

Dear Member

On Monday 28 October we will be holding our annual reception in the Cholmondeley Room and Terrace with SRHR partners and ambassadors from numerous countries in attendance, please see attached invitation, which you should also have received separately. We would love to see as many as you as possible.

The FCDO published the Final UK ODA Spend for 2023 this week. You can access the report [here](#) and there is more about this in the news section below.

Kind regards

Mette and Mikki



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

UPCOMING BUSINESS

Please note that the schedule and locations of events are subject to change. See the parliamentary [calendar](#) for up-to-date information.

House of Commons

Monday 7 October

Main chamber, sitting at 2:30pm

General Debate – Lord Darzi’s independent investigation into NHS performance

Wednesday 9 October

Main chamber, sitting at 11:30am

Oral Questions – Women and Equalities

- What steps she is taking with Cabinet colleagues to help tackle violence against women and girls – Jo White MP, Dr Rupa Huq MP
- What discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on violence against women and girls – Caroline Voaden MP, Mike Martin MP

Westminster Hall, sitting at 2:30pm

Debate – Maternity Services in Gloucestershire – Max Wilkinson MP

Thursday 10 October

Westminster Hall, sitting at 3:00pm

Debate – Humanitarian Aid to Gaza – Ayoub Khan MP

House of Lords

No business of interest to APPG on Global SRHR

APPG on Global SRHR Events

21 October: 4:30-5:30pm. Room W2, off Westminster Hall. **APPG on Global SRHR Committee Meeting**

28 October: 6:30-8:30pm. Cholmondeley Room, House of Lords. Evening Reception with IPPF, UNFPA and the UK SRHR Network **‘Championing Reproductive Rights and Gender Equality’**

2 December: 4:30-5:30pm. Room W2, off Westminster Hall. **APPG on Global SRHR Committee Meeting**

UPCOMING EVENTS

10 October: 2:00pm. FIGO presents **‘Collaboration for the global elimination of cervical cancer’**. This webinar seeks to explore the vital role of community engagement and education in raising awareness about cervical cancer. [More information](#) and registration [here](#)

10 October: 3:30-5:00pm. IDRC’s webinar **‘Thriving in safety: Advancing adolescent health and rights & ending gender-based violence in Central and West Africa’** will focus on the role of action research in developing strategies to combat GBV and advance adolescent SRHR. [More information](#) and registration [here](#)

10 October: 7:00pm. Asociación Manos Abiertas (AMA) and Population Connection present **‘Marking International Day of the Girl with Asociación Manos Abiertas’**. This presentation will spotlight midwives’ vital role in improving maternal and neonatal health in Guatemala, where access to quality reproductive healthcare remains limited. With maternal mortality rates among the highest in the region, Manos is tackling this issue by providing culturally appropriate care, empowering women through education, and offering essential services such as prenatal care, family planning, and cervical cancer prevention. Registration [here](#).

11 October: 8:00pm. White Ribbon Alliance present **‘Perimenopause Q&A on Black Women's Experiences’**. During this live Q&A, Dr Tonye Wokoma and Leah Lewis, perinatal specialist, will answer your pressing questions about perimenopause, with a special focus on the experiences of Black women. This is a unique opportunity to gain insights into the physical, emotional, and social aspects of perimenopause and connect with others who understand. Register [here](#).

15 October: 1:00pm. The WHO/IBP Network presents **‘Aligning Global Standards: Integrating WHO Guidelines with Family Planning Service Delivery HIPs with the WHO/HIP Matrix Tool’**. This webinar will explore the WHO-HIP Matrix Tool, a resource developed to link the family planning High Impact Practices (HIPs) with selected WHO guidelines, aimed at strengthening family planning implementation and advocacy. Register [here](#).

15 October: 6:00-7:30pm. White Ribbon Alliance present a workshop on understanding the worldwide impacts of abortion policies and politics in the USA. **‘Reproductive Rights in the Post-Roe Era’**. Registration [here](#).

16 October: 3:00pm. MSI Reproductive Choices and Partners host **‘In Conversation’: From the frontline to the future of abortion care’** to launch their [new report](#) which complements MSI’s new **‘Abortion Guiding Framework’**, which sets out our priorities and contribution to ending unsafe abortion. Registration [here](#).

17 October: 3:30pm. IMPT for Reproductive Health presents **‘DEIA in Focus: Advancing Science and Equity Through Diverse Inclusion’**. With increased attention to critical role of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) for product development, this webinar focuses on the importance of inclusion of diverse populations in clinical research. Registration [here](#).

24 October: 3:30pm. FIGO presents **‘New Advances in Reproductive Medicine’**. Join FIGO’s Regional Asia Oceania Trustee as he brings together representatives from the Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (AOFOG), the International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS), and the FIGO Reproductive Medicine, Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) Committee to discuss the latest breakthroughs in fertility treatments. [More information](#) and registration [here](#).

