



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

**ANNUAL REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES
2020/2021**

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

Annual Review 2020/2021

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Foreword



This year has been unusually challenging. The global health crisis created by the Covid-19 pandemic and successive lockdowns in the UK disrupted planned events, conferences, and programme delivery in the UK and around the world. Amidst these disruptions, the UK's Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced in June 2020 that the Department for International Development (DFID) would be merged into the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and in November 2020 that the UK would be reducing its Official Development Assistance (ODA) from 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) to 0.5% of GNI, as a result of which organisations, countries and programmes, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) programmes, would have to adjust to a reduction in funding of approximately 80%.

I resigned from my ministerial position in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) as a consequence of the Government's announcement that the UK would be reducing its commitment to 0.7% on ODA. I was pleased to then take up the Co-Chairmanship of the APPG on Population, Development and Reproductive Health alongside Baroness Hussein-Ece and Pauline Latham MP in January 2021 with a particular focus on challenging the UK Government to reinstate funding to family planning (FP) and SRHR programmes to give women and girls the autonomy, power and agency to make choices over their bodies and futures, without violence or coercion.

I want to thank Baroness Jenny Tonge for her leadership of this APPG over the past 10 years and her continued commitment to fighting for women's and girls' SRHR around the world. I wish her a happy retirement. I would also like to thank our secretariat staff, Ann Mette Kjaerby and Myfanwy Probyn, for their hard work during a challenging year.

This year the APPG on PDRH held parliamentary hearings on girls' education and SRHR, which commenced in November 2020 with the report launch in June 2021, prior to the G7 summit. The report, *12 years of quality education: How investing in SRHR helps keep girls in school*, explores the connection between girls' education and SRHR in the developing world, highlighting the harsh, sometimes life-long consequences that often result from adolescent pregnancy. The provision of contraception and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) helps keep girls in school and improves their educational outcomes. You can read the full report and recommendations on the APPG on PDRH's new website, appg-pdrh.uk, which also launched this year.

Due to the UK's lockdowns, numerous events were cancelled in 2020, including the annual World Population Day reception in July 2020. However, the APPG on PDRH's members and

partners soon adapted to virtual briefings and members participated widely, as detailed in this annual report.


Members received over 170 written briefings in support of parliamentary advocacy and weekly business updates to help raise the importance of SRHR in the UK Parliament. Using these materials, members held the Government accountable via topical written and oral questions, debates, and amendments to bills, including the tabling of Private Members' Bills (PMBs) to raise the minimum age of marriage in the UK to 18. Members were also actively involved in amending and passing the Domestic Abuse Bill, which became law in April 2021.

Members were particularly active this spring, receiving an array of briefings and participating widely in debates in both Houses, writing letters to the Prime Minister and other Secretaries of State, and challenging the Government in the press and on social media, with a particular focus on advocating for UNFPA's Supplies Programme and IPPF and MSI Reproductive Choices' Women's Integrated Sexual Health (WISH) programme.

In March 2020, home use of medical abortion in the UK was debated as part of the UK Coronavirus Bill, and it was agreed that, during the Covid-19 crisis, women in England could take both sets of early medical abortion pills at home up to 10 weeks gestation. The Government has yet to issue a decision as to whether this change will be made permanent.

In 2021 – 2022, the APPG on PDRH will continue to scrutinise, monitor, and hold the UK Government to account for their political and financial commitments to SRHR through PMBs, parliamentary questions (PQs), debates, conferences, meetings, letter writing and media activities.

We hope to see the UK Government restore ODA to 0.7% of GNI as soon as possible and will continue to encourage this through our parliamentary advocacy and other efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sugg', written in a cursive style.

Baroness Sugg
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 18 committee members.

Co-Chairs



Baroness Hussein-Ece
(Liberal Democrat)



Pauline Latham MP
(Conservative)



Baroness Sugg
(Conservative)

Vice Chairs



Baroness Northover
(Liberal Democrat)



Lord Patel
(Crossbench)



Holly Lynch MP
(Labour)

Secretaries



Tommy Sheppard MP
(Scottish National Party)



Baroness Uddin
(Non-affiliated)

Treasurers



Baroness Jenkin
of Kennington
(Conservative)



Virendra Sharma MP
(Labour)

Officers



Baroness Barker
(Liberal Democrat)



Baroness Blackstone
(Labour Independent)



Baroness Sheehan
(Liberal Democrat)



Lord Mann
(Non-affiliated)



Baroness Flather
(Crossbench)



Baroness Massey
(Labour)

Officers



Lord Cameron
(Crossbench)



Lord Hussain
(Liberal Democrat)

Parliamentary and Policy Advisor

Ann Mette Kjaerby

Parliamentary Administrator and Researcher

Myfanwy Probyn

New APPG on PDRH Members

This year, two new members joined the APPG on PDRH.

Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe was created a Labour Life Peer in 1997. Prior to becoming a Peer, Lord Brooke was a trade unionist, serving as General Secretary of the Public Services Tax and Commerce Union and a Member of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress (TUC). From 1999 - 2002, Lord Brooke served on the European Union Committee, after which he served on the House of Lords (HoL) Reform Committee (2002-2005). He has since served two stints on the Information Committee (2004-2008 and 2015-2016) and the Licensing Act 2003 Committee (2016-2017). In 1997, Lord Brooke became a Trustee of the Institute for Public Policy Research. He has also been a trustee and Council member of Community Service Volunteers (CSV) and a trustee of Action on Addiction. Having had a long interest in issues of social inequality and their link to poor health, Lord Brooke became the Patron of Sugarwise in 2020.

Baroness Sugg Baroness Sugg was created a Conservative Life Peer in 2016. Prior to becoming a Peer, Baroness Sugg served as Head of Operations at 10 Downing Street under Prime Minister David Cameron, leading preparations for key international meetings including the 2013 G7 Summit in Scotland and the 2014 NATO Summit in Wales. Baroness Sugg was a Government Whip (June to October 2017) before serving as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (PUSS) for Aviation at the Department for Transport (2017 - 2019). From April 2019 until February 2020, she was PUSS for International Development (ID). She was appointed PUSS and Minister for the Overseas Territories and Sustainable Development in February 2020 and Special Envoy for Girls' Education in March 2020. Baroness Sugg resigned from her ministerial role at the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) on 25th November 2020 in protest at the announcement that the overseas aid budget (ODA) would be reduced. Baroness Sugg has served on the International Relations and Defence Committee since January 2021 and is a SheDecides Champion. She was elected Co-Chair of the APPG on PDRH at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EOGM) in January 2021.

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 FP, in Parliament and internationally
- To provide parliamentary backing to the Foreign and Development Secretary in her/his 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 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 three virtual committee meetings between April 2020 and March 2021 on the dates set out below, with one attached to an EGM to elect new Co-Chair/s following Baroness Tonge's retirement announcement.

- 27th April 2020 (cancelled due to Covid-19)
- 8th June 2020 (cancelled due to Covid-19)
- 13th July 2020 (cancelled due to Covid-19)
- 19th October 2020 (virtual)
- 18th January 2021 (virtual EGM and Committee Meeting)
- 22nd March 2021 (virtual)

Please find agendas and committee meeting minutes enclosed at Appendix 1

APPG on PDRH and SRHR Briefing Meetings

Due to the Covid-19 lockdown announced in March 2020 in the UK, numerous events were either postponed or cancelled, including the planned Bangladesh study tour luncheon/de-briefing meeting in May 2020 and the annual World Population Day reception.

As it became apparent that the lockdown would continue for an extended period, members adapted to virtual briefing meetings via Zoom and Microsoft Teams to aid parliamentary advocacy and oversight.

Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN) webinar: Violence against women & cyber bullying, 5th November 2020



Baroness Hussein-Ece spoke at the above event organised in response to the exponential increase in violence against women and girls (VAWG) online during the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns. The internet is the new front line of VAWG and online violence is an epicentre of risk, intersectional and intergenerational, and compounds multiple forms of VAWG, including trafficking.

Baroness Hussein-Ece introduced the audience to the most recent UK Government policies and legislation and discussed APPG on PDRH activities to combat VAWG. Other distinguished speakers included Dr Dubravka Simonovic, United Nation's Special Rapporteur on VAW, who presented information on the increase in online gender-based violence (GBV) against women during the Covid-19 pandemic; MEP Maria Arena, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, European Parliament and Ms Simona Lanzoni, Second Vice President of Grevio-Council of Europe (CoE) and member of Fondazione Pangea Reama Network presented VAW New Frontier Between Hate Speech & Cyber Space; Ms Andrijana Radoičić, ATINA & WIDE+ NETWORK, Coordinator of direct support for victims of human trafficking, presented an analysis of trafficking victim abuses in digital surroundings. Ms Sadia Mir, WUNRN EU Gender Policy Specialist, organised and moderated the webinar.



Screenshot of speakers at the event including Baroness Hussein-Ece

The WUNRN webinar highlighted the increase in VAWG and cyberbullying, building on the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (VAW) and WUNRN EU advocacy. WUNRN aims to strengthen advocacy on VAWG in Europe and beyond. A question-and-answer session followed presentations.

Please find invitation enclosed at Appendix 2

In December 2020, WUNRN asked Baroness Hussein-Ece to write a statement about the webinar for the WUNRN newsletter.

East Anglia University 'Lifeline' film on domestic violence launch event, 30th November 2020

Virendra Sharma MP spoke at the screening of 'Lifeline', a film about domestic violence. He presented work on child marriage in his constituency and APPG on PDRH parliamentary activities including PMBs tabled to raise the minimum age of marriage in the UK to 18 as per international agreements. Following the screening, the coordinators and lead contributors of the film, Karoline Pelikan and Professor Eylem Atakav, directed a discussion on the project, after which there was a question-and-answer session between the audience and panel members.

Please find invitation enclosed at Appendix 3

The European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF) and DSW webinar: Donor support to SRHR, 3rd December 2020

Baroness Tonge and Virendra Sharma MP spoke at above event, which saw the launch of the new EPF/DSW report: Donors Delivering for SRHR.



Q&A Session

Opening by:

- Hon. **Baroness Jenny Tonge**, Co-chair of All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health, House of Lords, UK
- Hon. **Virendra Sharma MP**, member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health, UK Parliament

DONORS



Q&A Session

Opening by:

- Hon. **Baroness Jenny Tonge**, Co-chair of All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health, House of Lords, UK
- Hon. **Virendra Sharma MP**, member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health, UK Parliament

DONORS

Screenshots of Baroness Tonge and Virendra Sharma MP at the event

This was the first edition of the report, 'Donors Delivering for SRHR', that analyses SRHR disbursements of every Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) donor country, both in terms of total volume and as a percentage of a country's total ODA, with a special focus on rights.

The webinar event was chaired by Hon. Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, MEP.

The event demonstrated that women and girls around the world have been particularly hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic, including their access to SRHR. Meanwhile, the pandemic has shifted donors' attention away from SRHR and has created uncertainties regarding future development aid. It was pointed out that the European Union (EU) and its Member States have a key role to play, especially as the US has relinquished global leadership on international human rights in recent years.

The webinar highlighted the fact that 2020 is a key milestone to assess the translation of political commitments into additional funding: with the 25-year commemoration of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action; the end of the FP2020 framework; and the start of the last decade to achieve the SDGs, particularly SDG 3 on health and SDG 5 on gender equality, being those linked to SRHR.

While several excellent expert reports exist to track funding for reproductive, maternal and newborn health, FP and gender equality, no methodology has thus far captured the full breadth of SRHR, especially the 'rights' aspect. This was the reason why EPF and DSW devised the complementary approach resulting in the Donors Delivering for SRHR report.

The webinar brought several stakeholders together to discuss the report's main findings and some unexpected rankings. It was also an opportunity to exchange ideas on how it can shape renewed political and funding commitments, especially in the time of Covid-19.

As a follow up to the report launch Baroness Tonge tabled several written PQs on UK SRHR funding and a meeting was held with DFID statistician to discuss funding methodologies (please see UK Government Team, Meetings, Correspondence, Consultations and Publications section for further information).

Please find invitation enclosed at Appendix 4

Countdown 2030 Europe webinar: The UK's role in supporting SRHR and updates from the International Conference on Family Planning 2021, 4th February 2021



Baroness Sugg chaired this webinar co-hosted by Countdown 2030 Europe and 15 leading European non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working with European governments to ensure that SRH and FP are a priority in Europe and globally in a countdown to 2030.

Baroness Sugg opened the meeting by outlining her concerns about UK aid cuts with particular reference to the flagship UNFPA Supplies Partnership and the MSI Reproductive Choices (MSI RC) WISH programme. She referenced recent APPG on PDRH parliamentary activities aimed at challenging the UK Government's decision.

Bekky Ashmore, Plan International UK, followed by presenting highlights from the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) Family Planning Forum conference on 2nd-3rd February 2021. The conference focused on the inclusion of FP within Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and included discussion of the impact of Covid-19. The pandemic had demonstrated the need for publicly funded healthcare and for reproductive health and rights as a non-negotiable, highly cost-effective aspect of UHC. FP should be provided to all populations to allow women and girls to lead happy, healthy lives.

Bekky Ashmore emphasised the need for UHC to mean health for all without financial hardship, and on the need to integrate SRHR and maintain a gendered perspective when designing and mainstreaming health systems. The challenges and opportunities of UHC were discussed. The challenges included:

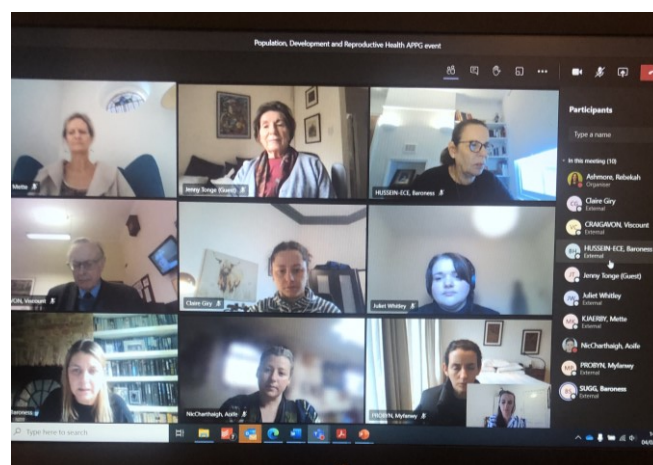
- coverage for women and adolescents;
- what's included in essential packages; and
- does UHC offer flexibility and choice?

The opportunities included:

- political will;
- strong policy environment;
- Covid-19 (building back better); and
- advances in technology.

The Guttmacher Institute's latest modelling on the potential impacts of Covid-19 was shared with participants. Although hard data was still largely unavailable, it was clear that Covid-19 had had deleterious effects on SRHR, including: supply chain problems, school closures, lockdowns (preventing women from travelling), economic crisis, and increases in GBV and child marriage. However, WHO had ensured that SRHR was included in their essential healthcare package.

Juliet Whitley, FCDO, then gave a presentation on FP2020 and the transition to FP2030. She discussed the history and achievements of the FP2020 Partnership and the transition from FP2020 to FP2030.



Screenshot of speakers and participants including Baroness Sugg, Baroness Tonge, and Baroness Hussein-Ece at the event

A question-and-answer session followed on the European Vision for SRHR beyond 2020 and the role of the UK with questions from the floor.

Please find invitation enclosed at Appendix 5

WUNRN webinar on violence against women at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 17th March 2021



Baroness Hussein-Ece spoke at WUNRN's CSW Session 65 side event on online VAW and the SDGs.

She elaborated on her previous presentation on this topic at a WUNRN webinar on 5th November 2020, making reference to the linkages between GBV and the SDGs and how VAW affects women in public life. Ms Simona Lanzoni, Second Vice President of Grevio-CoE, Vice President Head of Projects, and Advocacy Fondazione Pangea Onlus, gave a presentation on the new frontier between hate speech and cyber space. Dr Carrie Pemberton

Ford, Senior Fellow in Ethics and Public Life, Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, University of Cambridge, and Founding Director of the Cambridge Centre for Applied Research in Human Trafficking, presented research on human trafficking and the challenges of online recruitment, exploitation, and rapacious monetisation through policy, responsible business and education. Ms Mandy Sanghera, an international human rights activists/philanthropist, gave a presentation on the real hidden cost of the Covid-19 pandemic on women. Ms Shelley Zalis, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of The Female Quotient, presented her take on creating safe virtual spaces for women in business. Ms Sadia Mir, WUNRN EU, moderated the session which concluded with a question-and-answer session to the panel.



Screenshot of Baroness Hussein-Ece speaking at the event

Please find invitation enclosed at Appendix 6

SRHR Briefing Meetings

Invitations to an extensive list of virtual SRHR briefing meetings started to arrive in April 2020, once organisations realised that the lockdown would continue for a long time. Below is a list of virtual events attended by members and/or staff:

- 2nd April 2020: OpenDemocracy webinar: The impact of coronavirus on democracy
- 8th April 2020: MSI RC spotlight webinar: Series with data on the potential impact of Covid-19 on SRHR, unless services are protected
- 21st April 2020: Orchid project and ARROW webinar: Asian Voices on the Asia Network to End Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) consultation report
- 22nd April 2020: EPF webinar: SRHR in Europe during Covid-19 – The situation in Poland
- 23rd April 2020: FP2020 webinar: Maintaining momentum in FP – how can social and behaviour change programmes adapt to the new reality of Covid-19?
- 28th April 2020: UNDRR Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific with World Health Organization (WHO) and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) webinar: Lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic – parliamentary action to reduce risks, increase resilience and strengthen emergency preparedness
- 29th April 2020: MSI RC spotlight webinar: Securing supplies in the insecure times – ensuring contraceptive security under Covid-19
- 5th May 2020: Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crisis (IAWG) webinar: Frontlines in Focus – implementers working to ensure continuity of adolescent reproductive health and rights (ARHR) services during the Covid-19 pandemic

- 7th May 2020: G4Alliance webinar: Nurse's lead, midwives lead – prenatal and postnatal care during Covid-19
- 14th May 2020: WHO, International Youth Alliance for FP and FP2020 webinar: Covid-19 and its effect on the SRHR of adolescents and youth
- 19th May 2020: MSI RC webinar: Choice in her hands – enabling safe self-care during Covid-19
- 19th May 2020: CoE Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and EPF webinar: Covid-19 and SRHR challenges and opportunities
- 20th May 2020: BOND and Action for Global Health (AfGH) webinar: Covid-19
- 2nd June 2020: Frontline AIDS webinar: International sex worker day dialogue – sex work in Africa – innovation in the time of Covid-19
- 4th June 2020: MSI RC webinar: Sex, stigma, and young people – challenging social norms to empower adolescents
- 15th June 2020: SRH Matters and The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) webinar: UHC and SRHR during Covid-19 and beyond
- 16th June 2020: FP2020 webinar: Emergency contraception and young people live Q&A session
- 18th June 2020: Joint DFID and CARE webinar: Promoting women's and girl's rights in the Covid-19 pandemic – lessons from Cox's Bazar and Bangladesh
- 25th June 2020: APPG SRH webinar: annual general meeting (AGM) and vulnerable groups' access to abortion and contraception during the Covid-19 pandemic
- 25th June 2020: WHO Europe press briefing webinar: Digital health opportunities and risks during Covid-19
- 26th June 2020: EPF and MEP's webinar: Women's rights, gender equality and SRHR at risk – coordinated counter-revolutionary attempts in Poland, at EU level and beyond
- 30th June 2020: UNFPA State of the World Population 2020 report launch and webinar: Against my will
- 30th June 2020: Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) webinar: Covid-19 and SRHR globally
- 8th July 2020: International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) ICPD report launch and webinar: Celebrating World Population Day
- 14th July 2020: The Guttmacher Institute webinar: How to fulfil commitments to SDG 3.7 in the time of Covid-19 – a plan for immediate action and for rebuilding
- 14th July 2020: Karma Nirvana honour killing webinar: Commemorating victims
- 15th July 2020: UNFPA High Level Parliamentary Forum (HLPF) ministerial side event webinar: Accelerating the promise of ICPD25 in the decade of action and delivery – upholding rights and choices within Covid-19 response and recovery
- 16th July 2020: UNAIDS webinar: LPF2020 – HIV, Covid-19 and key populations left behind in HIV and Covid-19 response – common problems and solutions for resilient communities, public health, and SDGs
- 22nd July 2020: Lancet Global Health media webinar: New worldwide unintended pregnancy and abortion study
- 23rd July 2020: FP2020 and sustaining health outcomes through the private sector (SHOPS) plus
- 30th July 2020: FP2020 and AVAC Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention webinar: One year after ECHO – integrating health services in the time of Covid-19
- 10th September 2020: Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) webinar: Dialogue on women, immunisation, and strong health systems

- 17th September 2020: WHO Covid-19 webinar: The situation in the WHO European region
- 21st September 2020: UK Labour Party conference fringe webinar with Preet Kaur Gill MP: What will it take to deliver UHC and strong health systems in the time of Covid-19?
- 23rd September 2020: ICWRSA webinar: Abortion
- 23rd September 2020: EPF webinar: European autumn legislative agenda for SRHR and donors delivering – safeguarding women’s rights, gender equality and SRHR – joining forces across Europe
- 24th September 2020: FP2020 webinar: Rights, empowerment and FP – a virtual discussion
- 25th September 2020: IPPF webinar: Abortion in Cameroon, Pakistan and Palestine
- 28th September 2020: MSI RC webinar: My body, my voice – International Safe Abortion Day
- 29th September 2020: PMNCH, White Ribbon Alliance and Every Woman every Child webinar: Strengthening accountability for women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health and rights during the Covid-19 crisis and beyond
- 13th October 2020: Sixteenth Rafael M. Salas Memorial Lecture 2020 webinar: Development after Covid-19 – stretched resources and strained communities
- 26th October 2020: Spanish FPA parliamentary webinar: How does the pandemic affect the legislative agenda on gender equality and SRHR for women?
- 2nd November 2020: Lancet and the Academy of Medical Scientist annual international health lecture webinar: Learning from crisis – building resilient systems to combat future pandemics
- 18th November 2020: Bayer webinar: A digital evolution for contraception
- 23rd November 2020: Alliance4Choice webinar: Self-managed abortion
- 24th November 2020: IKWRO webinar: FGM/Child Marriage and 16 days of activism
- 25th November 2020: The Five Foundation and SafeHands webinar: Ending FGM by 2030
- 1st December 2020: You Stop Aids webinar: Day of Action and Global Government Forum webinar: Reshaping health and care services
- 7th December 2020: UNFPA webinar launch: UNFPA Humanitarian Action 2021
- 8th December 2020: International Development Committee (IDC) virtual oral evidence session: The future of UK aid – reduction in aid budget
- 9th December 2020: FCDO webinar: GBV and building back better from Covid-19 – how can we harness the current spotlight on GBV to accelerate long-term progress to end violence?
- 10th December 2020: IPPF and Government of Canada webinar: Leaving no one behind – an intersectional approach to fulfilling SRHR for all women and girls
- 10th December 2020: Change, Global Justice Centre (GJC) and Ipas webinar: The challenges and opportunities ahead, and what feminist leadership in the new administration can and must do
- 14th December 2020: UNFPA Supplies Partnership webinar: Global launch of UNFPA Supplies Partnership
- 8th January 2021: Bangladesh High Commission virtual commemoration: The Father of the Nation
- 28th January 2021: AfGH virtual event: Resourcing for Health in the Covid-19 era – maximising bang for buck

- 3rd February 2021: UNFPA and the Five Foundation webinar to mark International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM: 'Partnerships and Grassroots: Act to End FGM' with James Duddridge MP, Minister for Africa, and Nimco Ali
- 25th February 2021: EPF webinar: Eliminating cervical cancer together
- 26th February 2021: Girls Not Brides UK, IKWRO, Karma Nirvana, FORWARD and the Independent Yemen Group virtual event: Safeguard futures ban child marriage
- 2nd March 2021: International Center for Research on Women webinar: What is the new normal for FP and male engagement?
- 5th March 2021: Christian Concern: Early medical abortion at home (telemedicine) held by the anti-abortion group Christian Concern
- 5th March 2021: IPPF Western Hemisphere Regional webinar launch: UN advocacy tool
- 8th March 2021: Chatham House and the COP26 presidency online event: Climate action and gender equality – can we close one gap without the other?
- 8th March 2021: ActionAid, Plan International, World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), Save the Children and World Vision webinar: Women and biodiversity – sustainable use of natural resources for women's socio-economic empowerment
- 11th March 2021: UNFPA, African Union and German Government event: Food security & nutrition demographic dividend(s)
- 17th March 2021: The Education Plus initiative (UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and UNESCO) – CSW side event: Power Up! Gender justice for adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa
- 29th March 2021: MSI RC webinar: Is telemedicine the future for abortion?
- 30th March 2021: WaterAid webinar: Hygiene for Health and Nutrition
- 31st March 2021: MSI RC webinar: Reproductive Choice: How can we partner with all to leave no one behind?

Please find invitations enclosed at Appendix 7

European Meetings

European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF)



Collaboration between the UK APPG on PDRH and EPF remains strong. The APPG on PDRH and EPF have worked together on parliamentary advocacy activities, including letters on UK and European policy and legislation, as well as working together around debates and decisions on overseas aid, and participating in webinars. Notably, the APPG on PDRH and EPF sent a letter to the UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, prior to the G7 highlighting the importance of UK support to SRHR/FP.

On 8th September 2020, Lord Mann attended his last EPF Executive Committee meeting as the UK APPG on PDRH representative. At the meeting, members received an update on EPF activities January – September 2020, an outline of EPF virtual events and legislative work of interest to EPF, a list of challenges to SRHR around the region, and an update on communications and EPF finances. In 2020, EPF advertised three new Executive Committee positions. The APPG on PDRH voted to put Baroness Northover forward as the new UK representative to EPF. Unfortunately, she was not successful at the EPF Executive Committee elections on 4th December 2020. Numerous members thought Brexit, the DFID-FCO merger and UK aid cuts were to blame for the lack of support for UK representation on the EPF Executive Committee. Baroness Northover received a letter from EPF President Petra Bayr thanking her for standing for the EPF Executive Committee and requesting continued close links with the APPG on PDRH despite the UK not being represented on the EPF Executive Committee.

Below is a list of joint collaborative activities:

- 1st April 2020: APPG on PDRH completed the EPF survey on the impact of Covid-19 as requested.
- 10th April 2020: EPF received UK APPG on PDRH testimonial for new EPF website as requested.
- 17th April 2020: Communications with EPF regarding opportunities for members to raise the issue of SRHR services during Covid-19 in the UK Parliament. Numerous members signed EPF's letter to uphold the health rights of girls, women and citizens to access accurate information and CSE in Poland, which received 170 MP signatures from 24 countries in total.
- 22nd April 2020: Members attended the EPF webinar on SRHR in Europe during Covid-19: The situation in Poland.
- 19th May 2020: Members attended the CoE Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the EPF webinar: Covid-19 and SRHR challenges and opportunities.
- 4th June 2020: Ann Mette Kjaerby attended the EPF secretariat virtual meeting to liaise and strategise on SRHR-related parliamentary activities during Covid-19.
- 5th June 2020: Communications with EPF on anti-vaccination and anti-choice campaign activities in Europe.
- June 2020: Communications with EPF regarding FCO/DFID merger following UK Prime Minister's announcement of the merger on 17th June 2020.
- 21st June 2020: EPF received the UK Government's response to SRHR during Covid-19.
- 25th June 2020: Members signed the EPF letter and petition calling to uphold women's rights and gender equality in Romania.
- 26th June 2020: Members attended the EPF and MEP's webinar: Women's rights, gender equality and SRHR at risk – coordinated counter - revolutionary attempts in Poland, at EU level and beyond.
- July 2020: EPF received written PQs on the UK Government's continued support for SRHR with merger of DFID and FCO.
- 8th July 2020: Communications with EPF regarding their new website as per their request.
- 29th July 2020: Communications between EPF and APPG on PDRH on Poland and the Istanbul Convention.

- August – December 2020: Communications with EPF regarding the Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe (PACE) motion entitled: Stopping harassment of women and men speaking out for the right to abort, available [here](#). Related UK activities, including the PMB on 'buffer zones', were shared to support PACE activities.
- 3rd September 2020: Baroness Tonge signed the EPF petition against abortion restrictions in the Slovak Parliament on behalf of the APPG on PDRH. Members were informed on 21st October 2020 that the Slovak Parliament had rejected the regressive bill on abortion.
- 23rd September 2020: EPF received further written PQs on funding to SRHR with merger of DFID/FCO.
- 29th September 2020: Communications with EPF on self-administration of SRHR services during Covid-19.
- 30th September 2020: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation consultant received information on APPG on PDRH parliamentary activities as per their request.
- October 2020: Baroness Tonge signed EPF's statement on the anti-abortion ruling in Poland on behalf of the APPG on PDRH.
- October 2020: Communications about the CoE Bill to prohibit anti-abortion protests within 150 meters of abortion clinics (Rapporteur Senator Margreet De Boer, The Netherlands).
- 23rd October 2020: The EPF Global Parliamentary Alliance (GPA) mobile application went live and advisor provided feedback at EPF's request.
- 4th November: 2020 Communications with EPF regarding VAW in public life in Europe.
- 9th November 2020: On behalf of the APPG on PDRH, Baroness Tonge signed EPF's petition calling upon the European Commission to launch an infringement procedure against Poland on matters of the 'Constitutional Tribunal' and its decision on abortion and 'LGBTI-free zones'.
- November 2020 – January 2021: Communications with EPF about the UK Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination strategy, following which written PQs were tabled to confirm that the HPV vaccination programme had recommenced in autumn 2020 after lockdown restrictions in the UK were eased. During Cervical Cancer Prevention Week (the week beginning 18th January 2021), EPF provided materials and encouraged members to post about their Cervical Cancer Prevention Policy Atlas on social media. The APPG on PDRH tweeted in support.
- 8th December 2020: EPF received information about the IDC inquiry: 'Future of UK aid: reductions to the aid budget'.
- 10th December 2020: EPF was informed that the IDC would remain operational following the merger of FCO and DFID.
- January 2021: Communications followed with select members on the CoE statement on abortion in Poland by Socialist Women.
- February 2021: In advance of Valentine's Day on 14th February 2021, EPF provided materials and encouraged members to post about their Contraception Policy Atlas on social media. The APPG on PDRH posted several tweets during the week using the recommended materials and hashtags.



Baroness Sugg @liz_sugg · Feb 14

Good to see the latest @EPF_SRR #ContraceptionAtlas, with rated a strong third.

Everyone should have the ability to choose the method of **contraception** right for them, allowing a healthy & pleasurable sex life and choice of whether to become pregnant or not. 1/



2 1 16

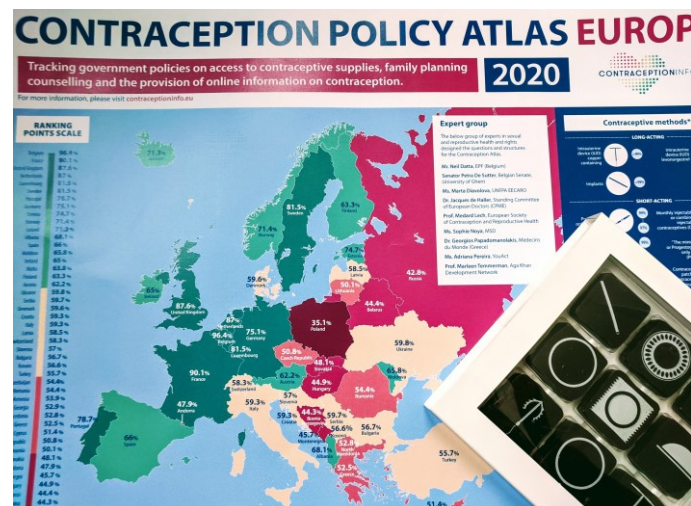


Photo of EPF Contraceptive Atlas 2020 and contraceptive chocolates

- 2nd February 2021: Members attended the EPF 'Beyond 2020' virtual roundtable meeting: European Donor support to SRHR and FP in the coming decade.
- 11th February 2021: Baroness Sugg and Baroness Hussein-Ece, the new APPG on PDRH Co-Chairs, held a virtual meeting with Neil Datta and EPF staff to introduce themselves as the new Co-Chairs of the APPG on PDRH and to discuss UK aid cuts and campaign activities. It was agreed that a joint letter be sent to the UK Prime Minister prior to the G7 highlighting the link between girls' education and SRHR with convincing arguments to prioritise SRHR funding as one of the best value-for-money development interventions. The joint effort, sent in May 2021, secured 100 signatures from parliamentarians around the world and received a positive reply.
- February 2021: EPF received information about the newly formatted APPG on PDRH weekly upcoming business newsletter.
- 12th February 2021: Advisor attended the virtual EPF secretariat meeting to liaise and strategise on SRHR parliamentary activities during Covid-19.

- Autumn 2020 – Spring 2021: The APPG on PDRH has been in contact with the Scottish APPG on SRH and Blood Borne viruses regularly to set up a joint meeting between them, EPF and the APPG on PDRH. A preliminary virtual meeting finally took place on 21st April 2021 with Alastair Hudson, CEO, and Becky Earl, Policy and Researcher HIV Scotland, which now hosts the secretariat for the Scottish APPG. Alastair Hudson was keen to re-establish links with EPF after the Scottish elections in May 2021. A meeting will follow in the autumn 2021.

Please find sample EPF and APPG on PDRH communications and letters referenced above enclosed at Appendix 8

Study Tours

Lesbos, Greece

In spring 2020, the APPG on PDRH was organising a study tour to Lesbos with support from UNFPA and the International Organization for Migration, Athens, for members to observe the refugee situation for women, men, and adolescents with particular reference to (1) SRH services available/provided and (2) FCDO financial support. The Covid-19 pandemic halted these plans. Pending the Covid-19 pandemic, it is hoped that the study tour will take place in autumn 2021.

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 9

Bangladesh

A roundtable debriefing luncheon meeting for study tour delegates, interested UK MPs, the press, and other officials was planned for May 2020 as a follow-up to the 2019 APPG on PDRH study tour to Bangladesh. The event was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and UK lockdown. Pending Covid-19 restrictions, the APPG on PDRH will hold the event in autumn 2021, at which attendees will watch a film from the study tour and discuss SRHR/FP service provisions in Bangladesh, including the Cox's Bazar.

Please find invitation to the luncheon enclosed at Appendix 10

General Written Briefings

This year over 170 written briefings/invitations were disseminated to members as updates on new international and UK FP/SRHR policies, funding, research or programme activities. Some briefings were sent in response to specific requests in support of parliamentary debates, legislation, questions, or virtual online presentations.

Regular oral and written PQs were drafted and disseminated to members and tabled for answers from the Secretary of State (SoS) for ID/FCDO, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Justice Secretary, SoS for Health and Social Care (HSC), and Minister for Women and Equalities. A summary list of PQs can be found in the Parliamentary Statements, Legislation, Debates, EDMs and PQ section and a full list and information can be found on the APPG on PDRH [website](#).

Schedules of relevant weekly future business in Parliament were disseminated to all members to increase awareness of potential parliamentary advocacy opportunities. In January 2021, the APPG on PDRH future business email was expanded to include non-time-

sensitive news and events to reduce the amount of emails received by members and improve communication with members.

Please find notices on future business circulated enclosed at Appendix 11

Below is a list of written briefings disseminated to APPG on PDRH members:

- 1st April 2020: Committee members received MSI RC briefing on FP in the UK.
- 3rd April 2020: All members received the CRR statement on SRHR and Covid-19 and UNFPA's briefing paper on the impact of Covid-19 on contraceptive supplies around the world.
- 3rd April 2020: Baroness Tonge received information on the IDC inquiry into the impact of coronavirus on developing countries and information as requested on MSI RC frontline services during Covid-19 in India, Uganda, and Nepal.
- 6th April 2020: All members received the statement from members of the 2018 and 2019 G7 Gender Equality Councils calling on governments to put a serious gender lens to Covid-19 and an invitation to MSI RC's webinar series.
- 10th April 2020: All members received IPPF's member association survey on how Covid-19 has affected services and Plan International UK's short policy paper on the implications of the Covid-19 outbreak for girls and young women.
- 15th April 2020: All members received the CRR Statement on the Trump Administration's suspension of funding to the WHO.
- 17th April 2020: All members received UK SRHR Network briefings for House of Commons (HoC) and HoL questions the following week.
- 20th April 2020: All HoC members received drafted oral PQs for SoS for ID on SRHR and Covid-19 for oral questions on 29th April 2020 and committee members received the FP2020 weekly Covid-19 updates and resources.
- 21st April 2020: Baroness Tonge received information that the ICFP conference in Bangkok had been postponed to 8th-11th November 2021 due to Covid-19.
- 21st April 2020: All members received NGO briefings for the oral PQ on SRHR and Covid-19 testing on 22nd April 2020.
- 23rd April 2020: All members received IDC's press release on the ongoing humanitarian situation for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.
- 24th April 2020: All members received EPF and IPPF European Network briefing on SRHR in Europe during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 24th April 2020: Baroness Tonge received COMMAT 'new normal' information.
- 27th April 2020: Select members received EPF-IPPF EN joint report on SRHR during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 27th April 2020: Baroness Tonge received information about the EPF Riga conference March 2015 as requested and a link to the EPF-IPPF webinar on SRHR in Europe during Covid-19.
- 28th April 2020: All committee members received UNFPA's new research on the impact of Covid-19 on SRHR (preventable maternal deaths/unmet FP and GBV).
- 1st May 2020: All committee members received University of Sussex two-page briefing on contraception, maternity care, abortion and GBV in the UK.
- 5th May 2020: All committee members received information on Covid-19 cases and deaths in Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nepal, and Bangladesh as requested.
- 6th May 2020: All committee members received the second CRR bulletin on the Covid-19 pandemic and SRHR developments in Europe and the joint government press statement on SRHR, gender and Covid-19 led by South Africa and Sweden.

