



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

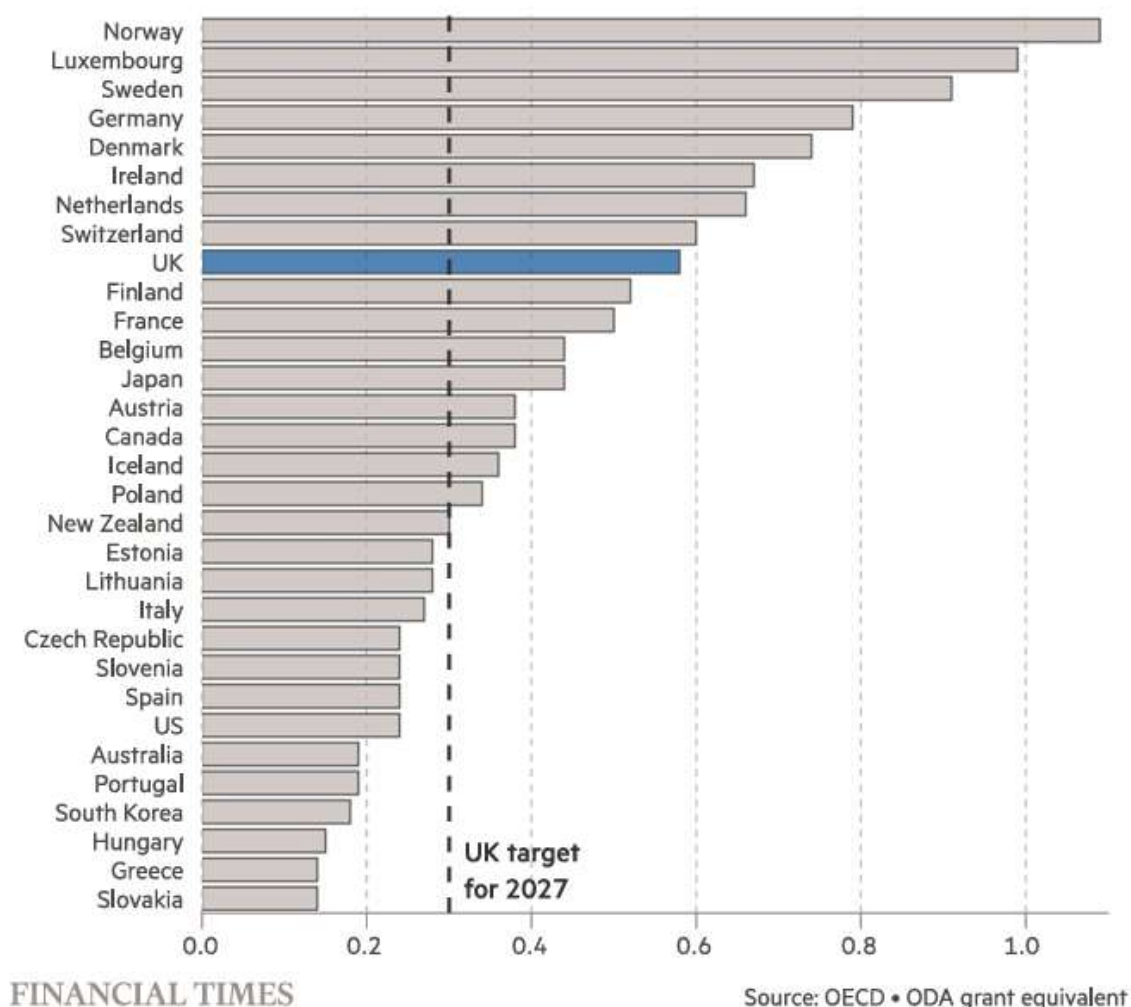
The APPG on Global Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights is extremely disappointed by the recent announcement that UK overseas development aid is to be cut to pay for increased defence spending. Women and girls will pay the heaviest price. Family planning and life-saving maternity services will not be available when needed.