28 October: 6:30-8:30pm. **‘Championing Reproductive Rights and Gender Equality’** – a joint APPG on Global SRHR, IPPF, UK SRHR Network and UNFPA evening reception. Minister Anneliese Dodds has been invited to speak.

6 November: 09:00 - 12:30, Attlee Suite, House of Commons. **‘SDGs and Business Conference’**. RSVP to mcconnelli@parliament.uk to register your interest. More information will follow in due course.

27-31 January 2025: EPF Study Trip to the Philippines. Please email kjaerbym@parliament.uk to express your interest.

3-6 November 2025: 2025 International Conference on Family Planning - Bogota, Columbia – email kjaerbym@parliament.uk to register interest.

NEWS

UK – This week the FCDO published the Final UK ODA Spend for 2023. [Bond](#) reports on the latest statistical release on Official Development Assistance, which presents final and detailed data on the UK’s ODA spending in 2023. Overall, the picture looked positive in 2023, with total UK ODA increasing by 20% to £15,344 million (0.58% of GNI), helped by additional funding allocated to the ODA budget by the Treasury in order to manage the impact of large levels of ODA being used to support refugees in the UK. However, because in 2023 UK ODA for refugees rose to record levels (£4.3 billion, 28% of the UK ODA budget) and there were significant increases in multilateral ODA spending (by £2.2 billion, to £5.3 billion), the level of bilateral ODA available for the poorest countries and for supporting sectors vital to tackling poverty, marginalisation and insecurity, have continued to fall. Meanwhile, [Devex](#) reports that the U.K. will keep diverting its aid budget to cover refugee costs until reforms are in place. Action for Global Health, in conjunction with STOPAIDS and RESULTS, [composed a letter](#) highlighting concerns on future cuts, and will be distributing it to various targeted MPs to request they send it to the Treasury.

Radio 4's ['Sunday'](#) programme this week discussed the abortion clinic 'buffer zones' which have recently come into force in Scotland with similar areas on the way for England and Wales by the end of October, speaking to two women on either side of the debate.

A UK resident has been jailed for conspiring to commit female genital mutilation (FGM) against a young girl in the first conviction of its kind in England and Wales. A man from Swansea, arranged for the child to travel from the UK to Iraq where he had organised for her to be subjected to FGM and forced into marriage. [The Mail](#) and [BBC News](#) report.

Misinformation on social media is putting women off the contraceptive pill who are then risking unwanted pregnancies, according to the NHS. Dr Sue Mann, the NHS clinical director for women's health, called claims posted online that hormonal contraception causes infertility "damaging". She said: "Online misinformation about the pill and other forms of hormonal contraception is a real cause for concern — we are seeing young women coming into our clinics who have come off the pill as they think it could make them infertile. [The Times](#) and [The Mail](#) report.

Russia - The lowest birthrate in 25 years was recorded in Russia during the first half of this year, spurring the introduction of a bill as part of the government's efforts to counter the low birthrate by banning public advocacy for a child-free life. Nina Ostanina, the head of the Russian parliament's committee on family issues, said the law would make it illegal to write or say things such as "children are a burden" on social media or television. [The Times](#) and [News.com.au](#) report.

USA - A new [fact sheet](#) by the Guttmacher Institute's US federal policy experts details seven key ways Project 2025—led by the conservative Heritage Foundation—threatens sexual and reproductive health and rights. The Project 2025 policy framework outlines an agenda aimed at reversing civil and human rights across federal agencies. It includes attacks on medication abortion and contraception, along with efforts to undermine investments in reproductive health globally.

Joint Statement on Contraception - FIGO and ICM's [joint statement](#) highlights the importance of contraception in improving maternal and infant health, addressing risks like short inter-pregnancy intervals, maternal anaemia, and infant mortality. It calls for equitable access, especially in postpartum and post-abortion care.

VAWG Report - Womanity and the Center on Gender Equity and Health (GEH) at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) conducted a research study that sheds light on technical assistance and partnership models for adapting and scaling violence prevention programmes that better serve women and girls. [This study](#) aimed to identify facilitating factors, challenges and limitations of partnership models for adapting and scaling interventions, and to contribute to discussions on decolonising development, feminist funding principles and the ways in which donors can devolve power while supporting the work of women's rights organisations.

Feminist Foreign Policy – Last week at the Summit of the Future the Feminist Foreign Policy Collaborative shared a briefing on what to expect from governments with a Feminist Foreign Policy at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the Summit of the Future. Watch [here](#) with passcode A#wXhh7W. The Feminist Foreign Policy Index (FFP Index) is available to read [here](#).