- 12th May 2020: All committee member received Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, SoS for ID, response to NGO letter on Covid-19 response and gender, and UNFPA's third update on Covid-19.
- 18th May 2020: Baroness Uddin received drafted follow-up oral PQs on contraceptive stock-out and abortion services in the Global South/Cox's Bazar for marginalised populations as requested and drafted follow-up oral PQ on HPV vaccinations and cervical cancer along with EPF HPV atlas.
- 18th May 2020: Baroness Tonge received WHO report on health behaviours of 11-15 year olds in Europe which revealed that more adolescents were reporting mental health concerns.
- 20th May 2020: Baroness Tonge received ex-MP Monica Ferro, UNFPA contact details as requested.
- 21st May 2020: All committee members received Baroness Tonge's written PQs and answers on Cox's Bazar, Covid-19 and SRHR including personal protective equipment (PPE) and USA letter to WHO with reference to SRHR during Covid-19 epidemic.
- 21st May 2020: Baroness Sheehan received information on DFID ODA to Covid-19 following Bond webinar on 20th May 2020 on this topic.
- 27th May 2020: All committee members received a link to the WHO online press briefing: Socioeconomic impact of Covid-19 to long-term recovery: what lessons have we learned?
- 3rd June 2020: All HoC members received MSI RC briefing on Fiona Bruce MP's PMB, Abortion (Cleft Lip, Cleft Palate and Clubfoot) Bill to amend the Abortion Act.
- 5th June 2020: All committee members received the Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (PINSAN) press statement on women's organisation-led draft bill to decriminalise abortion in the Philippines.
- 10th June 2020: Baroness Tonge received latest list of members of the IDC.
- 15th June 2020: Baroness Tonge and Baroness Barker received information on self-injectable contraceptives in the UK.
- 15th June 2020: Baroness Tonge, Lord Mann and Baroness Northover received SRHR NGO/ Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) briefing for The Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No 2.) Regulations 2020 debate in the HoL.
- 16th June 2020: All members received information on UK SRHR Network concern and The Times article on FCO/DFID merger and the Prime Minister's letter on FCO/DFID merger.
- 16th June 2020: All members received a copy of the Prime Minister's letter on the FCO and DFID merger.
- 17th June 2020: Baroness Tonge and Lord Mann received EPF information of anti-choice organisations tactics to use geo-fencing technology to curtail access to abortion services.
- 18th June 2020: Heather Wheeler MP received follow-up information for HoC topical oral question on FCO/DFID merger.
- 18th June 2020: Baroness Tonge received information on the UK Government's 'Global Britain' statement and FCO/DFID merger.
- 19th June 2020: Baroness Tonge received list of asks from the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition focusing specifically on the importance of reproductive health supplies during Covid-19.
- 24th June 2020: All HoC members received information about Rupa Huq MP's PMB, the Demonstrations (Abortion Clinics) Bill, to introduce buffer zones.
- 26th June 2020: Baroness Tonge received IDC's inquiry on Ghana and a link to EPF's report on 'ultra-conservative, Catholic-inspired' influence network.

- 30th June 2020: All members received information on the PACE Resolution adopted: Empowering women: promoting access to contraception in Europe.
- 2nd July 2020: Committee members received information on IPPF ICPD report launch and webinar on 8th July 2020 in connection with World Population Day on 11th July 2020.
- 3rd July 2020: All members received link to IDC inquiry on 6th July 2020: Humanitarian crises monitoring: Impact of coronavirus and the implications of the merger between DFID and the FCO.
- 6th July 2020: All members received MSI RC briefing on telemedicine abortion in response to a Daily Mail article; the 4MProject Mentor Mothers Network Advocacy Brief on elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT); and the Salamander Trust and NGO briefing on the Domestic Abuse Bill debate and access to medical abortion in the UK.
- 9th July 2020: All members received invitation to the webinar: How to fulfil commitments to SDG 3.7 in the time of Covid-19.
- 14th July 2020: All members received invitation to UNFPA HLPF Ministerial side event: 'Accelerating the promise of ICPD25 in the decade of action and delivery – Upholding Rights and Choices within Covid-19 Response and Recovery'.
- 15th July 2020: Virendra Sharma MP received summary APPG on PDRH activities as requested for EPF webinar.
- 15th July 2020: All members received invitation to an online telebriefing by the Guttmacher Institute and HRP to launch a new study, 'Unintended Pregnancy and Abortion Worldwide'; and the article: Sudan bans FGM and breaks with hard-line Islamist policies.
- 16th July 2020: Committee members received invitation to a discussion co-hosted by FP2020 and Sustaining Health Outcomes through the Private Sector (SHOPS) Plus.
- 19th July 2020: Baroness Tonge received The Guardian article: Girls put at risk as cash to help end FGM in Britain is reduced by 84 percent.
- 23rd July 2020: All members received written briefings: The full study in the Lancet: 'Fertility, mortality, migration, and population scenarios for 195 countries and territories from 2017 to 2100: a forecasting analysis for the global burden of disease study'; the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) abstract; the Guardian's take on the study, 'World population in 2100 could be 2 billion below UN forecasts, study suggests'; and The Times' 'Demographic apocalypse: collapsing birth rates will turn our world upside down'.
- 27th July 2020: All members received the IPM press release: Milestone for Women's HIV prevention, European Medicines; and media information on the new Guttmacher Institute's 'Adding it up' research: Fully funding reproductive health could save thousands of women's lives.
- 29th July 2020: All members received invitation to attend the webinar: One year after ECHO – integrating health services in the time of Covid-19.
- 29th July: Select members received Baroness Sugg's, PUSS for ID letter to UK SRHR Network on FCO and DFID merger.
- 30th July 2020: Baroness Tonge received summary points from 29th July 2020 webinar: One Year After ECHO – Integrating health services in the time of Covid-19.
- 3rd August 2020: All members received invitation to a webinar on the impact of Covid-19 on health systems monitoring tool.
- 5th August 2020: Baroness Tonge received invitation to the DFID global health taskforce meeting on 6th August 2020.
- 10th August 2020: Baroness Tonge received briefing on Christianity.

- 18th August 2020: Lord Mann received EPF briefing on vaccinations as requested
- 18th August 2020: Baroness Tonge and Baroness Barker received MSI RC briefing on abortion clinic buffer zones in the UK.
- 3rd September 2020: All members received 4M's latest position paper on infant feeding by women living with HIV in the UK and invitation to PGA webinar: Parliamentary dialogue on women, immunisation, and strong health systems.
- 3rd September 2020: Committee members received invitation to MSI RC webinar on abortion.
- 3rd September 2020: Baroness Tonge and Baroness Barker received invitation to ICWRSA webinar on telematic abortion.
- 4th September 2020: All members received invitation to Leigh Day women's right to healthcare webinars.
- 7th September 2020: All members received MSI RC briefing on abortion in the UK and cleft palate in preparation for Fiona Bruce MP's PMB on 11th September 2020 (the PMB was subsequently withdrawn).
- 7th September 2020: Virendra Sharma MP received written PQs for tabling on FCO/DFID and SRHR.
- 8th September 2020: All HoL and committee members received drafted oral PQs on funding to FP/SRHR for the Treasury for tabling
- 8th September 2020: All members received invitation to IPPF webinar: Innovating to provide abortion care during Covid-19.
- 8th September 2020: Baroness Tonge received MSI RC briefing papers on Islam and Christianity.
- 14th September 2020: All members received MSI RC written submission to UK Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, describing the Government's vision for the UK's role in the world over the next decade and the action they will take to 2025.
- 15th September 2020: All members received the Stocktake review report: Strengthening the UK's commitments to global health; and invitation to a briefing for European SRHR community on European autumn legislative agenda for SRHR and donors delivering: 'Safeguarding women's rights, gender equality and SRHR – joining forces across Europe'.
- 17th September 2020: All members received invitation to FP2020 webinar on rights, empowerment and FP.
- 21st September 2020: Baroness Tonge received information that Anthony Mangnall MP was the new Chair of the UK APPG on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict.
- 22nd September 2020: All members received APPG on PDRH accounts and a link to the annual report on the new APPG on PDRH website; and an invitation to virtual summit on how to better protect women, child and adolescent health during Covid-19 and beyond hosted by White Ribbon Alliance (WRA), PMNCH et al.
- 24th September 2020: Committee members received an invitation to the Sixteenth Rafael M. Salas memorial lecture 2020.
- 30th September 2020: Baroness Tonge received the public statement from the IAWG on alleged forced hysterectomies in a US immigration detention centre.
- 30th September 2020: Committee members received UK Minister's response to UK SRHR Network letter to Prime Minister in July 2020.
- 1st October 2020: Baroness Tonge received follow-up information on Uyghurs and sterilisation.
- 21st October 2020: All members received the CRR Health briefing 'Update: Slovak Parliament rejects the regressive bill on abortion'.

- 21st October 2020: Virendra Sharma MP received UNFPA briefing on 'Elimination of VAW' for activities surrounding Elimination of Violence Day on 25th November 2020.
- 21st October 2020: Lord Mann received SOAS Covid-19 briefing.
- 22nd October 2020: All members received invitation to the Spanish FPA Parliamentary dialogue webinar: 'How does the pandemic affect the legislative agenda on gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights of women?'
- 26th October 2020: Committee members received EPF's GPA newsletter.
- 26th October 2020: All members received Frontline AIDS' new publication: 'Transforming the HIV response – how communities innovate to respond to Covid-19'.
- 26th October 2020: Baroness Tonge received UNFPA briefing on Jammu/Kashmir and Zimbabwe for HoL oral PQs.
- 29th October 2020: Baroness Tonge received invitation to the Academy of Medical Sciences' annual international health lecture in combination with the Lancet: 'Learning from crisis: building resilient systems to combat future pandemics'.
- 2nd November 2020: Baroness Tonge received facts and figures on Covid-19 mortality in the UK.
- 4th November 2020: Baroness Hussein-Ece received Plan International UK briefing on online GBV, UK Government's information on key measures to tackle VAWG, and UK Government GBV strategy for UNWRN webinar.
- 5th November 2020: All members received invitation to UNWRN VAW webinar; and Margaret Pyke Trust's new policy statement on the importance of removing barriers to rights-based voluntary FP for the conservation of nature.
- 9th November 2020: All members received invitation to MSI RC webinar to launch their new ten-year strategy.
- 11th November 2020: Virendra Sharma MP received briefings on GBV in support of parliamentary activities.
- 11th November 2020: All members received UNFPA's press toolkit to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Nairobi Summit on FP and SRHR.
- 13th November 2020: Committee members received UNFPA briefing 'The Nairobi Summit on FP/SRHR anniversary'.
- 16th November 2020: Baroness Tonge received message from John Gullibaud to commemorate World Vasectomy Day on 20th November 2020.
- 17th November 2020: All members received invitation to register for the virtual Family Planning Forum conference, 2nd-3rd February 2020, in lead up to the ICFP conference, Pattaya City, Thailand, on 8th-11th November 2021.
- 17th November 2020: Virendra Sharma MP received briefing on mental health in pregnancy and workforce as requested.
- 18th November 2020: All members received Stop AIDS summary briefing 'UK ODA updates – new Select Committee possibility and potential cuts!'
- 18th November 2020: Baroness Northover received UNFPA briefing on Bosnia/Croatia border and SRHR activities in support of HoL debate on Bosnia/Croatia.
- 18th November 2020: Baroness Tonge received information on the new Sayana press contraception – 12 weeks self-administered unijet.
- 18th November 2020: Virendra Sharma MP received YouTube link to Save the Children's video on health workers.
- 18th November 2020: Baroness Sheehan received information on UK ODA cuts to SRH following the Bond webinar on cuts to UK ODA.
- 20th November 2020: All members received invitation to IKWRO webinar: 'FGM/Child Marriage and 16 Days of Activism'.

- 20th November 2020: Baroness Tonge received invitation to IDC oral evidence session on the UK's approach to tackling corruption and illicit financial flows.
- 20th November 2020: Baroness Tonge and Virendra Sharma MP received link to Eylem Atakav's domestic violence film 'Lifeline'.
- 23rd November 2020: All members received invitation to the launch of the EPF/DSW 'Donors Delivering for SRHR' report.
- 24th November 2020: Viscount Craigavon received follow-up information on the EPF/DSW 'Donors Delivering for SRHR' report as requested.
- 24th November 2020: Baroness Northover received follow-up communications on SRHR activities on the Bosnia/Croatia border following receipt of IPPF on-the-ground information on the subject.
- 25th November 2020: Select members received Bond's briefing on reducing UK ODA in support of parliamentary activities.
- 25th November 2020: All members received UNFPA briefings/script for the week's debates/question/tweets on GBV; and MSI press release '33% rise in domestic violence reports under Covid-19 lockdown' in support of parliamentary/press activities.
- 25th November 2020: Baroness Tonge and Virendra Sharma MP received information in support of EPF webinar.
- 26th November 2020: All members received invitation to the PMNCH webinar: 'Lives in the Balance', a virtual summit to chart Covid-19's impact on countries' progress towards UHC.
- 27th November 2020: Baroness Tonge, Virendra Sharma MP and Viscount Craigavon received embargoed EPF/DSW 'Donors Delivering for SRHR' report.
- 27th November 2020: All APPG on PDRH 2017 Ethiopia study tour delegates received the Ethiopia newsletter article: 'Deputy Prime Minister assures UK Government of commitment to ensure peace and security of people of Ethiopia'.
- 27th November 2020: All members received invitation to IPPF and Government of Canada webinar 'Leaving No One Behind, an intersectional approach to fulfilling SRHR for all women and girls'; and an invitation to Youth Stop AIDS 'Day of Action' parliamentary event.
- 30th November 2020: Baroness Tonge received information on Covid-19, vaccinations and vitamin D.
- 2nd December 2020: Baroness Tonge received information on the [International Development \(Official Development Assistance Target\) Act 2015](#) and statement by SoS, FCDO.
- 2nd December 2020: All members received information on the IDC inquiry on 'Examining reductions to the aid budget' ahead of session with the Foreign Secretary on 8th December 2020.
- 2nd December 2020: Select members received information on ODA to SRHR/FP as per Population Matters definition.
- 2nd December 2020: Committee members received UNFPA briefing '16 Days of Activism, World AIDS Day, Peace Through Music, and more'.
- 3rd December 2020: All members received invitation to UNFPA webinar: 'Launch of the UNFPA Humanitarian Action 2021 Overview'.
- 7th December 2020: Baroness Tonge received The Guardian article on Nimco Ali, the Prime Minister's new advisor on FGM.
- 7th December 2020: All committee members received link to the WUNRN statement to the UN Special Rapporteur of VAW.
- 8th December 2020: All members received invitation to the UNFPA Supplies Partnership webinar: 'Global launch of the UNFPA Supplies Partnership' on 14th

December 2020; and an invitation to Change, GJC and Ipas webinar: 'The challenges and opportunities ahead, and what feminist leadership in the new administration can, and must do'.

- 9th December 2020: All members received invitation to the FCDO GBV webinar: 'Building Back Better from Covid-19: How can we harness the current spotlight on GBV to accelerate long-term progress to end violence?'
- 10th December 2020: All members received Sarah Champion MP, Chair of the IDC's, tweet: International Development Committee will continue.
- 16th December 2020: All members received Marge Berer's summary of the UN General Assembly Special Session on the Response to Covid-19.
- 18th December 2020: Baroness Tonge received update on 2.5% increase in UK maternity staff, from 37,918 to 38,855.
- 18th December 2020: All members received the New Statesman article: 'Medical abortion in the UK during the Covid-19 pandemic'.
- 30th December 2020: All members received MSI RC briefing '5 good things that happened in 2020'.
- 31st December 2020: Baroness Tonge received The Guardian article 'Argentina legalises abortion in landmark moment for women's rights'.
- 5th January 2021: Committee members received UK SRHR Network's '4 Happy New Year resolutions'.
- 7th January 2021: All members received the invitation to the Global Health Practitioner Conference CORE Group's flagship virtual annual conference.
- 11th January 2021: Baroness Tonge received information on the World Bank.
- 11th January 2021: All members received invitation to register for the virtual International FP Forum Conference.
- 15th January 2021: All members received the latest GPA Bulletin; and an invitation to the IAWG's global launch of the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) Toolkit for Humanitarian Settings: 2020 Edition.
- 29th January 2021: All members received reminder and link to the virtual International FP Forum Conference on 2nd-3rd February 2021 and invitation to the EPF, DSW and Countdown 2030 Europe 'Not Without FP Forum' side event; an invitation to UNFPA and the Five Foundation event: 'Partnerships and Grassroots: Unite, Fund and Act to End FGM' featuring James Duddridge MP, Minister for Africa, and Nimco Ali, and an invitation to the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of FGM International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM on 6th February 2021; a link to the new Countdown 2030 Europe report: Trends in SRHR policies and funding support by European donor countries; a link to new UNICEF UK report: 'Future at Risk: The UK's role in averting a global health crisis for mothers and children'; and a link to Ipas and the CRR factsheet: 'Medical Abortion and Self-Managed Abortion: Frequently Asked Questions on Health and Human Rights'.
- 3rd February 2021: Baroness Sugg received list of Baroness Tonge's written PQs on UK Government SRHR/FP funding in 2020.
- 4th February 2021: All member received UNFPA statement to mark International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM on 6th February 2021; the link to the 'Not Without FP' Forum conference; a link to UK Government report: 'The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review', commissioned by HM Treasury; FORWARD and University of Huddersfield study: 'Do No Harm: Experiences and Impacts of FGM Safeguarding, Bristol Study'; a link to the Guardian article: Responses from the Government's adviser on VAWG, Nimco Ali, and safeguarding minister, Victoria Atkins MP; UNFPA press statement welcoming the restoration of its funding from the US government; UNFPA-

UNICEF Joint Programme January 2021 research digest: Eliminate FGM and End Child Marriage; and information that Honduras had moved to permanently outlaw abortion and same-sex marriage.

- 4th February 2021: Baroness Barker received summary information on EPF event on the ban of abortion in Poland – brainstorming session with Polish MPs.
- 12th February 2021: All members received research from the Center for Global Development (CDG) on UK Government abandoning its commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI; information that Helen Grant MP was appointed the Prime Minister's new Special Envoy for Girls' Education, and the Global Education Summit will be co-hosted by the UK and Kenya on 28th-29th July 2021; a link to UNFPA's latest newsletter; information that the US Congress is debating legislating to permanently end the Global Gag Rule / Mexico City Policy; information that in London, Ealing Council approved a plan to extend the abortion clinic safe zone around the MSI RC clinic in Ealing; and information that MEPs on 9th February 2021 had condemned Poland's almost total ban on abortion.
- 18th February 2021: All members received link to EPF webinar: Eliminating Cervical Cancer; a copy of MSI RC guidance and briefing on medical abortion; information that the Egyptian cabinet had approved amendments toughening the prison sentences for undertaking FGM; information that Paul Givan MLA has introduced a PMB in Stormont that would prevent abortions being carried out in Northern Ireland (NI) in cases of non-fatal disabilities; information that Edinburgh Council said it would stop blocking access to abortion information websites and information that Scottish campaigners had launched a national petition to support fresh calls for protest-free zones around clinics providing abortions in Scotland; information that the UK Government announced the allocation of £125 million to councils to support victims of domestic abuse and their children as part of the Domestic Abuse Bill; and information that research was underway in Wales to discover whether delivery drivers were witnessing domestic abuse during the Covid-19 outbreak and how they could help.
- 22nd February 2021: Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe and Baroness Sugg received UNFPA briefing for HoL oral questions on population and COP26.
- 25th February 2021: All members received link to the online event: Safeguard Futures Ban Child Marriage hosted by Girls Not Brides UK, IKWRO, Karma Nirvana, FORWARD and the Independent Yemen Group; a link to The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) webinar: 'What is the New Normal for FP and Male Engagement'; a link to Leigh Day's online webinar: The rights of LGBT+ women in healthcare; research published by the BMJ on the patient experience of accessing an abortion by telemedicine and BJOG on the clinical effectiveness of telemedicine; information that the Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) had proposed to make two types of contraceptive pills available to purchase over the counter in the UK; information that MPs in Malawi were debating a bill to liberalise abortion laws; Sky News' report that the numbers of women and girls who had been referred to the NHS with FGM had dropped since the pandemic; information that GBV had spiked in Latin America during the pandemic; and information that an EU equality official had criticised the Polish government's decision to ban abortion in almost all circumstances.
- 4th March 2021: All members received MSI RC briefing on the anti-abortion group Christian Concern's parliamentary event on early medical abortion at home (telemedicine); information on IPPF WHR launch event: UN Advocacy Tool; received EPF and Polish APPG manifesto in support of Polish women's abortion rights; information on Chatham House and COP26 Presidency online event: Climate Action

and Gender Equality: Can We Close One Gap Without the Other?; information on the ActionAid, Plan International UK, WWF, Save the Children and World Vision webinar: Women and Biodiversity: Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment; information on the UNFPA, African Union and the German Government event: #The4Dseries policy dialogues, Food Security & Nutrition Demographic Dividend(s); a link to the Leigh Day online webinar on the rights of LGBT+ women in healthcare, chaired by Baroness Barker; an invitation to the Education *Plus* initiative (an initiative of UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and UNESCO) CSW side event, 'Power Up! Gender Justice for Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Sub-Saharan Africa'; an invitation to the UN SDG Action Campaign's 2021 SDG Global Festival of Action, 'Let's #TurnItAround for the People and the Planet'; information that RCOG launched the Making Abortion Safe programme; a link to the Population Council Girls' Education Roadmap; a link to the monthly research digest by UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of FGM and UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage; a link to EPF's latest newsletter with SRHR news from Europe; a link to the January 2021 webinar: AfGH, the UK Working Group on NCDs and the George Institute for Global Health; and feedback from EPF: International action from EPF and others, the Romanian president referred a law banning gender studies in the Romanian educational system.

Please find disseminated written briefings enclosed at Appendix 12

General Collaboration, Meetings and Correspondence

Enquiries to and about the APPG on PDRH and its parliamentary activities have been dealt with by email, over the phone and via virtual meetings and conference calls.

Collaboration and communications continue with a variety of national and international SRHR organisations and stakeholders including: UNFPA; IPPF; MSI RC; UK SRHR Network; Plan International UK; WUNRN; Abortion Rights; RCOG; MSD; forced marriage and FGM NGOs including FORWARD; Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO); Agency for Culture and Change Management UK (ACCM); and Girls Not Brides; and other NGOs, academic institutions and individuals working on SRHR and related health issues.

Virtual meetings and correspondence

UNFPA

The APPG on PDRH continues to have strong links with and to collaborate with UNFPA. Ragaa Said, UNFPA, New York, and Matthew Jackson and Yael Taka, UNFPA, London, are the main points of contact.

Of particular importance this year were virtual meetings held to discuss and strategise about the FCO and DFID merger, the UK aid cuts to FP/SRHR, joint parliamentary events, press activities and the planning of study tours.

Strategy meetings were held on 8th December 2020 between Baroness Tonge, Ann Mette Kjaerby, Myfanwy Probyn, Matt Jackson and Yael Taka and on 23rd March 2021 between the new APPG on PDRH Co-Chairs Baroness Sugg and Baroness Hussein-Ece and Ann Mette Kjaerby, Myfanwy Probyn, Matt Jackson and Yael Taka. Among other things and as a result of these meetings, APPG on PDRH members highlighted the importance of safeguarding FP/SRHR funding during Covid-19 in parliamentary debates.

In March 2020, the UNFPA Eastern European office supported the APPG on PDRH in the preliminary stages of organising a study tour to Lesbos as requested by members. Plans were subsequently put on hold due to the Covid-19 outbreak and will be re-arranged when Covid-19 allows.

In April 2020, discussions were held in connection with the IDC inquiry: 'MPs to consider impact of coronavirus on developing countries'. UNFPA submitted written evidence to this consultation which was circulated to members. In May and June 2020, discussions were held in connection with the annual World Population Day reception and a possible film screening, but the reception was cancelled due to continued Covid-19 restrictions.

After the summer recess, numerous written questions were drafted and tabled by members on the FCO and DFID merger, SRHR funding, in connection with the UNFPA's State of the World Population (SWOP) report and self-administered SRHR services during Covid-19. Replies to the PQs were sent to UNFPA. In October 2020, members received UNFPA briefings on SRHR services in Kashmir and Bosnia for HoL debates.

In November 2020, UNFPA received information on APPG on PDRH engagement on UK Government SDG Voluntary National Review (VNR) as requested and Ragaa Said was congratulated on her new role as the Strategic Partnerships Adviser for CSOs and Parliamentarians in the Strategic Partnerships Branch at UNFPA, New York. In November 2020, Baroness Sheehan uploaded a video in support of UNFPA GBV publicity and in December 2020, UNFPA were updated on the continuation of the IDC notwithstanding the FCO and DFID merger.

UNFPA have received the quarterly APPG on PDRH activity reports as per the memorandum of understanding (MoU) and in December 2020 received the end of year report and expenditure along with January – December 2021 request for funding letter with proposed future APPG on PDRH work-plan.

UNFPA submitted written evidence and gave oral testimony to the APPG on PDRH hearings on girls' education and SRHR this year.

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 13

IPPF

The APPG on PDRH continues to have strong links with and to collaborate with IPPF. Riva Eskinazi is the main point of contact.

Of particular importance this year were virtual meetings held to discuss and strategise about the FCO and DFID merger, the UK aid cuts to FP/SRHR and joint parliamentary events. Baroness Sugg held a virtual meeting with Dr Alvaro Bermejo, IPPF Director General, on 10th March 2021 and received a briefing on IPPF budgetary discussions with FCDO, and implications of the aid cuts for IPPF Member Associations and women and girls on the ground. Key data/results regarding the WISH and ACCESS (UK Aid Connect) programmes were shared and joint press activity was discussed (please see further details in the Press section).

The annual World Population Day reception in July 2020 was sadly cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Throughout the year IPPF has shared written briefings for PQs and debates for members to raise the issue of SRHR services including self-administration of SRHR services during Covid-19 and the impact the aid cuts have had on clinic staff and service provisions for their members organisations.

IPPF also submitted written evidence and gave oral testimony to the APPG on PDRH Hearings on girls' education and SRHR this year.

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 14

MSI RC

The APPG on PDRH continues to have strong links with and to collaborate with MSI (now renamed MSI Reproductive Choices). Bethan Cobley is the main point of contact.

Of particular importance this year were briefings received and disseminated to members to highlight the SRHR service restrictions due to Covid-19 and the need for self-administration of SRHR services during the pandemic. Briefings also supported members in their parliamentary advocacy on UK aid cuts, the FCO and DFID merger, buffer zones around clinics, and the availability of the oral contraceptive pill over the counter (at a cost) in the UK. Discussions also took place in connection with the IDC inquiry: 'Future of UK aid: reductions to the aid budget' on 8th December 2020 and Sarah Champion MP's tweet: 'International Development Committee will continue'.

MSI RC also submitted written evidence and gave oral testimony to the APPG on PDRH hearings on girls' education and SRHR this year.

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 15

UK SRHR Network

The APPG on PDRH has been in regular contact with the UK SRHR Network and its member organisations and staff throughout the year. Minutes of UK SRHR Network meetings have been shared. Of particular interest and importance this year were meetings and discussions surrounding the FCO and DFID merger, UK aid cuts, APPG on PDRH recruitment activities, and advocacy activities around SRHR and the G7 conference in June 2021.

Ann Mette Kjaerby attended several UK SRHR Network 'tea-break' webinars, including: briefings on the Covid-19 response co-hosted by AfGH and DFID in April 2020; briefings on FP2020 in May 2020; an update on the DFID Health Team in May 2020; briefings on digital information and fake news in late May 2020; briefings on advocacy in times of social distancing in June 2020; and the AfGH and FCDO Global Health Taskforce briefing on their Covid-19 response in October 2020.

In autumn 2020, the APPG on PDRH shared recruitment information and PQs of interest with UK SRHR Network members as requested.

The APPG on PDRH and UK SRHR Network have also communicated in connection with the IDC inquiry into aid effectiveness, the APPG on PDRH hearings on girls' education and SRHR, the letter to the Prime Minister on UK aid cuts, and UK Government plans to pass a new law reducing the UK ODA budget, the G7 and SRHR.

In March 2021, APPG on PDRH Co-Chairs Baroness Sugg and Baroness Hussein-Ece held a virtual briefing meeting with UK SRHR Network members and staff. At the meeting, members provided an overview of the Network's activities, following which participants discussed the political environment and SRHR, FP2030, priorities for 2021 and areas for collaboration. Baroness Sugg also updated Network members on the APPG on PDRH's G7 activities. As requested, Network members forwarded information on the impacts of Covid-19 at country level.

Later in March 2021, Baroness Sugg held a virtual follow-up meeting with select UK SRHR Network members to discuss the impacts of Covid-19 on the ground, joint press work including a possible article from Pauline Latham MP, and an APPG on PDRH op-ed on UK aid cuts, the G7 and SRHR and the newly established G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council (please see further details in the Press section).

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 16

Plan International UK

Bekky Ashmore, Plan International UK, has been in regular contact with the APPG on PDRH as a representative of the UK SRHR Network, but also as Plan International UK's main contact point. She shared numerous briefings to support APPG on PDRH members in their parliamentary advocacy and at virtual speaking events.

In April 2020, the APPG on PDRH communicated with Plan International UK about UK Government funding and activities in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

In August 2020, members received communications between Plan International UK, Care, ActionAid, International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Gender and Development Network, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, and SoS for ID Anne-Marie Trevelyan, regarding the DFID-FCO merger and the importance of prioritising gender equality, including SRHR.

Plan International UK also submitted written evidence and gave oral testimony to the APPG on PDRH hearings on girls' education and SRHR and kindly shared their photo library for the hearing report.

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 17

Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN)

Sadia Mir, WUNRN, has been in contact with the APPG on PDRH to request APPG on PDRH representation at virtual conferences. Baroness Hussein-Ece spoke at the 5th November 2020 event on GBV and the SDGs and again at the 17th March 2021 CSW side event and webinar on GBV (please see further details in the APPG on PDRH and SRHR Briefing Meetings section).

Abortion Rights

The APPG on PDRH has been in regular contact with Marge Berer, Abortion Rights, and has disseminated relevant briefings to APPG on PDRH members on abortion and related issues. In May 2020, the APPG on PDRH and Abortion Rights communicated about the privatisation of Covid-19 laboratory tests and updating the APPG on PDRH recruitment leaflet, as a result of which 'abortion' was added to the leaflet. A solidarity letter was shared regarding Donald Trump's letters to the WHO and the Secretary-General of the United Nations demanding that any reference to abortion and SRHR be removed from their Covid-19 response.

In June 2020, on behalf of the APPG on PDRH, Baroness Tonge signed the petition, 'Choice Network Thailand solidarity request: Calling for telemedicine for early abortion and access to safe abortion for everyone who requested it'. In September 2020, the APPG on PDRH contacted EPF and DFID officials at Abortion Rights' recommendation to highlight the need for UK Government solidarity at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on 15th – 30th September 2020, where the UNGA would be having its first general debate.

Governments were asked to reject the US Government State Department's Report of the Commission on Unalienable Rights, which was presented at that meeting, and not to support US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's UNGA event.

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 18

RCOG/FIGO

Communications continue between the APPG on PDRH and Lesley Regan, former President RCOG and now Secretary General of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Imperial College's St Mary's Hospital Campus. In June 2020, the APPG on PDRH and Professor Regan communicated about her work on post-natal contraception in the UK and in relation to her interview on the Women's Hour programme on pelvic mesh implants, Primodos and sodium valproate.

Stephen Hall, Political Advisor to the current President and Chief Executive at RCOG, remains the APPG on PDRH's primary contact at RCOG. Several briefings have been shared with APPG on PDRH members for parliamentary debates. In March 2020, the [RCOG guidelines](#) on coronavirus and abortion were of particular interest to members. The APPG on PDRH shared its hearing report on abortion in April 2020 in support of RCOG's abortion programme.

This year there has also been some direct communication between former APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Tonge and Dr Edward Morris, RCOG President.

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 19

Forced marriage and FGM NGOs, lawyers and individuals: Plan International UK, FORWARD, IKWRO, ACCM UK, Girls Not Brides, Eylem Atakav from University of East Anglia, and individuals working on FGM and child marriage

The APPG on PDRH has been in communication with NGO representatives, lawyers and individuals working on child marriage and FGM this year to discuss the UK Government's Domestic Abuse Bill, members' PMBs to increase the age of marriage to 18 in the UK, and to follow up on the APPG on PDRH FGM roundtable meeting held on 2nd March 2020.

The FGM roundtable triggered a large response from the FGM community and briefings were disseminated to members in support of parliamentary advocacy. Baroness Jenkin of Kennington subsequently tabled numerous written PQs asking Her Majesty's Government (HMG) what assessment they had made of the impact of FGM education in schools on any stigma experienced by children of African descent (the full list of PQs and replies can be found on the APPG on PDRH website here: appg-pdrh.uk). In April 2020, Comfort Momoh contacted the APPG on PDRH to inquire about a member speaking at an FGM event she was organising. Unfortunately, no members were available to speak and, in any event, lockdown restrictions had come in to force in the UK.

As the APPG on FGM ceased to exist in 2020 Baroness Jenkin of Kennington and Ann Mette Kjaerby held discussions with Baroness Goudie in The Spring of 2020 with regards to re-establishing this APPG but the Covid-19 lockdown halted the re-establishment.

The APPG on PDRH communicated with Naomi Wiseman, Barrister at Garden Court Chambers, and her colleagues at IKWRO throughout the year. They supported Baroness

Hussein-Ece and Pauline Latham MP in their efforts to increase the age of marriage to 18 in the UK via amendments and PMBs (please see Parliamentary section for further information).

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 20

MSD

The APPG on PDRH communicated with Harriet Adams and Nav Singh of MSD in connection with MSD's work on HPV and vaccinations following the joint launch of the HPV Atlas in Europe with EPF on 22nd February 2020 in the UK Parliament. Opportunities and challenges facing the UK Government and its immunisation programmes during the Covid-19 lockdown were discussed and written PQs were tabled in the Spring 2021, to which encouraging replies were received (available on the APPG on PDRH website here: appg-pdrh.uk).

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 21

Other correspondence

The APPG on PDRH also communicated with many other SRHR and population experts and individuals this year, including:

- 1st July 2020: Communications with staff at the University of Nottingham's Institute for Policy and Engagement regarding their webinar on their latest research on Covid-19 and SRHR/FP in Africa;
- 3rd July 2020: Communications with Lucas White, Media Consultant, regarding the possible upload of weblink to information on menstrual cycle and mental health to the APPG on PDRH website;
- 6th July 2020: Communications with Salamander Trust regarding their MTCT briefing;
- July 2020: On behalf of the APPG on PDRH, Ann Mette Kjaerby completed the Women Deliver survey 'Help shape the next Women Deliver Conference!';
- August 2020: Communications with Esme Parkins, Population Matters, on their new report looking at the impact unsustainable population growth is having on our ability to reach the UN SDGs;
- 3rd September 2020: Communications with Pfizer in connection with their proposed briefing meeting on vaccinations;
- 28th/29th September 2020: Communications with the CRR regarding the UK's co-sponsorship of the humanitarian situations resolution, Human Rights Council;
- 7th December 2020: Communications with Maya Unnithan, Sussex University, about the webinar, 'CORTH Conversation: Midwifery and Covid-19';
- 9th March 2021: Communications with Kate Sanger, JoTrust, on HPV European Parliament Beating Cancer Committee (BECA)'s online public survey on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic; and
- Baroness Tonge and Ann Mette Kjaerby communicated with the HoL Commissioner for Standards throughout this year in connection with unwarranted allegations – report available [here](#).

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 22

Press

The APPG on PDRH continued its press activities with an aim to engage new members and inform the public of its activities and position on SRHR. Activities included:

- May 2020: The APPG on PDRH uploaded FSRH guidance for women who are seeking access to sexual and reproductive healthcare during the Covid-19 pandemic to its website.
- 5th June 2020: Baroness Tonge uploaded the Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network's statement on a women's organisation-led draft bill to decriminalize abortion to her Facebook page.
- 18th June 2020: The APPG on PDRH issued a press release on the DFID-FCO merger.
- 10th July 2020: Baroness Hussein-Ece was interviewed by Eylem Atakav, University of East Anglia, for her new documentary project on the impact of Covid-19 on domestic abuse services in the UK.
- 11th July 2020: The UNFPA World Population Day statement was posted to APPG on PDRH website.
- 7th October 2020: Pauline Latham MP was on BBC News discussing her bid to criminalise child marriage in the UK.
- November 2020: Sarah Champion MP, Theo Clarke MP and other APPG on PDRH members spoke out against the UK aid cuts announced on 25th November 2020 on Twitter and in the media.
- 25th November 2020: As requested, Baroness Sheehan uploaded a GBV publicity video to the UNFPA website.
- 20th January 2021: The APPG on PDRH issued a press release to publicise the election of Baroness Sugg and Baroness Hussein-Ece as the new APPG on PDRH Co-Chairs serving alongside Pauline Latham MP.
- 18th-22nd January 2021: During Cervical Cancer Prevention Week, EPF provided materials and encouraged APPG on PDRH members to post about EPF's cervical cancer prevention policy atlas on social media. The APPG on PDRH tweeted in support.
- In advance of Valentine's Day on 14th February 2021: EPF provided materials and encouraged members to post about EPF's contraception policy atlas on social media. The APPG on PDRH tweeted several times during the week using the recommended materials and hashtags.
- 19th March 2021: Pauline Latham MP published an article in the House Magazine criticising the reduction of ODA from 0.7% to 0.5%.
- March 2021: The APPG on PDRH drafted an op-ed linking girls' education and SRHR for Politics Home, but this was not published as a similar article had recently appeared in the magazine on UK aid.
- March 2021: Baroness Sugg wrote an article on UK aid cuts and SRHR and held interviews on the topic, receiving interest from The Times and The Telegraph. An article on IPPF appeared in Devex with a quote from Baroness Sugg, which APPG on PDRH members were encouraged to promote widely.
- 27th April 2021: Baroness Sugg was quoted in The Guardian article 'Dominic Raab is challenged to admit 40% cuts to foreign aid for girls' education'.
- March – June 2021: Baroness Sugg and Baroness Jenkin of Kennington were involved in solidarity actions and publicity around the G7 and attended the Wednesday for Women march to No. 10 Downing Street on 9th June 2021.