In our Chair Sarah Champion MP's [response](#) to the cuts in her capacity as Chair of the International Development Committee, she says *"I urge the Prime Minister to rethink today's announcement. Cutting the aid budget to fund defence spending is a false economy that will only make the world less safe."*

It was announced today that International Development Minister Anneliese Dodds had [resigned](#) in protest at the decision.

## Increasing the defence budget will be funded by cutting foreign aid

Foreign aid as % of GNI in 2023



### **UPCOMING PARLIAMENTARY 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**

##### **Tuesday 4 March**

The Thatcher Room, Portcullis House, sitting at 1:30pm

International Development Committee – Inquiry: The FCDO’s approach to displaced people – oral evidence session

##### **Wednesday 5 March**

Room 6, Palace of Westminster, sitting at 2:00pm  
Women and Equalities Committee – Inquiry: Female Genital Mutilation – oral evidence session

### **Thursday 6 March**

Main Chamber, sitting at 9:30am  
Debate - General Debate on International Women's Day

### **Friday 7 March**

Main Chamber, sitting at 9:30am  
Private Members' Bill - Women, Peace and Security Bill [Lords]: Second Reading – Sarah Champion MP

### **House of Lords**

#### **Tuesday 4 March**

Main Chamber, sitting at 2:30pm  
Oral question – Publishing revised guidance on relationship, sex and health education in schools – Baroness Jenkin of Kennington

#### **Wednesday 5 March**

Main Chamber, sitting at 3:00pm  
Oral question – Plan to mark International Women's Day on 8 March – Baroness Nye

#### **Thursday 6 March**

Main Chamber, sitting at 11:00am  
International Women's Day and the promotion of women's participation and leadership in science and technology in the UK and internationally – Baroness Smith of Malvern, Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

### **APPG ON GLOBAL SRHR EVENTS**

**5 March:** 4:30-6:00pm, Committee Room 2A, HoL - APPG on Global SRHR Hearing on Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights and Conflict

**26 March:** 11:00am - 12:00pm Committee Room 2A House of Lords. Briefing meeting on women's health inequalities with Professor Sophie Harman, author of ['Sick of It: The Global Fight for Women's Health'](#). See attached invitation.

## **INVITATIONS TO OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS**

**3 March:** 5:30-7:30pm. Attlee Suite, PCH. CARE International present an **International Women's Day Reception**. RSVP to [juergenson@careinternational.org](mailto:juergenson@careinternational.org).

**4 March:** 9:00-11:00am. IPU and Jubilee Rooms. **International Women's Day Drop-in Event**. BGIPU and the APPG on Human Rights will be hosting a drop-in session for members to meet with Human Rights organisations and Human Rights Defenders working on women's rights. APPG on Global SRHR will be present. RSVP to [pichen@parliament.uk](mailto:pichen@parliament.uk).

**5 March:** 1:00pm. UNFPA presents '**Let's Talk SRHR: From Cairo to Beijing - Centering Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Beijing+30**'. Registration [here](#).

**5 March:** 2:00pm. European Parliament and online. Fertility Europe presents '**Fertility Awareness Matters: Tackling the Knowledge Gap for European Youth**'. Registration [here](#).

**5 March:** 7:00pm. Center for Reproductive Rights presents '**The Global Gag Rule: Suppressing Reproductive Rights Worldwide**'. Registration [here](#).

**6 March:** 1:00-3:00pm. The Open University present '**Urgent action for gender equity: working together, what can we all do?**' a seminar marking International Women's Day 2025, focused on collaborative strategies for progress. More information and registration [here](#).

**6 March:** 1:30-3:30pm. The APPG on Women, Peace and Security in collaboration with the APPG on International Law, Justice and Accountability Globally & The New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy are hosting a panel discussion on '**Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Tigray**'. RSVP to [ajones@newlinesinstitute.org](mailto:ajones@newlinesinstitute.org).

**10-25 March:** New York. [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW). Please email [kjaerbyrn@parliament.uk](mailto:kjaerbyrn@parliament.uk) to express your interest, if not already done so.

