

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

## **UPCOMING PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS**

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

#### **House of Commons**

**Monday 4 November** 

Main chamber, sitting at 2:30pm Debate – Continuation of the Budget Debate

#### **Tuesday 5 November**

Main chamber, sitting at 11:30am Oral questions – Justice

- What steps her Department is taking to support victims of rape and sexual violence through the criminal justice system Dan Aldridge MP
- What steps she is taking to support survivors of domestic abuse and violence against women through the criminal justice system Victoria Collins MP, Christine Jardine MP
- What steps her Department is taking to support victims of commercial sexual exploitation through the criminal justice system Joani Reed MP
- What steps her Department is taking to support incarcerated pregnant women and mothers
   Liz Saville-Roberts MP

Debate – Continuation of the Budget Debate

## Wednesday 6 November

Main chamber, sitting at 11:30am

Debate – Conclusion of the Budget Debate

#### **House of Lords**

No business of interest to APPG on Global SRHR

# **INVITATIONS TO APPG ON GLOBAL SRHR EVENTS**

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

**19 November:** 3:00-4:30pm. Committee Room 3a, House of Lords. **Roundtable meeting with Global Financing Facility**. Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:francislawtonm@parliament.uk">francislawtonm@parliament.uk</a> to attend. See attached invitation.

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

## **INVITATIONS TO OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

**6 November:** 9:00am-12:30pm, Attlee Suite, House of Commons. **'SDGs and Business Conference'.** RSVP to mcconnellj@parliament.uk to register your interest.

**7 November:** 5:00pm. The Center for Reproductive Rights presents a post-election debrief to discuss the path ahead for abortion rights in the U.S., and most importantly, how the Center intends to carry this fight forward. **'The Path Forward for Reproductive Freedom'.** Register <a href="here.">here.</a>

13 November: 1:00pm. USAID and Momentum present 'Integrating Action on Climate Change and Nutrition: Findings from a review of national climate, health, and nutrition policies and plans'. MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership conducted a desk review to identify national policies in eight USAID priority countries for nutrition that could guide nutrition and climate adaptation actions. This webinar will share major findings and recommendations from this review; highlight opportunities for integration within national climate, health, and nutrition policies; and engage participants and encourage sharing of country experiences and learning on nutrition and climate. Registration here.

**13 November:** 5:00-6:00pm. USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health presents' **Until We Are All Equal: Protecting Equal Rights'.** This one-hour virtual panel will emphasise the importance for health of reclaiming rights amid anti-rights and anti-gender movements in this complex geopolitical moment. The conversation will reflect in particular on the importance for sexual and reproductive health and rights and explore strategies for disrupting unequal power dynamics and pushing forward with equal partnerships to better protect rights, health and well-being. Register <a href="here.">here.</a>

13 November: 5:15-6:15pm. Room N, Portcullis House. Action Aid UK and Sarah Champion MP present 'Women, Peace and Security: Women's rights organisations leading alternative approaches to humanitarian emergencies, development and climate change'. Amid the rollbacks on women's rights around the world, there is a critical need for innovative approaches to address the interconnected challenges of emergencies, development and climate change. With current approaches failing, women and girls' needs are remaining unmet. Join a panel of experts as they explore the opportunities and challenges for women's rights organizations who are leading alternative approaches to multiple challenges. Speakers will discuss how donors can support these approaches and address the root causes of crises and gender inequality. Please RSVP to Jessica. Haskins@actionaid.org by Friday 1st November.

**14 November:** 1:00pm. USAID's MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics invites you to join them at the next 'Safe and Appropriate Cesarean Delivery in Low-Resource Settings Community of Practice meeting', focused on sharing innovations in quality care and patient follow-up and discussing the design of a new Caesarean Safety Checklist, and learnings from innovations for post-caesarean follow-up in rural Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, among other topics. Register <a href="https://example.com/here-new/memory-new/memor

**20** November: 2:00-3:30pm. SRHM presents 'The (mis)use of evidence in contested rights: the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls' report on "prostitution and violence". In this online event, we will hear from the authors of the paper 'The (mis)use of evidence in contested rights: the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls' report on "prostitution and

*violence*" and the Global Co-ordinator of The Global Network of Sex Work Projects. The paper will be available online soon and will be open access. Register <u>here</u>.

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

**10-25 March 2025**: New York. <u>Commission on the Status of Women</u> (CSW). Please email kjaerbym@parliament.uk to express your interest.

**5-9 October 2025:** Cape Town, South Africa. <u>2025 FIGO World Congress of Gynaecology and Obstetrics</u> - email <u>kjaerbym@parliament.uk</u> to register interest.

**3-6 November 2025**: 2025 International Conference on Family Planning - Bogata, Columbia – email <u>kjaerbym@parliament.uk</u> to register interest.

## **NEWS**

**UK** – This week Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves presented Labour's first budget since being elected to government. The budget includes departmental allocations for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) for 2024-25 and 2025-26 and drops the Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget down from 0.58% of GNI in 23-24 to 0.5% of GNI for 24-25 and 25-26, which means a real terms cut for UK aid. Politics.co.uk. Bond and The Financial Times report. Earlier this week APPG on Global SRHR Co-Chair Sarah Champion MP wrote a piece for Devex on her concerns ahead of the budget and has released a <u>statement</u> in her capacity as Chair of the International Development Committee.

In October 2022 a vote in the House of Commons saw MPs supporting legislation to introduce safe access 'Buffer Zones' around abortion clinics in England and Wales 297-110, underscoring a national demand for these protections. However, implementation faced delays, with the law finally passing in May 2023 but remaining stalled until last month. On 18 September 2024, the Home Office announced that the law introducing Safe Access Zones around abortion clinics will be brought into force from 30 October, two years after MPs voted to support this legislation. Women's Health UK, ITV.com and The Mirror report.

The fertility rate in England and Wales has collapsed to a record low, according to new data. The number of babies born per woman was 1.44 in 2023, compared with 1.49 the year before, and is the lowest since records began in 1938, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The Independent and The Times report.

The House of Commons has formally appointed the membership of the <u>International Development Committee</u>. Sarah Champion MP, who was confirmed as Chair some weeks ago is now joined by Labour party colleagues Laura Kyrke-Smith MP, Noah Law MP, Alice MacDonald MP, Gordon McKee MP, Sam Rushworth MP and David Taylor MP, David Mundell and David Reed from the Conservative Party and Monica Harding and Brian Mathew from the Liberal Democrats.

**USA** - All eyes are on the United States right now because the current U.S. election could have critical—and global—implications for the future of women's rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and the right to abortion. <u>Euronews</u> and <u>BBC News</u> report.

A young Houston woman's death has put an increased focus on Texas's abortion laws just days before the general election. According to reports, the 28-year-old mother was 17 weeks pregnant

with her second child when she suffered a miscarriage. However, when she got to the hospital she was denied life-saving treatment. <u>CNN</u> and <u>The Guardian</u> report.

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly - Hundreds of parliamentarians, from some 130 countries, gathered at the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva and adopted a <u>resolution</u> reaffirming unwavering support for multilateralism through the United Nations system and other global institution and a landmark resolution on <u>The impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on democracy, human rights and the rule of law.</u> The resolution urges parliaments worldwide to swiftly develop and implement robust legal frameworks and policies for the responsible creation, deployment and use of AI technology.

**Climate Change** - Miscarriages, premature babies and harm to mothers caused by the climate crisis are a "blind spot" in action plans, according to <u>a report</u> aimed at the decision-makers who will attend the Cop29 summit in November. <u>Women's Health</u> and <u>The Guardian</u> report.