*'Wednesday for Women' march to No. 10, 9th June 2021
Baroness Sugg and Baroness Jenkin of Kennington can be seen in the photo*

Please find sample disseminated press releases enclosed at Appendix 23

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. Tweets have covered the following topics:

IPPF Global on SheDecides Day; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on Coalition for Global Prosperity and girls' education; retweeted Baroness Jenkin of Kennington on FGM roundtable; retweeted Baroness Barker on FGM roundtable; tweeted about FGM roundtable; retweeted Baroness Sugg on FGM roundtable; retweeted Amb. Albert Shingiro on shortening of CSW64 due to Covid-19; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of Times article on politicisation of foreign aid under Boris Johnson; retweeted Bond on DFID funds moving to FCO; retweeted Bekky Ashmore's photo of Baroness Tonge and Virendra Sharma at AfGH reception; retweeted Bekky Ashmore on achieving nutrition targets; tweeted Guardian article about FGM data; retweeted CARE tweet of Guardian article on abortion in Kenya; retweeted Dame Diana Johnson video of oral questions on abortion services in NI; tweeted Guardian article on decriminalisation of abortion in New Zealand; tweeted about Sarah Champion's appointment as Chair of the IDC; retweeted EPF on effect of Covid-19 on SRHR, gender equality and GBV; retweeted EPF tweet on UNFPA's technical brief on Covid-19; retweeted Grainne Teggart tweet on home use of medication abortion during Covid-19 pandemic; retweeted BPAS tweet on amending Coronavirus Bill to protect women's access to abortion care during pandemic; retweeted MSI tweet on campaign to expand access to abortion services in the UK during pandemic; tweeted Independent article setting out the Government's unexplained reversal on allowing medication abortion at home during the pandemic; retweeted Dame Diana Johnson tweet on Matt Hancock's reversal on telehealth abortion services; retweeted BPAS tweet calling on Boris Johnson to allow medication abortion via telehealth; retweeted Baroness Barker tweet asking the Government to use emergency powers to introduce telemedicine for early medical abortions; retweeted Baroness Barker tweet of BPAS video on Government's refusal to allow early medical abortions via telemedicine; retweeted Shannon Kowalski tweet on SRHM Journal webinar on SRH shortages due to Covid-19; retweeted SRHM Journal link to its webinar recording; retweeted BPAS tweet on Government's decision to allow early medication abortion via telemedicine; retweeted Speaking Up for Aid tweet on negative consequences of absorbing DFID into FCO; retweeted Sarah Champion retweet of UN Women tweet on women's leadership and gender aspects of coronavirus; retweeted Matt Jackson on increase in domestic violence during crises; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of BBC News article on lack of telemedicine abortions in NI; retweeted IPPF Global tweet on differential treatment of abortions in NI; retweet EPF tweet of Guardian

article on women's reproductive choices; tweeted Guardian article on postponement of COP26; retweeted Women Deliver tweet on need for SRH services during crises; retweeted Ann Furedi tweet on lack of abortion services in NI; retweeted MSI tweet of Guardian article on coronavirus denying 9.5 million people access to FP; retweeted Liz Ford tweet on UN Women's postponement of Generation Equality forums in Mexico and Paris; retweeted MSI tweet on its new webinar series on SRHR and gender; retweet FIGO HQ tweet on its Covid-19 recommendations; tweeted article on anti-abortion groups' use of pandemic to restrict and ban abortion; tweeted about death of Dr Catherine Hamlin; retweeted MSI on start of telemedicine abortion provision; retweeted IPPF Global tweet on risk of backstreet abortions during pandemic; retweeted Katja Iversen tweet celebrating World Health Worker Week; retweeted EPF tweet on need to defend women's SRHR during pandemic; retweeted Forced Marriage Unit's public service announcement; retweeted EPF tweet on Poland's attempts to roll back SRHR for Polish women; retweeted BPAS tweet on need for telemedicine abortion in NI; retweeted EPF tweet on parliamentarians' call to action on Poland's rollback of abortion rights; retweeted MSI tweet of Guardian article on WHO call to declare abortion a public health issue during the pandemic; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet of Antonio Guterres tweet on GBV during pandemic; retweet of IPPF Global tweet about lack of access to birth control during lockdown; retweeted United Nations tweet on connection between destruction of nature and zoonotic viruses; retweeted UNFPA Bangladesh tweet on role of midwives during pandemic; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on girls' education; retweeted IPPF Global tweet on pandemic derailing access to contraception; retweeted Jamie Vernaelde tweet on PAI briefing on mitigating impacts of Covid-19 on SRHR and inequalities; retweeted Amina J Mohammed tweet on DFID funding for SDGs during pandemic; retweeted EPF tweet on attempted rollback of abortion rights in Poland; retweeted 28TooMany tweet on FGM prevalence on Nigeria; retweeted IPPF Global tweet of Times of India article on women losing access to contraceptive services during lockdown; retweeted Intl. Campaign for Safe Abortion tweet on the progress of anti-abortion, anti-SRHR bills in Polish parliament; retweeted Intl. Campaign for Safe Abortion tweet on tabling of anti-abortion, anti-SRHR bills in Polish parliament; retweeted Herminia Palacio tweet of Guttmacher Institute briefing on impact of pandemic on SRHR in low- and middle-income countries; retweeted MSI tweet on lack of access to safe abortion; retweeted J Lemon tweet of Jess Phillips tweet on domestic violence during the pandemic; retweeted 28TooMany tweet on effect of FGM laws in Sudan; retweeted Baroness Sugg on her appointment as a SheDecides Champion; retweeted SRHM Journal tweet of commentary on allowing telemedicine abortion; retweeted Maya Oppenheim tweet of Independent article on women's struggle to access sexual health services; retweeted FSRH tweet on post-partum contraception; retweeted Population Institute tweet of Al Jazeera article on child marriage in conflict; retweeted Bekky Ashmore tweet of SRHR Network's SRHR recommendations for the pandemic; retweeted COP26's Earth Day tweet on climate change; retweeted BPAS tweet of Guardian article on the universal credit two-child limit; retweeted Baroness Sugg on addressing gender issues during the pandemic; tweeted about APPG on PDRH's Bangladesh study tour report in response to Commons IDC tweet on Rohingya; tweeted about Baroness Sheehan and Lord Mann's oral questions on stamping out Covid-19 in developing countries; tweeted IPPF and EPF report on pandemic's impact on SRHR in Europe; retweeted FIGO HQ tweet on Covid-19 and pregnancy; retweeted Lewis Emmerton tweet of Guardian article on rise of GBV during the global lockdown; tweeted about 0.7% of GNI commitment and need for ODA oversight; retweeted MSI tweet plugging its Spotlight webinar on SRHR and gender; retweeted IDC tweet on possible DFID/FCO merger; retweeted IDC tweet on Sarah Champion's comments about 'Improving the lives of women and girls overseas' report; retweeted Sarah Hyde tweet of Guardian article on effect of pandemic on global development; tweeted Guardian article on crisis in development; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet of Telegraph article on unleashing girls' potential in developing countries; retweeted UNICEF Sudan tweet on criminalisation of FGM in Sudan; retweeted Baroness Jenkin of Kennington on domestic violence campaign; retweeted Baroness Sugg /Harriett Baldwin tweet on 12 years of education for girls; retweeted Ryan Heath tweet of Politico article on Covid's 'war on women'; retweeted Heather Barr tweet of New York Times article on increase in global poverty; retweeted SRHM Journal tweet summarising webinar on Covid-19 and SRHR; retweeted King's International Development tweet of Forbes article on rise in global poverty due to pandemic; retweeted MSI tweet of Foreign Policy article on cutting off Africa's abortion access during pandemic; retweet RCM tweet on role of midwives for International Day of the Midwife; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on International Day of the Midwife; tweeted FSRH leaflet on Covid-19 and women's health; retweeted Population Institute tweet of Newsweek article on FGM ban in Sudan; tweeted about UK/DFID joint press release on putting women and girls at the heart of pandemic response efforts; retweeted SheDecides tweet of Al Jazeera article on social injustices faced by Arab women and girls; retweeted EPF tweet on latest SRHR data from Europe; retweeted EPF tweet on CoE's guidelines on ensuring women's SRHR during the pandemic; retweeted Lewis Emmerton's tweet on DFID's £10m emergency funding for sexual health services; retweeted RCN tweet about International Day of the Nurse; retweeted PATH video on immunisation during the pandemic; retweeted Women Deliver tweet on adopting an inclusive, gender-sensitive approach to the pandemic; retweeted Sarah Champion on the impact of coronavirus on children's mortality; retweeted Shannon Kowalski article on SRH during the pandemic; tweeted Reuters article on coronavirus in Rohingya refugee camps; retweeted IPPF Global/HRW piece on

protecting women's reproductive health during the pandemic; retweeted CHASE Africa tweet on link between school closures and early marriage; retweeted IDC plugging evidence session on impact of pandemic on developing countries; retweeted EPF on women's rights in the context of World Day of Families; retweeted Bond article on DFID's priorities in light of Covid-19; retweeted IDC tweet about Virendra Sharma raising questions about coronavirus data collection mechanisms; retweeted Baroness Sugg/FCO tweet in support of International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia; retweeted IKWRO tweet of Guardian article on girls at risk of child marriage; retweeted FIGO HQ tweet advertising their webinar on essential women's healthcare during the pandemic; retweeted EPF tweet on its Covid-19 and SRHR webinar; tweeted Slate article on how the pandemic is changing abortion care in vulnerable countries; retweeted Bekky Ashmore tweet of Guardian article on huge rise in FGM in Somalia during the coronavirus lockdown; retweeted ICFP 2021 tweet on SRH and lessons from Zika and Ebola; tweeted Guardian article on Rwanda's decision to release 50 women jailed for having abortions; retweeted IDC report on the Rohingya; retweeted Baroness Hussein-Ece tweet of Sputnik News article on attempts to raise the minimum marriage age to 18; retweeted EPF tweet on International Day to End Fistula; retweeted Natasha Rattu's tweet on raising the minimum marriage age to 18; retweeted MSI on its response to Covid-19 crisis and lessons learned from Ebola; retweeted EPF on International Day of Action for Women's Health; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet promoting Covid-19 and girls' education webinar; retweeted Baroness Sugg/UNFPA Malawi tweet on access to menstrual products during the pandemic; tweeted APPG on SRH tweet on enquiry into how contraception has been affected during the pandemic; retweeted EPF on period poverty in Malawi; retweeted SRHM Journal info on webinar on Covid-19 and integration of SRHR and UHC; retweeted FSRH call for evidence on access to contraception during the pandemic; retweeted SisterSupporter tweet of Guardian article on MPs' attempt to bring bill to ban late abortions for cleft lip, cleft palate and clubfoot; retweeted Clare Murphy on Fiona Bruce's abortion bill; retweeted SRHM Journal on unsafe abortion practices and the law in Nigeria; retweeted Sarah Hyde tweet of Guardian article on rise in FGM due to school closures; retweeted Ben Ward tweet about Commons IDC report on Rohingya crisis; retweeted Amnesty International on International Sex Workers Day; retweeted UNAIDS on International Sex Workers Day and SRH; retweeted Theo Clarke tweet of Telegraph article on Global Vaccine Summit; retweeted MSI tweet on WHO recognition of SRH as essential services; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of Sky News article on Covid-19 in Rohingya refugee camps; retweeted CARE tweet of Middle East Monitor article on suspension of reproductive health facilities in Yemen; retweeted Population Institute tweet of BBC article on rejection by NI Assembly of changes to abortion laws in NI; retweeted IDC tweet on impact of coronavirus on development and UK aid; retweeted Baroness Sugg/DFID on funds raised for GAVI at the Global Vaccine Summit; retweeted COP26 tweet on biodiversity loss and climate change; retweeted BPAS tweet of Refinery29 article on Fiona Bruce's abortion bill; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of Devex article on creating a more equal world post-Covid-19 for people who menstruate; retweeted FIGO HQ tweet on medicalised FGM case in Egypt; tweeted article on criminality of abortion in the Philippines; retweeted IDC report on DFID's work; retweeted Theo Clarke/APPG for Climate Change tweet on achieving net zero; retweeted EPF on the consequences of reduced access to SRHR services and CSE; retweeted Monica Ferro/UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme End Child Marriage on aversion of 25 million child marriages in the last decade; retweeted UNFPA-UNICEF JP to End Female Genital Mutilation tweet on panel discussion about GBV and health systems; tweeted in support of WHO; tweeted about Women Deliver's 300 new gender equality advocates; retweeted King's International Development tweet of Independent article on the shifting map of global poverty; tweeted Guardian article on doctors blocking abortions in NI; tweeted New York Times articles on increased complications obtaining abortions in Europe during the pandemic; retweeted SRHM Journal webinar info; tweeted about Baroness Barker, Baroness Northover and Lord Mann speaking in support of the Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 in the HoL; retweeted Abortion Rights IE tweet of Amnesty piece on passage of NI abortion regulations in the HoL; retweeted UNFPA-UNICEF JP to End Female Genital Mutilation tweet against the medicalisation of FGM; retweeted Population Matters tweet of BBC News article on Iranian government's restriction of access to contraception; retweeted David Cameron criticism of DFID/FCO merger; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of Times article about DFID/FCO merger; tweeted Guardian article about increased risk of FGM resulting from school closures; retweeted BPAS tweet about vote on NI abortion regulations in HoC; retweeted Sarah Champion on dissolution of IDC; tweeted Birmingham Mail article criticising DFID/FCO merger; retweeted Tobias Ellwood MP (Con) criticising DFID/FCO merger; retweeted Laurie Lee's Huffington Post piece criticising DFID/FCO merger; retweeted MSI tweet on passage of abortion regulations in NI; retweeted Theo Clarke tweet of BBC article on banning of 'rough sex' defence; tweeted the APPG on PDRH's press release on DFID/FCO merger; retweeted BPAS tweet of Bailiwick Express Guernsey article on proposed reforms to abortion laws in Guernsey; tweeted about Baroness Sheehan and Baroness Jenkin of Kennington's oral questions on DFID/FCO merger in the HoL; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on ending rape and GBV in conflict; tweeted about FSRH webinar on Covid-19 and SRH; retweeted Al Russell thread on Conservative MPs' remarks on DFID/FCO merger during the debate on the African Development Bank; retweeted HRP/MHTF tweet about post-partum sepsis; tweeted Virendra Sharma's written PQ on ODA and SRHR; retweeted Abortion Rights IE

tweet of Guardian article on link between lack of abortion access and financial difficulties; retweeted RH Alistair Burt tweet of Rory Stewart's Financial Times article on DFID/FCO merger; retweeted Baroness Hodgson's tweet of Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon's tweet about the Murad Code of conduct for documenting conflict-related sexual violence; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of Daily Mail article on £3bn cut to foreign aid budget; retweeted Sarah Hyde tweet of Independent article on stoppage of aid grants; tweeted Guardian article on demoralisation of DFID staff; retweeted Bond letter calling on Boris Johnson to reverse the decision to merge DFID with FCO; tweeted about Lord Rea's passing; tweeted Heather Wheeler's oral questions on SRHR post-DFID merger; retweeted FSRH info about Covid-19 and SRH webinar; retweeted Clare Murphy tweet of BPAS on BMJ study about accessibility of emergency contraception; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of London Economic piece on lack of transparency in decision to merge DFID and FCO; retweeted Women and Work APPG tweet calling for submissions on impact of lockdown and recovery on women's work; retweeted EPF tweet of BBC video on women turning to backstreet abortions during pandemic; tweeted about Rupa Huq's Ten Minute Rule Bill 'Demonstrations (Abortions Clinics) Bill'; retweeted Rupa Huq tweet on wide margin supporting the Demonstrations (Abortion Clinics) Bill; tweeted Guardian article on growing anger over DFID/FCO merger; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of Global Citizen article on DFID achieving highest possible rating in 2020 Aid Transparency Index (cf. FCO); retweeted Theo Clarke tweet on IDC inquiry into UK Aid in Ghana; retweeted EPF on CoE's resolution to empower women and promote access to contraception in Europe; retweeted IPPF Global tweet of BBC video on women turning to backstreet abortions because of the pandemic; retweeted End FGM promoting its webinar with UNFPA on learning how to work with media and religious leaders to end FGM; retweeted FSRH tweet of article on inability to access contraception during lockdown; retweeted EPF video on parliamentarians' role in protecting SRHR during the pandemic; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of CAFOD tweet on ODA spend on fossil fuels; retweeted Bekky Ashmore tweet on UNFPA meeting on adolescent girls and SRHR; retweeted International Campaign for Safe Abortion tweet re amending the Domestic Abuse Bill to ensure access to safe abortion by victims of domestic abuse; retweeted Stephen Doughty tweet challenging DFID merger; retweeted PAI tweet on impacts of GGR; retweeted International Campaign for Safe Abortion tweet on changes to the Polish Penal Code; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet of UNFPA tweet on FGM and child marriage; tweeted Guardian article on climate change and ODA support for meat consumption; tweeted NYTimes article on domestic abuse victims in the UK; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet on Sudan's outlawing of FGM; retweeted Commons IDC tweet on DFID/FCO merger; retweeted Bond tweet on DFID/FCO merger; retweeted Charlotte Proudman tweet on deportation of girl at risk of FGM; tweeted Guardian article on amendment to Domestic Abuse Bill to protect migrant women; retweeted MSI tweet of BPAS tweet on telemedicine abortion; retweeted BPAS tweet on prospect of change to medicine abortion rules in UK; retweeted Diana Johnson speech during debate on Domestic Abuse Bill; retweeted EPF tweet of SRHM Journal tweet on telemedicine abortion; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on UNFPA virtual conference; tweeted Guardian op-ed on gender equality programs; tweeted about World Population Day; tweeted about UNFPA's World Population Day statement; retweeted UNFPA on World Population Day; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet of MSI on World Population Day; retweeted MSI tweet of BBC News article on women who can't access abortion during lockdown; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of Telegraph article on DFID/FCO merger; tweeted at Karma Nirvana's National Day of Memory for victims of 'honour' killings; retweeted Population Matters tweet on World Population Day; retweeted Jehanne Henry tweet on FGM in Sudan; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of Times article on child marriage; retweeted Commons IDC tweet on its report into effectiveness of UK Aid and impact of the DFID/FCO merger; retweeted Baroness Barker tweet on making telemedicine early abortions permanent; tweeted Observer article on reduction to anti-FGM funding; retweeted Global Media Campaign to End FGM tweet on joint UNFPA session on FGM; retweeted FSRH update to its contraception guidance during the pandemic; retweeted CARE tweet of Guardian article on setbacks to gender equality; retweeted SheDecides tweet on female empowerment; tweeted Guttmacher Institute report on unintended pregnancies; tweeted Guardian article on effects of decrease in access to contraception in poorer countries; retweeted Baroness Sheehan tweet on ODA spend; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on safe abortion; retweeted EPF tweet of IPPF European Network tweet on proposed restrictions on abortion in Poland; retweeted Population Institute tweet of Independent article on UK's closure of FGM centres; retweeted FIGO tweet on its webinars; retweeted Guttmacher Institute's new 'Adding It Up' report; retweeted Foreign Affairs Committee report on the DFID/FCO merger; retweeted MSI tweet of Guardian article on repealing the Helms Amendment; tweeted Guardian article on sexual violence and the Yazidi; retweeted IPPF European Network tweet on recent news in global SRHR; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of Telegraph article on closure of small overseas charities; retweeted UNFPA-UNICEF JP to End FGM tweet about its upcoming webinar on FGM and child marriage; retweeted HRP tweet on contraception use by adolescents; retweeted MSI tweet advertising a panel on abortion care during the pandemic; retweeted Bekky Ashmore tweet on adolescent and unintended pregnancies; tweeted Guardian article on ending UK funding overseas to fossil fuel projects; retweeted Population Matters tweet on move by Somali government to legalise forced child marriages; tweeted Guardian article on ODA going to wealthy companies; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of Guardian article on 'hostile takeover' of DFID; retweeted Theo

Clarke tweet on importance of ICAI; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of Times article on UK Aid scandal in Pakistan; retweeted SRHM Journal tweet on GGR and global governance of abortion; retweeted Abortion Rights IE tweet of Mirror article on public consultation into home use of early medical abortion; tweeted Guardian article on DFID/FCO merger and aid for trade; retweeted EPF tweet of Times article on self-managed abortions; retweeted Gareth Thomas tweet of Guardian article on effectiveness of UK Aid after the DFID merger; retweeted Baroness Sheehan tweet on retention of 0.7% GNI on UK Aid post-merger; tweet about Baroness Sheehan's Private Notice Question on UK Aid; retweeted Commons IDC tweet in retaining ICAI post-merger; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet promoting webinar on Africa-led movement to end FGM; tweeted Guardian photo essay on child marriage; retweet Sarah Hyde tweet on connection between school closures and early marriage; retweeted Bekky Ashmore tweet of Lancet article on lifting bans of pregnant girls in schools; retweeted MSI tweet about data forthcoming for International Safe Abortion Day; retweeted APPG SRH on launch of its report into access to contraception; retweeted MSI tweet on global trends in abortion event on 28 September; tweeted about APPG on PDRH signing letter to National Council of the Slovak Republic re threats to reproductive rights; retweeted APPG SRH tweet of BBC News article on access to contraception report; tweeted about Amnesty International's campaign re access to safe abortion; retweeted IPPF European Network tweet on threats to abortion care in Slovakia; retweeted Commons IDC tweet on humanitarian crises monitoring evidence session; retweeted Commons IDC tweet on proposal for cross-government ODA committee following DFID merger; retweeted Guttmacher Institute tweet on proposed expansion of the global gag rule; retweeted MSI tweet on cost-effectiveness of SRH; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet on question to Prime Minister on amending 2002 International Development Act; retweeted RCOG on Economist article recommending telemedicine abortion; tweeted Economist article recommending telemedicine abortion; retweeted Population Matters tweet on incidence of 10-14 year old girls giving birth in the Philippines; retweeted Commons IDC tweet on upcoming sexual exploitation in the aid sector evidence session; tweeted about publication of APPG on PDRH Annual Report; retweeted APPG on SRH video of Dame Diana Johnson asking why the progestogen-only pill isn't available over the counter; retweeted FHI 360 Research article on self-injectable contraception use in Malawi; tweeted about World Contraception Day with link to FP2020 resources; retweeted EPF tweet on World Contraception Day; retweeted EPF tweet on LARCs; retweeted Baroness Sugg retweet of FP2020 on World Contraception Day; retweeted UNFPA Supplies tweet on World Contraception Day; retweeted IPPF European Network tweet on International Safe Abortion Day; retweeted SheDecides tweet on International Safe Abortion Day; retweeted MSI tweet on International Safe Abortion Day and preventable deaths; retweeted EPF on International Safe Abortion Day; retweeted FEMNET tweet on webinar on GBV during the Covid-19 pandemic; retweeted Plan International tweet on connection between school closures and increase in FGM; retweeted SRHM Journal tweet on abortion statistics; retweeted IKWRO tweet on risks associated with child marriage; retweeted Liz Ford tweet about global pushback against women's rights; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on gender equality and girls' education; retweeted 56 Dean Street tweet about availability of PrEP on the NHS; retweeted MSI Reproductive Choices on wider impact of Global Gag Rule; tweeted Observer profile of anti-child marriage activist Payzee Malika and highlighted Pauline Latham MP's PMB to raise the minimum marriage age; retweeted IDC report on the FCDO merger; retweeted Pauline Latham's tweet on safeguarding and the minimum marriage age; retweeted FP2020 tweet on International Day of the Girl; tweeted Guardian article on Pauline Latham's PMB to raise the minimum marriage age; retweeted Baroness Hussein-Ece on her PMB to raise the minimum marriage age; tweeted link to Parliament TV showing Pauline Latham present her PMB; retweeted Pauline Latham introducing her PMB; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of Guardian article on PMB to raise marriage age; retweeted Sarah Champion support of Pauline Latham's PMB; retweeted Bekky Ashmore tweet of UNFPA tweet on SRH services during Covid-19; retweeted MSI Reproductive Choices tweet of Mother Jones article on unsafe abortion in Kenya; retweeted MSI Reproductive Choices' Day of the Girl tweet on requirements for gender equality; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet of FCDO's Day of the Girl tweet on girls' education; retweeted Plan International UK's tweet for Day of the Girl; retweeted Pauline Latham tweet on Day of the Girl and raising the minimum marriage age; tweeted Telegraph Global Health Security article on girls' education and risk of lost generation; retweeted Sarah Champion retweet of Foreign Secretary tweet for Day of the Girl; tweeted trailer for Lifeline film on domestic abuse during the pandemic; retweeted Telegraph Global Health Security article on Bangladesh's MeToo movement; retweeted Theo Clarke tweet about meeting with Foreign Secretary about DFID/FCO merger; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on right to contraception and funding for UNFPA Supplies; tweeted Vox article on toll of malaria on pregnant women; retweeted Population Institute tweet of Reuters article on child marriage and FGM in Ethiopia during the pandemic; retweeted CRR tweet on failure of anti-choice legislation in Slovakia; retweeted Telegraph Global Health Security article on FGM in Kenya; retweeted EPF on failure of anti-choice legislation in Slovakia; retweeted 28TooMany tweet on prevalence of FGM in Guinea; retweeted EPF tweet on potential for abortion ban in Poland; tweeted about APPG on PDRH's compilation of Hansard on its issues; retweeted BPAS tweet on accessing emergency contraception; retweeted APPG SRH tweet on lack of abortion services in NI; tweeted APPG on PDRH's solidarity with pro-choice activists in Poland; retweeted UNFPA London webinar on 'What's next for women';

retweeted feminist WIDE tweet about its webinar on cyber bullying and online VAWG at which Baroness Hussein-Ece was a speaker; retweeted EPF tweet on launch of its Contraception Policy Atlas; retweeted BPAS tweet on harassment outside abortion clinics; retweeted APPG SRH tweet on its event about commissioning abortion services in NI; retweeted Lewis Emmerton tweet of Guardian article on potential for reversal of Global Gag Rule; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on FGM; tweeted for one year anniversary of Nairobi Summit on ICPD25; retweeted Pauline Latham video on child marriage PMB; retweeted EPF's Contraception Policy Atlas; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of Time article on proposed cuts to foreign aid; retweeted Guttmacher Institute tweet about importance of contraception; tweeted about APPG on PDRH parliamentary hearings on SRHR and girls' education; retweeted Theo Clarke tweet on reduction of UK Aid and need for parliamentary scrutiny; tweeted Guardian article on Government's plan to ODA to 0.5% of GNI; retweeted Pauline Latham tweet on scandal of child marriage; tweeted Guardian article on failure of African governments to ensure gender equality; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet of Guardian article on cuts to overseas aid; tweeted APPG on PDRH's support for protecting abortion rights in Poland; retweeted Eylem Atakav's tweet of Lifeline Film on domestic abuse during the pandemic; retweeted Baroness Sugg's resignation letter; tweeted Guardian article on Baroness Sugg's resignation and devastating implications of cuts to ODA; retweeted Mark Lowcock tweet of Telegraph article on value for money investment in women and girls; retweeted Sir Peter Bottomley video speaking out against aid cuts; retweeted Sarah Champion video on need for scrutiny of UK Aid; tweeted Observer article on plans to cut UK Aid; retweeted IKWRO tweet on Lifeline film; retweeted Lancet data on benefits of midwives; tweet on EPF's Donors Delivering for SRHR report webinar; retweeted Bekky Ashmore on adolescent SRHR webinar one year on from Nairobi Summit; retweeted Virendra Sharma on hosting discussion on elimination of VAWG; retweeted APPG SRH tweet on talk on commissioning abortion services in NI; retweeted UNFPA-UNICEF JP to End FGM launch of primer on conducting public enquiries to end FGM; retweeted Sarah Champion on funding cuts to UK Aid; retweet IDC announcement that it will be retained; retweeted SRHM Journal tweet on drivers of unsafe abortion; tweeted NYTimes article on FGM and child marriage in the developing world; tweeted a reminder of written evidence deadline for parliamentary hearings; retweeted @Caraquest slides on what's next after decriminalisation of abortion in NI; retweeted UN News article on women's reproductive health services; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet on need for ICAI; tweeted Guardian article on Caroline Nokes' warning against aid cuts; retweeted APPG SRH tweet on lack of abortion services in NI; retweeted Alliance for Choice information on abortion services in NI; retweeted Bond memo on aid in 2021; retweeted Countdown2030Europe tweet on its webinar on donor support for SRHR and FP in the coming decade; retweeted IDC report on sexual abuse and exploitation in the aid sector; tweet NYTimes article on fire in Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar; retweet Universal Access Project tweet of NPR article on difficulties repealing the Global Gag Rule; retweet Population Council tweet of Brookings Institute article on girls' education; CHANGE tweet about potential of UNFPA Supplies partnership; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet congratulating Helen Grant MP on appointment as UK's Special Envoy for Girls' Education; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet on IDC inquiry into sexual exploitation and abuse in the aid sector; retweeted The Partnership tweet on launch of Lancet series on women's and children's health in conflict setting; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on election as chair of APPG on PDRH; retweeted Baroness Hussein-Ece on election as chair of APPG on PDRH; retweeted Harriett Baldwin tweet about International Day of Education debate; retweeted Lewis Emmerton tweet of NBC News article on ending the Global Gag Rule; retweeted MSI Reproductive Choices tweet on reversing President Trump's SRH policies; tweeted Guardian article on end of Global Gag Rule; retweeted Baroness Sugg video of effect of Covid-19 on women and girls; retweeted MSI Reproductive Choices tweet on abortion telemedicine consultation; tweeted Vox article on steps needed to expand access to reproductive health care; retweeted Lewis Emmerton tweet of article on proposed cuts to development aid; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on meeting with Malala Yousafzai on global education; retweeted IDC tweet on Theo Clarke questioning Foreign Secretary on SDGs and climate change objectives; retweeted EPF tweet on abortion in Poland; tweeted UNICEF article on ending preventable deaths; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on Women Deliver report on gender equality; retweeted Lewis Emmerton tweet on US and UK prioritisation of SRHR; retweeted Universal Access Project tweet of CNN article on President Biden's reversal of abortion restrictions; retweeted CHANGE tweet of Slate article on chilling effect of Global Gag Rule; retweeted Dr Natalia Kanem tweet of NYTimes article on restoration of US funding for UNFPA; tweeted link to Hesperian SRH resources; retweeted APPG SRH tweet of Telegraph article on the long-term damage of the Global Gag Rule; retweeted ICFP2022 link to videos from first day of its conference on 2 February; tweeted Guardian article about new evidence on FGM safeguarding policies; retweeted EPF tweet on cervical cancer marking World Cancer Day; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on APPG on PDRH briefing meeting with Plan UK on FP2030; retweeted Bekky Ashmore on briefing meeting with APPG on PDRH; retweeted John Joseph tweet of BMJ article on abortion telemedicine; retweeted UN News article on FGM; retweeted Plan International UK tweet on briefing meeting with APPG on PDRH; tweeted about International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet on eradication of FGM and decreased UK funding; retweeted Matt Jackson link to video of Act2EndFGM event; retweeted Theo Clarke tweet about gender equality meeting; retweeted MSI Reproductive Choices tweet on National Condom Week;

retweeted EPF tweet about FP and Valentine's Day; retweeted IDC tweet on Integrated Review; tweeted about EPF's Contraception Atlas Valentine's Day campaign and Guardian article on making contraceptive pills OTC; retweeted EPF tweet on contraception access; tweeted about EPF's Contraception Atlas for Valentine's Day; retweeted CARE Health Equity & Rights tweet of DW New article on embrace of contraception in Africa; retweeted Theo Clarke tweet of IDC tweet about review of aid impact in Ghana; retweeted UNFPA Bangladesh tweet on child marriage; retweeted EPF tweet on eliminating cervical cancer webinar; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet of UNICEF tweet on education; retweeted IDC tweet advertising inquiry on philosophy and culture of aid; retweeted MSI Reproductive Choices tweet on new studies into abortion telemedicine; tweeted NYTimes article on consequences of no contraception access in Venezuela; retweeted Countdown2030Europe resources; retweeted IKWRO tweet on Safeguard Futures End Child Marriage event on 26 February; retweeted APPG SRH tweet of BMJ article on abortion telemedicine; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on donating excess vaccine doses to low income countries; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet of her Independent op-ed on sharing vaccine doses with low-income countries; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on meeting with ActionAid about disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on women and girls in global south; retweeted MSI Reproductive Choices tweet about Esi Asare Prah's evidence for APPG on PDRH hearings; retweeted further MSI Reproductive Choices tweet about Esi Asare Prah's evidence for APPG on PDRH hearings; retweeted Liz Ford tweet of Guardian article on abortion in Malawi; retweeted Ian Mitchell retweet of Joseph Holden tweet of overview of UK aid cuts; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet on first session of APPG on PDRH oral hearings; retweeted Baroness Sugg's announcement of her appointment as UK Champion for Global Partnership for Education; retweeted Helen Grant MP update on role as UK's Special Envoy for Girls' Education; retweeted Baroness Hussein-Ece tweet on second session of APPG on PDRH oral hearings; retweeted Robert Jenkins' tweet about the Population Council's publication of its Girls' Education Roadmap; retweeted Virendra Sharma tweet on ending child marriage; tweeted for SheDecides Day; retweeted EPF tweet about SheDecides Day; retweeted Sarah Champion tweet about Virendra Sharma's question about women and girls in Pakistan during IDC inquiry; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet for SheDecides Day; tweeted Bond article on FCO-DFID merger; retweeted International Campaign for Safe Abortion tweet about Poland abortion protests on International Women's Day; retweeted EPF tweet for International HPV Awareness Day; retweeted Anne-Marie Trevelyan tweet about Chatham House gender/climate event on International Women's Day; retweeted Baroness Sugg retweet of CARE International UK tweet about the March4Women; retweeted Alok Sharma tweet about Chatham House gender/climate event on International Women's Day; retweeted Baroness Sugg tweet of Evening Standard article on aid cuts; retweeted APPG SRH tweet on Government's call for evidence to inform a new Women's Health Strategy; retweeted World Vision EU tweet about impact of Covid-19 on girls' education; retweeted Baroness Hussein-Ece on final oral evidence session for APPG on PDRH parliamentary hearings; retweeted Baroness Sugg's article for Telegraph Global Health Security on gendered poverty gap; retweeted WHO tweet on VAWG; retweeted Baroness Sugg HoL video on the Strategic Vision for Gender Equality; tweeted article on post-abortion care in Africa; retweeted SRHM Journal article on applications of the high impact practices in FP during Covid-19; retweeted UNFPA tweet of Telegraph article on unintended pregnancies; retweeted newest EPF newsletter; retweeted Wendy Morton MP tweet on SRHR barriers to girls' education; tweeted about Baroness Hussein-Ece and WUNRN event and video of earlier webinar; retweeted WUNRN Europe thanks to webinar speakers; tweeted solidarity with Polish women photos and video of Baroness Sugg asking about Poland during IWD HoL debate, Retweeted Baroness Sugg Twitter thread of Devex article on closure of WISH programme; retweeted Baroness Jenkin of Kennington retweet on closure of WISH programme; retweeted Pauline Latham article in Politics Home criticising the aid cuts; retweeted WUNRN tweet advertising their webinar on backlash against women's rights during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Parliamentary Statements, Legislation, Debates, EDMs and Parliamentary Questions

This was a year of momentous change in relation to UK aid, in which the UK Government continued their vocal, if not financial, support for international FP and SRHR. The three key events were the Covid-19 pandemic, the DFID-FCO merger, and the decision to renege on the commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on overseas aid. The Covid-19 pandemic took hold in the UK in March 2020, leading to the first national lockdown, causing the UK economy to contract, disrupting development programmes, cancelling planned events in ID and SRHR, and giving rise to sharp increases in violence against women and girls across the world.

In June 2020, the Prime Minister announced that DFID would be merged with the FCO to create the FCDO, headed by the Foreign Secretary. The decision to merge the departments was made prior to completion of the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy and without consulting NGOs and civil society groups. The merger was completed in September 2020 and, following pressure in Parliament, the IDC and the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) were retained to provide scrutiny of ODA spending.

Due to the contraction of the UK economy and resulting decrease in GNI, there was less money available for ODA than previous years. However, on top of the decrease due to the economic downturn, the Government took the decision in November 2020 to cut the amount spent on ODA from 0.7% to 0.5% of GNI, thereby breaking a Conservative Party manifesto commitment and, possibly, the law as set out in the International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015. The decision, which happened without wide consultation, resulted in swingeing cuts to development programmes, including SRHR programmes, like WISH and the UNFPA Supplies Partnership. The Government said that, 'in the overarching pursuit of poverty reduction', their priorities were now: climate and biodiversity; Covid and global health security; girls' education; science and research; defending open societies and resolving conflict; humanitarian assistance; and promoting trade'. While girls' education remains a top priority, little has been heard about the Government's previous priority of ending preventable deaths.

Other issues also occupied members: the Domestic Abuse Bill was finally passed, Parliament continued the fight to get abortion services commissioned in NI, and telemedicine abortion was approved for home in England use during the pandemic. APPG on PDRH members engaged with these issues and in parliamentary activities in relation to ending GBV, defending reproductive health services and abortion rights, and supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) via amendments to Bills, debates, Early Day Motions (EDMs) and PQs. Below you will find relevant statements, legislation, debates, EDMs and PQs. Full information and transcripts are available on the APPG on PDRH's website appg-pdrh.uk. Please note that not all activities below are attributed to the APPG on PDRH.

House of Commons

Oral Ministerial Statements

Please find relevant text of oral ministerial statements enclosed at Appendix 24

Global Britain, 16th June 2020

In the Prime Minister's statement about the ambitions of a global Britain and the lessons of the Covid-19 pandemic, he announced that he would be merging DFID with the FCO to create the FCDO. The Prime Minister said that 'One cardinal lesson of the pandemic is that distinctions between diplomacy and overseas development are artificial and outdated' and that 'It makes no sense to ask whether it amounts to aid or foreign policy: they are one and the same endeavour, designed to achieve the same goals, which are right in themselves and serve our national interest.' He also stressed the importance of 'achiev[ing] the maximum value for every pound that we spend' in relation to foreign policy and ID and questioned the logic behind which countries received aid. The merger of DFID with FCO would 'united our aid with our diplomacy and bring them together in our international effort' and 'bring more

coherence to our international presence'. APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, criticised the merger, arguing that the move would get rid of the UK's soft power and international standing, and pointed out that there is a very real difference between aid and foreign policy, the one being humanitarian and the other political. She also asked about transparency at the new department. APPG on PDRH member Kirsty Blackman asked whether the priority of the new department would be to help the most vulnerable, impoverished people in the world or increase the UK's voice abroad. APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson asked the Prime Minister if sorting out our domestic problems wouldn't be a better use of our 'megawattage'.

Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review, 9th July 2020

The Minister for Patient Safety, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Nadine Dorries, made a statement about the independent medicines and medical devices review carried out by Baroness Cumberlege. It focused on three areas. The statement related to Primodos, a hormone-based pregnancy test drug that is claimed to have led to miscarriages and birth defects during the 1960s and '70s, which was prescribed to more than 1.5 million women before it was withdrawn from use in 1978, to sodium valproate, an anti-epilepsy drug that has been definitively linked to birth defects and learning disabilities in children when taken during pregnancy, and to vaginal mesh implants used in the treatment of pelvic organ prolapse and stress urinary incontinence, which have been linked to crippling, life-changing side-effects. The Minister apologised to affected women and their families on behalf the health and care sector and vowed to establish a quicker and more compassionate way to address issues of patient harm. APPG on PDRH member Hannah Bardell called on the Government to commit to fully implementing the recommendations of the review. APPG on PDRH member Yasmin Qureshi asked the Minister for assurance that the review would be a turning point for families affected by Primodos.

Covid-19: Disparate Impact, 22nd October 2020

The Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch, made a statement in which she updated the HoC on work done to address the findings of the report, 'Covid-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes', in her first quarterly report to the Prime Minister. That report focused on the impact of Covid-19 on ethnic minority people and outlined a package of measures to study and address disparities based on ethnicity. Stella Creasy asked the Minister for an update on what was being done to protect Black pregnant women from the risks of Covid-19 and whether there would be an investigation into that specific issue. In response, the Minister outlined the national maternity safety champion and chief midwifery officer for England's four-point plan for maternity services in England.

