Northover at the exhibition hall, FIGO, Paris



Baroness Hussein-Ece and Baroness Northover met Obstetricians and Gynaecologists from various countries and discussed latest research and APPG on PDRH activities

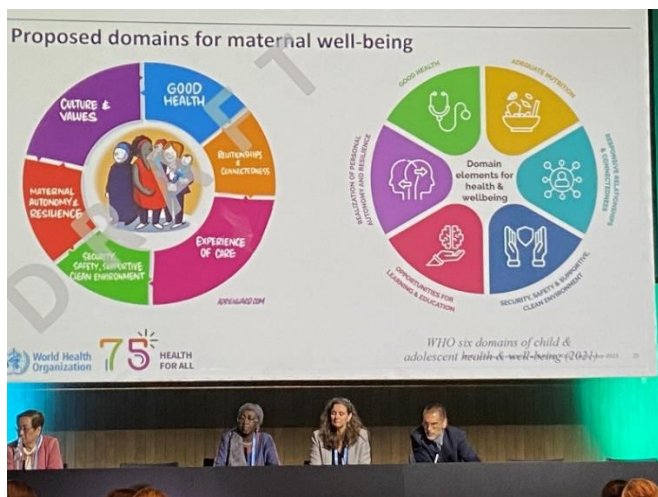
Baroness Hussein-Ece, Baroness Northover, Baroness Sugg and Ann Mette Kjaerby attended the plenaries and numerous scientific and programmatic side events on abortion, demographics, maternal morbidity and mortality, FP and the SDGs and met and spoke with health workers from across the globe and from different fields of expertise in the area of women's health. On the final evening a gala dinner was held and delegates shared a table with Lesley Regan, previous RCOG President. This event was an ideal networking opportunity with presenters, researchers, business representatives and health professionals.



FIGO side event on global access to family planning



FIGO side event on demographics and the environment



FIGO side event on maternal wellbeing



FIGO side event on maternal mental health and wellbeing



Neil Datta, EPF presenting at FIGO



Baroness Hodgson attended the Global Food Security Summit, which the UK Government hosted with the United Arab Emirate (UAE) and Somalia, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) in London.

On the day of the summit the UK government published the International Development White Paper which had numerous important SRHR references and available [here](#).



Andrew Mitchell MP, MoS FCDO foreword in the White Paper read:

'The UK's work on women and girls is paramount. I have always said that we cannot understand development unless we see it through the eyes of girls and women. Increasing access to education, supporting family planning and combating sexual violence is central to creating conditions for economic opportunity and growth. These rights are universal and should be non-negotiable.'

A para 6.53 in the report reads: "Global health institutions must be able to respond to global, regional and national health challenges. That includes investment and integrated action on health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, nutrition, water, climate and nature, and championing country leadership. It requires investing in strengthening local primary health care, to ensure sustainability of essential services. MDBs, Climate Funds, philanthropies and private investors should enhance their engagement with Global Health Initiatives, to support these priorities, and to mainstream climate smart and healthy environments in their operations.'

The Food Summit aimed to:

- galvanise action to deal with hunger and malnutrition, including through cutting edge UK-funded science and technology
- concentrate international attention on the deepening global food security crisis and help boost efforts to achieve Zero Hunger and end malnutrition ([Sustainable Development Goal 2](#))
- highlight support for lasting solutions that prevent famine and wider food insecurity

The Summit's overall aim was to show practical action to achieve real, lasting improvements in people's lives, through UK expertise, partnerships and science.

The summit saw opening speeches from PM Rishi Sunak, President of Somalia Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, UAE's Minister for Climate Change and Environment Mariam Almheiri and Sir Chris Hohn of CIFF.

Representatives from more than 20 countries, including Somalia, UAE, Brazil, Pakistan, Yemen, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique attended the summit and the UK made the following announcements:

- up to £100m to respond to food security crises and their impacts in the world's hunger and malnutrition hotspots, including Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, the Sahel, Afghanistan and Malawi. The funds cover programmes that matter for food security, including food, nutrition support and cash support to the most vulnerable households
- up to £100m to build resilience to climate shocks and provide food security for the most vulnerable families in Somalia to avert future humanitarian crises
- a new [CGIAR](#) UK Science centre
- an extra £16m for the Child Nutrition Fund

For more information, please see [here](#).

EPF G7 workshop, Rome, Italy, 1st December 2023



Delegates at EPF G7 Parliamentary workshop on Population, Demography and Fertility, Italy

Baroness Northover and Ann Mette Kjaerby attended the EPF and the Association Italiana donne per lo sviluppo Onlus (AIDOS) co-organised G7 parliamentary workshop on Population, Demography, and Fertility at the Chamber of Deputies in Rome, Italy.