**25 March:** 11:00-12:00pm. IPU Room. BGIPU and the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute hosting a roundtable event on "**The**

**Taliban's Afghanistan - Segregation, Separation and Abuse of Afghan Women and Girls**” chaired by Baroness Kennedy. Speakers include Meetra Qutb an Afghan commentator on Human Rights. **RSVP to [edwardsrl@parliament.uk](mailto:edwardsrl@parliament.uk).**

**5-6 May: G20 Parliamentary Conference on Women’s Health: "Unleashing the G20’s Full Potential: The Economic Benefits of Investing in Women’s Health”**, Cape Town, South Africa. The European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF) will be sending a delegation of parliamentarians from G20 and G7 nations to attend. Please email [kjaerbym@parliament.uk](mailto:kjaerbym@parliament.uk) to express your interest.

**26-30 May:** EPF Study Tour to Sri Lanka organised in collaboration with the [\*\*Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka \(FPAS\)\*\*](#). Please email [kjaerbym@parliament.uk](mailto:kjaerbym@parliament.uk) to express your interest, if not already done so.

**23-25 June:** London. Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) [\*\*World Congress 2025\*\*](#).

**5-9 October:** Cape Town, South Africa. [\*\*2025 FIGO World Congress of Gynaecology and Obstetrics\*\*](#) - email [kjaerbym@parliament.uk](mailto:kjaerbym@parliament.uk) to express your interest, if not already done so.

**3-6 November: 2025 International Conference on Family Planning** - Bogotá, Columbia This year’s theme is [\*\*‘Equity Through Action’\*\*](#)– email [kjaerbym@parliament.uk](mailto:kjaerbym@parliament.uk) to express your interest, if not already done so.

**27-30 April 2026: [\*\*WD2026 – Women Deliver Conference - Melbourne, Australia\*\*](#)**

## **NEWS**

### **UK AID**

[\*\*Prime Minister Kier Starmer announces cut to Official Development Assistance to fund defence – what we know so far\*\*](#) – Bond

[\*\*International Development Committee Chairs responds to aid cuts\*\*](#) – UK Government

[\*\*Move to cut UK aid will “destroy Labour’s legacy on international development” say NGO leaders in letter to PM and Treasury\*\*](#) - Bond

[Asylum seeker hotels set to take almost half UK's reduced aid budget](#) – Financial Times

[Labour MPs fight back as aid budget is set to fall by two thirds](#) – The Times

[How can the UK mitigate the impact of aid cuts?](#) - Coalition for Global Prosperity

[This is a hard choice. We believe in foreign aid – but we have to make cuts. We must keep the UK safe | David Lammy](#) - The Guardian

[Inside Starmer's plan to woo Trump with a defense spending surprise](#) - POLITICO

[Starmer's cut to aid budget a 'strategic mistake', says former army head](#) - The Guardian

### **RESPONSES TO UK AID CUTS**

[ActionAid shocked by reckless decision to raid ODA budget](#) - ActionAid UK

[The UK Government's decision to cut life-saving support abandons the world's most marginalised](#) - IPPF

[MSI response to Keir Starmer's announcement that the UK will cut aid spending](#) – MSI Reproductive Choices

[Cuts to UK aid a devastating blow for children around the world](#) - Plan International UK

### **USAID**

[Trump administration says it's cutting 90% of USAID foreign aid contracts](#) - POLITICO

[What future for aid and development? With Minouche Shafik](#) – Financial Times Podcast

### **OTHER NEWS**

[The pill hasn't been improved in years. No wonder women are giving up on it](#) – The Guardian

[EU must guarantee access to reproductive healthcare for Ukrainian refugees](#) - Center for Reproductive Rights

[How South Korea put its 'extinction' birthrate crisis into reverse](#) – The Times

### **REPORTS AND RESEARCH**

[Why are black women still more likely to die in childbirth?](#) - British Medical Journal

[Fetal personhood: What happens when the rights of the “fertilized egg” supersede the rights of the mother](#) – British Medical Journal

[Use of contraceptives, empowerment and agency of adolescent girls and young women: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#) - BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health

[The Time is Now: End Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, An Urgent Need for Global Response 2025](#) – END FGM