Spending Review 2020 and OBR Forecast, 25th November 2020

In his statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, announced that the UK would cut spending on overseas aid from 0.7% to 0.5% of GNI in 2021. The Office for Budget Responsibility forecasted that the UK economy would contract by 11.3% in 2020, causing lasting damage. The economic impact of coronavirus and the action taken in response meant there had been a significant increase in the UK's borrowing and debt, a situation the Chancellor claimed would be unsustainable over the medium term. As a result, the UK 'need[ed] to prioritise our limited resources on jobs and public services' but would 'return to

0.7% when the fiscal situation allows'. In response, APPG on PDRH member Alison Thewliss said that 'Reneging on the 0.7% aid commitment while the world struggles with a covid pandemic is just cruel.' APPG on PDRH member Sir Peter Bottomley criticised the Government for going back on their commitment to 0.7%, particularly as the amount of aid would have dropped automatically as a result of the decrease in GNI. APPG on PDRH member Caroline Lucas called for a new economic rule, a 'net zero test', against which to assess all spending and fiscal measures. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Pauline Latham outlined some of the effects cutting the aid budget would have, particularly on girls and women in the developing world, and would not support the statement. APPG on PDRH member Harriett Baldwin felt personally 'ashamed that the only manifesto pledge we are breaking today is our promise to the world's poorest'.

Official Development Assistance, 26th November 2020

The Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, made a statement on the reduction of overseas aid from 0.7% to 0.5% of GNI in 2021. The Foreign Secretary assured the House that this was a temporary measure and that the UK would return to 0.7% when the fiscal situation allowed, but he also said that the Government would be bringing forward legislation in due course. He claimed that the UK would retain its position as a leader in the global fight against poverty and outlined the Government's new integrated approach to foreign policy and development, which would drive greater impact from ODA in 2021. The Government would prioritise measures to: tackle climate change; tackle the Covid-19 pandemic; promote girls' education; resolve conflicts, alleviate humanitarian crises, defend open societies, and promote trade and investment; and strengthen accountability and value for money. Given the contraction in the UK economy, APPG on PDRH member Sir Peter Bottomley asked the Foreign Secretary how much ODA would have decreased if the Government had kept 0.7% and if the proposed legislation would be designed to make sure the UK returns to 0.7% or would make it possible to avoid coming back to it for a long time. APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, asked the Foreign Secretary to present an impact assessment of the cuts and agree to support the IDC's change of remit so that it would scrutinise all ODA. APPG on PDRH member Theo Clarke expressed concern about the move away from the commitment to 0.7% and pressed the Foreign Secretary over the meaning of 'when the fiscal situation allows' and asked him to set out the steps the Government would take to return the UK to the 0.7% target. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Pauline Latham cited the recommendation of the IDC that there should be a single sign-off by the FCDO on all UK ODA spend, regardless of which department spends it, and asked who in the FCDO would ultimately be responsible for that. APPG on PDRH member Harriett Baldwin asked for assurances that there would be no further cuts to programming in South Sudan. APPG on PDRH member Craig Whittaker agreed with the short-term reduction in overseas aid, he asked the Foreign Secretary if he agreed that the UK should continue to be a major donor in addressing the worst humanitarian crises and natural disasters throughout the world.

Domestic Abuse and Hidden Harms during Lockdown, 14th January 2021

The PUSS for the Home Department, Victoria Atkins, made a statement on domestic abuse during lockdown in which she announced the introduction of a new codeword scheme for victims of domestic abuse called 'Ask for ANI' at thousands of pharmacies across the UK. The Minister outlined other steps taken by the Government to ensure victims and those at risk could access advice and support. These included prioritisation by the courts of civil

protection orders relating to forced marriage and FGM. The Government would also be publishing their new Tackling Violence against Women and Girls strategy in 2021 in an effort to better target perpetrators and support victims.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Aid Beneficiaries, 14th January 2021

APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, delivered a Select Committee statement, 'Progress on tackling the sexual exploitation and abuse of aid beneficiaries'. The IDC found that sexual exploitation and abuse of beneficiaries was endemic in the aid sector and still happening with impunity and that the UK Government continued to fund organisations involved in sexual abuse scandals. Sarah Champion outlined steps that had been taken and further work which needed to be done. To prevent abuse, the Committee recommended empowering local communities, especially women's groups, to have a greater say in the design and delivery of aid, and embed safeguarding from the start. APPG on PDRH member Dr Dan Poulter called on the Government to ensure that the aid cuts would not lead to aid delivery partners and contractors reducing operational standards which would leave women and girls at increased risk and to make effective provision for safeguarding part of the tendering process. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Pauline Latham called on the FCDO to cut off funding to organisations and publicise what they are doing and why so that aid organisations know that nobody is above the law.

Counter-Daesh Update, 4th March 2021

The Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, updated the House on the UK's ongoing campaign to counter Daesh. Lisa Nandy questioned the Foreign Secretary about the £500 million cut to the conflict, stability and security fund, and asked for reassurance that the FCDO would rule out cutting aid to Iraq and Syria. Other MPs questioned the wisdom of cutting aid amid the vast need for humanitarian aid in the region and noted the need to invest in education, health, economic and civil institutions in the Middle East.

Women's Health Strategy, 8th March 2021

The Minister for Patient Safety, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health, Nadine Dorries, announced that the Government was launching a national women's health strategy for England which would set a new agenda to improve the health and wellbeing of women across England. The Government were calling for evidence to examine women's experiences of the whole health and care system, including mental health, disabilities and healthy ageing, as well as female-specific issues such as gynaecological conditions, pregnancy and post-natal support, and menopause. APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson noted the reduction in women's access to contraception and the increase in abortion rates and pressed the Minister to explain how the new women's health strategy would run alongside the separate sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and HIV strategy. The Minister explained that the two strategies would remain separate but that officials would work together to ensure coherence. APPG on PDRH member Liz Saville Roberts asked the Minister about how female-specific health conditions affect women's workplace participation. APPG on PDRH member Craig Whittaker asked the Minister to confirm that the Government was taking steps to ensure that a range of voices from different communities would be consulted on the strategy so that it would lead to better outcomes for women and girls from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Policing and Prevention of Violence against Women, 15th March 2021

In the aftermath of Sarah Everard's murder and the police's heavy-handed break-up of the vigil on Clapham Common, Home Secretary, Priti Patel, made a statement on policing and the prevention of violence against women. The Home Secretary outlined measures taken to protect women and girls, including passage of the Domestic Abuse Act and new preventative tools and powers to tackle stalking, FGM and up-skirting. A new strategy on tackling violence against women and girls would be brought forward later in 2021. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Pauline Latham noted that a lot of rape happens within marriage and asked the Home Secretary to look into how it might stop girls under the age of 18 from marrying. APPG on PDRH member Liz Saville Roberts asked about the establishment of a properly funded and staffed domestic abuse register in Wales. APPG on PDRH member Alison Thewliss asked what the Home Secretary was going to do to change the toxic culture we have that diminishes and minimises women's experience, and to challenge the whole spectrum of men's behaviour towards women. APPG on PDRH member Catherine West noted that homicide rates among women have increased and asked what urgent action the Home Secretary would take to show the Government takes violence against women and girls seriously.

Integrated Review, 16th March 2021

On the occasion of its publication, the Prime Minister made a statement on the Government's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy. The statement focused on security, defence and trade and did not mention ID. APPG on PDRH member Sir Peter Bottomley criticised the reduction of the 0.7% commitment to aid and asked when Parliament and delivery partners would find out about their funding. APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, asked when the Government plan to publish their development strategy, and if they would consult non-governmental organisations, the global south, Parliament and the IDC on that review. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Pauline Latham was saddened to hear that 'we will be balancing the books on the backs of the poor' and asked the Prime Minister if Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) would be funded.

New Plan for Immigration, 24th March 2021

Following the Home Secretary Priti Patel's statement on a new plan for immigration, Richard Fuller asked whether the new plan would provide a fairer, more affective assessment of cases involving women asylum seekers who are at risk of being targeted as victims of GBV, forced marriage or rape as an instrument of war. The Home Secretary assured him that the new plan covers women who have been mistreated in conflict zones, who have been trafficked, or are victims of crimes or modern-day slavery.

Written Ministerial Statements

Please find relevant text of written ministerial statements enclosed at Appendix 25

Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos and Gametes) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020, 3rd June 2020

The Minister of State (MoS) for Care, Helen Whately, announced that the Government would be laying a Statutory Instrument (SI) which would extend the statutory storage period for embryos and gametes from 10 to 12 years so as to allow patients whose fertility treatments had been suspended or delayed by the pandemic to make new arrangements. The new SI would allow anyone who currently has frozen their eggs, sperm and embryos to extend their storage for an additional two years, provided there is appropriate consent, and would extend the time before which people whose infertility is caused by medical conditions would have to provide supporting medical evidence. The Government would be making a separate set of decisions on whether to change the primary legislation limiting the storage period to 10 years after analysing consultation responses.

Prosperity Fund Annual Report 2019/2020, 5th November 2020

The Paymaster General, Penny Mordaunt, announced the publication of the Prosperity Fund's fourth Annual Report for the Financial Year 2019/20. The Prosperity Fund aims to promote economic growth and reduce poverty in developing countries and to contribute towards achieving the UN SDGs. The Fund has responded to increased demand from developing countries by building deeper trade, investment partnerships, and economic relations with other countries. 'The publication of the report reflects the Government's continuing commitment to transparency in the delivery of Official Development Assistance.'

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's Review of the Independent Commission for Aid Impact, 16th December 2020

The Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, announced the publication and outcome of a review into the role of the ICAI in delivering maximum impact for UK aid spending. The review concluded that ICAI provides strong external scrutiny of UK ODA and offers excellent support to Parliament in its role in holding the Government to account and should continue. The review made a number of recommendations to increase ICAI's impact on ODA spending, including focusing its remit to support Government learning as well as independent evaluation and scrutiny, and ensuring reviews contribute to a wider body of best practice.

Update on the Government's Response for the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review, 11th January 2021

Minister for Patient Safety, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health, Nadine Dorries, made a statement on the Government's response to the Report of the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review (also called 'the Cumberlege Review') into Primodos, sodium valproate and pelvic mesh. The overriding question investigated by the Review was how the health and care system listens and responds to patient concerns raised by patients, and women in particular. The Minister went through the recommendations made by the Review in turn and noted how the Government had – and had not – responded to each.

Development Update, 26th January 2021

The Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, made a statement following completion of the cross-government review of how ODA would be allocated against the Government's priorities for 2021. The review agreed ODA allocations for all government departments. 'In the overarching pursuit of poverty reduction', the priorities were: climate and biodiversity; Covid and global health security; girls' education; science and research; defending open societies and resolving conflict; humanitarian assistance; and promoting trade. The Foreign Secretary confirmed that the reduction to 0.5% of GNI on ODA was a temporary measure and that the UK would return to 0.7% 'when the fiscal situation allows', and that he would be leading a cross-departmental review on a new development strategy to ensure close alignment with the objectives to be set out in the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy.

Conflict, Stability and Security Fund Allocations 2020/21, 28th January 2021

Upon publication of the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund's (CSSF) Annual Report for 2019/20, the Paymaster General, Penny Mordaunt, updated the House on the progress of the CSSF for the financial year 2019/20, and announced the initial regional and thematic allocations for the 2020/21 financial year. The CSSF is a cross-government fund which uses both ODA and non-ODA resources to deliver against both national security and UK aid objectives, through security, defence, peacekeeping, peace-building and stability activity. In 2019/20, the CSSF spent £1,234.3 million against a cross-government allocation of £1,266.2 million (97.5%). The report outlines the impact that the CSSF had, and demonstrates how the Fund contributed to the delivery of national security and UK aid objectives.

British Council Annual Report and Accounts 2019-20, 3rd March 2021

The Minister for Asia, Nigel Adams, announced the publication of the British Council's Annual Report and Accounts for the 2019-20 financial year. The British Council builds connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. As the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities, it contributes to projecting British values overseas and generating soft power for the UK in return. In 2019-20, the British Council reached 983 million people, which included 76 million direct interactions, through a presence in over 100 countries. The Council received £187 million grant-in-aid, including £161 million ODA, from the FCO in 2019/20.

The Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2021, 23rd March 2021

Due to the continuing failure to commission abortion services in NI, the SoS for NI, Brandon Lewis, announced that the Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2021 would now be laid before Parliament. The Regulations had been made because women and girls in NI were still unable to access high-quality abortion and post-abortion care in NI. The Regulations had been made to ensure, as required by the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2019, that all of the recommendations in paragraphs 85 and 86 of the 2018 UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) report were implemented in NI. The Regulations give the SoS a power to direct NI Ministers and departments or relevant agencies to implement all of the recommendations in paragraphs 85 and 86 of the CEDAW

report, consistent with the conditions set out in the Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No.2) Regulations 2020.

Machinery of Government – Change of Ministerial Accountability for the Prosperity Fund, 25th March 2021

The Paymaster General, Penny Mordaunt, announced that the cross-government Prosperity Fund arrangement would end on 31st March and prosperity programming would move to the FCDO as part of a Machinery of Government transfer on 1st April 2021. The transfer would help drive strategic coherence across ODA programmes and allow the Foreign Secretary to make decisions on aid to implement the UK Government's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy.

Legislation

Please find relevant text of legislation proceedings enclosed at Appendix 26

Domestic Abuse Bill [Second Reading], 28th April 2020

The Lord Chancellor and Justice Secretary, Robert Buckland, moved that the bill be read a second time and opened the debate by noting the impact of the pandemic on victims of domestic abuse, the majority of whom are women, and their families and outlining some of the steps taken by the Government in response. The aims of the bill were: first, to raise awareness of domestic abuse; secondly, to better protect and support victims and their children; thirdly, to transform the response to the criminal, civil and family justice systems; and, fourthly, to improve performance across all national and local agencies. APPG on PDRH member Harriet Harman spoke about the need to outlaw the 'rough sex' defence. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Pauline Latham spoke about the need to raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 and the issue of women and girls in ethnic communities, who are often overlooked by Government services for linguistic or cultural reasons. APPG on PDRH member Liz Saville Roberts raised three issues: the domestic abuse commissioner and how her role is set to complement devolved initiatives; population-equivalent funding for support and accommodation for victims of domestic abuse in Wales; and the domestic violence disclosure scheme versus a domestic abuse register for repeat perpetrators.

Abortion (Cleft Lip, Cleft Palate and Clubfoot) Bill, 3rd June 2020

Fiona Bruce introduced this PMB, which would exclude cleft palate, cleft lip, cleft palate with cleft lip, and clubfoot, from qualifying as physical abnormalities for the purposes of section 1 of the Abortion Act 1967. Fiona Bruce was supported by MPs Sir David Amess, Scott Benton, Bob Blackman, Dr Lisa Cameron, Rosie Cooper, Chris Green, Sir John Hayes, Tom Hunt, Sir Edward Leigh, Sir Desmond Swayne and Martin Vickers. The bill was scheduled to have a Second Reading on 12th March 2021, but this did not happen before the end of the parliamentary session in April 2021.

Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020, 8th June 2020

The MoS, NI Office, Mr Robin Walker, opened the debate on the Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 in Committee. The Government had previously made the Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020, which came into force on 31st March 2020, to set out the new legal framework for the provision of abortion services in NI. Those regulations were required to be debated by 17th May 2020 to remain in force as law, but the Covid-19 pandemic impacted on parliamentary processes. As a result, the Government took the decision to remake the regulations to give Parliament an additional 28 days to consider and scrutinise them properly. This approach ensured that the law on abortion in NI continued to apply, with no risk of a gap or legal uncertainty, and that services in NI could continue on the same legal basis as they had started operating within the new legal parameters. This statutory instrument, the Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020, came into force on 14th May 2020, to comply with the duty to make regulations to provide for lawful access to abortion services. There was a spirited debate during which APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson promoted a role for the royal colleges in providing training and support to their members to understand the new abortion framework in NI, questioned what would happen if future regulations were not CEDAW compliant, pressed Sir John Hayes over inaccurate claims about at home medical abortion, and argued that the Abortion Act 1967 was ripe for reform. On division, the vote was 15 Ayes and two Noes.

Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill [Lords], 17th June 2020

During the Committee Stage of the Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill, Sir Edward Leigh argued that making divorce easier to obtain was 'part of a liberal point of view that getting rid of any sort of moral compass in society and any pain means that society will suddenly become painless' and, further, that it would lead to abortion on demand 'all the way through'. Following the debate, Jim Shannon raised a point of order regarding the vote on the Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020. He noted that the votes were Ayes 253, Noes 136, with 261 abstentions. He believed that many members abstained because they felt the NI Assembly should have been the body that looked at this. He argued that if the Noes (those who voted against the abortion legislation) were added to the abstentions, it would come to 397 out of 650. Therefore, he wondered if the House had expressed its true wishes in relation to this legislation. The Deputy Speaker, Nigel Evans, confirmed that the short answer to that was yes: Parliament could only count the votes of those who actually voted; it was not possible to know what lay behind those who abstained.

Demonstrations (Abortion Clinics) Bill, 24th June 2020

Dr Rupa Huq introduced this PMB as a motion under the Ten Minute Rule, to bring in buffer zones around clinics providing abortion services. Dr Rupa Huq argued that the bill was not about the rights and wrongs of abortion, but 'about the rights of vulnerable women seeking access to healthcare in safety, anonymity and dignity, without the accompanying paraphernalia designed to induce guilt, such as grossly inaccurate quasi-medical leaflets or being filmed and livestreamed entering and leaving the clinic, which no other medical procedure would attract. Access to health services should be a fundamental human right enjoyed by all without interference.' Fiona Bruce spoke against the bill, but at the division the vote was 213 Ayes and 47 Noes. The bill did not get a Second Reading before the end of the parliamentary session in April 2021.

Domestic Abuse Bill [Report Stage], 6th July 2020

During the Report Stage of the Domestic Abuse Bill, the Government and MPs introduced a number of amendments to strengthen and improve the bill, including an amendment on the 'rough sex' defence. APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson described the difficulty that women in abusive relationships can have attending licensed facilities for abortion services and proposed an amendment which would provide women in abusive relationships with the ability to access safe legal abortion care remotely. She noted that under the temporary Covid-limited regulations, women in the first 10 weeks of pregnancy could receive abortion medication at home and asked that the regulations remain in place until a public consultation had taken place and a decision made so that women could continue to access telemedicine and reproductive healthcare services in the meantime. The proposed amendment would require doctors to make an assessment on the telephone as to whether the woman was a victim of abuse. Some MPs objected to the amendment on the basis of their opposition to abortion in principle, while other MPs raised doubts about the drafting of the clause, the telephone element of the procedure, and the scope for abusive partners to coerce abortions. On the basis that the Government agreed to undertake a public consultation on whether to make permanent the current Covid-19 measure allowing for home use of early medical abortion pills up to 10 weeks' gestation for all eligible women and to keep in place the current regulations until the consultation concluded, Dame Diana Johnson agreed not to press her amendment to a vote.

In discussion of other amendments, APPG on PDRH member Liz Saville Roberts urged the Government to guarantee that all victims of domestic abuse would be treated equally and afforded the same support regardless of their immigration status. APPG on PDRH member Caroline Lucas addressed a survivor's rights to press anonymity. APPG on PDRH member Catherine West spoke in support of the new framework for the domestic abuse commissioner, the two new civil protection orders, the secure lifetime tenancy in England housing authorities, making misogyny a hate crime, and protecting women with insecure immigration status.

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age), 6th October 2020

APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Pauline Latham introduced this PMB as a motion under the Ten Minute Rule, to raise the minimum age of marriage or civil partnership to 18. In her speech, Pauline Latham outlined some of the problems with child marriage, e.g. leaving education early, the scope for domestic abuse or coercion, and the need for the UK to set an example internationally. The bill was supported by MPs Sarah Champion, Sir Graham Brady, Virendra Sharma, Henry Smith, Philip Davies, Sir Roger Gale, Dr Dan Poulter, Sheryll Murray, Heather Wheeler, Nusrat Ghani and Fiona Bruce. The bill did not get a Second Reading before the end of the parliamentary session in April 2021.

Virginity Testing (Prohibition) Bill, 15th December 2020

Richard Holden introduced this PMB as a motion under the Ten Minute Rule, to prohibit virginity testing procedures and make provision for education. Richard Holden described virginity tests as fraudulent and as an affront to women, who can suffer immediate and long-term consequences that are detrimental to their physical, psychological and social wellbeing. According to the WHO, 'It further reinforces socio-cultural norms that perpetuate women's inequality, including stereotyped views of female morality and sexuality, and serves to

exercise control over women and girls. Virginity testing violates well-established human rights...such as the right to be protected from discrimination based on sex.’ He argued that the practice was also linked to forced marriages and so-called honour killings. The Bill was supported by MPs Maria Miller, Nusrat Ghani, Meg Hillier, Sarah Champion, Sara Britcliffe, Nicola Richards, Fay Jones, Siobhan Baillie, Joy Morrissey, Dehenna Davison and Jeremy Hunt. The bill did not get a Second Reading before the end of the parliamentary session in April 2021.

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill [Second Reading, 1st Allocated Day], 15th March 2021

In the shadow of the murder of Sarah Everard and the Metropolitan Police’s aggressive break-up of the peaceful vigil in Clapham Common, MPs debated aspects of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. Several MPs raised the Government’s poor record on rape prosecutions and convictions, and trial waiting times. MPs also took issue with the fact the bill largely omitted mention of women and girls and, they argued, failed to address violence against them. However, the bill had been amended to include a new offence of non-fatal strangulation and the criminalisation of threats to disclose intimate images. APPG on PDRH member Harriet Harman proposed amendments which would make harassment of women on the street, e.g. ‘kerb crawling’, an offence and would prevent the use of a woman’s previous sexual history in court. APPG on PDRH member Sarah Champion praised aspects of the bill but called out omissions around violence against women and children. She also argued that Parliament must consider a definition in terms of making misogyny a hate crime.

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill [Second Reading, 2nd Allocated Day], 16th March 2021

Debate on the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill continued for a second day. Citing harassment of women on the street, Dr Rupa Huq called for buffer zones around clinics providing abortion services. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Pauline Latham argued that the bill was an opportunity to fix oversights in the law regarding child safeguarding by including a new clause criminalising child marriage and raising the minimum age of marriage to 18. APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson argued that the bill needed to do more to tackle violence against women and girls and called for amendments to outlaw ‘sex for rent’ and prostitution, to take action on websites which profit from exposing children to violent and misogynistic pornography, and do more by way of early intervention to prevent violence against women (VAW). APPG on PDRH member Catherine West argued that the bill did not do enough for women and called for a victims’ bill and a survivors’ support plan for victims of rape. The bill was carried over from the 2019-21 parliamentary session.

Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill [Second Reading], 23rd March 2021

During the Second Reading of the Advanced Research and Invention Agency Bill, MPs debated the effect that cuts to ODA would have on science funding and research.

Debates

Please find relevant text of debates enclosed at Appendix 27

Proceedings during the Pandemic and Hybrid Scrutiny Proceedings, 21st April 2020

During a debate on how parliamentary proceedings would operate during the Covid-19 pandemic, members of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) sought assurances from the Leader of the HoC that nothing to do with the extension of abortion to NI would be brought to the House during this period. The Leader of the House, Jacob Rees-Mogg, explained that the House was only discussing business for the following week and that only business that did not require a division would be brought forward.

Remote Voting, 22nd April 2020

During a debate on the use of remote voting during the Covid-19 pandemic, Jim Shannon expressed concerns about MPs' ability to vote. He was particularly concerned that legislation on abortion would come forward and he sought assurance that, as part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and NI, 'we in Northern Ireland will be assured of our vote and that there will not be a technical reason why we cannot vote'. The Leader of the HoC, Jacob Rees-Mogg, assured MPs that no system would be adopted unless every member could vote.

Covid-19, 11th May 2020

During a general debate on Covid-19, APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, made a speech about the impact of the pandemic in developing countries. She outlined some of the findings from the IDC's inquiry, including: the impossibility of preventing the spread of coronavirus, e.g. in places like Cox's Bazar; the inadequacy of healthcare systems in conflict-afflicted regions, like Syria and Yemen, and under-resourced countries like Mali; and the immediate and devastating economic impact which has undone the development work of the last 30 years. In her speech, Sarah Champion mentioned the risk to maternal and neonatal health and disproportionate risk to women and children from domestic violence, child marriage and child sexual exploitation. She urged the Government to allow UK NGOs more flexibility in how they use their existing funds.

Proceedings during the Pandemic, 2nd June 2020

During a debate on how parliamentary proceedings would operate during the Covid-19 pandemic, Jim Shannon asked the Leader of the HoC to outline his intention with regard to ensuring that minority parties such as the DUP would be able to speak directly from their constituency through the present system in the HoC on matters including the upcoming debate on abortion. The Leader, Jacob Rees-Mogg, answered that that was not a point for the day's debate, but that he accepted the importance of representation on Committees for minority parties.

International Development, 18th June 2020

MPs debated five statutory instruments which would permit the UK Government to make financial contributions to the African Development Bank, the African Development Fund (ADF), and the World Bank International Development Association. The PUSS for ID, James Duddridge, described the African Development Bank as 'a key regional partner for the UK in delivering development, prosperity and our security objectives in Africa', and outlined some

of its work. The World Bank and the International Development Association provide grant finance, low interest rates and technical assistance to the world's 76th poorest countries. The Shadow SoS for ID, Stephen Doughty, pressed the Minister and his Department to continue to negotiate with the African Development Bank and ADF to ensure that funds go to women-led and women-and-girl-directed programmes. In response to questions relating to the recent announcement of the FCO-DFID merger, the PUSS assured MPs that the merger was a genuine merger and not a hostile takeover and that ODA would be well used across departments.

Official Development Assistance, 9th July 2020

APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, opened an estimates debate on ODA. She decried the FCO-DFID merger, and described the benefits and purpose of aid. She also described the questionable track record of non-DFID ODA, which was less likely to be targeted towards poverty reduction, and called for high standards of transparency and scrutiny to continue. In her speech, Sarah Champion spoke on behalf of APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Pauline Latham, who urged the Government to embed gender equality into the new department, noting that a commitment to girls' education is meaningless unless child marriage, FGM, GBV and cultural stereotypes are challenged. APPG on PDRH member Harriett Baldwin was open-minded about the merger, but sought three reassurances from the Minister: first, that there would still be a strong voice at Cabinet for the very poorest in the world; secondly, that the vast majority of the 0.7% would continue to be spent in the very poorest and most conflict-affected parts of the world; and thirdly, that the Government would continue to emphasise girls' education in their funding as much as they had previously. APPG on PDRH member Ruth Cadbury spoke passionately against the merger. In closing, the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa, James Cleverly, sought to reassure the House about the merger and repeated – multiple times – that the Government remained committed to 0.7% of GNI on ODA.

Detention of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, 9th September 2020

Shabana Mahmoud opened an adjournment debate on the detention of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, in which she cited one witness' testimony of 'participating in at least 500 to 600 operations on Uighur women including forced contraception, forced abortion, forced sterilisation and forced removal of wombs. She told me that on at least one occasion a baby was still moving when it was discarded into the rubbish'. APPG on PDRH member Nusrat Ghani noted that China's power within the UN meant that it was up to the UK Foreign Office to hold a tribunal on genocide. The Minister for Asia, Nigel Adams, confirmed that the Government had seen deeply troubling allegations of forced birth control measures and sterilisation against Uyghur women in Xinjiang. He confirmed that the issue of Magnitsky-style sanctions was under review, but the Government's position was one of respecting China and expecting it to live up to its international obligations.

Yemen, 24th September 2020

Tim Loughton opened a debate on Yemen, a country in which 24 million of its population of 30 million people rely wholly or partly on aid. Tim Loughton outlined the military and political situation before describing the dire humanitarian conditions. APPG on PDRH member Alison Thewliss cautioned against arms sale to the region, and urged the Minister to ensure that as

many women's organisations as possible were included in peace negotiations. In his closing, the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa, James Cleverly, highlighted the UK's track record of aid to Yemen and argued that the situation there demonstrates 'why it is so important that our aid effort goes hand in hand with our diplomatic effort'.

China's Policy on its Uyghur Population, 12th October 2020

Chris Evans opened this Westminster Hall debate on e-petition 300146 relating to China's policy on its Uyghur population. The petition asked that the Government impose sanctions on China over its treatment of Uyghur Muslims, who were reported to be subject to mass detention, surveillance, restriction of religious and cultural identities, as well as other gross human rights abuses, including measures intended to prevent births. Birth suppression measures had resulted in a fall in population growth rates of 84% in the two largest Uyghur prefectures between 2015 and 2018. The Minister for Asia, Nigel Adams, confirmed that the Government was keeping the issue of Magnitsky-style sanctions under review.

Sudan, 15th October 2020

APPG on PDRH member Harriett Baldwin opened a Westminster Hall debate on the June 2019 massacres of protestors in Sudan and the UK's support for Sudan's democratic transition. In her speech, Harriett Baldwin welcomed the criminalisation of FGM in Sudan, which was echoed by the PUSS for the FCDO, James Duddridge, who added 'A number of issues around women's rights that seem small to us are actually massive in that type of arena'.

Down Syndrome Awareness Month, 22nd October 2020

Dr Lisa Cameron, Chair of the APPG on Disability, opened an adjournment debate on Down Syndrome Awareness Month, the theme of which was 'what holds me back'. During the debate, Jim Strangford, expressed concern that the number of babies born with Down's syndrome had dropped 30% in NHS hospitals following the introduction of non-invasive pre-natal tests and about the possibility that 100% of Down's syndrome babies may be aborted. Rachael Maskell urged the Minister for Care, Helen Whately, to look again at the conversations that are had with parents who are diagnosed with Down's syndrome in pregnancy. The Minister responded that, 'It is clearly a very difficult and sensitive topic, but it is absolutely the case that if, during pregnancy, any abnormality is detected or suspected there should at no stage be any bias towards abortion... I want to make that absolutely clear. It must be the case that all health and care staff involved in the care of a woman or a couple who might be considering the termination of a pregnancy must adopt a non-directive, non-judgmental and supportive approach. That absolutely should be the case throughout our health system. Should anyone experience anything different and find that that is not the case, they should raise it, because women and couples should be supported in a positive way so that they can make the right choice for them.'

Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis: Covid-19, 3rd November 2020

Jeremy Corbyn opened a Westminster Hall debate on the Rohingya humanitarian crisis and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Jeremy Corbyn outlined the history of the Rohingya and the situation they currently face, particularly in Bangladesh, where there have been

reports of sexual abuse, human trafficking, exploitation of children and violence against women within the overcrowded camps. He pressed the Government to provide more funding for education, food and to deal with GBV. APPG on PDRH member Sir Peter Bottomley intervened to express support for the Rohingya, but also those in Jammu and Kashmir, and the Uyghur in China. MPs noted a recent report on the gendered impact of Covid-19 on Rohingya communities, including reports of increases in forced marriages, child marriages, GBV, and violence against female sex workers. SoS for ID, Preet Kaur Gill, said that, 'Trafficking, child marriage and unpaid work that women and girls are forced to take have all increased during the pandemic. Vital services, including sexual and reproductive healthcare, have been cut, with GBV services deemed non-essential and either stopped or reduced at a time when the need for them is acute and growing. Intimate partners perpetrate 81% of gender-based violence in the Rohingya camps and 56% of incidents are physical. As lockdowns have left refugees confined to their homes, women have been afflicted by what the IRC has termed "a shadow pandemic" of gender-based violence.' The Minister for Asia, Nigel Adams, said that GBV was a priority area and that the Government was prioritising the protection and safeguarding of women and girls in their humanitarian response.

Syria: Humanitarian Situation, 3rd November 2020

During a Westminster Hall debate on the humanitarian situation in Syria, Chair of the APPG on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, Anthony Mangnall, made a speech describing and decrying violence against women and girls in Syria. He spoke in support of the 0.7% commitment to overseas aid and argued that a greater proportion of UK aid should be earmarked for tackling violence against women and girls.

Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, 4th November 2020

APPG on PDRH Co-Chair and member of the IDC, Pauline Latham, opened a debate on sexual abuse and exploitation in overseas aid. After describing the problem, Pauline Latham argued that when overseas aid workers and international peacekeepers engage in sexual exploitation and abuse, they undermine the trust of the people they are meant to protect and of the people who support them at home. Three problems had to be addressed to discourage potential abusers from exploiting women and girls and to support those who have been abused: they relate to reporting, investigation and whistleblowing. APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, praised progress on this issue, but called for more far-reaching change, particularly in the culture of aid organisations, including the UN. She outlined steps that the Government should take to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation in their aid programmes. Chair of the APPG on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, Anthony Mangnall, argued that the UK should create a new international body that documents crimes, supports survivors and helps to launch prosecutions, and ringfence 3% of the aid budget to tackle GBV.

International Covid-10 Response: Innovation and Access to Treatment, 5th November 2020

During a debate on the UK Government's role in ensuring innovation and equitable access to treatment within the international Covid-19 response, APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, argued for the necessity of equitable access to coronavirus vaccines and sought assurances from the Government about waiving intellectual property

rights and funding transparency. Patrick Grady intervened multiple times to emphasise the importance of retaining the IDC to scrutinise aid spending in Parliament following the FCO-DFID merger. During her speech, Layla Moran mentioned the importance of maintaining 0.7% of GNI on overseas aid, as the pandemic had had knock-on effects, including reports that 2.5 million girls could be forced into child marriages over the next five years.

Covid-19: Freedom of Religion or Belief, 26th November 2020

During a Westminster Hall debate on the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on freedom of religion or belief, the Shadow Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and ID, Stephen Doughty, bemoaned the Government's decision to break their commitment to 0.7% of GNI on international aid, mentioning in particular the effect it would have on the situation of girls, and quoting Baroness Sugg's comments on the importance of freedom of religion and belief at length. He also mentioned the forced sterilisation of Uyghur women in China. Stephen Doughty pressed the Minister to provide some of the granular detail on which aid programmes would be cut, suspended, changed or altered. The Minister for Asia, Nigel Adams, said that all aid would be focused on seven global challenges where the UK could make the most difference: Covid-19 and global health security; girls' education; science, research and technology; conflict resolution; humanitarian preparedness and response; trade and economic development; and climate change and biodiversity. The Foreign Secretary would decide the allocation of aid to other Departments in line with those objectives. All the projects would be assessed through a new management process, led by the Foreign Secretary with input from Ministers about their geographic and departmental responsibilities.

International Development and Gender-based Violence, 26th November 2020

Chair of the APPG on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, Anthony Mangnall, opened a Westminster Hall debate on ID and GBV. He defined GBV as harmful acts directed towards an individual based on their gender, including child marriage and FGM. He decried the Government's decision to reduce spending on aid and noted that in previous spending rounds, just 0.3% has been spent on ending violence against women and girls. He called on the Government to ringfence 1% of aid funding to ensure long-term funding and commitment to tackling GBV and asked the Government to introduce an international body, to be based here in the UK, to collect and document information on sexual violence in conflict, support survivors and lead international prosecutions against those who commit atrocious crimes, such as sexual violence in conflict. He also argued that 'If we are to succeed in supporting more women into education, we need to address GBV. They are interlocked pieces of the same jigsaw, and success cannot be had in one without the other.'

HIV Commission, 1st December 2020

On World AIDS Day, MPs held an adjournment debate on the launch of the HIV Commission in the UK with the goal of ending new cases of HIV by 2030. One tool for doing so was pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) which prevents HIV transmission and was now available for free on the NHS. Another tool was HIV testing, which needed to be normalised in the system, as it was antenatally, preventing the transmission of HIV to newborns. APPG on PDRH member Alison Thewliss praised the efforts of community groups who worked to promote PrEP in their communities, and called on the Government to make more progress among intravenous drug users, e.g. through the use of supervised drug injection facilities. Stephen Doughty called on

the Government to commit to doing all they could to end HIV and AIDS internationally, including supporting the UN Global Fund.

Global Malnutrition: FCDO Role, 8th December 2020

MPs held a Westminster Hall debate on the FCDO's role in tackling global malnutrition. Opening the debate, David Linden argued that nutrition is central to each of the development priorities set out by the Foreign Secretary. He argued that malnutrition disproportionately affects girls, and it was estimated that malnourished children are 19% less likely to be able to read at the age of eight and 13% less likely to be at the appropriate grade for their age. As a result, the Government could meet their objectives on girls' education without prioritising nutrition. Patricia Gibson noted that, 'Women and girls are most affected by famine, as their traditional roles in developing countries make it so. It is harder for them to survive because they have to care for their families and have to evade sexual violence, if they can, in areas of armed conflict. In some cultures, women eat last and least, and are subject to domestic violence as family access to food comes under greater strain.' Several MPs criticised both the decision to merge the FCO and DFID and to reduce aid from 0.7% of GNI.

Healthcare Support Services: Conception to Age Two, 15th December 2020

MPs held a Westminster Hall debate on the provision of healthcare support services in the period between conception and age two. Andrea Leadsom opened the debate, describing the importance of the first 1,001 days as the most crucial period of human development, where the UK is now in terms of support services, and the difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the APPG on Infant Feeding and Inequalities, Alison Thewliss, spoke about the importance of breastfeeding and breastfeeding support services.

Global Britain, 11th January 2021

The SoS for International Trade, Liz Truss, opened a debate on 'Global Britain', during which she mentioned the importance of countries trading their way out of poverty. Several MPs, including former Prime Minister Theresa May, criticised the Government's decision to reduce aid to 0.5% of GNI, arguing that it made it harder for global Britain to get its message around the world. APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, argued that communities in developing countries should lead and shape their own development, and cited the important work of local women's rights organisations in doing work that is strategic, lasting and cost-effective. She also cited UNFPA estimates that the Covid-19 pandemic would lead to an additional two million cases of FGM and 13 million child marriages. She called on the Government to meet their own commitments on girls' education by addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG), which is a major barrier to girls accessing education. APPG on PDRH member Harriett Baldwin argued that this was a year in which the UK should be increasing its aid budget, not cutting it. APPG on PDRH member Theo Clarke spoke about the importance of healthcare systems and the need to be a leader on global vaccinations. APPG on PDRH member Gareth Thomas wound up for the Opposition.

UN International Day of Education, 28th January 2021

APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the APPG on Global Education, Harriett Baldwin, opened a debate on the UN International Day of Education in which she described the current state of education worldwide, in particular the situation with girls' education. She echoed the words of the Prime Minister that 'the best and biggest thing that we can do for the world, is to make sure that every girl gets 12 years of full-time education'. She disagreed with the reduction to the ODA target and asked the Minister: (1) to reassure the House that the cut to the aid budget would not going to affect the money spent on education for the world's poorest children; (2) whether the UK's contribution to the replenishment of the Global Partnership for Education would be at least as generous and ambitious as before; (3) would as many girls as before be helped to remain in school through projects such as the Girls' Education Challenge; (4) would she consider launching more UK Aid Match projects so that we could all donate more and have it matched by UK aid; and (5) what progress had been made convincing the US and European nations to spend more on global education. APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, made a speech on the SDGs, specifically SDG 4 on global education and SDG 5 on gender equality, during which she noted that the Covid-19 pandemic was a gendered crisis in which girls of secondary school age were far less likely to return than boys when schools reopen. APPG on PDRH member Theo Clarke spoke about the need to provide education to refugees and the importance of the upcoming Global Partnership for Education replenishment summit. APPG on PDRH member Yasmin Qureshi spoke principally about girls' education and issues of gender equality and the risk posed by the aid cuts.

Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, 9th February 2021

On the occasion of its publication, MPs debated the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy. APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, criticised the Government's process with respect to the review, in particular their decision to merge FCO and DFID without consultation and to cut aid spending from 0.7% to 0.5% of GNI, and the difference between the Government's words and deeds when it came to development. Several MPs echoed criticism of the FCO-DFID merger and aid cuts.

Government's Management of the Economy, 23 February 2021

During a debate on the Government's management of the economy, APPG on PDRH member Alison Thewliss argued in favour of increasing universal credit to alleviate child poverty and scrapping the two-child limit, as the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) had found that the policy was driving up the numbers of women opting for an abortion.

Maternal Mental Health, 10th March 2021

Opening a Westminster Hall debate on maternal mental health, Sarah Olney described the psychological challenges presented by being a mother, many of which had been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the deleterious effects poor mental health can have on affected children. Maria Miller cited statistics that, outside of the pandemic, around one in five women experience perinatal mental health problems, which impact not only them but their children and can cost the economy £8 billion a year.

COP26, 10th March 2021

MPs participated in an estimates debate on COP26, during which several criticised the Government's decision to cut aid spending, pointing out that a lot of finance was needed to help developing countries move to green economies and adapt to the impacts of climate change. APPG on PDRH member Caroline Lucas pointed out that the entirety of the UK's climate finance commitment came from the aid budget, which was being cut from 0.7% to 0.5% of GNI, despite the fact that climate finance was supposed to be new, additional finance, not taken from ODA money that developing countries were set to receive anyway. She called on the Government to reverse the cut to the aid budget as an immediate step and ensure that the climate finance would be genuinely new and additional.

International Women's Day, 11th March 2021

Maria Miller opened the annual International Women's Day debate, during which she touched on violence against women and girls, the increased challenges caused by the pandemic, the need for economic levelling up, pregnancy discrimination, and girls' education overseas. APPG on PDRH member Harriet Harman spoke about Sarah Everard and violence against women and girls and the need to look at criminal justice reforms in this area. APPG on PDRH member Sir Peter Bottomley echoed remarks about the fact that cuts in ODA would predominantly hit women. APPG on PDRH member Kirsty Blackman urged people to examine stereotypes, consider intersectionality, check their privilege, and for the Government to abolish the two-child policy which forces women to feel they have no reproductive choice. APPG on PDRH member Nusrat Ghani celebrated the achievements of women and spoke about the plight of Uyghur women who had suffered forced sterilisations or abortions. Andrew Mitchell spoke about the devastating consequences the aid cuts would have on women, including on their access to contraception and healthcare. APPG on PDRH member Yasmin Qureshi described the effects Covid-19 was having on gender inequality across the globe, including a surge in GBV and a reduction in women's SRHR.

Commonwealth Day 2021, 16th March 2021

During a Westminster Hall debate on Commonwealth Day 2021, APPG on PDRH member Theo Clarke said that Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was a good opportunity to raise the importance of girls' education, international conservation and women in trade. Shadow Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and ID, Stephen Doughty, cited proposed cuts in aid to Commonwealth partners, which were 'extraordinarily ill-judged when they face such pressures on health and Covid-19, education, challenges facing women and girls, climate change and conflict' as a failure of leadership. He said, 'It is a shame, as we head into the 2021 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Rwanda, that the Government should be breaking its promises on 0.7%, apparently reducing focus on Africa, which we will see later today in the integrated review, and failing to join up strategies on trade deals. Will the Minister commit to maintaining our ODA commitments to our Commonwealth partners?'

Research and Development Funding, 17th March 2021

Daniel Zeichner opened a Westminster Hall debate on research and development funding in which he decried the cuts to ODA, which would result in the termination of hundreds of international collaborative research projects, including projects on climate change, antimicrobial resistance, poor health and nutrition across the globe. Further, 'Universities have rightly warned that the cuts will harm our international standing, curtail successful programmes that have been a key vehicle for UK science diplomacy for many years, and lose international science and research partnerships that have taken a long time to establish. Stopping funding mid-cycle frankly shows blatant disregard and disrespect for our international partners.'

World Water Day, 18th March 2021

Navendu Mishra opened a debate on World Water Day 2021, in which he cited statistics that a newborn child dies every minute from infection caused by a lack of safe water and an unclean environment and that unclean births caused by limited water supply account for 11% of global maternal mortality. He also noted that '80% of people displaced by climate change are women. That means that, in the aftermath of disasters, women are more likely than men to be displaced and become victims of violence. Women are also more affected by droughts and water shortages, and often have to walk even longer distances to collect water.' MPs argued that the aid budget did not do enough to fund water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects – just 2% of the UK aid budget was spent on WASH, and that was now threatened by aid cuts. Patricia Gibson noted that a lack of access to water for hygiene, sanitation and personal use could affect women and girls in multiple intersecting ways, e.g. girls and women in sub-Saharan Africa spend 40 billion working hours a year collecting water, time that could not then be spent participating in education, employment, social and political activities. The PUS for FCDO, Wendy Morton, acknowledged that water allowed children, especially girls, to attend school, that one in three girls lacked basic water supplies, and that even more lacked facilities for menstrual hygiene, which was a massive barrier for adolescent girls.

Government Support for NGOs and Churches in Developing Nations: Covid-19, 25th March 2021

Jim Shannon opened a Westminster Hall debate on Government support for NGOs and churches in developing nations during the Covid-19 pandemic, in which he reiterated his support of spending 0.7% of GNI on overseas aid and asked that the Government take heed of four requests put forward by Bond: first, to focus on support for vulnerable populations, areas and countries that may have the least capacity to access support; second, to ensure the transparency of Covid-19 funding; third, set up an access fund for small NGOs; and fourth, prioritise funding that reaches the most marginalised. Brendan O'Hara and Shadow Minister for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and ID, Stephen Doughty, attacked the Government's decision to cut aid spending in the midst of a global pandemic and described some of the effects of that decision on the ground.

Oral Parliamentary Questions

Please find relevant text of oral PQs enclosed at Appendix 28

Business of the House, 21st April 2020

During oral questions to the Leader of the HoC, Ian Paisley asked the Leader to confirm ‘that no attempt will be made to usurp the powers of the NI Assembly, now that devolution is up and running again, on any matter, including, most importantly, those to do with the life of the unborn child’. The Leader of the House, Jacob Rees-Mogg, did not directly address that part of Ian Paisley’s question in his reply.

Covid-19: Education for Girls, 29th April 2020

During oral questions to the SoS for ID, Marco Longhi asked what assessment she had made of the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Government’s commitment to ensuring girls receive 12 years of quality education. The SoS reiterated the Government’s commitment to girls’ education and mentioned some of DFID’s education programmes, including those that address the cost and time barriers to education. APPG on PDRH member Yasmin Qureshi noted the spike in teenage pregnancies when schools closed due to Ebola and asked the SoS what she was doing to deal with the decline of women’s education and the rise in GBV in the Cox’s Bazar refugee camps. The SoS outlined some of the negative consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and noted that female pupils had borne the brunt of school closures during the Ebola crisis, leading to higher levels of sexual exploitation, abuse, teenage pregnancy and early marriage, so DFID would continue to prioritise education for all as part of its international response.

Business of the House, 13th May 2020

During oral questions to the Leader of the HoC, Jim Shannon asked the Leader to outline the proceedings on the NI abortion legislation and to undertake to press the SoS for NI to allow the legislation to be debated in the NI Assembly. Jacob Rees-Mogg confirmed that there was a legal requirement to bring the abortion regulations forward and have them debated, but that there was no legal requirement for them to be passed by the House. With respect to the NI Assembly, the Leader suggested Jim Shannon raise matters directly with the SoS for NI.

Abortion Regulations: Northern Ireland, 4th June 2020

Sir Jeffrey M. Donaldson asked the SoS for NI to make a statement on the abortion regulations for NI. The MoS, NI Office, Mr Robin Walker, made a statement explaining that the Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 had come into force on 14 May 2020 (revoking the Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020) so as to give Parliament an extra 28 days to consider and scrutinise the regulations. This approach ensured that the law on abortion in NI continued to apply with no risk, gap or legal uncertainty, and services could continue on the same basis in NI as they were currently operating. Anti-choice MPs criticised the Minister’s actions on devolution grounds and abortion on ‘disability rights’ grounds, while some pro-choice MPs criticised the Minister for taking a piecemeal approach.

Covid-19 Vaccine: Developing Countries, 10th June 2020

Following questions on access to Covid-19 vaccines in developing countries, Chris Law asked the SoS for ID, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, to confirm reports that there was a rapid ministerial review happening of the aid budget and that the vast majority of projects had been

paused to explain why these life-saving projects were being quietly put on hold without informing Parliament or engaging with the IDC. The SoS explained that aid spending was linked to economic growth and that the economy was likely to shrink, so DFID was working closely with the Treasury to understand forecasts to ensure the UK could meet its 0.7% commitment.

FCO Objectives: Prioritising Development Opportunities, 10th June 2020

During questions to the SoS for ID, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, APPG on PDRH member Sarah Champion pressed the SoS to inform Parliament about the scope and timetable of her own review of UK aid, and to explain why the IDC found out about it through whistleblowers rather than official channels. The SoS answered that because of the likely drop in GNI, the Government were having to assess, across the board, how to manage the 0.7% target in the coming year.

Business without Debate, 16th June 2020

During points of order, Jim Shannon asked the Deputy Speaker, Dame Rosie Winterton, how MPs and members of the DUP could ensure that members were aware of the poll that took place in NI 10 days previously which indicated that 74% of the people were opposed to abortion, and of the decision by the Assembly to oppose it as well, when voting on the Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 on 17th June 2020. The Deputy Speaker chided Jim Shannon for raising an issue which was not a point of order and assured him that he would find a way to make his points.

Points of Order, 17th June 2020

During points of order, Gregory Campbell questioned the lack of personnel present to verify members' identities when voting in the deferred division regarding the Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020. The Deputy Speaker, Dame Eleanor Laing, assured him that members' signatures were sufficient, even on a vote as sensitive as one involving abortion. Following the Prime Minister's announcement that the IDC would be dissolved, Chris Bryant sought confirmation from the Deputy Speaker that any changes to the IDC would be made through the proper channels – Parliament – and not by the Government. The Deputy Speaker confirmed that any changes to the select committee would be made following correct procedure.

DFID-FCO Merger, 18th June 2020

In response to an urgent question, the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, made a statement on the merger of DFID and FCO. The merger process would start immediately and be completed by September 2020. The Foreign Secretary claimed that the merger would place UK aid at the 'beating heart' of UK foreign policy decision making and that the new FCDO would integrate the development expertise and know-how of DFID with the diplomatic reach and clout of the Foreign Office. According to the Foreign Secretary, demarcating a boundary between the UK's national interests and its moral responsibilities in the world was mistaken. He reiterated the Government's commitment to 0.7% of GNI on development numerous times. APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, pressed the Foreign Secretary on why the merger was done without consultation and before the Integrated

Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, what would happen to 3,600 DFID staff, if there would be an ODA Select Committee, would there be an ICAI, would current projects and funding agreements remain in place, and the fate of the current review of DFID projects. APPG on PDRH member Harriett Baldwin asked first, if he would be a strong voice in Cabinet for the world's poorest and most dispossessed; secondly, that the proportion of the aid budget that was spent in the poorest and most conflict-affected countries would continue to be significant and at least where it was now; and thirdly, that he would prioritise the campaign for 12 years of quality education for every girl. APPG on PDRH member Heather Wheeler asked what importance would be attached to the provision of SRHR and FP as a key component of ODA going forward.

Restoration of Assembly Powers, 24th June 2020

During oral questions to the SoS for NI, Bob Blackman asked what steps the SoS was taking on the restoration of full powers to the NI Assembly and if he could confirm that it was now up to the NI Assembly and the Executive to decide whether to keep laws passed by Westminster (i.e. the new law on abortion), to reform them, or even to revoke them. The MoS for NI, Robin Walker, reminded members that the regulations referred to did not replace or remove powers from the Executive and were introduced and approved by Parliament via an amendment to the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2019, following a three-year absence of devolution. The Government had delivered regulations that came into force on 31 March, as required. Parliament had now approved the Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 and they remained the law on access to abortion services. Abortion remained a devolved issue, and the NI Assembly could legislate or amend the regulations, so long as it did so in a way that remained compliant with the CEDAW—convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women—recommendations and convention rights.

Xinjiang: Uyghurs, 29th June 2020

Following reports issued by the Associated Press and the Jamestown Foundation alleging that the Chinese Government were using pregnancy checks, forced intra-uterine devices, sterilisation and abortion to minimise Uyghur birth rates, and in response to an urgent question from Sir Iain Duncan Smith, the Minister for Asia, Nigel Adams, made a statement on the mistreatment of Uyghurs in Xinjiang and the concerns of the UK Government about human rights abuses there. APPG on PDRH member Yasmin Qureshi noted that the Chinese state regularly subjects Uyghur women to pregnancy checks, forced sterilisation and abortion and pressed the UK Government to go to the UN and ask for a resolution from the Assembly to establish an independent investigation into the situation in Xinjiang.

Covid-19 Vaccine, 30th June 2020

During oral questions to the Foreign Secretary, Stephen Doughty pressed the PUSS for FCO, Wendy Morton, about the DFID-FCO merger. She said, 'when it comes to the FCO and DFID merger, as the Prime Minister set out on 16th June we retain our commitment to spending 0.7% of our gross national income on official development assistance, but it is through closer integration that we will maximise the impact of our aid budget' and cited the global vaccine (Gavi) summit as an example of the two departments working successfully together.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, 30th June 2020

APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, asked the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, about the timing of the DFID-FCO merger and if the 30% cuts in the ODA budget sought by the Treasury would be in this financial year or in future spend. Ignoring the question on cuts, the Foreign Secretary said that coronavirus had illustrated why it was so important to have an integrated and aligned approach.

Official Development Assistance Budget, 30th June 2020

During oral questions to the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, several MPs asked about the Government's commitment to 0.7%. The PUSS for FCO, James Duddridge, confirmed that the Government remained committed to 0.7% and that the new FCDO would continue to be bound by the same rules for aid spending. APPG on PDRH member Ruth Cadbury asked how Government would avoid aid-for-trade situations, such as the Pergau dam scandal.

Business of the House, 2nd July 2020

During oral questions to the Leader of the HoC, Robert Halfon asked the Leader of the House to ask the Home Office what steps were being taken to improve the treatment of domestic abuse victims through the court system and to end stalking. The Leader of the House confirmed that the Ministry of Justice was overhauling the family courts and that new stalking protection orders would allow courts to ban stalkers from contacting victims or visiting their homes or places of work or study. Cat Smith asked for a statement on the Cumberlege review into sodium valproate, surgical mesh and Primodos, and Anthony Mangnall asked the Leader of the House to schedule more time for Backbench debates so that MPs could discuss the UK's role in tackling GBV.

Official Development Assistance, 6th July 2020

During oral questions to the SoS for Defence, Wendy Chamberlain asked the SoS what recent estimate his Department had made of the level of departmental ODA spend and whether, in light of the DFID-FCO merger, the Minister would set out what conversations he had had with the Foreign Secretary about ensuring that any ODA programming from his or other Departments is transparent and subject to scrutiny. The Minister for the Armed Forces, James Heappey, forecasted the Ministry of Defence (MoD) would spend at £5.58 million on ODA in 2020 and explained that the Department was looking at where development activity was essential to the security function of the armed forces.

Climate Justice: ODA Allocation, 15th July 2020

During oral questions to the SoS for ID, Liz Twist noted the extra burdens posed by biodiversity loss on women and asked what steps the Minister would take to mitigate biodiversity loss in developing countries and reduce the burden on women. Anna McMorris noted that the Government continued to funnel billions into fossil fuel projects which undo the resilience DFID is there to build and asked if that was consistent with climate justice. The Minister for the Middle East and North Africa, James Cleverly, answered that the Government were committed to ensuring that 'we build back better, protect the environment and protect the most vulnerable people in the world', which included providing £1.44 billion over four

years to the green climate fund, helping developing countries to adopt low-carbon, climate-resilient technologies.

Poverty Reduction: ODA, 15th July 2020

At the last oral questions to the SoS for ID, Ian Byrne asked whether poverty reduction would remain the primary focus of ODA and how aid would be scrutinised following the merger. The SoS, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, reiterated the Government's commitment to 0.7% of GNI on ODA and said that aid scrutiny was a question for Parliament. The Shadow SoS for ID, Preet Kaur Gill, then pressed the SoS about the lack of consultation and asked her to guarantee that ODA would be focused on the world's poorest and that any cuts to the aid budget would come from funds that currently go to middle- and upper-income countries or have been found to have limited development impact.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, 2nd September 2020

In response to an urgent question, the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, made a statement on the creation of the FCDO. The Foreign Secretary outlined progress on the merger, used the pandemic to illustrate the way in which integration of the FCO and DFID would maximise the UK's international efforts and announced £119 million to tackle the combined threat of coronavirus and famine. He repeated the Government's commitment to 0.7%. APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, asked the Foreign Secretary if the Government were also committed to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) definition of what constitutes aid and to the need for ICAI to remain fully independent. APPG on PDRH member Nusrat Ghani questioned the Foreign Secretary on the £71 million in aid sent to China and the need to tackle the Uyghur genocide and APPG on PDRH member Heather Wheeler spoke in support of the merger.

Topical Questions to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, 8th September 2020

During topical questions to the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, MPs questioned him on scrutiny of the aid budget and on the estimated cost of the FCO-DFID merger. The Foreign Secretary reiterated the Government's commitment to maintaining ICAI (having previously withdrawn their proposal to eliminate the IDC) and argued that the merger would ultimately result in considerable administrative savings.

Engagements, 9th September 2020

During Prime Minister's Questions, Siobhain McDonagh noted reports of abortions forced on Uyghur women and questioned the Prime Minister on what actions he would take to stop the ethnic cleansing of Uyghur people in China.

Official Development Assistance, 15th September 2020

During oral questions to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Pauline Latham asked whether the Chancellor was responsible for the allocation of ODA to Government Departments other than the FCDO, and how Parliament could ensure all money

spent qualifies for ODA categorisation and is particularly focused on relieving poverty. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Steve Barclay, confirmed that the Treasury is responsible for allocating ODA across all Government Departments, but that individual departments were responsible for ensuring that all money spent as ODA meets the criteria of the OECD DAC, and that it is spent through the powers of the International Development Act 2002, which requires funding likely to contribute to a reduction in poverty.

Business of the House, 17th September 2020

During oral questions to the Leader of the HoC, Fiona Bruce shared her concerns about the temporary provisions allowing home use of medication abortion and asked whether the UK should be reverting to in-person consultations as soon as possible.

International Trade: Opportunities for Women, 23rd September 2020

During oral questions to the Minister for Women and Equalities, Liz Truss, APPG on PDRH member Heather Wheeler asked the Minister about the effect of the Government's international trade policies on business opportunities for women and how women in developing countries benefit from those trade policies. The Minister cited her speech at a UN General Assembly event on investing in Africa's female future and on trade continuity agreements with countries such as Kenya.

Topical Questions to the Minister for Women and Equalities, 23rd September 2020

APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Pauline Latham asked the Minister for Women and Equalities whether girls between the age of 16-18 who are married instead of continuing their education were likely to be economically disadvantaged for the rest of their lives as compared to those who complete their secondary education. The Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch, confirmed that education was important but focused on the issue of forced marriage. She said the Government was keeping the minimum age of marriage under review. Citing a report by the APPG SRH evidencing increasing difficulty accessing contraception, APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson asked the Minister for Women and Equalities about over-the-counter access to the progestogen-only pill.

Abortion Services, 30th September 2020

During oral questions to the SoS for NI, Ruth Jones asked what assessment had been made of the adequacy of provision of abortion services in NI and the funding needed to commission and sustain those services. The MoS, NI Office, Robin Walker, confirmed that some service provision had commenced on the ground and that the Government was standing ready to support NI's Minister of Health in commissioning longer-term abortion services as soon as possible. Carla Lockhart asked the Minister what assessment had been made of the impact of the Government's decision to allow for termination in cases of Down's syndrome in NI.

Education for Girls, 13th October 2020

During oral questions to the Foreign Secretary, Nickie Aiken asked what assessment had been made of the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on progress implementing the

Government's policy on ensuring that girls throughout the world receive 12 years of quality education. PUSS for FCDO, Wendy Morton, outlined steps that Government was taking to get girls back into education following the pandemic, including steps it had taken since 2015 to end child marriage. Shadow SoS for ID, Preet Kaur Gill, pressed the Minister on funding cuts to programmes which would enable girls education.

Topical Questions to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, 13th October 2020

The Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, was questioned about the FCO-DFID merger. Concerned that diplomacy and development were being regarded as 'separate and equal', Imran Ahmad Khan asked the Foreign Secretary for confirmation that 'the current reform programme at the Foreign Office ensures that our development programme supports our diplomatic activities, rather than transcends and undermines them'. APPG on PDRH member Harriett Baldwin welcomed the announcement that the UK and Kenya would co-host the replenishment of the Global Partnership for Education in 2021 and urged the Foreign Secretary to put the campaign for 12 years of quality education as a top priority during the UK's G7 presidency.

Women's and Girls' Health, 20th October 2020

During oral questions to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Pauline Latham asked what steps the Chancellor was taking to improve the health of women and girls and how the Minister would encourage young women to pursue further education or training to maximise their earning potential and career prospects, rather than feeling pressurised to start a family while still in their teenage years. The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, Kemi Badenoch, discussed funding to the NHS long-term plan and steps local authorities must take when a young woman is taken out of school to try to find her a suitable place in post-16 education. The Minister did not address the minimum age of marriage.

Abortion Clinics: Protection from Intimidation or Protest, 22nd October 2020

Dr Rupa Huq asked the Home Secretary what discussions had taken place about protecting women attending abortion clinics from intimidation or protest. The PUSS for the Home Department, Victoria Atkins, said it was unacceptable that women accessing healthcare should feel intimidated or harassed and confirmed that the Home Office was keeping this matter under review.

Abortion Clinics: Buffer Zones, 9th November 2020

APPG on PDRH member Steve McCabe asked the Home Secretary what assessment her department had made of the potential merits of introducing buffer zones around abortion clinics. The Home Secretary, Priti Patel, confirmed that the issue was under review and the Government were considering whether more work should be done to protect those accessing or providing abortion services.

Engagements, 18th November 2020

During Prime Minister's Questions, Anna McMorris asked the Prime Minister about cutting the aid budget during a time of global challenges and asked him to rule out the possibility of breaking their own manifesto commitment. The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, did not address the question in his answer.

Quality Education for Girls, 24th November 2020

During oral questions to the Foreign Secretary, Damian Hinds asked what assessment he had made of the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Government's commitment to ensure girls throughout the world receive 12 years of quality education and how FCDO would ensure the success of the Global Partnership for Education in 2021. The PUSS for FCDO, Wendy Morton, confirmed that the UK was working with countries directly and supporting the efforts of the Global Partnership for Education, Education Cannot Wait, UNICEF and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to get girls back to school, and would be securing significant pledges for the Global Partnership for Education through bilateral engagement and in global forums from both traditional donors and new partners, and through domestic and global networks. APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, noted the link between education and child marriage, FGM and GBV, and asked if the UK would further increase ODA for GBV programmes to combat the secondary impacts of Covid-19 on women and girls, if the money would be ring-fenced, and if the Minister would be challenging the Chancellor's attack on foreign aid.

Topical Questions to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, 24th November 2020

MPs pressed the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, over reports that the Treasury would be reducing foreign aid from 0.7% of GNI. The Foreign Secretary dodged the questions.

Topical Questions to the Minister for Women and Equalities, 25th November 2020

Mary Robinson asked the Minister for Women and Equalities, Liz Truss, what she was doing to tackle FGM internationally. The Minister acknowledged that Covid-19 could disrupt efforts towards ending FGM and said that the Government would continue UK Aid supported programmes on FGM. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Pauline Latham asked what recent steps the SoS had taken with Cabinet colleagues to improve access to SRH services for young people during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, Kemi Badenoch, answered that services were maintaining access through scaling up of online services.

Gender-based Violence, 26th November 2020

During oral questions to the Church Commissioners, Fleur Anderson asked what recent steps the Anglican Communion had taken to help tackle GBV throughout the world, particularly with regard to the role the Church could play in stopping the stigmatisation of survivors of sexual violence in conflict. Second Church Estates Commissioner, Andrew Selous, described efforts of the Anglican Communion to support the eradication of all forms of VAWG.

Official Development Assistance, 7th December 2020

During oral questions to the SoS for Defence, Layla Moran asked what assessment had been made of the effectiveness of his Department's ODA spending and what the Minister would do to ensure that any ODA spending was compliant with the DAC requirement to promote and specifically target the economic development and welfare of developing countries. The Minister for the Armed Forces, James Heappey, spoke about defence engagement programmes and said that many things that Defence does are worthwhile even if they are not DAC-compliant.

Departmental Overseas Aid Activity, 7th December 2020

During oral questions to the SoS for Defence, Richard Graham asked what recent estimate had been made of the proportion of MoD's overseas activity which was accounted for as aid and whether it was time for military aid to be included in the exceptions list to the OECD definition of ODA. The Minister for the Armed Forces, James Heappey, answered that around 0.01% of defence expenditure was reported as ODA and that the Department hoped that ODA rules could be changed to reflect the wide range of activities that defence was involved in but were not currently accounted for as part of the UK's ODA spend.

Misinformation and Disinformation Online, 10th December 2020

During oral questions to the SoS for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Gavin Newlands noted that in the last of the 16 days of action on GBV against women and girls, 52% of young women and girls had been abused online and that 87% thought the problem was getting worse and asked when there would be an online harms bill. The Minister for Digital and Culture, Caroline Dinenage, said that the Government planned to bring forward legislation in early 2021 which would deal with illegal disinformation and root out harmful content.

Uyghur Slave Labour: Xinjiang, 16th December 2020

In response to an urgent question, the Minister for Asia, Nigel Adams, made a statement on the Government's response to the Chinese Government's use of Uyghur slave labour in Xinjiang. The Minister said that the UK had taken the lead internationally but it was for businesses to do their due diligence to ensure their supply chains did not support human rights violations. Scott Benton asked the Minister to commit to take action on forced abortions and forced sterilisations in Xinjiang by formally and publicly condemning the population control practices of the Chinese Government and requesting that these cease immediately.

Poverty-focused Aid, 19th January 2021

During oral questions to the Foreign Secretary, Munira Wilson asked that steps FCDO was taking to prioritise poverty-focused aid, what criteria were being used to ensure that poverty alleviation is prioritised, and how the Government would be consulting civil society on this. The PUSS for FCDO, James Duddridge, explained that the Department's priorities would be 'climate, biodiversity, covid, global health, girls' education, science and research, open societies, conflict, humanitarian assistance directly and trade', and that more than £10 billion would be focused on poverty reduction. Chris Law asked the Minister to explicitly commit to eradicating poverty within the new ODA framework. The Minister answered that the specific

targets did aim to alleviate and eradicate poverty and that the merger would help with this objective.

Covid-19 Vaccine Access, 19th January 2021

During oral questions to the Foreign Secretary, MPs asked what steps the Government were taking to ensure equitable vaccine access in the global south. The PUS for FCDO, Wendy Morton, affirmed the Government's commitment to rapid equitable access to vaccines through multilateral collaboration, including diplomatic influencing, development expertise and funding. APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, asked what efforts and preparations FCDO were making to prevent 'a development mountain to climb', e.g. healthcare setbacks and increased gender inequality, after the pandemic subsides.

Abortion Services, 20th January 2021

During oral questions to the SoS for NI, Stella Creasy asked what assessment had been made of the adequacy of provision of abortion services in NI. The MoS, NI Office, Robin Walker, answered that some service provision has been available since April 2020, with over 719 women and girls having been able to access abortion services locally by mid-October 2020. The NI Office was disappointed that full abortion services had yet to be commissioned by the Department of Health and would continue to monitor the situation. Carla Lockhart asked if the Minister was concerned that sex-selective abortion was permitted under NI's abortion regulations.

Business of the House, 21st January 2021

During oral questions to the Leader of the HoC, Nickie Aiken asked the Leader to urge women across the country to keep up to date with their cervical screening, to urge both men and women to keep up to date on their screening, and to ensure that they speak to their general practitioner (GP) if they have any health concerns.

Treatment of Uyghur Women: Xinjiang Detention Camps, 4th February 2021

In response to an urgent question from APPG on PDRH member Nusrat Ghani, the Minister for Asia, Nigel Adams, made a statement on the treatment of Uyghur women in Xinjiang detention camps. The Minister acknowledged distressing reports of the rape, torture and dehumanisation of Uyghur women in Xinjiang detention centres and outlined actions taken by the UK Government, including raising specific allegations of forced birth control with the Chinese authorities in September 2020.

Topical Questions to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, 23rd February 2021

Noting long-running anti-choice demonstrations, Dr Rupa Huq asked the SoS for HSC, Matt Hancock, if he would work with ministers across Government to ensure that no woman ever feels harassed or intimidated when obtaining medical care that she is legally entitled to. The SoS was happy to take up the proposal.

Covid-19: Ethnic Minority Disparities, 1st March 2021

During oral questions to the Minister for Equalities, Kate Osamor noted that Black women are four times more likely to die in childbirth than white women and asked what accountability mechanisms the Minister had put in place to monitor and evaluate the success of pilot schemes to address inequalities and how these pilot schemes could be rolled out across the country so that maternal mortality did not become a postcode lottery for Black women. The Minister, Kemi Badenoch, outlined some of the steps the Government had taken to improve outcomes for ethnic minority women.

Official Development Assistance Budget, 2nd March 2021

MPs pressed the PUSS for FCDO, James Duddridge, on the effect of aid cuts on poverty in the global south. APPG on PDRH member Sarah Champion asked what consultation the Minister had had with NGOs, recipients, and partners in the global south, to minimise the impact of changes to the UK aid budget and when the Government would publish their forthcoming country allocations for ODA spending.

Girls' Education: Covid-19, 2nd March 2021

During oral questions to the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, MPs asked what assessment had been made of the potential impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on ensuring every girl receives 12 years of quality education and how much ODA spending would be committed to girls' education in 2021. The Foreign Secretary said that the money for girls' education was being safeguarded and would be published in the autumn. Tom Tugendhat asked the Foreign Secretary to raise the issue of FGM with the Nigerian Government.

Topical Questions to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, 2nd March 2021

During topical questions to the Foreign Secretary, Tom Tugendhat asked for an update on what work was being undertaken on the preventing sexual violence in conflict initiative (PSVI) and what steps might be taken to implement an international body that can support survivors, document crimes and lead prosecutions. The Minister for Asia, Nigel Adams, confirmed that PSVI remained a top priority for the Government, which had committed £48 million to the initiative since 2012.

Yemen: Aid Funding, 2nd March 2021

In response to an urgent question, the Minister for the Middle East and North Africa, James Cleverly, made a statement on the level of aid funding to Yemen. The Government had pledged at least £87 million in aid to Yemen for the 2021-22 financial year, which would feed an additional 240,000 of the most vulnerable Yemenis every month, support 400 health clinics, provide clean water for 1.6 million people, and provide one-off cash payments to 1.5 million of Yemen's poorest households. Andrew Mitchell condemned the Government's decision to cut aid to Yemen by 50% and implored the Minister to allow a vote on 0.7%. APPG on PDRH member Craig Whittaker asked the Minister about international co-operation to solve the crisis in Yemen. APPG on PDRH member and Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion, asked for the reason behind cutting aid to Yemen by 60% and if there had been an impact

assessment, particularly with regard to the impact on women and girls, people with disabilities and internally displaced people. APPG on PDRH member Alison Thewliss noted the risk of 400,000 Yemeni children under five starving to death this year and asked how many deaths he and the Government were prepared to have on their conscience.

Points of Order, 11th March 2021

Andrew Mitchell asked the Speaker about having a vote on the planned reduction of overseas aid from 0.7% to 0.5% of GNI, but the Speaker confirmed that the proposed amendment was not a point of order because no amendment could be moved to the roll-up motions.

Point of Order, 23rd March 2021

Jim Shannon made a point of order about the Government's intention to pursue the issue of the procurement of abortion services in NI on the basis that 'devolution means devolution'.

Abortion in Northern Ireland, 25th March 2021

In response to an urgent question, the SoS for NI, Brandon Lewis, made a statement on the provision of abortion in NI. On 23rd March 2021, the Government had laid the Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2021 before Parliament because women and girls were still unable to access high-quality abortion and post-abortion care in NI. However, the Government's strong preference was, and remained, for the Minister of Health and his Department to take responsibility for upholding abortion rights and commissioning services. APPG on PDRH member Sir Peter Bottomley supported the Government's actions, saying, 'The choice is between compassion and politics. I put it to the Secretary of State that the key point is this: if there is going to be an abortion, it should be legal, safe, early and local. There has been too much delay. Let us put first the interests of women and girls.' APPG on PDRH member Dame Diana Johnson noted the frustrations of clinicians in NI at the continued failure to commission abortion services. APPG on PDRH member Hannah Bardell noted that NI is pro-choice and that women should have their rights and dignity upheld.