The workshop saw representation from fifteen different parliaments and was organised to address the polarised political discourse surrounding SRHR in the context of demography within today's democracies. The workshop aimed to respond to the growing global concerns about population trends and the often-violated rights related to SRH. As the world's population reached eight billion in November 2022, discussions on demography, fertility and migration must uphold human rights in the face of population challenges.

The day event delved into demographic trends, including debunking conspiracy theories and explored demographic realities, such as the 'Great Replacement' and 'Demographic Winter.' Additionally, parliamentarians discussed proactive policies to address demographic change, including the intersection of migration and population dynamics.

Senator Sandra Zampa, Chair of the Italian APPG, pointed out that: *"International cooperation on family planning is more important than ever. We must discuss effective strategies, sharing know-how and experiences."*



Delegates at EPF G7 Parliamentary workshop on Population, Demography and Fertility, Italy

Amidst the discussions, it was highlighted that a significant number of partnered women, approximately 44%, are unable to make decisions over healthcare, sex or contraception. The workshop emphasised the importance of tackling fertility concerns without violating the fundamental human right of women to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children.

Lia Quartapelle MP Italy said: *"The debate on fertility is crucial to many G7 countries that need to face the decline of their population, but this has to be done while protecting women's choices in this policy realm."*

The event served as a contribution to the ICPD+30 process, acknowledging previous commitments made in Beijing, Cairo, and renewed in Nairobi within the framework of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda.



UNCSW photo, New York, USA

Baroness Hodgson attended the 68th 2023 annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on the UK IPU delegation and reported back on the conference to APPG on PDRH members at the May 2024 committee meeting. As well as summarising conference she reiterated the importance of press and social media engagement to widen the CSW messaging to all corners of the world.

The 68th annual CSW, the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment, had the priority theme: "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective".

The conference noted that the world is at a crucial crossroad for gender equality. Globally 10.3% of women live in extreme poverty today and they are poorer than men. Progress towards ending poverty needs to be 26 times faster to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Accelerated progress requires investment. Data from 48 developing economies showed that an additional \$360 billion is needed per year to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment across key global goals, including to end poverty and hunger. In 2023, as 2.6 billion people go to the polls to cast their votes, they have the power to demand higher investment in gender equality.

Solutions to end women's poverty are widely recognised: investing in policies and programmes that address gender inequalities and boosting women's agency and leadership. Such investments yield enormous dividends: Over 100m women and girls could be lifted out of poverty if governments prioritised education and FP, fair and equal wages, and expanded social benefits. Almost 300m jobs could be created by 2035 through investments in care services. Closing gender gaps in employment could boost GDP per capita by 20% across all regions.

At CSW68, governments, civil society organisations, experts and activists from across the world came together to agree on actions and investments that can end women's poverty and advance gender equality.

IPU report is available [here](#) and CSW conference documents available [here](#).



Baroness Hodgson with UK IPU delegation at CSW 2024

Support and Collaboration with Other All-Party Parliamentary Groups

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 and virtual and in-person meetings.

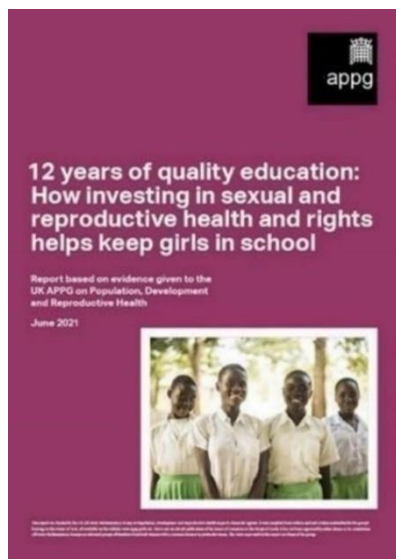
Of particular interest this year has been communications with the new APPG SRH secretariat in relation to EPF contraceptive atlas and the UK APPG on HIV/AIDS secretariat to discuss funding and new UK APPG rules and regulations.

Intermittent support has been given to the Australian APPG on SRHR with reference to APPG parliamentary activities and letter writing and contact with The Rwanda APPG on PD secretariat with regards to funding opportunities on maternal health and HPV.

Please find sample communications enclosed at appendix 15

APPG on PDRH Hearing Reports

12 years of quality education: How investing in sexual and reproductive health and rights 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.

Throughout the year the report has been available for interested parties to pick up at APPG on PDRH receptions and briefing meetings. In February 2024 Baroness Hussein-Ece participated in an IPU meeting with Moroccan Parliamentarians who received copies of the hearing report.