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	Health Education: Females
Abortion: Analgesics	Health Education: Scotland
Abortion: Childbirth	Health: Females
Abortion: Congenital Abnormalities	Health: Overseas Aid
Abortion: Coronavirus	Health Services: Domestic Violence
Abortion: Counselling	HIV Infection
Abortion: Disability	HIV Infection and Sexually Transmitted
Abortion: Down's Syndrome	Infections: Health Services

Abortion: Drugs	HIV Infection: Disease Control
Abortion: Gender Selection	HIV Infection: Drugs
Abortion: Health Education	HIV Infection: Gender Recognition
Abortion: Health Services	HIV Infection: Health Services
Abortion: Northern Ireland	HIV Infection: Screening
Abortion: Private Sector	HIV Infection: Travellers
Abortion: Safety	Home Office: Overseas Aid
Abortion: Side Effects	Human Rights: Females
Abortion: Surgery	Humanitarian Aid: Coronavirus
Afghanistan: Overseas Aid	In Vitro Fertilisation
Africa: Coronavirus	In Vitro Fertilisation: Coronavirus
Africa: Family Planning and Genito-urinary Medicine	In Vitro Fertilisation: LGBT People
Africa: Females	In Vitro Fertilisation: Import Duties
Africa: Genito-urinary Medicine	India: Overseas Aid
Africa: Maternal Mortality	Indonesia: Overseas Aid
Africa: Offences against Children	Infant Mortality
Africa: Overseas Aid	Infrastructure: Carbon Emissions
African Union: Overseas Aid	Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy
Armed Conflict	Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy: Females
Armed Conflict: Sexual Offences	Integrated Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy Review
Armed Forces: Abortion	Integrated Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy Review: Females
Asylum: Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders	Integrated Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy Review: Gender
Babies: Pain	Iran: Overseas Aid
Bangladesh: Females	Liberia: Overseas Aid
Bangladesh: Migrant Camps	Libya and Syria: Overseas Aid
Bangladesh: Overseas Aid	Maira Shahbaz
Bangladesh: Rohingya	Malaria: Overseas Aid
BBC World Service: Overseas Aid	Malawi: Overseas Aid
Bereavement Counselling: Parents	Marie Stopes International: Abortion
Bilateral Aid	
Biodiverse Landscapes Fund and Blue Planet Fund	
Biodiversity and Climate Change: Research	

Birth Rate	Marie Stopes International: Finance
Brazil: Overseas Aid	Marine Environment
Breast Ironing	Marriage: Age
British Overseas Territories: Overseas Aid	Marriage: Children
Burkina Faso: Violence	Maternal Mortality
Caribbean: Overseas Aid	Maternal Mortality: Abortion
CDC: Overseas Aid	Maternal Mortality: Ethnic Groups
CDC: Finance	Maternal Mortality: Overseas Aid
Children: Asylum	Maternity Services
China: Human Rights	Maternity Services: Coronavirus
China: Overseas Aid	Maternity Services: Disadvantaged and Ethnic Groups
China: Prosperity Fund	Mental Health Services: Mothers
China: Uighurs	Middle East and North Africa: Overseas Aid
Climate Change and Research: Finance	Migrant Camps: Humanitarian Aid
Climate Change: International Cooperation	Migrants: Detainees
Colombia: Overseas Aid	Migration and Peace: Overseas Aid
Colombia: Police	Ministry for Defence: Overseas Aid
Commonwealth: Overseas Aid	Miscarriage: Mental Health Services
Conflict, Stability and Security Fund	Mozambique: Overseas Aid
Contraceptives	Myanmar: Overseas Aid
Contraceptives: Coronavirus	Myanmar: Refugees
Contraceptives: Finance	Nepal: Overseas Aid
Contraceptives: Health Services	Nigeria: Overseas Aid
Contraceptives: Pregnancy	Non-governmental Organisations: Sexual Offences
Coronavirus: Children	Nutrition: Development Aid
Coronavirus: Disease Control	Occupied Territories: Development Aid
Coronavirus: Females	Offences against Children
Coronavirus: International Cooperation	Overseas Aid
Coronavirus: Vaccination	Overseas Aid: Accountancy
Crimes of Violence: Females	Overseas Aid: Armed Conflict
Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid	Overseas Aid: Audit
Democratic Republic of Congo and Syria: Overseas Aid	Overseas Aid: Charities
	Overseas Aid: Children

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Overseas Aid	Overseas Aid: Climate Change
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Overseas Aid	Overseas Aid: Contracts
Department for Education: Overseas Aid	Overseas Aid: Coronavirus
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Overseas Aid	Overseas Aid: Cost Effectiveness
Department for International Development: Overseas Aid	Overseas Aid: Developing Countries
Department for International Development: Public Expenditure	Overseas Aid: Disability
Department for International Development: Reorganisation	Overseas Aid: Disclosure of Information
Department for International Trade: Overseas Aid	Overseas Aid: Education
Department for Work and Pensions: Overseas Aid	Overseas Aid: Environment Protection
Department of Health and Social Care: Early Day Motions	Overseas Aid: Family Planning
Department of Health and Social Care: Overseas Aid	Overseas Aid: Females
Developing Countries: Abortion	Overseas Aid: Fossil Fuels
Developing Countries: Children	Overseas Aid: Gender
Developing Countries: Contraceptives	Overseas Aid: Gender Based Violence
Developing Countries: Coronavirus	Overseas Aid: Genito-urinary Medicine
Developing Countries: Death	Overseas Aid: Gift Aid
Developing Countries: Education	Overseas Aid: Government Departments
Developing Countries: Female Genital Mutilation	Overseas Aid: Health Services
Developing Countries: Females	Overseas Aid: Legal Aid
Developing Countries: Food	Overseas Aid: Malaria
Developing Countries: Fossil Fuels	Overseas Aid: National Income
Developing Countries: Gender Equality	Overseas Aid: Nutrition
Developing Countries: Genito-urinary Medicine	Overseas Aid: Parliamentary Scrutiny
Developing Countries: Health Services	Overseas Aid: Peacekeeping Operations
Developing Countries: Health Services and Nutrition	Overseas Aid: Poverty
Developing Countries: Maternal Mortality	Overseas Aid: Religion
	Overseas Aid: Research
	Overseas Aid: Standards
	Overseas Aid: Trachoma
	Overseas Aid: UK Research and Innovation
	Overseas Aid: World Bank
	Pakistan: Females
	Pakistan: Forced Marriage
	Pakistan: Human Rights

Developing Countries: Nutrition	Pakistan: Overseas Aid
Developing Countries: Overseas Aid	Pakistan: Religious Freedom
Developing Countries: Poaching	Palestinians: Refugees
Developing Countries: Poverty	Peace Negotiations: Females
Developing Countries: Religion	Plastics: Seas and Oceans
Developing Countries: Sanitation	Poland: Abortion
Developing Countries: Students	Poland: Family Planning
Developing Countries: Sustainable Development	Poland: Females and LGBT People
Development Aid	Poland: Human Rights
Development Aid: Disclosure of Information	Postnatal Care: Overseas Aid
Development Aid: EU Action	Poverty: Overseas Aid
Development Aid: Expenditure	Pregnancy: Ethnic Groups
Diplomatic Service: Overseas Aid	Pregnancy: Northern Ireland
Disease Control: Overseas Aid	Pregnancy: Screening
Down's Syndrome: Screening	Private Infrastructure Development Group: Fossil Fuels
Economic Growth	Private Infrastructure Development Group: Overseas Aid
Education: Disability	Prostitution: Coronavirus
Education: Females	Refugees: Resettlement
Education: Refugees	Religion: Overseas Aid
Embryos and Foetal Tissue: Overseas Trade	Research: Africa
Endometriosis: In Vitro Fertilisation	Research: Coronavirus
Epilepsy: Drugs	Research: Finance
Equality: Females	Research: International Cooperation
Equality: Gender	Research: Overseas Aid
Ethiopia: Overseas Aid	Rohingya: Refugees
Family Courts	Rwanda: Females
Family Planning: Coronavirus	Rwanda: Overseas Aid
Female Genital Mutilation	Sahel: Overseas Aid
Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage	Sanitation: Development Aid
Female Genital Mutilation: Coronavirus	Science: Research
Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders	Sex and Relationship Education: Gender Based Violence
	Sexually Transmitted Infections
	Sierra Leone: Overseas Aid

Female Genital Mutilation Protection
 Orders: Children and Young People
 Females: Coronavirus
 Females: Crimes of Violence
 Females: Equality
 Females: Health
 Females: Human Trafficking
 Females: Violence
 Foetal Tissue
 Foetal Tissue: Imports and Exports
 Foetuses: Pain
 Forced Marriage
 Forced Marriage: Children
 Forced Marriage: Prosecutions
 Foreign and Commonwealth Office:
 Overseas Aid
 Foreign, Commonwealth and
 Development Office
 Foreign, Commonwealth and
 Development Office: Contracts
 Foreign, Commonwealth and
 Development Office: Departmental
 Responsibilities
 Foreign, Commonwealth and
 Development Office: Females
 Foreign, Commonwealth and
 Development Office: Gender
 Foreign, Commonwealth and
 Development Office: Public
 Appointments
 Foreign, Commonwealth and
 Development Office: Staff
 Fossil Fuels: Development Aid
 Fossil Fuels: Finance
 Fossil Fuels: Overseas Aid
 Gender Based Violence
 Gender Based Violence: Education

Slavery
 Small Charities Challenge Fund
 Social Security Benefits: Children
 Sodium Valproate: Prescriptions
 Somalia and Somaliland: Overseas Aid
 Somalia: Overseas Aid
 South America: Women's Rights
 South Sudan: Overseas Aid
 Sri Lanka: Human Rights
 Sri Lanka: Police Scotland
 Sub-Saharan Africa: Disease Control
 Sub-Saharan Africa: Famine
 Sudan: Overseas Aid
 Sustainable Development
 Syria: Education
 Syria: Humanitarian Aid
 Syria: Overseas Aid
 Syria: Schools
 Tajikistan: Overseas Aid
 Tanzania: Overseas Aid
 Tigray: Gender Based Violence and
 Sexual Offences
 Tigray: Overseas Aid
 Tigray: Sexual Offences
 Towns Fund: Overseas Aid
 Trade Agreements: Overseas Aid
 Treasury: Overseas Aid
 Uganda: Overseas Aid
 UK-Africa Investment Summit
 UK Relations with EU: Developing
 Countries
 UK Research and Innovation: Overseas
 Aid
 UK Shared Prosperity Fund
 Ukraine: Overseas Aid
 UN Population Fund: Coronavirus

Gender Based Violence: Victim Support Schemes	UNICEF: Finance
Gender Equality	United Nations: Sustainable Development
Gender: Equality	UNRWA: Finance
Gender Equality Advisory Council	UNWRA: Overseas Aid
Genito-urinary Medicine	USA: Genito-urinary Medicine
Genito-urinary Medicine and Gynaecology	Vaccination: Children
Genito-urinary Medicine: Coronavirus	Vaccination: Overseas Aid
Genito-urinary Medicine: Females	Violence: Females
Genito-urinary Medicine: Overseas Aid	Western Sahara: Refugees
Ghana: Overseas Aid	World Health Organisation: Overseas Aid
Global Challenges Research Fund	Xinjiang: Overseas Aid
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	Yemen: Humanitarian Aid
Government Departments: Development Aid	Yemen: Overseas Aid
Government Departments: Overseas Aid	Zambia: Overseas Aid
Greek Islands: Coronavirus	Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid
Gulf States: Overseas Aid	

Early Day Motions

Please find a list of MPs who signed the EDMs enclosed at Appendix 29

EDM 442 - The two-child limit, poverty and coronavirus, 5th May 2020

Apsana Begum, 23 signatures

That this House notes the Child Poverty Action Group and the Church of England's report, published 5 May 2020, which found that an estimated 60,000 families will be affected by the two-child limit as a result of the covid-19 crisis, joining around 230,000 families affected by the policy since April 2017; is alarmed that as parents get ill, lose their job, or experience a fall in their income as a result of the coronavirus, a growing number of families are discovering that the safety net that should be provided by the social security system is not adequate to meet their needs; and calls on the Government to abolish the two-child limit and ensure that people get the support they need, when they need it, as a part of a comprehensive strategy to tackle poverty in all its forms.

EDM 521 - UK law on disability-selective abortion, 2nd June 2020

Carla Lockhart, 42 signatures

That this House notes with concern the discrimination inherent in current UK abortion law that allows abortion up to birth for children diagnosed with cleft lip, cleft palate and clubfoot; that such disability-selective abortion up to birth is underreported according to the Department for Health and Social Care; recognises that cleft lip, cleft palate and clubfoot are treatable after birth and are not life-limiting disabilities and thus a primary diagnosis of any of the aforementioned should not qualify as a grounds for abortion under the Abortion Act 1967; that the many testimonies of individuals and celebrities born with cleft lip, cleft palate or clubfoot demonstrate that these conditions do not hold people back in life; that allowing such individuals to be aborted up to birth is contrary to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and Equality Act 2010; that UK abortion law does not reflect the positive change in societal attitudes towards disability in the anti-discriminatory, disability progressive culture of 2020; and recognises that UK abortion law must be changed to provide a person diagnosed with cleft lip, cleft palate or clubfoot with the same legal protections as any other person.

EDM 532 - Marketing of breast-milk substitutes: national implementation of the International Code, 2nd June 2020

Alison Thewliss, 14 signatures

That this House welcomes the publication by WHO, UNICEF and IBFAN of the 2020 Status Report on the Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (BMS): National Implementation of the International Code; notes that over the past two years, protections against inappropriate marketing of BMS have been strengthened in 44 countries around the world; appreciates that as of April 2020, 136 (70 per cent) of 194 WHO Member States had enacted legal measures with provisions to implement the Code; is disappointed that health facilities and staff around the world are still being targeted through the provision of materials and equipment by companies who have an interest in the promotion of infant formula; notes that the UK only scores 39 out of a possible 100 on implementation of measures covered by the Code, with particular weaknesses in monitoring and enforcement, promotion of BMS in health facilities, and engagement with health workers; calls on the Government to recognise their obligations, both under international human rights law and international agreements, to promote and protect breastfeeding, to eliminate inappropriate marketing practices, to analyse and address weaknesses in existing legislation and act accordingly; believes that such actions must be backed up with appropriate funding; and requests that the Government takes action to fully implement the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and all subsequent resolutions prior to the 40th anniversary of the Code in 2021.

EDM 615 - Merger of the Department for International Development with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 16th June 2020

Wendy Chamberlain, 59 signatures

That this House strongly condemns the merger of the Department for International Development with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

EDM 676 - Merger of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development, 1st July 2020

Hywel Williams, 23 signatures

That this House notes the vital contribution the Department for International Development (DfID) has made to eradicating global poverty, combatting the climate crisis and addressing gender inequality; expresses concern at the proposed merger of DfID with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the way in which the announcement was made amid a global pandemic; calls upon the Government to ringfence the full budget for international development; further calls on the Government to guarantee a robust scrutiny framework for UK Aid in which Parliament plays a key role; urges the new Department to maintain the proportion of aid spent in developing countries and to operate on the principle of need rather than national self-interest; and further urges the new Department to prioritise investment in healthcare, nutrition and education systems and to make specific commitments on gender equality and poverty alleviation.

EDM 772 - Sector consultation on DFID-FCO merger and Integrated Review, 21st July 2020

Wendy Chamberlain, 16 signatures

That this House notes that the Government has repeatedly misrepresented consultation of the development sector on the Department for International Development's response to the covid-19 crisis as equating a formal mechanism for consultation on the DFID-FCO merger or Integrated Review; further notes that consultation on the UK's international covid-19 response has never been a formal mechanism for consultation on wider government policy; and calls on the Government to urgently commit to meaningful engagement and consultation with the development sector on the new Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the strategy that defines it (the Integrated Review) so that aid and development expertise informs the new department's structure and priorities and that poverty reduction and sustainable development remain UK aid's primary objectives.

EDM 921 - Maira Shahbaz and child abduction, forced conversion and marriage in Pakistan, 23rd September 2020

Brendan O'Hara, 28 signatures

That this House notes with grave concern reports from Pakistan on Maira Shahbaz, a 14-year-old Christian girl who was abducted at gunpoint from the streets of Madina Town in Faisalabad by three men, forced to convert to Islam and then marry one of her abductors, Mr. Nakash; is further concerned that, despite her family producing a birth certificate showing Maira to be 14-years-old and the Grand Mufti of a local mosque condemning as false the marriage certificate produced in court by Mr Nakash, the Lahore High Court overruled an earlier decision by the Faisalabad Sessions and District court to place her in a women's shelter, subsequently forcing her to return to Mr Nakash; understands that recently, Maira managed to escape from the home of Mr. Nakash and that she and her family are currently in hiding; calls on the UK government to do everything in its power to help Maira and all of the estimated 1,000 Pakistani Christian and Hindu girls who are kidnapped, forced to convert and marry their abductor every year.

EDM 969 - Pakistan Protection of Religious Minorities Bill, 6th October 2020

Jim Shannon, 7 signatures

That this House notes that a Bill calling for the protection of religious minorities in Pakistan was rejected by the Pakistani Senate on Thursday 24 September; regrets that Senators did not take the opportunity presented by the Bill to take action against rising violations of the right to freedom of religion or belief in Pakistan; expresses deep concern about the worsening persecution of minority religious and belief communities in Pakistan, especially the abduction, forced conversion and marriage of thousands of young girls from those communities annually; calls on Pakistani legislators and authorities to do more to tackle these human rights violations; offers the support of this House to help Pakistan's human rights response; and urges the UK and Pakistani Governments to do everything in their power to protect minority religious and belief communities in Pakistan.

EDM 988 - VAT on period pants, 8th October 2020

Bell Ribeiro-Addy, 14 signatures

That this House recognises the work done by WUKA Wear who have worked hard to promote the use of reusable menstrual products; references research carried out by WUKA Wear which found that 4.3 billion menstrual products are used each year, all of which goes to landfill or ends up in the ocean; notes that reusable period pants, which are environmentally friendly are an effective method to combat this; believes that period pants should have the 20 per cent VAT removed; notes with regret the Government's recent announcement which suggests they will consider removing VAT on period pants for children under the age of 14 and with size limitations, which reinforces harmful body ideals and negates the reality that menstruation can occur after the age of 14; further recognises that all menstrual products are essential items and should be exempt from VAT; and calls on the Government to reconsider its position and remove the 20 per cent VAT on period pants and all other menstrual products.

EDM 1010 - Uyghur asylum seekers, 14th October 2020

Alistair Carmichael, 19 signatures

That this House notes reports from human rights groups which state that the Chinese Government is interning over one million Uyghur people in re-education camps across the Xinjiang Autonomous Region; further notes reports from the camps which allege that detainees are being kept in squalid conditions and are forced to renounce their religion or face torture; expresses serious concern at emerging research which alleges that the Chinese state is forcing Uyghur women to be sterilized; condemns the detention of Uyghur diaspora returning to Xinjiang by the Chinese Government; notes that other European Governments such as the Government of Sweden has announced that it will grant refugee status to all Uyghur asylum-seekers from China; calls on the Government to automatically grant refugee status to all Uyghur people fleeing to the UK as a result of religious persecution from the Chinese state.

EDM 1016 - Effect of sodium valproate and foetal valproate syndrome, 15th October 2020

Jon Trickett, 11 signatures

That this House is concerned that 300 children every year are born with foetal valproate syndrome as a result of the drug sodium valproate being prescribed to women during pregnancy; expresses shock that between 1973 and 2016 no explanation of side effects linked to the drug, such as kidney and heart malformations in children, were provided to these pregnant women before they were prescribed sodium valproate; notes that despite the introduction of a Valproate Toolkit in 2016 to provide information about the drug to patients and healthcare professionals, the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review of July 2020 found that women are still becoming pregnant while on Sodium Valproate without any knowledge of the risks; pays tribute to the work of the Independent Foetal Anti-Convulsant Trust for its work raising awareness of this issue; and calls on the Government to apologise to the thousands of families affected and to immediately establish a task force in order to implement the recommendations of the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review 2020 in full.

EDM 1066 - Thirteen year old Christian girl abducted, converted and married to a 43 year old man, 2nd November 2020

Jim Shannon, 11 signatures

That this House notes with grave concern reports from Pakistan that on 13 October 2020, a 13-year-old Christian girl Arzoo Raja, was abducted from a street near her home in Karachi, forced to convert to Islam and marry the abductor, 43 year old Mr Ali Azhar; is further concerned that, despite her family producing a National Database and Registration Authority birth certificate showing Arzoo to be 13 years old, the authorities failed to stop the illegal marriage, and the Sindh Police has failed to rescue her so far; understands that Arzoo's parents are being threatened by the abductor's family and calls on the Government to lobby the Pakistani authorities to intervene and help Arzoo and other Pakistani Christian and Hindu girls who are kidnapped, forced to convert and marry their abductor every year.

EDM 1086 - Delays to NHS fertility services as a result of the covid-19 outbreak, 2nd November 2020

Steve McCabe, 26 signatures

That this House acknowledges the delays to NHS fertility services caused by the covid-19 outbreak, and the distressing impact of these delays on fertility patients; further notes the imposition of strict female age limits for NHS-funded IVF by CCGs in England, which range from 34 to 42 years old; recognises that in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, commitments have been made to stop the clock for fertility patients to ensure they do not exceed age limits for NHS-funded IVF due to pandemic-related delays; shares concerns raised by BPAS Fertility, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Association of Reproductive and Clinical Scientists and others, that no such directive has been issued in England; further recognises that fertility patients in England are already subject to an unacceptable postcode lottery due to disparities between CCGs' commissioning policies, which commonly diverge from NICE guidance; urges the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to issue guidance to CCGs on the issue of covid-19 delays, to promote a standardised approach across England and offer reassurance to all fertility

patients during the pandemic, regardless of where they live; and finally urges the Secretary of State to confirm in said guidance that fertility patients affected by the delays should not be disadvantaged as a result of their age, and no patient who has crossed an age threshold since fertility clinics were instructed to close on 23 March 2020 should be considered ineligible for care on that basis.

EDM 1109 - Increase in violence against women in Turkey, 9th November 2020

Joanna Cherry, 20 signatures

That this House is extremely concerned about the eroding of women's rights in Turkey and notes the alarming increase of reported assaults and homicide against women over the past year; finds it concerning that that increase has occurred during a global pandemic which disproportionately impacts women economically; is concerned about the growing rhetoric of the Turkish Government and their officials including attacking women's rights and threatening withdrawal from the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention to tackle violence against women; fears that that rhetoric is leading to an acceptance of violence against women; notes that the abuse of women by security personnel is particularly a feature against Kurdish women and women active in the women's movement, trade unions and opposition political parties; encourages Turkey to implement the four pillars of prevention, protection, prosecution and coordinated policies underpinned in the Istanbul Convention; shows solidarity to those protesting in Turkey to protect women's rights and end the violence against women in their country; and calls on the UK Government to use its international influence to encourage the Turkish regime to end its dangerous rhetoric and fully implement the Istanbul Convention.

EDM 1181 - Conflict in Ethiopia, 24th November 2020

Layla Moran, 20 signatures

That this House is deeply concerned about the escalation of conflict in Ethiopia; condemns the deliberate killing of innocent civilians; sends its sincerest condolences to all those who have tragically lost loved ones as a result; notes the estimated 4,000 refugees per day fleeing Ethiopia; further notes the UNHRC's warning of a full-scale humanitarian crisis if the conflict continues without imminent de-escalation; calls on the Government to use all diplomatic means it can to assist de-escalating the violence and resolving the underlying conflict; and therefore also urges the Government to ensure the Official Development Assistance budget is maintained to ensure Ethiopian civilians receive adequate support and aid.

EDM 1190 - Endometriosis and access to statutory support, 25th November 2020

Liz Saville Roberts, 15 signatures

That this House congratulates the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Endometriosis and Endometriosis UK for their important inquiry into the challenges faced by those with the condition and the publication of their report entitled Endometriosis in the UK: Time for Change; notes that endometriosis is a chronic and sometimes debilitating condition which can have a significant impact on a person's life; further notes that the inquiry found that for those whom the condition is so debilitating that they are prevented from working, it is often difficult to access support such as Personal Independent Payments and Universal Credit; acknowledges that the current definition of Statutory Sick Pay fails to properly recognise long-

term conditions like endometriosis; calls on the Government to ensure that those with endometriosis have access to Statutory Sick Pay; and urges the Department of Work and Pensions to review their guidelines and training for assessors to ensure that they understand the impact of endometriosis so that those who are severely affected by the condition are able to access the benefits they need.

EDM 1194 - The 0.7 per cent overseas aid commitment, 25th November 2020

Chris Law, 63 signatures

That this House expresses concern and condemnation of any attempt by the Government to reduce aid spending by ending the UK's commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) on Overseas Development Assistance; notes that the 0.7 per cent target was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1970, was first achieved by the UK in 2013, has been met every year since, and is currently enshrined in law through the International Development Act 2015; recognises that maintaining the commitment was part of the Conservative Party manifesto the Government was elected on in December 2019; acknowledges the significant cross-party support for the commitment with a further six parties supporting spending 0.7 per cent of GNI on aid at the last general election; notes that the Independent Commission for Aid Impact has found that the Government's approach to managing the target has become increasingly effective and well-coordinated; understands that UK aid spending makes a significant contribution to the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, tackling global challenges such as eradicating poverty, promoting gender inequality, and taking action on climate change; is deeply worried that the UK aid budget is already experiencing drastic reductions due to the fall in GNI which will be compounded by the end of the 0.7 per cent commitment; believes that it is unacceptable to turn to neglect the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, particularly while the covid-19 pandemic drives more people into poverty; and calls on the Government to live up to its international responsibilities and maintain the 0.7 per cent aid commitment.

EDM 1198 - Ending period poverty in Scotland, 25th November 2020

Anne McLaughlin, 22 signatures

That this House congratulates the Scottish Parliament on its continued cross party work to tackle period poverty; recognises that from the first action to back Women for Independence's campaign to have maternity towels included in baby boxes through to becoming the first country in the world to make period products freely available to all who need them, the Scottish Parliament's work on period poverty is world leading; applauds the important role played by many organisations and individuals who have campaigned tirelessly on period poverty for many years such as Girlguiding Scotland, Scottish Women's Aid, Women for Independence, Engender, On The Baw and many more; understands the need to break down the barriers to education and work for women and girls; and recognises that ending period poverty is a key way to allow women and girls to fulfil their potential.

EDM 1237 - UN 16 Days campaign and GMB Work to Stop Domestic Abuse Charter, 3rd December 2020

Sarah Owen, 24 signatures

That this House marks the UN 16 days of activism against gender-based violence run from 25th November, UN International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10th December, Human Rights Day, highlighting the link between violence against women and human rights; notes that GMB union launched its campaign and GMB Work to Stop Domestic Abuse Charter two years ago; and further notes that domestic abuse is a workplace issue and employers including hon. Members should support the campaign.

EDM 1255 - Kidnapping of girls and young women in Pakistan, 8th December 2020

Jim Shannon, 8 signatures

That this House notes that according to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, there are around 1,000 young women from religious minority groups who are kidnapped, forcibly and converted and married to much older men; further notes the recent cases including Maira Shahbaz, Saneha Iqbal and Arzoo Raja, all three who were Christian girls all under the age of 15; expresses grave concern at the similar attacks and forced marriages of young Hindu girls; and calls on Government to strongly condemn the perpetration of these acts and further to make contact with the Pakistan Government asking for steps to be taken to prevent these horrific actions from continuing without penalty.

EDM 1259 - Human rights and democracy in Poland, 9th December 2020

Clive Lewis, 36 signatures

That this House acknowledges and condemns human rights violations in Poland, in particular, attacks on the rights of women and LGBTQ+ minorities, including the near-total abortion ban that breaks the human right of freedom from torture, and disregards the bodily autonomy of women; supports the protection of LGBTQ+ families, and stands against the creation of LGBT free zones in Poland; condemns the new law which breaks people's right to assembly and protest by threatening protesters with 6 months to 8 years in prison, and the police brutality against peaceful protesters; recognises the judicial autonomy infringement and the breaking of the rule of law; decries the lack of freedom of the press, the politicisation of Polish media, financial censorship, and the creation of the index of the prohibited press in Poland; and calls on the Foreign Secretary to publicly support Polish women and minority groups as they seek to uphold democratic values in Poland.

EDM 1285 - Official Development Assistance 0.7 per cent GNI commitment, 16th December 2020

Layla Moran, 23 signatures

That this House notes UK Official Development Assistance spending has helped millions and stands as a testament to the best of British values; observes that the Government's decision to cut development spending to 0.5 per cent of GNI breaks its manifesto promise to the British people and has serious consequences for the world's poorest people; notes that despite claims from the Government, primary legislation is not needed to temporarily cut the development budget, and that such legislation would only be needed were the cut to be

permanent; calls on the Government to maintain the 0.7 per cent commitment set out in the International Development (Official Development Assistance) Act 2015; and further calls on the Government to retain an Independent Commission for Aid Impact, the International Development Committee and a Development Minister in Cabinet.

EDM 1334 - PrEP and National HIV Testing Week 2021, 11th January 2021

Bell Ribeiro-Addy, 19 signatures

That this House notes the importance of access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in efforts to stop new cases of HIV in the UK; understands PrEP is up to 100% effective at preventing HIV transmission and must be available to all groups who could benefit from it; recognises that local healthcare settings such as pharmacies and GP practices play a key role in public health and should be involved in providing access to PrEP, in particular to women who are less likely to take PrEP despite women accounting for one-third of the total population living with HIV in the UK; notes that National HIV Testing Week takes place on 1 – 7 February 2021 and ending stigma associated with HIV is vital to ensure more people come forward for a HIV test; and calls on the Government to fully implement the recommendations of the national HIV Commission, including the swift publication of the HIV Action Plan which should include measures to increase access to PrEP and provide opt-out HIV testing as standard across the NHS.

EDM 1337 - VAT on reusable period pants, 11th January 2021

Daisy Cooper, 31 signatures

That this House welcomes the zero VAT rating of women's menstrual products, applied from January 2021; commends the recognition that sanitary products are an essential item; regrets that one in 10 girls in the United Kingdom are unable to afford sanitary wear, resulting in detriment to their self-esteem, education and overall quality of life; recognises the sustainability and environmental benefits of reusable menstrual products such as period pants; regrets that such products will continue to attract VAT at the higher rate of 20% and will therefore remain unaffordable for many; calls for a level playing field for reusable menstrual period pants; calls for the Government to improve access to ecological and economical period pants; and urges the Government to update the provisions of HMRC Guidance VAT Notice 701/18 to allow period pants to be zero rated.

EDM 1340 - Fetal pain, 12th January 2021

Carla Lockhart, 29 signatures

That this House welcomes the report on Foetal Sentience and Pain commissioned by the all-party Parliamentary pro-life group; recognises that recent research by Dr Stuart WG Derbyshire and John C Bockmann PA in the Journal of Medical Ethics supports the view that babies in the womb may feel pain from as early as 12 weeks' gestation; welcomes the provision of pain relief for babies in the womb undergoing surgery for spina bifida between 20 and 26 weeks' gestation; regrets the inconsistency in NHS practice that recommends pain relief for spina bifida surgery from 20 weeks' gestation but not for abortion at the same gestation; notes that the killing of protected animals from two-thirds of gestation is subject to tighter legal regulation than unborn humans being aborted from the same stage of development; and calls on the Government to review its official guidance on fetal pain,

requiring that pain relief be provided from at least 12 weeks' gestation for all invasive medical procedures involving babies in the womb, including abortion.

EDM 1350 - Cervical Cancer Prevention Week (No. 2), 13th January 2021

Dr Lisa Cameron, 25 signatures

This House notes that the week commencing 18th January 2021 is Cervical Cancer Prevention Week, which provides a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of the disease and preventative measures including cervical screenings; recognises that attending cervical screenings is important, but not always easy, and that uncertainty and anxiety around covid-19 has worsened this; emphasises the need to accelerate pilots and research around self-sampling to improve access; highlights that Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust is providing continuous information and support; and encourages all Members to share resources with concerned constituents during this week and in the future.

EDM 1381 - Cervical Cancer Prevention Week (No. 3), 20th January 2021

Jim Shannon, 12 signatures

That this House notes that Cervical Cancer Prevention Week runs from 18 to 24 January in 2021; recognises the difficulties presented by the interruption of regular cancer screening as a result of the covid-19 pandemic; underlines the fact that cervical cancer screening is essential for every woman; and encourages women to take the emphatic advice of GP surgeries, cervical cancer charities and the Department of Health and Social Care to make an appointment for cervical cancer screening on the understanding that it will take place in a covid-safe and sterile environment.

EDM 1398 - Access to PrEP for Black communities, 25th January 2021

Bell Ribeiro-Addy, 14 signatures

That this House is concerned that there is inequitable access for all who need access to the HIV prevention pill pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP); notes that PrEP is highly effective at stopping HIV and extremely cost-effective when compared with a lifetime of HIV treatment; further notes that in the UK, Black African men and women are the second-largest group affected by HIV; recognises that there was disappointingly low coverage of access to PrEP on the Impact trial for women and Black communities; is aware that the routine commissioning of PrEP has focused on providing access to individuals previously on the Impact trial; calls on local commissioners and councils to provide equitable access to all high-risk individuals who need access to PrEP; further calls on the Government to increase funding for PrEP in 2021; and urges local public health teams to improve knowledge about PrEP among Black communities.

EDM 1402 - Sexual and reproductive health and rights including abortion services, 26th January 2021

Virendra Sharma, 10 signatures

This House calls on the President of the United States of America to protect and expand Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including abortion access globally in the

first days of his presidency; notes that as the country's first pro-choice catholic president he has consistently connected his care for the poor, the sick and the vulnerable to his catholic faith and is a long-term champion of women's rights and the rights of marginalised people; welcomes his support in opposing policies like the Global Gag Rule, the Hyde Amendment and the Helms Amendment that inflict disproportionate suffering on the poorest of the poor, those afflicted by illness related to reproductive health, and those in rural areas with limited resources and those who find themselves in communities of profound powerlessness; urges support in overturning these policies as a matter of life and death for countless women and girls around the world; recommends that investing in SRHR saves lives, enables women and girls to participate equally in economic and social activity and makes it possible for families to break the spiral of poverty; and recognises universal access to SRHR including abortion services ensures a more prosperous and sustainable future for all of us.

EDM 1564 - Worldwide right to education for girls, 1st March 2021

Barry Sheerman, 16 signatures

That this House is concerned that, globally, 132 million girls are not in school; believes that all girls should have the right to education; acknowledges that conflict, gender-based violence and child marriage all present barriers to girls' education worldwide; notes that the Covid-19 pandemic has increased the disparities in education globally, especially in areas of conflict; further notes the economic and social benefits of increasing the proportion of girls in education; supports international efforts to reduce the gender disparity in education and improve educational outcomes for girls worldwide; and urges the Government to undertake a review of international aid spending on girls' education, in light of the additional pressures caused by Covid-19 and the recent merger of the Department for International Development with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

EDM 1575 - International Women's Day and freedom of religion or belief (No. 2), 3rd March 2021

Dr Lisa Cameron, 16 signatures

That this House celebrates International Women's Day on 8 March 2021; recognises that women from marginalised religious or belief communities encounter unique persecution and challenges due to their gender; expresses deep concern that these women have become much more vulnerable since the outbreak of covid-19 resulting in increased cases of domestic violence, kidnapping and forced marriage, as seen in the case of 14 year old Maira Shahbaz and 13 year old Arzoo Raja in Pakistan; notes the launch of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Freedom of Religion or Belief's new report entitled, Commentary on the Current State of Freedom of Religion or Belief (2020) which draws attention to the intersection between gender inequality and freedom of religion or belief violations with many specific examples; and urges the UK Government and the international community to act to mitigate the impact that the covid-19 pandemic has had on freedom of religion or belief globally and, in particular, on women and girls who are doubly discriminated against because of their gender and their beliefs.

EDM 1590 - International Women's Day: support for girls' education across the globe, 4th March 2021

Layla Moran, 27 signatures

That this House notes with concern the findings of UN Women's report 'From Insight to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19' that without coordinated action to mitigate the gendered impacts of COVID-19, there is a risk that the fragile gender equality gains achieved over the past 25 years will be lost; acknowledges the continued importance of the Sustainable Development Goals as road maps to combat gender inequality in the UK and abroad; notes that before 2020, 130 million girls had no access to education and that this number has now increased as a result of inequality gaps caused by the coronavirus pandemic; further notes the important role that UK development spending has historically played working to ensure girls across the globe have access to education; draws attention to the fact that UK development spending cuts will drastically impact girls' access to education across the globe, as education programmes see a reduction in funding; and urges the Government to recommit to 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income to be spent on international development, as set out in their manifesto.

EDM 1595 - Celebrating International Women's Day, 8th March 2021

Daisy Cooper, 20 signatures

That this House notes the achievements of women around the world on International Women's Day on 8 March; welcomes the 2021 theme of #ChooseToChallenge as a call to action for people to challenge gender inequality and bias; celebrates Kamala Harris, the first female, first Black and first Asian-American Vice President of the United States of America; celebrates Zara Mohammed, the first woman to be Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain; celebrates Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the first woman and first African person, to head the World Trade Organisation; and further celebrates British vaccinologist Professor Sarah Gilbert, recipient of the prestigious Albert Medal in recognition of her leadership on the Oxford Covid vaccine; gives thanks to all those women working on the frontline of the pandemic; notes with grave concern the estimates by UN Women that the covid-19 pandemic could wipe out a quarter of a century of increasing gender equality; and calls on all people to consider the ways that society benefits when it is able to tap into the talent, creativity and leadership of women.

EDM 1636 - Sarah Everard and women's safety, 12th March 2021

Bell Ribeiro-Addy, 29 signatures

That this House expresses deep concern for the disappearance of Sarah Everard, a young woman who went missing in Clapham as she was walking home on the 3rd March; extends thoughts and prayers to Sarah's family and friends at this difficult time; notes with great sadness that women's safety remains a serious issue; and believes that in 2021, women should not have to fear that harm may come to them if they are walking by themselves; is appalled by the results of a recent YouGov poll which found that 97 per cent of women aged 18-24 have been sexually harassed and 80 per cent of women of all ages have experienced sexual harassment in a public space; stands in solidarity with all women who have survived harassment, assault and violence; believes that more resources should be dedicated to violence against women and girls; is disgusted by the victim shaming heard since Sarah

Everard's disappearance; and strongly refutes any suggestions that the onus should fall on women to change their behaviour to prevent becoming victims of an attack.

EDM 1684 - Kidnapping and forced conversions in Pakistan, 23rd March 2021

Jim Shannon, 8 signatures

That this House notes with grave concern reports from Pakistan that Kavita Kumari, a 13 year-old Hindu girl was abducted at gunpoint from her home in Kandhkot, Sindh, and is further appalled that, despite her school certificate showing her to be 13-years-old, she was converted to Islam in a triumphant public ceremony by Mian Mithoo, the custodian of a Muslim shrine, Barchundi Sharif; and calls on the UK government to do everything in its power to help Kavita and all of the estimated 1,000 Pakistani Christian and Hindu girls who are kidnapped, forced to convert and marry their abductor every year.

House of Lords

Oral Ministerial Statements

Please find relevant text of oral ministerial statements enclosed at Appendix 30

Global Britain, 18th June 2020

The Prime Minister's 16th June statement on Global Britain was read in the HoL. In the statement, the Prime Minister set out the ambitions of a global Britain, the lessons of the Covid-19 pandemic, and announced that he would be merging DFID with the FCO to create the FCDO (see above for a fuller description). APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan noted that DFID was held in high regard in part due to its openness and accountability and asked if the Leader would argue in Cabinet to retain the crucial oversight of the IDC and ICAI, especially when it came to the prioritisation process. APPG on PDRH Treasurer Baroness Jenkin of Kennington said that ICAI's role would be more crucial than ever and asked the Minister to confirm that ICAI's work ensuring that aid was spent effectively and delivered value would continue, or possibly even be enhanced.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, 3rd September 2020

The Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab's 2nd September statement on the creation of the FCDO made in response to an urgent question, was read in the HoL. The Foreign Secretary outlined progress on the merger, used the pandemic to illustrate the way in which integration of the FCO and DFID would maximise the UK's international efforts and announced £119 million to tackle the combined threat of coronavirus and famine. He repeated the Government's commitment to 0.7%. APPG on PDRH Secretary Baroness Uddin echoed criticism of the merger and questions about the priority given to the PSVI before asking the Minister about pandemic-related assistance for Bangladesh, in particular the Rohingya refugees there.

Official Development Assistance, 2nd December 2020

The Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab's 26th November statement on the reduction of overseas aid from 0.7% to 0.5% of GNI in 2021 was read in the HoL (see full description above). APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury decried the Government's decision, outlined the on-the-ground consequences of the decision, and echoed the sentiments expressed by Baroness Sugg upon her resignation from FCDO. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan described the decision as morally wrong and pressed the Minister on whether the Government would seek to change the law on aid, if 0.7% on ODA would be achieved in 2020, what scrutiny and transparency measures would be put in place, and what assessment the Government had made of how many UK NGOs would go under as a result of the cuts. APPG on PDRH member Lord Purvis of Tweed asked the Minister to commit to publishing the fiscal criteria that would have to be met in order for the 0.7% commitment to be re-met before any legislative proposals to repeal the 2015 Act. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover asked the Minister if he could honestly say that he anticipated that we would ever return to 0.7% of GNI for development.

UN Mission in Mali: Armed Forces Deployment, 14th December 2020

The Minister for the Armed Forces, James Heappey's 9th December statement on UK support for the UN stabilisation mission in Mali, which supports the peace process and helps counter the spread of instability in the Sahel, was read in the HoL. In the statement, the Minister noted that, 'In the Sahel region, more than 15 million people need humanitarian assistance. Some 11 million are food insecure and more than 3 million are displaced because of the conflict. As with many conflicts around the world, women and girls in Mali are disproportionately affected by the continuing instability. The Sahel is the worst region on earth to be an adolescent girl seeking 12 years of quality education, as it accounts for an astonishing 7% of the world's population of primary age girls who are out of school. By 2030, almost one in five women aged 20 to 39 in the continent of Africa who have no education will be living in the Sahel.' Baroness Smith of Newnham noted that, in Mali, it was 'particularly difficult to be a woman—or a girl being educated,' and asked, 'To what extent will the change to humanitarian aid impact on Mali?... so can [the Minister] confirm that the Government remain committed to supporting women and girls?'

Domestic Abuse and Hidden Harms during Lockdown, 19th January 2021

The PUSS for the Home Department, Victoria Atkins' 14th January statement was read in the HoL. The statement on domestic abuse during lockdown included an announcement of the introduction of a new codeword scheme for victims of domestic abuse called 'Ask for ANI' at thousands of pharmacies across the UK. The Minister outlined other steps taken by the Government to ensure victims and those at risk could access advice and support (see full description above). APPG on PDRH Treasurer Baroness Jenkin of Kennington noted that a lot of domestic violence took place when perpetrators were under the influence of alcohol or drugs and asked the Minister to provide an update on the use of new technologies and on what consideration was being given to the use of tagging of offenders via compulsory sobriety orders. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan asked what plans the Government had to monitor and evaluate the Ask for ANI scheme and, if promising, to promote the scheme to all pharmacies. APPG on PDRH Secretary Baroness Uddin implored the Government to have a broader discussion with women's organisations across the country to mitigate the shortfall in their budgets and services. APPG on PDRH Officer Lord Mann asked the Minister if the

Government were confident that measures were in place to ensure the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities were sufficiently serviced by the services and facilities available.

Women's Health Strategy, 9th March 2021

The Minister for Patient Safety, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health, Nadine Dorries' 8th March statement on the women's health strategy was read in the HoL. In her statement, the Minister announced that the Government were launching a national women's health strategy for England which would set a new agenda to improve the health and wellbeing of women across England. The Government was calling for evidence to examine women's experiences of the whole health and care system, including mental health, disabilities and healthy ageing, as well as female-specific issues such as gynaecological conditions, pregnancy and post-natal support, and menopause. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Thornton raised three matters: the questions that arise out of the effect of Covid-19 on women's health and wellbeing; the troubling matter of breast cancer and sexual health; and the implementation of the recommendations of the Cumberlege report. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Blackstone asked the Government how they would ensure that this strategy, the sexual health strategy and the violence against women and girls strategy were all properly aligned and based on a life course approach to women's health, avoiding the creation of even more fragmentation for women.

Policing and Prevention of Violence against Women, 16th March 2021

The Home Secretary, Priti Patel's 15th March statement on policing and the prevention of violence against women was read in the HoL. In the aftermath of Sarah Everard's murder and the police's heavy-handed break-up of the vigil on Clapham Common, the Home Secretary outlined measures taken to protect women and girls, including passage of the Domestic Abuse Act and new preventative tools and powers to tackle stalking, FGM and up-skirting. A new strategy on tackling violence against women and girls would be brought forward later in 2021. APPG on PDRH Treasurer Baroness Jenkin of Kennington asked how, given that the internet has changed everything beyond recognition in such a short space of time, to help and prioritise so that boys could grow up with a healthy attitude towards girls and with respect for them. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Hussein-Ece spoke about sexual harassment and toxic masculinity, and asked the Minister to look into making kerb-crawling an offence and into the outcome of the Government's rape review.

Integrated Review, 17th March 2021

On the occasion of its publication on 16th March, the Prime Minister made a statement on the Government's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, which was read in the HoL. The statement focused on security, defence and trade and did not mention ID. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover questioned the Government about reductions to science and technology spending resulting from cuts to ODA. APPG on PDRH member Lord Purvis of Tweed noted the Government's legal obligation to spend 0.7% of GNI on overseas aid and the fact that no legislation had been brought forward, and asked if that meant the Government were therefore legally committed to meeting 0.7% in 2022.

Legislation

Please find relevant text of legislation proceedings enclosed at Appendix 31

Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020, 15th June 2020

The Government had previously made the Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020, which came into force on 31st March 2020, to set out the new legal framework for the provision of abortion services in NI. Those regulations were required to be debated by 17th May 2020 to remain in force as law, but the Covid-19 pandemic impacted on parliamentary processes. As a result, the Government took the decision to remake the regulations to give Parliament an additional 28 days to consider and scrutinise them properly. This approach ensured that the law on abortion in NI continued to apply, with no risk of a gap or legal uncertainty, and that services in NI could continue on the same legal basis as they had started operating within the new legal parameters. This statutory instrument, the Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020, came into force on 14th May 2020, to comply with the duty to make regulations to provide for lawful access to abortion services, and these proceedings constituted debate of the motion to approve the regulations in the HoL. Viscount Younger of Leckie, for the Government, set out the reasons behind them and gave a brief overview of what the regulations entailed.

There was a spirited debate. Baroness O'Loan proposed an amendment to prohibit abortion in cases of non-fatal abnormalities, which was ultimately unsuccessful (the vote was 112 Ayes to 388 Noes). APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Barker criticised the Government's process in relation to scrutiny of the regulations, but spoke in favour of the regulations themselves. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover noted that there were currently no routine service beyond 10 weeks of pregnancy, forcing women to travel but unable to do so due to the lockdown. She urged members to support the regulations because without them abortion care may stop forcing women to turn to unregulated services. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Thornton explained that the Government had a legal duty to comply with the law and that these regulations merely provided the framework for doing so. She urged members to 'move forward, not backward', by focusing on implementing the regulations rather than trying to roll back the rights of women and girls in NI. APPG on PDRH member Lord Balfe supported the regulations and spoke in support of the British Medical Association (BMA)'s observations: first, that healthcare workers not be subject to criminal sanctions; second, that abortion should be decriminalised across the UK; and third, that the regulations ought to contain provisions for buffer zones outside confidential abortion services. APPG on PDRH Officer Lord Mann spoke in support of the regulations, arguing that the prospect of reverting to the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, which allows for life imprisonment for having an abortion, was not acceptable.

Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2020, 15th June 2020

During a debate on a motion to approve coronavirus regulations, Baroness Stroud discussed the provisions to allow telemedicine abortion at home, described instances of poor health outcomes, argued that these should now be scrapped, and asked the Minister to agree that the Government would do so the next time the regulations were reviewed. The PUSS for the Department of HSC, Lord Bethell, justified the Government's process on the basis that the coronavirus situation was very fast moving.

Trade Bill [Committee Stage (Day 4)], 8th October 2020

During the Committee Stage of the Trade Bill, APPG on PDRH member Lord Purvis of Tweed introduced an amendment which would ensure that trade agreements could not be implemented, signed or ratified unless they were consistent with the provisions of the SDGs. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan, a sponsor of the amendment, spoke in support of it, arguing that a fair trading scheme was necessary to realising the UK's ambitions to protect the planet and make good social injustices. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover spoke in support of the amendment, noting that the Government had said that any trade deals with developing countries would be in keeping with the UK's commitments to the SDGs, and arguing that this amendment was the safest and easiest way to fulfil that commitment. Debate on the amendment was adjourned.

Trade Bill [Committee Stage (Day 6)], 15th October 2020

Peers debated an amendment which would confer a power to remove a country from the list of those benefiting from unilateral trade preferences where the government of that country had committed human rights abuses. APPG on PDRH member Lord Purvis of Tweed spoke in support of the amendment, citing relevant examples of how the trade preferences and the way the UK managed its trade in future could have substantial impacts in some of the poorest countries of the world. The amendment was ultimately withdrawn.

Trade Bill [Report Stage (Day 2)], 15th December 2020

APPG on PDRH member Lord Purvis of Tweed moved an amendment to the Trade Bill which would prohibit tied aid in trade and procurement. He said that one of the reasons for tabling the amendment was to respond to statements that the Chancellor and the Foreign Secretary had made about the 'shameful' decision to breach the UK's obligations under the 2015 Overseas Development Target Act to meet its commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on ODA. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan, who sponsored the amendment, spoke about the dangers of tied aid (citing the Pergau dam scandal of the early 1990s). After receiving assurances from the Minister, Lord Purvis withdrew the amendment on tied aid.

Domestic Abuse Bill [Second Reading], 5th January 2021

Baroness Williams of Trafford opened the Second Reading the Domestic Abuse Bill, the aims of which were: first, to raise awareness of domestic abuse; secondly, to better protect and support victims and their children; thirdly, to transform the response to the criminal, civil and family justice systems; and, fourthly, to improve performance across all national and local agencies. Peers discussed a range of issues including the need to include migrant women within the scope of the bill, the need to recognise the gendered nature of domestic abuse, the violence against women and girls strategy, and the two-child limit. Baroness Featherstone discussed domestic abuse overseas and her work on FGM in the UK. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Watkins of Tavistock welcomed the bill and spoke in support of criminalising non-fatal strangulation. APPG on PDRH member Lord Dholakia discussed the rise in domestic violence caused by the pandemic and bemoaned low levels of prosecutions. He also noted the importance of ensuring local authorities and agencies were aware of specific and special issues affecting Black and minority ethnic (BAME) communities, the

impact of gambling and alcohol abuse, and the issue of marriages which lack legal status in the UK. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Crawley asked the Minister for updates on the support for migrant victims pilot scheme and action on the new duty on public bodies to deliver community-based support. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Hussein-Ece spoke about community-based services and support for families, and ensuring that they were widely available, particularly to BAME communities. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Verma asked the Minister to look at the Government's strategy on safe spaces and raised concerns over the welfare and safety of women and girls in minority communities where they do not have the language skills and may not have access to online devices or phones. She called for legislation that 'gives protection to every citizen and does not get caught up in fearing community sensitivities'. APPG on PDRG Treasurer Baroness Jenkin of Kennington focused on the effects of domestic abuse on children and asked the Minister to look at incorporating a duty to deliver community-based services for children and young people, and at young people in abusive relationships being able to access specialist support to address their harmful behaviour. APPG on PDRH member Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe spoke about the need to break the cycle of abuse by working with perpetrators and addressing the root causes of their unacceptable actions. APPG on PDRH Secretary Baroness Uddin spoke about the 'moral imperative to forge and enhance multiagency collaboration with community services in order to provide a holistic response to all those who are vulnerable', including the elderly, the disabled, children, ethnic minority and refugee women. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Massey of Darwen focused on issues relating to children and teenagers.

Domestic Abuse Bill [Committee Stage (Day 1)], 25th January 2021

During debate of an amendment to expand the definition in the bill to include a relationship where one person was under 16 and the other was over 16, Baroness Butler-Sloss said she was very opposed to marriage under the age of 18 and said, 'There is no doubt that a number of teenage marriages involve domestic abuse. It is important to recognise that, in such marriages, those under 18 are as much at risk as anyone else.' The amendment was withdrawn. Peers also debated an amendment about women trapped in religious marriages. Baroness Butler-Sloss put forward amendments relating to young people both under and over 18 who are forced by coercive control or physical abuse into an unwanted marriage that they do not want to enter. She pointed out that 'This is extremely concerning because it is domestic abuse, not between spouses or partners but within the family. It is very important that forced marriage is well understood, despite the [existing] legislation, because there is no widespread recognition that forced marriage can be, and often is, a part of domestic abuse.' She argued that it was very important that forced marriage come within the definition of domestic abuse. APPG on PDRH Secretary Baroness Uddin spoke in support of Baroness Butler-Sloss's amendment on forced marriage and in favour of community-based services as a critical to empowering survivors and their children. Peers also debated an amendment dealing with the effects of domestic abuse on children in utero.

Domestic Abuse Bill [Committee Stage (Day 5)], 8th February 2021

During the Committee Stage of the Domestic Abuse Bill, Lord Russell of Liverpool introduced an amendment on misogyny which would require chief officers to provide information about domestic abuse crimes where the offender demonstrated hostility or prejudice based on sex. He argued that 'Violence against women does not occur in a vacuum. Hostility towards them generates a culture in which violence and abuse are being tolerated, excused and repeated.'

Changing that means challenging not only individual acts of abuse but the very roots of the culture that enables it.’ After debating misogyny, sexism and whether misogyny should be made a hate crime, the amendment was withdrawn. Peers then debated an amendment on disapplying provisions excluding migrant victims from recourse to public funds in cases of domestic abuse. Baroness Butler-Sloss raised concerns of women who were married according to the custom of their religion but whose marriages had not been registered and are therefore not recognised in English law. Such women are not recognised as wives and have no immigration status, and many are victims of forced marriage. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Hussein-Ece spoke in support of the amendments, supporting non-discrimination ‘to ensure that the Domestic Abuse Bill is truly victim-centred and complies with the Istanbul convention’. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Verma spoke about the need for proper support for migrant women who had no recourse to public funds.

Domestic Abuse Bill [Committee Stage (Day 6)], 10th February 2021

Peers debated an amendment to establish an agency to make arrangements for serial domestic abuse or stalking perpetrators to be registered on VISOR (the Violent and Sex Offender Register) and be subjected to supervision, monitoring and management through the agency. Lord Strasburger talked about the importance of sex and relationships education in schools, teaching school-aged children what healthy relationships look like. Following assurances from the Minister, the amendment was withdrawn. During debate of an amendment about the duty to report suspected abuse, Baroness Butler-Sloss asked the Minister that any guidance on training that is given to local authorities has added to it that some women may be victims of forced marriage and may therefore need some specialist support. Baroness Gale moved an amendment which would establish the gendered nature of domestic abuse in statute. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Hodgson of Abinger, who sponsored the amendment, acknowledged that domestic abuse affects men, criticised the bill for failing to mention the violence against women and girls strategy and argued that this amendment would remedy that and ensure compliance with Article 7 of the Istanbul Convention. The amendment was withdrawn. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Massey of Darwen spoke in support of an amendment on the issue of abuse in teenage relationships.

Domestic Abuse Bill [Report Stage (Day 1)], 8th March 2021

During the Report Stage, Baroness Butler-Sloss spoke in favour of an amendment seeking the inclusion of comments on forced marriage to the statutory guidance. She said, ‘There is a group of young people whose needs must be assessed in the social security reforms: those who are being forced into marriage—they are usually coerced. They include, in particular—this is what I am concerned about—those who are aged under 18. I hope that they can be taken into account when the impact of these policies is taken into account.’

Domestic Abuse Bill [Report Stage (Day 2)], 10th March 2021

During debate of an amendment about providing alcohol and mental health support, Baroness Butler-Sloss expressed support and added that ‘mental health issues should include people who are forced into marriage, most of whom are very young and some of whom are under 18’.

Domestic Abuse Bill [Report Stage (Day 3)], 15th March 2021

Lord Goldsmith spoke in favour of an amendment which would enable the Government to ratify the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Later, Peers debated an amendment which provided for the establishment of agencies to make arrangements for serial domestic abuse or stalking perpetrators to be registered and subjected to supervision, monitoring and management and require the Government to provide a comprehensive perpetrator strategy for domestic abusers and stalkers within one year of the Act being passed. Several Peers discussed the culture of misogyny which enables violence against women and puts the onus on women to prevent it and blames them when it happens. The amendment was put to a division and was agreed, 327 Ayes to 232 Noes.

Domestic Abuse Bill [Report Stage (Day 4)], 17th March 2021

Peers debated an amendment which would require the SoS to issue guidance on and record domestic abuse and offences involving hostility based on sex or gender, thereby recognising the gendered nature of domestic abuse and making misogyny a hate crime. The amendment's sponsor, Baroness Kennedy of Cradley, said 'Violence against women and girls does not occur in a vacuum. Hostility towards women and girls generates a culture in which violence and abuse is tolerated, excused and repeated. Gathering evidence about the extent, nature and prevalence of hostility towards women and girls and how these interplay with the experience of domestic abuse is crucial to recognising these connections.' Following debate, the amendment was withdrawn.

Peers subsequently debated an amendment which would ensure that statutory guidance issued alongside the Domestic Abuse Bill took into account any VAWG strategy adopted by the Government, so that efforts to prevent and address domestic abuse would be linked to integrated and coordinated responses to tackle VAWG. The aim of the amendment was to ensure a holistic response to violence against women, as required by Article 7 of the Istanbul Convention. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Hodgson of Abinger supported the amendment, arguing 'it is important that the VAWG strategy is referenced in the Bill, because separate domestic abuse and violence against women strategies, albeit complementary ones, will not be more effective than an integrated one'. The amendment was ultimately withdrawn.

Debates

Please find relevant text of debates enclosed at Appendix 32

Charitable and Voluntary Sector, 30th April 2020

During a debate on fundraising and organisational challenges faced by the charitable and voluntary sector during the Covid-19 pandemic, APPG on PDRH member Baroness Anelay of St Johns raised the concerns of charities working overseas, especially in those eligible for ODA. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Hodgson of Abinger spoke about the effect the pandemic was having on organisations working in developing and conflict countries, fragile states and in refugee camps. Speaking about women, she said, 'In these countries, women and girls are disproportionately affected. Evidence shows that in these emergencies, gender-based violence is exacerbated. Although communities depend on women as food producers

and care givers, they are excluded from decision-making that affects their lives. It is also important for women to be able to access birth control, maternal health support and child vaccination programmes that should continue alongside education.’ She pressed the Government to consider doing more for NGOs working overseas, including possibly repurposing DFID grants to support and strengthen developing countries’ public health systems. APPG on PDRH Secretary Baroness Uddin spoke about the plight of women and asked the Government to consider mandating local authorities to ring-fence their financial support, to ensure that women’s economic, education, employment and safety needs were at the core of all local authorities’ services post-lockdown. Baroness Massey of Darwen spoke about the increase in domestic violence and need to support existing women’s centres make the shift to online services. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan asked the Government to support charities that work abroad, to increase the allocation of funds, allow charities in current programmes to pivot to tackle Covid-19, and extend the furlough scheme to charities. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Barker outlined many areas where the Government needed to do more to support charities and the work that they do.

Covid-19: International Response, 18th May 2020

The PUSS for FCO and DFID, Baroness Sugg, opened a debate on the international response to Covid-19. She outlined actions taken by the Government, including diverting aid to international research and vaccine initiatives, supporting Gavi, committing up to £744 of UK aid to support the global response and address both the primary and secondary impacts, including supporting UNFPA and UNICEF to ‘protect the rights of women and girls, including addressing gender-based violence and ensuring continued access to sexual and reproductive healthcare’. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover was glad the UK continued its commitment to 0.7% of GNI for aid, but worried that development was ‘going backwards’ and that some leaders were exploiting the crisis to impose authoritarian measures amidst a vacuum in global leadership. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Blackstone spoke about the need for vaccine equity, the need to make sure not to neglect other preventable diseases such as TB and malaria, the need to protect FP and maternal health to avoid an increase in maternal and infant mortality in poor countries, and the need to give economic support and prioritise tackling climate change. APPG on PDRH member Lord Purvis of Tweed addressed his comments to the impact of Covid-19 in fragile and conflict-afflicted areas and the risk that Covid-19 would also undermine women’s economic security and girls’ education. APPG on PDRH member Lord Foulkes of Cumnock spoke about the needs of older people. APPG on PDRH member Lord Hussain questioned the Minister about the Government’s response to the US’s withdrawal of funds to the WHO. APPG on PDRH Office Baroness Sheehan responded for the Liberal Democrats. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury responded for Labour and emphasised the importance of WASH initiatives.

Covid-19: Recovery Strategies, 11th June 2020

Peers debated the case for post-Covid-19 recovery strategies that would contribute to a fairer, cleaner, and more sustainable economy. Peers discussed the importance of green initiatives and COP26. APPG on PDRH member Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe spoke about the dangers of unchecked population growth.

Science Research Funding in Universities (Science and Technology Committee Report), 9th September 2020

During a debate on scientific research funding in universities, Lord Willetts said ‘One of my frustrations in my time was that the DFID culture was very much to focus on the poorest people in the poorest countries.’ He hoped that the UK would retain research and development partnerships with low- and middle-income countries.

Spending Review 2020, 3rd December 2020

During a debate on the spending review 2020, Peers discussed the Government’s decision to reduce ODA from 0.7% to 0.5% of GNI. While some defended the Government, several Peers criticised the Government’s decision as short-sighted and damaging. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan criticised the decision and argued there was no basis to the Government’s statement that ‘sticking rigidly to spending 0.7% of our national income on overseas aid is difficult to justify to the British people’. She pointed out that UK aid was a tremendous part of Britain’s soft power in the world. Noting the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women, APPG on PDRH Secretary Baroness Uddin pressed the Government to consider ring-fencing funds allocated to local authorities to fund programmes for the economic empowerment of women and vulnerable communities.

The UK’s Relationship with the Pacific Alliance (International Relations Committee Report), 1st February 2021

During a debate on the UK’s relationship with the Pacific Alliance, several Peers bemoaned the reduction in the aid budget. Lord Boateng spoke about the SDGs, particularly SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, which is linked to SDG 5 on gender equality. He said, ‘Access to clean water and safe sanitation contributes to gender equality through its impact on women’s dignity, health and access to education and opportunities for economic empowerment’. He asked if the Minister could assure the House that SDG 6 and the FCDO’s focus on it would not be weakened as a result of the ODA cuts, what assessment the Government have made of recent progress toward the SDGs, particularly SDG 6, in Pacific Alliance countries, and if the Government would work with other members of the Pacific Alliance to take the SDGs forward. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury pointed out that two of the issues that pose the greatest challenge to the UK in the coming years, the climate crisis and building back from Covid-19, are linked to the Alliance.

Economic Partnership Agreement: Kenya, 2nd March 2021

During a debate on the proposed bilateral trade agreement with Kenya, APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Sugg called the cuts to UK aid a ‘strategic and regrettable mistake’ and argued that the UK’s planned cuts to ID spending put economic – and broader – partnerships in Africa at risk. She cited report that bilateral aid programmes in Kenya would be cut by 50-70% and pressed the Minister to provide details of any conversations his department had had with the FCDO about the impact of the cuts. APPG on PDRH member Viscount Waverley said that ‘notwithstanding a round of development cuts, [the UK] should be seeking to better utilise our diminishing funds to build resilience and capabilities in key areas such as digital connectivity, climate, health and skills’. APPG on PDRH member Lord Purvis of Tweed pointed out ‘aid for trade’ aspects of the trade deal and argued that the cuts create significant

long-term reputational damage for the UK, putting longer-term projects at risk. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury echoed Baroness Sugg's comments on aid cuts, and discussed aspects of nutrition, human rights and climate change.

Anti-slavery Projects: Commonwealth, 4th March 2021

Peers held a short debate on what steps the Government were taking to promote anti-slavery projects throughout the Commonwealth. Lord Chidgey opened the debate with a thorough description of modern slavery, citing estimates that there are 16 million victims of modern slavery living in the Commonwealth, and describing the lack of a cohesive response from member states, including to the issue of forced marriage. He asked the Government to strengthen their leadership in support of the work of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) UK, ring-fencing this and other anti-slavery funding from cuts to the aid budget. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Massey of Darwen praised UK-funded efforts, through DFID and the CPA, to combat modern slavery and asked the Minister to explain how programmes supported by the UK were monitored and evaluated for their impact on the lives of victims. APPG on PDRH member Lord Purvis of Tweed pointed out that, given that Covid-19 had greatly increased the scope of forced labour and trafficking and increased the number of vulnerable women and children, the 'unlawful cuts to the UK's ODA are very regrettable'. He called on the Government to use their convening power for all Commonwealth countries to work so there would be a consistent definition and application of forced labour legislation, and to use the chair-in-office transition to Rwanda to make sure that this continued to be a priority area. In his remarks, APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked for the Minister's assessment of the impact of the ODA reduction to 0.5% on programmes that encourage anti-slavery legislation across the Commonwealth and how the Government would lead on that priority subject at the CHOGM in Rwanda.

International Women's Day, 11th March 2021

In Grand Committees, Peers debated International Women's Day and the UK's role in empowering women in the recovery from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Following the murder of Sarah Everard, there was a great deal of discussion about violence against women and girls, but also the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women, women's health, pregnancy discrimination and other workplace issues, mental health, gender equality and educating girls. APPG on PDRH Treasurer Baroness Jenkin of Kennington focused on the particular health issues affecting women. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Sugg noted that the pandemic had given rise to an increase in child marriage and GBV and that millions of girls would not return to school. She focused on the UK's role in empowering women internationally, including asking the Minister about what representations the UK had made to Poland on the imposition of a near-total ban on abortion there. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Lord Patel paid tribute to women scientists, particularly those who had developed the Covid-19 vaccine. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Crawley spoke about the difficulties of working mothers during the pandemic, domestic abuse and mental health. APPG on PDRH Secretary Baroness Uddin spoke about intersectional discrimination. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Verma spoke about women in minority communities and access to services. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Massey of Darwen spoke about women's rights and human rights. APPG on PDRH Officer Lord Mann described problems arising from new technologies, such as instant access to extreme pornography, to which society had not

adjusted. He said, 'Gender-based violence is about power and its misuse, and power imbalance', and urged the Government to address problems in the online harms bill.

Oral Parliamentary Questions

Please find relevant text of oral PQs enclosed at Appendix 33

Covid-19: Overseas Development Assistance, 22nd April 2020

Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale asked the Government what assessment they had made of the impact of Covid-19 on their ODA spending priorities in 2020-21 and beyond. PUSS for FCO and DFID, Baroness Sugg, responded for the Government. She explained that the UK would prioritise its response to the pandemic, and then acknowledged that the UK was off track on the SDGs, particularly goal 4 on education and goal 5 on gender equality. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Hodgson of Abinger noted that women and girls were being disproportionately affected by Covid-19 and asked for assurance that DFID would address the specific vulnerabilities that women and girls face in the light of the pandemic, and, looking ahead, that women and girls would remain a key focus for DFID. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked for assurance that, if the planned 2020 Nutrition for Growth summit was delayed, the Minister would ensure either that the Government pledge early, or ensure a continuation of nutrition finance at current levels for another year to avoid a cliff edge in such financing at the start of 2022. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan asked, first, if the Minister agreed that a victory against Covid-19 head to fully include Africa and the rest of the developing world and, second, if the Government would acknowledge the necessity of the WHO to co-ordinate an international pooling mechanism for treatment and vaccination equity. APPG on PDRH Officer Lord Mann asked if the Minister could guarantee that the UK's support, including budgetary support, for the work of UNFPA would be guaranteed through the next 12 months.

Overseas Development Assistance: Gender-based Violence, 28th April 2020

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Anelay of St Johns asked the Government what plans they had to use ODA during the Covid-19 pandemic to support the protection and safeguarding of girls and women from GBV. PUSS for FCO and DFID, Baroness Sugg, responded for the Government. She said the Government were deeply concerned about the surge in GBV and that DFID was re-prioritising its programming and working with global partners to prevent violence, ensuring that women and girls had access to the services they needed, and was urging governments to make the prevention and redress of VAWG part of their national response plans. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Massey of Darwen noted the importance of SRH programmes to resisting violence and asked the Minister to say how much DFID would be allocating to SRH programmes for women. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan questioned the allocation of ODA away from front-line UK NGOs battling Covid-19. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Hodgson of Abinger asked if UK aid could be directed more to supporting small organisations giving vital help to victims of domestic violence and if the UK's posts overseas could help with identifying the best organisations in-country to support. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked the Minister to explain how the UK would reach and build civil society to ensure that women, and particularly women's groups, could protect and advocate for themselves.

Schools: Relationships and Sex Education, 12th May 2020

APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Massey of Darwen asked the Government what assessment they had made of the ability of schools to deliver the new compulsory elements of the relationships and sex education (RSE) curriculum from September 2020 and what resources and training support had been provided to schools. APPG on PDRH member Lord Watson of Invergowrie pressed the Minister to explain what additional support the Government would explore to ensure that RSE could be taught online if schools had not returned by September.

Gavi: Covid-19, 18th May 2020

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Anelay of St Johns asked the Government what support they had given to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. PUSS for FCO and DFID, Baroness Sugg, responded for the Government. She answered that UK had committed the equivalent of £330 million per year to Gavi over the next five years and that, as Gavi's largest donor, UK funding would bolster and protect healthcare systems during the Covid-19 pandemic, including vaccinating children against other deadly diseases such as measles, yellow fever and polio. APPG on PDRH Secretary Baroness Uddin asked how the Government was working with partners and retaining the UK's commitment to childhood immunisation programmes and reproductive health services for women, particularly in refugee camps, such as Cox's Bazar.

Covid-19: Refugee Camps, 20th May 2020

APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked the Government what assessment they had made of the response of international institutions to the impact of Covid-19 on refugee camps, particularly in Yemen. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan asked if the Government would do all they could to urge members of the UN Security Council to reinsert the Iraq-Syria crossing at Yaroubiya as a named border crossing when Resolution 2504 comes up for renewal in July, to ensure aid could be delivered to northwest Syria.

Abortion Regulations: Northern Ireland, 8th June 2020

The response to an urgent question in the HoC on abortion regulations in NI was read in the HoL. The statement explained that the Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020 had come into force on 14th May 2020 (revoking the Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020) so as to give Parliament an extra 28 days to consider and scrutinise the regulations. This approach ensured that the law on abortion in NI continued to apply with no risk, gap or legal uncertainty, and services could continue on the same basis in NI as they were currently operating. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Barker asked if the Minister would commit to working with the Department of Health in NI to ensure the full implementation of abortion services, as set out in the legal framework, to fulfil the UK's international human rights obligations. Several anti-choice Peers spoke out against the regulations.

G20: Debt Cancellation, 10th June 2020

During oral questions on cancelling debt owed by the poorest countries to G20 countries, APPG on PDRH Officer Lord Hussain noted the Government's donation of £150 million to an

IMF debt relief scheme used for Covid-19 and asked what further plans they had to take part in international initiatives to repay the debt of the poorest countries. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Verma asked if the Minister would ensure that funding through DFID and FCO is directed at supporting economic recovery through an economic recovery plan, whereby British businesses would be supported in investing and generating employment.

Violence Against Women, 25th June 2020

During oral questions on the Government's plans to work with faith communities to address violence against women, APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Barker asked how the Government would ensure that ending violence against women and girls is taught in all faith schools. The Minister responded that from September RSE would be compulsory in all secondary schools. APPG on PDRH Officer Lord Mann asked noted that 'school interventions are more difficult and more complex with those communities that are more self-reliant and where that reliance is underpinned by religious observation' and asked if the Minister agreed that the UK needed to build up a bespoke national expertise to be able to intervene when necessary. Baroness Butler-Sloss asked if guidance accompanying the Domestic Abuse Bill would set out that violence to women includes those in forced-marriage situations, some of whom are under 18 and may need rather different help. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Verma asked if the Minister would look at the work done by UN Women UK for women and girls in safe spaces and the discussions around women in minority communities where it has been quite difficult to extrapolate the difficulties that they face, given that English is a barrier and they are very often not able to leave their homes.

Marriage and Religious Weddings, 30th June 2020

Baroness Cox asked the Government what progress they had made on their commitment to 'explore the legal and practical challenges of limited reform relating to the law on marriage and religious weddings'. The response, from the Advocate-General for Scotland, Lord Keen of Elie, was not much, if any. APPG on PDRH member Lord Dholakia asked if there was any evidence of girls being married before reaching the legal age at which marriage is permissible, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic, and if the situation was regularly monitored here and abroad to ensure that this did not happen to girls settled in the United Kingdom. APPG on PDRH Secretary Baroness Uddin said that there was an urgent need for legal recognition of any marriages conducted with religious ceremonies and asked the Minister to agree to meet to explore the impact on vulnerable women and resolve 'outstanding anomalies'. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan asked how the Government measure the effectiveness of awareness campaigns to educate socially isolated Muslim women and girls on the benefits of a civilly registered marriage.

East Africa: Food Security, 13th July 2020

During oral questions on food security in east Africa, particularly Sudan and South Sudan, PUSS for FCO and DFID, Baroness Sugg, responded for the Government and reiterated the Government's support for 0.7% of GNI on aid. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Verma mentioned debt relief and asked if the Government would also consider streamlining the processes to enable UK businesses to operate in developing countries.

Covid-19: Human Trafficking, 16th July 2020

During oral questions on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on human trafficking in the UK, APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Barker noted that the initial review from the RCOG of abortion services delivered by telemedicine during the Covid-19 pandemic showed that staff, highly trained in safeguarding, had found trafficked women and asked if the Home Office would work with the Department of HSC to evaluate and make telemedicine abortion services permanent.

Covid-19: UN Sustainable Development Goals, 22nd July 2020

APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked what assessment the Government had made of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on global progress towards the SDGs and what practical and institutional steps they were taking to ensure the SDGs were at the centre of plans to 'build back better' at home and abroad. PUSS for FCO and DFID, Baroness Sugg, responded for the Government. She noted that the Government had so far provided £769 million of UK aid to the international response and assured the House that the SDGs were an important lens to help shape policies that would help us build back better from Covid-19 both in the UK and overseas. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan questioned the wisdom of merging DFID with FCO at a time when its expertise was needed most. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Hodgson of Abinger noted that Covid-19 had exacerbated gender inequality, pushing the rights of women and girls backwards, and that without girls' education, SDG 5 would be impossible to achieve. She asked how the UK would ensure that more girls across the world were able not only to go to school but to stay in education at secondary level.

Domestic Abuse, 24th July 2020

During oral questions on the rise in domestic abuse and the Government's plans to support victims, Baroness Butler-Sloss asked the Minister if he would take into account victims of forced marriage or those in forced-marriage situations, some of whom were only teenagers. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Hussein-Ece asked if migrant women trapped in abusive relationships would have their applications for indefinite leave to remain considered accordingly and what emergency funding had been made available to support these women. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Massey of Darwen noted that 60% of service providers had had to cancel their services for children who have witnessed domestic abuse or suffered trauma, and asked how the Government would ensure these services were restored and improved. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Crawley asked what recent discussions the Government had had with the CPS to prioritise domestic violence cases during the Covid-19 outbreak and what assessment they had made of the effectiveness of the 'You are not alone' campaign.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development: Merger, 27th July 2020

During oral questions on how the DFID-FCO merger would enhance the UK's ability to help the poorest and most vulnerable communities abroad, the MoS, FCO and DFID, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, assured the House that development would remain central to the new department's mission, that the commitment to spending 0.7% of GNI on aid was enshrined in law, and that alleviating poverty and responding to humanitarian crises would remain a

priority in the FCDO. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Anelay of St Johns asked the Minister how the Government planned to resume their funding for organisations such as the World Food Programme, which does vital work to reduce food insecurity in east Africa. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Sheehan noted that the development community was in the dark about cuts to ODA as the process had been undertaken without notice or consultation and asked the Minister to set out details of the process by which decisions were made and the strong case for keeping ICAI and a dedicated ODA committee for it to work through, as the best arrangement if the Government would like to be trusted on their aid commitment. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury raised concerns about transparency and asked the Minister to commit to retaining ICAI and an ODA select committee to ensure full parliamentary scrutiny in future.

Nigeria: Religious Violence, 21st September 2020

During oral questions on religious violence in Nigeria, Lord Polak said, 'Although there is a ban on FGM in Nigeria, with girls out of school due to Covid the risks to 10 to 15 million girls are extremely high. The failure to help end FGM will deepen poverty and create more insecurity.' He asked the Minister to meet the Five Foundation and Nimco Ali to discuss this and ensure that funding from the FCDO for ending FGM reached programmes that would have a real impact on eradicating FGM. The MoS, FCDO, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, agreed.

Protecting Civilians in Armed Conflict, 12th October 2020

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Anelay of St Johns asked the Government what their plans were for the implementation of the proposals set out in their paper UK Approach to Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, published on 27th August 2020, and specifically on what measures they were taking to improve accountability for violations of children's rights in conflict. Former APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Tonge noted that the report states that the UK would tackle the climate of impunity around conflict-related sexual violence and asked the Minister to confirm that this would include the prosecution of perpetrators and the provision of safe abortion services for victims in conflict zones, whatever the national law in that country stipulated. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Blackstone asked how the Government would hold to account those who responsible for the use of explosive weapons in populated areas which devastate the lives of all civilians, but particularly those of children and the elderly, and what actions there were planning to take to prevent the use of such weapons. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan asked if the new FCDO would continue to target 50% of ODA spending towards fragile and conflict-afflicted states. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked what the Government were doing to ensure that the UK could respond to the crisis in infrastructure and make sure that people have access to healthcare in countries such as Yemen. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover asked the Minister to confirm the UK's continued commitment to the principle that international humanitarian law trumps national law in situations of armed conflict, and that this applies to abortion, if sought and recommended when a woman has been raped.

Afghanistan, 15th October 2020

Baroness D'Souza asked the Government what plans they had to provide assistance for (1) humanitarian, (2) development, and (3) girls' education, work in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of peacekeeping forces. She asked the Government to commit not only to

continue but to expand their education programme, including female teacher training, secure school construction and vocational courses in Afghanistan. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Blackstone argued that maintaining development aid to Afghanistan was essential and asked the Minister to explain what position the UK Government would take at the pledging conference in Geneva in November 2020 on conditions with respect to corruption and human rights. Former APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Tonge noted the high prevalence of child marriage in Afghanistan and asked what support the Government could realistically give the Government of Afghanistan to help eliminate the problem. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover asked the Minister what discussions the Government had had with EU countries to ensure that the UK's departure from the EU would not lead to the EU reducing their commitment to women's rights in Afghanistan. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked what support the UK was providing Afghanistan to help it mitigate the disastrous humanitarian effects of natural disasters caused by climate change. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan asked what support the FCDO was giving Afghani women during the peace process, in particular to protect girls' education from Taliban ideology.

Zimbabwe, 27th October 2020

During oral questions on the effectiveness of the Government's policy in respect of Zimbabwe, APPG on PDRH member Baroness Anelay of St Johns noted that Zimbabwe continued to have high rates of gender assaults throughout the country and asked if the Minister could say what progress had been made by the DFID-launched programme called Stopping Abuse and Female Exploitation. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked if the Government had a strategy for working with civil society, including faith groups and trade unions, to defend human rights and stop abuses. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover asked if the new FCDO was working with countries across the region with a view to helping Zimbabwe.

Domestic Abuse: Protection of Victims, 27th October 2020

During oral questions on how the Government were protecting victims of domestic abuse, APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Hussein-Ece pressed the Minister on the issue of children witnessing domestic abuse in the home and cited statistics on the increase in domestic abuse during the pandemic. She asked what additional resources, including children's mental health services, would go into supporting families.

Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, 3rd November 2020

During oral questions on the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked if the Review would fully consider the UK's policy towards the UN and if the Minister could explain how the Government would seek to strengthen and regain the UK's influence at the UN. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover asked how the UK would ensure that climate change would be comprehensively addressed, what proportion of funding for COP26 would come from ODA commitments, and how that would affect development programmes.

Gender-based Violence, 10th November 2020

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Anelay of St Johns asked the Government what their plans were to participate in and promote the UN's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign between 25th November and 10th December 2020. She pressed the Government to describe what they were doing to prioritise the rights of women and girls, in particular across the FCDO, by mainstreaming DFID's Strategic Vision for Gender Equality, including through diplomatic missions and humanitarian work. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair and former PUSS for FCDO, Baroness Sugg, responded for the Government, acknowledging the shadow pandemic of violence against women and girls and explaining that the Strategic Vision for Gender Equality would be updated following the merger. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover noted recent protests in Nigeria, Kenya, Namibia and South Africa against GBV and asked if the UK would maintain the same level of financial support for researchers and civil society organisations in Africa that seek to combat GBV. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked what steps the Government had taken to improve reporting on violence against older women in low- and middle-income countries. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan cited surveys by Plan International that evidenced the vulnerability of adolescent girls in developing countries to increased sexual exploitation and violence for want of basic items such as food and sanitary products and asked if the Minister would put these vulnerable girls at the heart of the FCDO's action to tackle GBV.

Covid-19: Foreign Aid, 11th November 2020

During oral questions on the economic impact of Covid-19 on foreign aid and development spending commitments, Baroness Hodgson of Abinger noted the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and girls, on rates of GBV, girls' education, and food insecurity. She asked the Minister for assurances that the FCDO would continue to be a global leader in advancing gender equality, as well as promoting girls' education. Answering for the Government, APPG on PDRH Co-Chair and former PUSS for FCDO, Baroness Sugg, highlighted the Government's commitment to gender equality and women rights and highlighted their past achievements on girls' education and access to contraception. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover asked if the Government would work with others to make sure that cash transfers, which are especially vital to women and girls, continue to be provided. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked about financial support to the British Overseas Territories.

Domestic Abuse, 11th November 2020

During oral questions on the Government's long-term funding plans for addressing domestic abuse, APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Hussein-Ece asked if the Government would undertake to provide more targeted resources so that more is done to ensure greater awareness of the relationship between domestic abuse and mental health within all organisations. Baroness Butler-Sloss asked if the Government would take into account the special needs of victims of forced marriage, some of whom suffer domestic abuse from their families rather than their partners, when considering funding.