The full APPG on PDRH report with recommendations is available on the APPG on PDRH website <https://www.appg-pdrh.uk/publications>

WHO DECIDES? We trust women: Abortion in the developing world and 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.

In November 2022 and the spring of 2023 members participated in the HoL debates on abortion buffer zones and a HoL vote in March 2023 ensured the amendment on abortion buffer zones 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 150-metre 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.

This Spring 2024 the UK Government conducted a public consultation on the 'buffer zones' to ensure that law enforcement agencies have a clear and consistent understanding around the enforcement of safe access zones. It will also provide information to abortion service providers and protestors about what is expected under the new law.

Of particular prominence and concern this year, has been 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 June 2023 members signed BPAS petition: Decriminalise abortion to protect the rights of women seeking abortion and in July 2023 discussions related to Maria Miller MP's PMB: Offences Against the Person Act 1861 (Sentencing Guidelines) Bill.

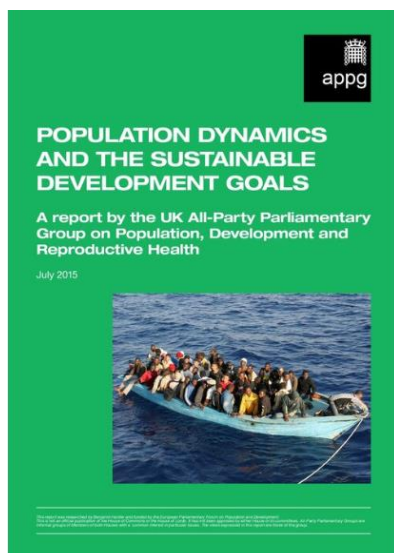
In December 2023 members signed Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP EDM on safe abortion access zones and in February 2024 Baroness Hussein-Ece signed BPAS open letter to The Times on abortion.

Around 200 court cases, similar to the Carla Foster case, are currently pending or in process, which is the focus of UK NGOs current abortion campaign work and Diana Johnson MP's amendment to the CJB.

In March 2024 Ann Mette Kjaerby participated in the University of Bristol Law school discussion with SRHR stakeholders on abortion law reform.

The full APPG on PDRH report and its recommendations are available on the APPG on PDRH website here: <https://www.appg-pdrh.uk/publications>

Population Dynamics and 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 sustainable development and its interplay with climate change. The UNECE ICPD+30 review in 2024 has a thematic strand on demographics and the SDGs.

The full APPG on PDRH report and its recommendations are available on the APPG on PDRH website here: <https://www.appg-pdrh.uk/publications>

A Childhood Lost: A Report on Child Marriage in the UK and 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. 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 also applies to cultural or religious marriages 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.

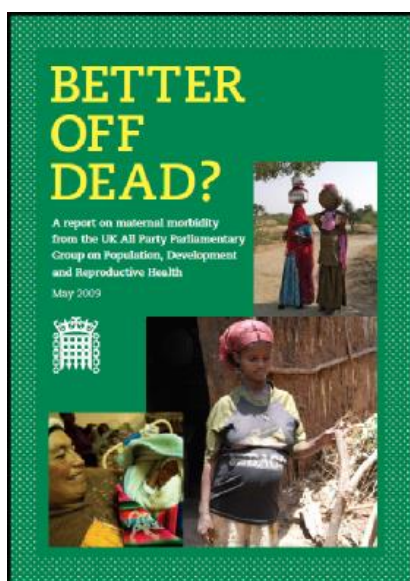
The bill sped through Parliament without much opposition, but it has taken years for campaigners and parliamentarians to get to this stage.

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 through to the communities it will most effect.

See full Act and process here: [Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Minimum Age\) Act 2022](#)

The full APPG on PDRH report and its recommendations is available here: <https://www.appg-pdrh.uk/publications>

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 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 after it being banned via the Health and Care Act, April 2022 and this is available here: [Virginity testing and hymenoplasty: multi-agency guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

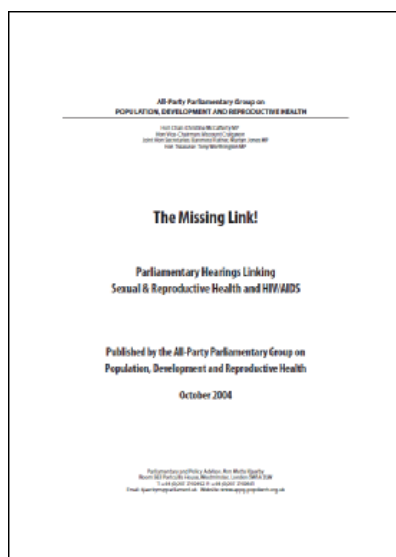
The APPG on PDRH report can be downloaded from the APPG on PDRH website here: <https://www.appg-pdrh.uk/publications>

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: <https://www.appg-pdrh.uk/publications>

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: <https://www.appg-pdrh.uk/publications>

Female Genital Mutilation, November 2000



The APPG on PDRH continues to follow up on its FGM hearing report. In October 2023 a woman was found guilty of handing over a three-year-old British girl for FGM during a trip to Kenya, in the first conviction of its kind.

Amina Noor, 39, was convicted of assisting a Kenyan woman to carry out the procedure in 2006. The conviction, which carries a maximum sentence of 14 years, is the first for assisting in such harm under the FGM Act 2003 that the APPG on PDRH helped bring to fruition.

The only other successful prosecution under the act was in 2019 when a Ugandan woman from Walthamstow, East London, was jailed for 11 years for cutting a three-year-old girl.

Campaigners said the verdict showed that the [introduction in 2015](#) of mandatory reporting of suspected FGM was working. BBC reporting can be found here: [FGM: Woman guilty of taking child to Kenya for mutilation - BBC News](#)

UK Government information on FGM can be found here: [Female genital mutilation: resource pack - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The APPG on PDRH report can be downloaded from the APPG on PDRH website here: <https://www.appg-pdrh.uk/publications>

Publications

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: <https://www.appg-pdrh.uk/annual-reports-accounts>

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 2023 - March 2024 enclosed at appendix 16

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
ARHR	Adolescent reproductive health and rights
ASRH	Adolescent sexual and reproductive health
BASHH	British Association of Sexual Health and HIV
BGIPU	British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union
BAME	Black and minority ethnic
BPAS	British Pregnancy Advisory Service
C	Conservative
CE	Chief Executive
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFPA	Chinese Family Planning Association
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CMO	Chief Medical Officer
CO	Conscientious objection
CoE	Council of Europe
COMMAT	Commonwealth Medical Trust
CPA	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
CPD	Commission on Population and Development
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CRR	Center for Reproductive Rights
CSE	Comprehensive sexuality education
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
CSSF	Conflict, Stability and Security Fund
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DFID	Department for International Development
DoH	Department of Health
Dr	Doctor
DUP	Democratic Unionist Party
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
EC	Executive Committee
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
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
EuroNGO	European Non-Governmental Organisations for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
FGM	Female genital mutilation

FGM/C	Female genital mutilation/cutting
FORWARD	Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development
FP	Family Planning
FPA	Family Planning Association (UK)
FP2030	Family Planning 2030
FSRH	Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health (King's College, London)
GBV	Gender-based violence
GE	General Election
GGR	Global Gag Rule
GJC	Global Justice Center
GNI	Gross national income
GP	General practitioner
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMG	Her Majesty's Government
HO	Home Office
HoC	House of Commons
HoL	House of Lords
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
HSC	Health and Social Care
HSS	Health System Strengthening
IAWG	Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crisis
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICAI	Independent Commission for Aid Impact
ID	International development
IDA	International Development Association
IDC	International Development Committee
IKWRO	Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation
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
IYAFF	International Youth Alliance for Family Planning
L	Labour
LD	Liberal Democrat
LDCs	Less developed countries
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, queer (or questioning) and intersex
LSHTM	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
LSTM	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
MMR	Maternal mortality rate
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoS	Minister of State
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
MSc	Master of Science
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
MSI	MSI Reproductive Choices (formerly, Marie Stopes International)
NA	Non-affiliated
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHS	National Health Service
NI	Northern Ireland
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PACE	Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe
PET	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
PSN	Population and Sustainability Network
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
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
WISH	Women's Integrated Sexual Health
XB	Cross Bench(er)

Appendices

Appendix 1: APPG on PDRH AGM/EGM agendas and minutes

Appendix 2: Presentations from RCOG, MSI Reproductive Choices and Ipas briefing meeting

Appendix 3: Presentations from UK SRHR Network and DSW briefing meeting

Appendix 4: Unitaid letter to PM and response

Appendix 5: Mahama camp briefing

Appendix 6: Sample communications with UNFPA

Appendix 7: Sample communications with IPPF

Appendix 8: Sample communications with MSI Reproductive Choices

Appendix 9: Sample communications with UK SRHR Network

Appendix 10: Letter to the UK PM and petition in on Carla Foster's imprisonment

Appendix 11: Agenda for University of Bristol event: 'The Future Directions in Abortion Law Reform, to help strategies on the best way forward for abortion reform in the UK'.

Appendix 12: Sample communications with other SRHR organisations

Appendix 13: Sample communication with FCDO

Appendix 14: Report of Baroness Barker's trip to Japan

Appendix 15: Sample communications with other APPGs

Appendix 16: APPG on PDRH annual accounts