Sustainable Development Goals, 12th November 2020

APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked if the FCDO had plans to develop and publish a coherent cross-government strategy for meeting the SDGs, and if the Minister could guarantee that ICAI would remain independent of Government and accountable to Parliament. Answering for the Government, PUSS for FCDO, Baroness Sugg, reiterated the Government's support for the SDGs and confirmed that ICAI would remain independent. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan asked if the joint UN Statistics Division-FCDO Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals programme would continue after May 2021. Former APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Tonge said, 'My Lords, the Minister said yesterday that girls' education is the top priority for our overseas aid but girls cannot stay in education if they are married off early with no access to contraception because they then spend the rest of their lives having more and more babies. Surely strengthening the availability of FP and SRH services must be the top priority for overseas aid to achieve the SDGs, especially during the pandemic.' In response, Baroness Sugg said, 'Girls' education is indeed a key priority for the FCDO but so is continuing our support for sexual and reproductive health and rights. We are the world's second-largest global bilateral donor on FP. I agree with the noble Baroness that we must ensure that girls and women have access to FP so that they can continue their education, contribute to the economy and decide how and when to have children and how many to have.'

Asylum Seekers: Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, 18th November 2020

During oral questions on the treatment of migrants and asylum seekers on the border of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, Peers criticised the Government's decision to walk away from the commitment to 0.7% of GNI spending on overseas aid. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover asked what assistance, including protection against violence and FP, was being provided for women and girls and if the UK would have access to EU information on human traffickers who exploit such migrants after 31st December 2020.

Covid-19: Vaccines and Medical Equipment, 25th November 2020

During oral questions on equitable access to vaccines and medical equipment to address the Covid-19 pandemic, APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked if the Government were encouraging the US to participate in COVAX, if the UK would use its position within Gavi to ensure GAVI paid no more than cost price to future doses of Covid-19 vaccines, and what assessment the Minister had made of the impact of the further and substantial cut to ODA, after the £2.9 billion reduction earlier this year, on the UK's global response to the pandemic.

International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015, 25th November 2020

APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan asked what plan the Government had to amend the International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015, which requires the UK to spend 0.7% of GNI on overseas aid. APPG on PDRH member Lord Purvis of Tweed explained that it was the Government's legal duty to spend 0.7% on overseas aid, and asked if the Government would uphold the law and if the Minister could confirm that Secretaries of State would continue to uphold their legal duty under that Act. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury and APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover

challenged the Minister on the aid cuts. APPG on PDRH Treasurer Baroness Jenkin of Kennington expressed support for spending 0.7% and asked the Minister to confirm that, whatever the result of the spending review, the FCDO would continue to prioritise gender equality, especially girls' education and FP, which are 'the most effective way of raising women, families, communities and countries out of poverty'. APPG on PDRH member Lord Foulkes of Cumnock asked if new legislation would be introduced to repeal the Act which commits the UK to 0.7%.

G7 Summit, 26th November 2020

During oral questions on priorities for the G7 summit to be held in June 2021, Peers expressed regret over the decision to renege on the commitment to 0.7% and on the resignation of Baroness Sugg from Government. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked the Minister for more information on work in relation to debt relief and whether it would be a priority for the G7 presidency. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Verma asked if the Minister agreed that the G7 also had a responsibility to look at how it would respond to women and girls, post-Covid, and if he would ensure that they would be at the forefront of access to finance for enterprise and education.

Official Development Assistance, 26th November 2020

During oral questions on the Government's statutory obligation to spend 0.7% of GNI on ODA, Peers expressed regret over the resignation of Baroness Sugg from Government. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Blackstone paid tribute to Baroness Sugg, argued that cutting aid risked undermining the Government's efforts to promote a global Britain, and asked the Minister to indicate when the Government intended to restore ODA to 0.7% of GNI. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan pointed out the Government was already cutting the aid budget by 19%—more than the projected 11.3% drop in GNI—and asked the Minister if he would support the Government if they chose to break the law and knowingly undershoot the 0.7% target. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked which of the Government's development priorities would now be cut. Former APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Tonge noted that the World Bank considers the provision of SRH and FP services, alongside girls' education, to be the most effective intervention one can make in developing countries, and asked if the Minister would ensure that despite the reduction in overseas aid, the money currently donated for those services would remain unchanged and would not be reduced proportionately.

HIV: Ending Transmissions, 1st December 2020

APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Barker asked what progress the Government had made towards ending HIV transmissions by 2030 and if the Government would introduce a system of opt-out testing so that all people, including men and women from black and minority ethnic communities, could know their status, and thereby get treatment and stop transmission sooner. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan noted that hard-won gains against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria were at risk and asked if the Government would increase the UK's contribution as a matter of urgency. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked how the Government would work with all major funders to collectively invest the £36.49 billion needed for HIV programming for key populations over the next decade to ensure no new transmissions by 2030.

HIV: Pre-exposure Prophylaxis, 1st December 2020

During oral questions on access to and on the impact of PrEP on new HIV transmissions, APPG on PDRH member Baroness Thornton asked for an update on the uneven rollout of PrEP in England and future funding for the drug.

Malaria Vaccine, 9th December 2020

During oral questions on the development of a malaria vaccine and the Government's plans to meet their annual £500 million commitment to addressing malaria, APPG on PDRH member Lord Dholakia asked what proportion of the proposed £10 billion fund for coronavirus, Ebola and malaria would be available for tackling malaria and for details of the likely impact of cuts on projects related to malaria in future years. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked the Minister to commit the UK to taking a lead and encouraging other countries to step up the fight against malaria. APPG on PDRH Secretary Baroness Uddin asked for assurances that the Minister would safeguard vaccine trials in Africa.

International Human Rights Day, 10th December 2020

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Anelay of St Johns asked the Government what plans they had to participate in and promote the UN's International Human Rights Day on 10th December 2020. She also asked that the Minister ensure that support for human rights defenders be built into all FCDO priority campaigns and if he would consider committing to a strategic approach to supporting human rights defenders. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Hodgson of Abinger noted that women and children bear the brunt of human rights abuses, especially during conflict and the Covid-19 pandemic, and asked the Minister to confirm that gender issues and putting women and girls at the heart of ID—beyond just education—would remain central to the work of the merged department and the decreased aid budget. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover asked about judicial independence in Hong Kong. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked what the FCDO was doing to ensure justice in cases of sexual violence.

United States: Global Priorities and Climate Change, 16th December 2020

APPG on PDRH Vice Chair asked what engagement the Government had had with the incoming Biden administration in relation to their global priorities, including international co-operation on climate change. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked what plans the Government had to work together with President-elect Biden during his first 100 days in office and what role the Government might give President Biden at COP26.

Uighur Forced Labour: Xinjiang, 17th December 2020

During oral questions on Uyghur forced labour in Xinjiang, APPG on PDRH Secretary Baroness Uddin asked what the FCDO was doing to raise the plight of the Uyghur with their friends and bilateral partners, and particularly to address the horrifying accounts, of internment camps, indoctrination programme and the forced labour of women who are forced to undergo sterilisation and abortion.

G7 Summit, 21st January 2021

During oral questions on aims for the upcoming G7 summit, Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale asked the Government to ensure the SDGs were on the agenda. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Sugg asked the Minister how the UK would work with the United States and other partners to ensure that the wider issue of gender inequality, which had of course been exacerbated by Covid-19, would be properly addressed at the G7 summit. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury noted that former Prime Minister Theresa May regretted the UK abandoning its 0.7% commitment to overseas aid and asked the Minister to detail the Government's strategy for engaging members in the coming months to ensure that the G7 summit turn the tide and bring leaders behind a common message on the post-Covid recovery.

Overseas Development Aid: Covid-19 Vaccination, 21st January 2021

During oral questions on vaccine equity as part of the UK's overseas development aid work, APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan asked if the Government would support the WHO's Covid-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) to scale up the manufacture of vaccines for all. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked what conversations on mass vaccination programmes the Government had had with organisations in the global south and what preparations the FCDO was making to prevent there being a development mountain to climb after the pandemic subsided, with particular regard to healthcare and gender inequality. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Sugg bemoaned the cut to 0.7% and asked the Minister for reassurance that spending on health infrastructure and, e.g., data systems, cold chain storage and the training of healthcare workers would be protected from the aid cuts.

Economy: Remittances, 4th February 2021

During oral questions on the impact of remittances on the UK economy and on the economies of developing countries, APPG on PDRH member Baroness Anelay of St Johns asked what opportunities the Government had identified to support greater access to local secure remittances as a consequence of their work with the World Bank and the UK's Financial Sector Deepening Africa programme. APPG on PDRH member Viscount Waverley noted the pressure on overseas development budgets and programmes to create growth and employment, and asked if it might be time to consider restructuring the global tax system so that taxes are not paid to a country where a company is domiciled but remitted to, or shared with, the origin country in which a purchase was placed or a service delivered. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan asked noted that the SDG target was to reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3%, but that the most recent data showed that countries in sub-Saharan Africa paid 9%, and asked the Minister to raise the subject at the G7 and with the Treasury. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Sugg asked whether the Action Group on Cross Border Remittances still operated and, if not, what it had been replaced by. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked what steps the FCDO was taking to ensure that funds that were remitted were turned into productive investment and helped pave the way to economic prosperity for all.

Biodiversity: Dasgupta Review, 4th February 2021

During oral questions on the substance of *The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review*, APPG on PDRH member Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe noted that the report identified the tripling of the world population, from 2.5 billion in 1950 to 7.6 billion in 2019, as a major contributor to unsustainability, and noted the importance of FP policies. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Blackstone asked what plans the Government had to include the financing of nature-based solutions as one of the objectives of the national infrastructure bank to make sure that finance flowed to projects that would enhance our natural assets and encourage nature's recovery.

Tigray, 8th February 2021

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Anelay of St Johns asked what assessment the Government had made of (1) the impact of the conflict in Tigray upon the stability of the Horn of Africa region, and (2) the implications of that conflict for their ODA policy. She noted the humanitarian crisis and asked what specific action the UK would take during its presidency of the UN Security Council to resolve the crisis in a country which was the fourth-highest recipient of UK aid. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Sugg noted that three months on from the announced cuts to ODA, the Government had yet to provide information on how the cuts would be made. She pressed the Minister to explain if the cuts would come out of multilateral funding to UN agencies or bilateral programmes like the ones that do nutrition work in Ethiopia and when information about the cuts would be made to Parliament. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover asked whether anyone from the British diplomatic community made an independent assessment of the situation in Tigray and if the Government had firm evidence of Eritrean involvement. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury noted that food security was a critical issue in the Horn of Africa and asked the Minister if he would make food security a priority at the G7 summit.

Covid-19: Surplus Vaccine Doses, 22nd February 2021

APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Sugg asked the Government how and when they planned to donate surplus Covid-19 vaccine doses to low-income countries and to confirm that the UK would meet the cost of the surplus doses and not be transferring the ability to buy the vaccines to COVAX. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover noted that ODA funding to Oxford gave the UK a head start in the development of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine and asked the Government to reconsider their 'short-sighted' policy of cutting ODA funding. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked for more detail on sharing technology and whether the Government would support the WHO Covid-19 Technology Access Pool. APPG on PDRH member Lord Purvis of Tweed asked the Government to consider a moratorium on the aid cuts and guarantee there would not be cuts to UK support for strengthening health systems in developing countries to distribute the vaccine.

Build Back Better Business Council, 25th February 2021

During oral questions on the Build Back Better Business Council's plans to prioritise the implementation of the UN's SDGs, APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury noted that both businesses and civil society would be crucial to the delivery of the SDGs. Considering the emphasis on safe and secure work under goal 8, he asked the Minister to

describe how the Government would engage with trade unions in the UK and globally, as part of the world's effort to deliver on the 2030 agenda.

United States: Diplomatic Relations, 1st March 2021

During oral questions on diplomatic relations with the US, APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury pressed the Government to mirror the action of the US on arms sales and step up their contribution to the humanitarian effort. He asked the Minister for reassurance that aid to Yemen would not be cut from £181 million to £90 million. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Sugg noted the welcome progress from the Biden administration on SRHR. She asked the Minister how the Government would make the most of the opportunity to work together in ID to make real progress on gender equality and SRHR.

Yemen: Aid Funding, 3rd March 2021

The response to an urgent question in the HoC on 2nd March was read in the HoL. The Minister for the Middle East and North Africa, James Cleverly, made a statement on the level of aid funding to Yemen. The Government had pledged at least £87 million in aid to Yemen for the 2021-22 financial year, which would feed an additional 240,000 of the most vulnerable Yemenis every month, support 400 health clinics, provide clean water for 1.6 million people, and provide one-off cash payments to 1.5 million of Yemen's poorest households. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked what impact the cut to aid in Yemen would have on the UN's ability to prevent famine there and if the Government would reconsider the plan to abandon the 0.7% target. APPG on PDRH member Lord Purvis of Tweed noted that aid to Yemen had been cut by 49% and pressed the Government to rethink the 'unlawful cut from 0.7% to 0.5%'. He asked if the Government had carried out and would publish their humanitarian impact assessment of the aid cut to Yemen.

Women's Equality, 9th March 2021

APPG on PDRH member Baroness Crawley asked the Government what steps they were taking to increase women's equality globally and, following the DFID-FCO merger, what responsibilities the FCDO had taken forward in standing up for women's sexual and reproductive rights globally. She noted that abortion can carry heavy jail sentences in Nigeria and Brazil and that the recent court ruling in Poland would mean much suffering for women in Poland, and asked how the FCDO was challenging such countries through diplomatic, economic and aid channels. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Sugg asked the Minister if the FCDO was committed to DFID's strategic vision for gender equality and, if not, how it would ensure that supporting women and girls was at the heart of what it did. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover said that there could 'scarcely be anything more important than ensuring that women and girls globally have access to family planning' and pointed out that the UK's claim to be a 'proud' champion of FP would ring hollow if it were to implement swingeing cuts to SRHR. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury pointed out that malnutrition disproportionately affects girls, that rates of malnutrition were soaring as a result of Covid-19, that it prevented girls from reaching their potential in school and could lead to complications in childbirth. He asked for reassurance that, despite the cuts, the Minister would continue to prioritise nutrition and take urgent steps to address the global rise in malnutrition among women and girls. APPG on PDRH Baroness Hodgson of Abinger asked

how the Government could ensure that more funds reached women at the grassroots who were trying to survive and raise their children in dangerous, conflict-affected countries.

Global Population Growth, 11th March 2021

APPG on PDRH member Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe asked the Government whether issues relating to global population growth would be on the agenda for COP26 and, if so, what proposals they had to address such issues. Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle asked if the Government would 'acknowledge that climate justice demands that women have free reproductive choices, including access to contraception, abortion and treatments to addressing fertility'. APPG on PDRH Treasurer Baroness Jenkin of Kennington agreed that 'access to contraception should be prioritised in development spending, because it is the right thing for women to choose their birth spacing, leading to empowerment and enrichment of families, communities and countries' and asked if the Minister agreed that we ignored population size at our peril. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan cited the Dasgupta Review's proposal of addressing population growth through much greater support for FP as one of the key solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss, and asked why the Government would not be using COP26 to call on the world's leaders to fund FP.

Zimbabwe: Human Rights Abuses, 16th March 2021

During oral questions about addressing human rights abuses in Zimbabwe, Baroness Jay of Paddington raised concerns about women's rights and women's rights organisers. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked what the UK Government were doing to engage with Zimbabwean civil society, including trade unions, to address their human rights concerns, including with the ITUC.

VSO: Volunteering for Development Programme, 16th March 2021

During oral questions on funding for the VSO, Lord Loomba noted that there had been increased violence and atrocities against women and girls in many developing countries and asked what budget the Government had allocated for education and skills training to support such women and girls, and which countries would benefit from it. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked the Minister to commit to expedite matters so that the FCDO would renew the volunteering for development grant in a timely manner so that when international travel resumes, the International Citizen Service could restart. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Sugg worried that VSO might be a casualty of the aid cuts. She said, 'The current law allows the Government to miss the 0.7% by accident or in an emergency; it does not allow the Government to plan and do this with intent for an indefinite number of years. It has now been nearly four months since the announcement, and we are seeing the real-world, distressing impacts of this policy. Can my noble friend the Minister tell me when we will see the legislation to make this policy lawful, and confirm that a vote will be held in both Houses?' The MoS, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and FCDO, Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park, said that the Foreign Secretary was looking carefully at the legal requirements.

Mozambique: Militant Violence, 17th March 2021

During oral questions on the increase in militant violence in the Cabo Delgado province of Mozambique, APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury cited warnings about worsening food insecurity due to armed conflict, natural disasters and Covid-19, and asked what steps the UK was taking to promote food and nutrition programmes in Mozambique. APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover asked if the Minister would confirm that the FCDO would maintain its level of support for Mozambique or else confirm how much aid it will cut from that country. APPG on PDRH member Viscount Waverley noted that insufficiently accountable leadership, social injustice and income disparities, compounded by isolated villages, were root causes of a problem that was increasingly likely to threaten stability across Africa and asked what advice or action could be taken to counter the resulting network of terror groups. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan noted the importance of media freedom and asked what action the Government had taken on reports of documented incidents of the Mozambiquan security forces intimidating, detaining and prosecuting journalists.

China: Treatment of Uyghurs and Taiwanese Airspace Incursions, 18th March 2021

During oral questions on China's treatment of Uyghurs and incursions into Taiwanese airspace, APPG on PDRH Vice Chair Baroness Northover asked the Minister which came first, trade deals or human rights. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked why the UK was not working more closely with the US on sanctioning China for its actions, e.g. in Hong Kong.

Tuberculosis, 24th March 2021

During oral questions on what the Government were doing to tackle tuberculosis globally, APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan asked how, in the context of the 'deplorable reduction to the aid budget', the Government would use their leadership of the G7 and G20 to drive international collaboration to strengthen essential health services and mitigate the secondary impacts of Covid-19, including on tuberculosis. APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury asked what assessment had been made of the impact of UK aid cuts on global efforts to build resilient and responsive health systems to deliver on the SDG target to end tuberculosis. APPG on PDRH member Baroness Hodgson of Abinger noted the increased need for global health assistance because of Covid-19 and asked if the Government should be stepping up rather than stepping back and cutting life-saving medical UK aid during a global pandemic. APPG on PDRH Treasurer Baroness Jenkin of Kennington made a plea for FP: 'as well as the difficulties for TB care, the pandemic has led to huge challenges in the delivery of life-saving contraception. This will be compounded by the plan to cut aid so significantly. The UK's flagship family planning programme, WISH, is at risk and reports at the weekend highlighted that if funding is removed, we could see up to 2.5 million more unintended pregnancies and 22,000 maternal deaths. Does the Minister agree that contraception is one of the most empowering things that we can do for women globally, and can he please do what he can to protect this vital programme from closure?'

Yemen, 25th March 2021

During oral questions on the Government's actions in relation to the famine in Yemen, Peers criticised the Government's cuts in aid to Yemen. APPG on PDRH Co-Chair Baroness Sugg

raised concerns about the increase in child marriage in Yemen. She said, 'one of the terrible consequences of the conflict in Yemen is the increase in child marriage. According to CARE International, more than two-thirds of girls are now married by the age of 18, as their families struggle to cope. The UK has long been a global champion and a leading donor in the efforts to end child marriage. Can the Minister tell me what we are doing to help the girls of Yemen, and give me any reassurance that the UK's vital work to end child marriage will be protected from the cuts to international development spend?' APPG on PDRH member Lord Collins of Highbury cited reports on food security and malnourishment in Yemen and asked the Minister to explain how halving aid to Yemen supported efforts to protect 20 million people there from catastrophic famine. APPG on PDRH Officer Baroness Sheehan asked if the UK would consider stopping arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Written Parliamentary Questions

Peers 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	Humanitarian Aid: Crimes of Violence
Abortion: Coronavirus	In Vitro Fertilisation
Abortion: Drugs	India: Abortion
Abortion: Ethnic Groups	India: Rape
Abortion: Mental Health	Infant Mortality
Abortion: Northern Ireland	Integrated Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy Review
Abortion (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Regulations 2020	Integrated Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy Review: Gender
Abortion: Public Consultation	International Assistance: Coronavirus
Africa: Disease Control	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
Africa: Overseas Aid	International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015
Armed Conflict: Sexual Offences	International Planned Parenthood Federation: Finance
Arzoo Raja	Kameel Ahmady
British Overseas Territories: Coronavirus	Maira Shahbaz
Burkina Faso: Forced Marriage	Maternal Mortality: Ethnic Groups
Burkina Faso: Terrorism	Migrant Camps: Females
Care Homes: Abortion	National FGM Centre: Finance
CDC: Overseas Aid	Nigeria: Overseas Aid
Children in Care: Female Genital Mutilation	Nigeria: Violence
China: Bilateral Aid	
China: Overseas Aid	
China: Uighurs	

Climate Change: Population	Non-governmental Organisations:
Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness	Overseas Aid
Innovations: Finance	North Africa: Overseas Aid
Commonwealth: Overseas Aid	Overseas Aid
Conflict, Stability and Security Fund	Overseas Aid: Carbon Emissions
Contraception: Health Services	Overseas Aid: Charities
Contraceptives	Overseas Aid: Conflict Resolution
Contraceptives and Hormone	Overseas Aid: Coronavirus
Replacement Therapy	Overseas Aid: Family Planning
Contraceptives: Coronavirus	Overseas Aid: Family Planning and
Contraceptives: Females	Genito-urinary Medicine
Coronavirus	Overseas Aid: Females
Coronavirus: Disease Control	Overseas Aid: Health Services
Coronavirus: Females	Overseas Aid: Impact Assessments
Coronavirus: International Cooperation	Overseas Aid: Poverty
Coronavirus: Pregnancy	Overseas Aid: Reviews
Crimes of Violence: Females	Overseas Aid: Voluntary Organisations
Department for International	Overseas Investment: Fossil Fuels
Development: Genito-urinary Medicine	Pakistan: Bilateral Aid
Developing Countries: Climate Change	Pakistan: Forced Marriage
Developing Countries: Contraceptives	Pakistan: Forced Marriage and Religious
Developing Countries: Coronavirus	Freedom
Developing Countries: Family Planning	Pakistan: Overseas Aid
Developing Countries: Family Planning	Pakistan: Politics and Government
and Genito-urinary Medicine	Pakistan: Religious Freedom
Developing Countries: Females	Palestinians: UNRWA
Developing Countries: Genito-urinary	Poland: Abortion
Medicine	Police: HIV Infection
Developing Countries: Health Services	Population
Developing Countries: Overseas Aid	Population: Coronavirus
Development Aid: Agriculture	Pregnancy: Screening
Development Aid: Nature Conservation	Religious Freedom
Education: Overseas Aid	Rohingya: Contraceptives and Maternity
Ethiopia: Family Planning	Services
Ethiopia: Humanitarian Situation	Rohingya: Females
Ethiopia: Overseas Aid	Rohingya: Genito-urinary Medicine

Family Planning: Finance
Female Genital Mutilation
Female Genital Mutilation: Children
Female Genital Mutilation: Education
Female Genital Mutilation: Family Proceedings
Forced Marriage
Forced Marriage: Children
Forced Marriage: Prosecutions
Forced Marriage, SGBV and Covid-19
Foreign Aid: Human Trafficking
Fossil Fuels: Overseas Aid
Fossil Fuels: Overseas Investment
Gender-based Violence: Older People
Genito-urinary Medicine
Genito-urinary Medicine: Equality
Genito-urinary Medicine: Females
Genito-urinary Medicine: Overseas Aid
Greece: Migrant Camps
Gynaecology
Health Services: Coronavirus
Health Services: Females
HIV Infection: Screening
Human Rights: Females
Humanitarian Aid: Coronavirus

Rohingya: Human Trafficking
Rohingya: UN Population Fund
Sahel: Violence
Saneha Kinza Iqbal
Slavery
Social Security Benefits: Children
Somalia: Female Genital Mutilation and Marriage
South Sudan: Conflict, Stability and Security Fund
South Sudan: Infant Mortality
South Sudan: Mental Health Services
South Sudan: Peace Negotiations
Southern Africa: Overseas Aid
St Helena: Overseas Aid
Sudan: Politics and Government
Technology
Tigray: Humanitarian Aid
Trade Agreements: Africa
Trade: Armenia and Azerbaijan
Uganda: Overseas Aid
Violence: Females
Western Europe: Overseas Aid
Yemen: Humanitarian Aid
Yemen: Overseas Aid

UK Government Team, Meetings, Correspondence, Consultations and Publications

FCDO team

The FCDO Ministerial team 2020 – 2021 (DFID and FCO merged on 16th June 2020):



*The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Secretary of State for FCDO &
First Secretary of State
July 2019 – September 2021*



*The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP
Minister of State
(Minister for Middle East and North Africa)
February 2020 – present date*



*Nigel Adams MP
Minister of State
(Minister for Asia)
February 2020 – present date*



*James Duddridge MP
PUS (Minister for Africa)
February 2020 – present date*



*Wendy Morton MP
PUS (Minister for European Neighbourhood
and the Americas)
February 2020 – present date
(Temporarily in charge of the Gender Equality and
SRHR portfolio)*



*The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith
Minister of State (Minister for Pacific and the
Environment) and DEFRA
February 2020 – present date*



*Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon
Minister of State
(Minister for South Asia and the Commonwealth)
Prime Minister's Special Representative on PSVI
June 2017 – present date*



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



*Alicia Herbert OBE
Special Envoy for Gender Equality
January 2021 – present date*



*Sir Philip Robert Barton KCMG OBE
Permanent Under-Secretary at the FCDO
August 2020 – present date*

Former Ministers:

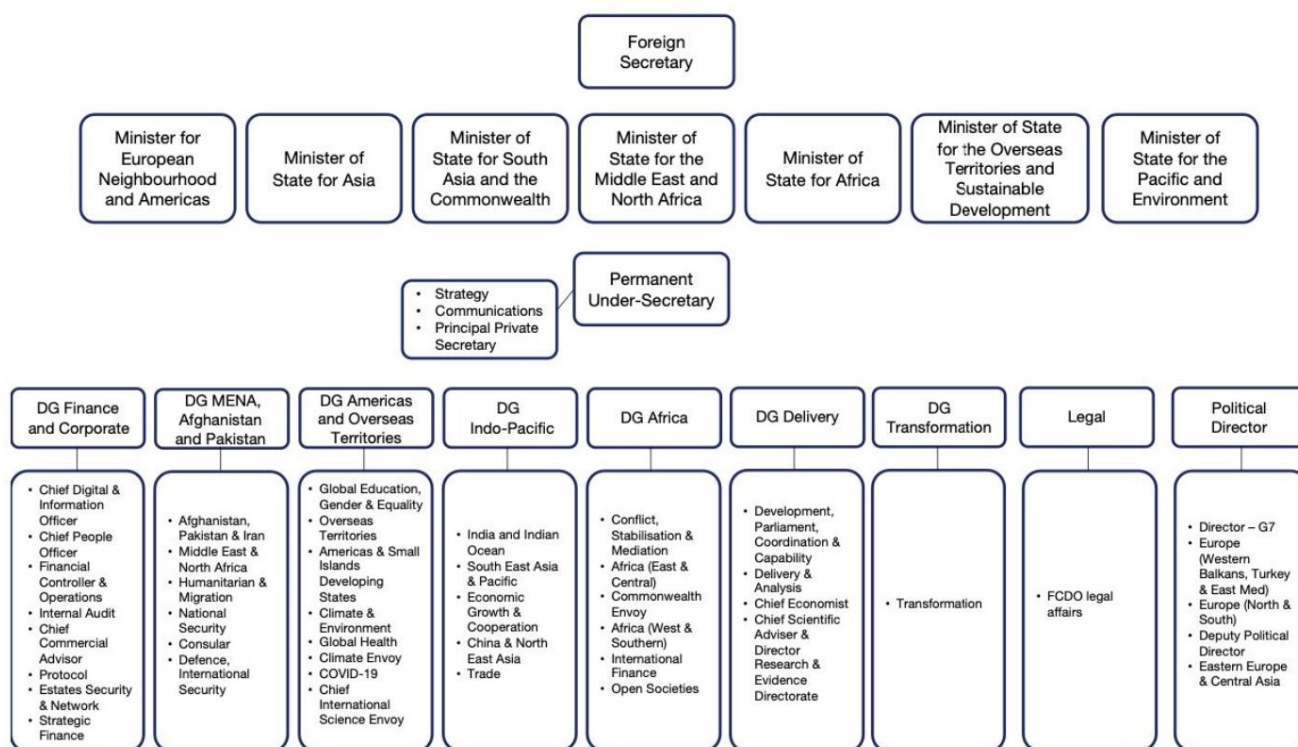


*The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
SoS for ID
February – September 2020
(Lost post as a result of the FCO-DFID merger)*



*Baroness Sugg CBE
PUSS FCO and DFID
(Minister for the Overseas Territories and Sustainable Development)
April 2019 – November 2020
Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Girls' Education
March – November 2020
(Baroness Sugg had the Gender Equality and SRHR portfolio)*

According to its 2020-2021 Annual Report, the FCDO is structured as follows:



The FCDO's SRHR team's remit includes policy on HIV, FP, FGM and the continuum of sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health.



[REDACTED]

UK Government Meetings and Correspondence

The APPG on PDRH has been in regular contact with DFID, now FCDO, Ministers and staff via emails, telephone conversations, letter writing and virtual meetings.

In the spring 2020, the APPG on PDRH communicated with DFID regarding its consultation on ending preventable deaths, DFID's response to Covid-19, and possible APPG on PDRH study tours to Ghana and Nigeria. Study tour plans were subsequently halted due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A roundtable meeting was planned between Joe Dashley at FCO, DFID SRHR staff and the APPG on PDRH, for members to receive an update on FCO/DFID policy activities with particular reference to ending preventable deaths, Covid-19, FGM, child marriage, COP26 and activities in humanitarian settings, including Europe. However, this meeting was cancelled following the merger of FCO and DFID and subsequent ministerial changes. In April 2021, a virtual meeting took place between Baroness Sugg, Baroness Hussein-Ece and Wendy Morton MP, PUSS for FCDO to discuss FCDO policy activities and cuts to SRHR programmes. At the meeting Wendy Morton MP reiterated FDCO's continued political support for FP/SRHR, including abortion and sex and relationship education, in spite of cutting approximately 85% of financial spending on SRHR this year.

In April 2020, Baroness Tonge signed on behalf of the APPG on PDRH Wendy Chamberlain MP's cross-party letter to Anne-Marie Trevelyan, SoS for ID, regarding a greater allocation of ODA to UK NGOs fighting Covid-19 on the frontline in Africa.

Please find communications enclosed at Appendix 34

In June 2020, members participated in numerous activities to promote the retention of the IDC following the DFID-FCO merger, including a campaign letter by the Chair and APPG on PDRH member Sarah Champion MP. A decision was finally made to retain the IDC to scrutinise FCDO spending, policy and programme activities.

Please find communications enclosed at Appendix 35

In September 2020, the APPG on PDRH shared NGO Abortion Rights' letter with FCDO staff, requesting UK Government solidarity on abortion at the UN General Assembly. The letter received an acknowledgment which was immediately forwarded on to FCDO colleagues in New York.

In December 2020, numerous APPG on PDRH members signed the APPG SRH letter to the Rt Hon Brandon Lewis, SoS for NI, on commissioning abortion services in NI. The letter urged him to take direct action to ensure the commissioning of abortion services so that women in NI could access the full complement of reproductive healthcare, in line with the law and with the human rights principles on which the UK prides itself and is obliged to uphold.

Please find communications enclosed at Appendix 36

In January 2021, a virtual meeting was held between FCDO and APPG on PDRH staff to discuss UK funding to SRHR in response to Baroness Tonge's written PQs on the topic. The meeting included the senior FCDO SRHR advisors and statistic advisor. Baroness Tonge was particularly concerned that the EPF/DSW donors delivering for SRHR report revealed different UK ODA figures on SRHR than those reported in answers to her written PQs. The EPF/DSW report showed UK ODA to Reproductive Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (RMNCH) as 8% of total ODA in 2019, whereas PQ answers from DFID had shown 13.6% of DFID ODA to SRHR in 2017–2018; 10.3% in 2016–2017; and 10.7% in 2015–2016.

The various financial methodologies used to capture SRHR spending were discussed at length, including OECD DAC codes, and the Muskoka 1 and 2 methodologies. It transpired that DFID's figures reported above only showed DFID's expenditure on FP/SRHR, i.e. figures excluded other departments' spending on FP/SRHR and the denominator used was total DFID ODA and not total UK ODA.

The relatively new way of counting FP/SRHR funding via the Muskoka 1 and 2 methodologies was discussed. The APPG on PDRH considered a future roundtable meeting for members to discuss how best to track UK FP/SRHR funding. The best way forward may be to use the Muskoka 2 methodology but exclude the child health funding/part/code to best capture SRHR spend as per the ICPD Programme of Action definition. Of particular interest at the discussions was that 100% of nutrition and malaria funds were counted as dedicated RMNCH funds.

In February 2021 the APPG on PDRH sent a letter to Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab MP highlighting the importance of FP/SRHR to build back better from Covid-19 and ensure 12 years of quality education for all girls.

Please find communications enclosed at Appendix 37

In March 2021, the APPG on PDRH sent a letter to Wendy Morton MP, PUSS FCDO, thanking her for her department's input to the latest APPG on PDRH hearings on girls' education and SRHR and inviting her to speak at the forthcoming annual World Population Day reception in July 2021. The letter also invited her colleague, Helen Grant MP, Special Envoy for Girls' Education, to speak at the APPG on PDRH hearing report launch in June 2021. Both invitations were accepted.

Please find communications enclosed at Appendix 38

In April 2021, a virtual meeting took place between Baroness Sugg, Baroness Hussein-Ece and Wendy Morton MP, PUSS for FCDO to discuss FCDO policy activities and cuts to SRHR programmes. At the meeting Wendy Morton MP reiterated FCDO's continued political support

for FP/SRHR, including abortion and sex and relationship education, in spite of cutting approximately 85% of financial spending on SRHR this year.

UK Government Consultations

In June 2020, Baroness Tonge and Baroness Barker submitted a request to the HoL Special Inquiry Committees to investigate abortion law in the UK. The request was unsuccessful.

On 29th January 2021, the APPG on PDRH submitted its hearing report on child marriage, 'A Childhood Lost', to the Home Office open consultation on VAWG.

On 26th February 2021, the APPG on PDRH submitted its hearing report on abortion, 'WHO DECIDES? We trust women', to the UK Government consultation on abortion telemedicine.

Please find communications enclosed at Appendix 39

UK Government Publications

This year's DFID/FCO publications can be found [here](#). Publications of particular interest include:

- [Conflict, Stability and Security Fund: Commonwealth annual review summaries 2018 to 2019](#) – Policy paper published 30th April 2020
- [DFID Annual Report and Accounts 2019 to 2020](#) – Corporate report published 21st July 2020
- [UK strategy: safeguarding against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment within the aid sector](#) – Policy paper published 10th September 2020
- [Cross-Sector and FCDO Progress Reports on Safeguarding Against Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment \(SEAH\) 2019-2020](#) – Impact assessment published 20th October 2020
- [Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office's review of the Independent Commission for Aid Impact](#) – Policy paper published 16th December 2020
- [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

International Funding to FP/SRHR and HIV/AIDS

Based on internationally agreed methodology, DFID spent 10.7% in 2015-2016, at least 10.3% in 2016-2017, and an estimated 13.6% in 2017-2018, of ODA on SRHR. The total UK ODA (including FCO and other departments) to RMNCH was 8% in 2019 using the Muskoka 2 methodology. This made the UK the second largest donor to SRHR. The USA was first, with Germany, the Netherlands and Canada following.

The UK Government's decision in November 2020 to cut aid to organisations including UNFPA, IPPF and MSI RC, will therefore have huge ramifications. Organisations have been informed that the UK intends to implement an approximate 85% cut to the UNFPA Supplies Partnership, UNFPA's flagship programme for FP, this year. This means that the expected contribution of £154 million for 2021 will now be reduced to around £23 million, a departure from agreed commitments made to the programme in 2020. In addition, £12 million is to be

cut from UNFPA's core operating funds. Several country-level agreements are also likely to be impacted.

Aid cuts will be devastating for women and girls and their families across the world. With the already withdrawn £130 million, the UNFPA Supplies Partnership would have helped prevent around 250,000 maternal and child deaths, 14.6 million unintended pregnancies and 4.3 million unsafe abortions.

In April 2019, IPPF and MSI successfully applied for UK Aid Connect funding following a year without core funding from DFID. IPPF was granted an overall budget of £21 million over three years with [Frontline AIDS](#), [Internews](#), the [London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine](#), [The Open University](#), and the [Women's Refugee Commission](#), and MSI RC was granted £21 million over three years with [CARE International UK](#), [Itad](#), [Blue Ventures](#) and [ThinkPlace](#).

Both IPPF and MSI RC have been told to expect an 85% reduction in ODA from the UK Government, which means that their UK Aid Connect programmes will be closed and the WISH programme will receive no funding in 2021. The WISH programme, which was launched at the International Conference on Family Planning in Kigali in 2018, was designed to expand SRHR services in 27 countries, delivering access to life-saving contraception to six million couples per year. In summary, promised and actual UK ODA spending on FP/SRHR will reduce significantly, with details to be revealed in full in next year's annual report.

DFID Core contributions to UN and International NGOs, 2012-2019 (£ thousands)

Organisation	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	Funding Stream
UNFPA	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,100	20,000	20,000	20,000	DFID Core Funding -
WHO	34,500	29,500	19,500	14,500	14,500	14,500	14,500	12,500	DFID Core Funding -
UNICEF	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	46,000	47,800	DFID Core Funding -
UNAIDS	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	DFID Core Funding -
IPPF	33,000	5,500	NIL	NIL	400	1,000	1,500	NIL	Other Non-Core Funding -
	NIL	NIL	NIL	6,450	8,600	8,600	8,600	8,600	DFID Programme Partnership Agreement -
Marie Stopes International (now MSI RC)	48,674	62,344	46,342	22,941	19,717	15,661	14,303	16,852	Other Non-Core Funding -
	NIL	NIL	NIL	4,353	3,265	5,441	4,393	5,441	DFID Programme Partnership Agreement -
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	370,000	360,000	317,000	153,000	100,000	285,000	543,044	127,908	DFID Core Funding -
UN Women	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	NIL	DFID Core Funding -

Source: Statistics on International Development: Final UK Aid Spend 2019 and HoL Hansard; MSI RC funding figures by MSI RC

DFID bilateral expenditure directly targeting HIV and AIDS, April-March 2010/11-2017/18 and calendar years 2018, 2019 (£ millions)

Input Sector Code	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018	2019
13041 HIV/AIDS including STI Prevention	119.1	69	50.3	37.5	25.7	21.5	22.7	9.8	6.8	5.2
13042 HIV/AIDS including STI Treatment and Care	52.7	27.3	40.2	10.9	8.1	5.7	4.4	2.5	3.2	3.1
Grand Total	171.8	96.3	46.1	48.4	33.8	27.2	27.1	12.3	10.1	8.3

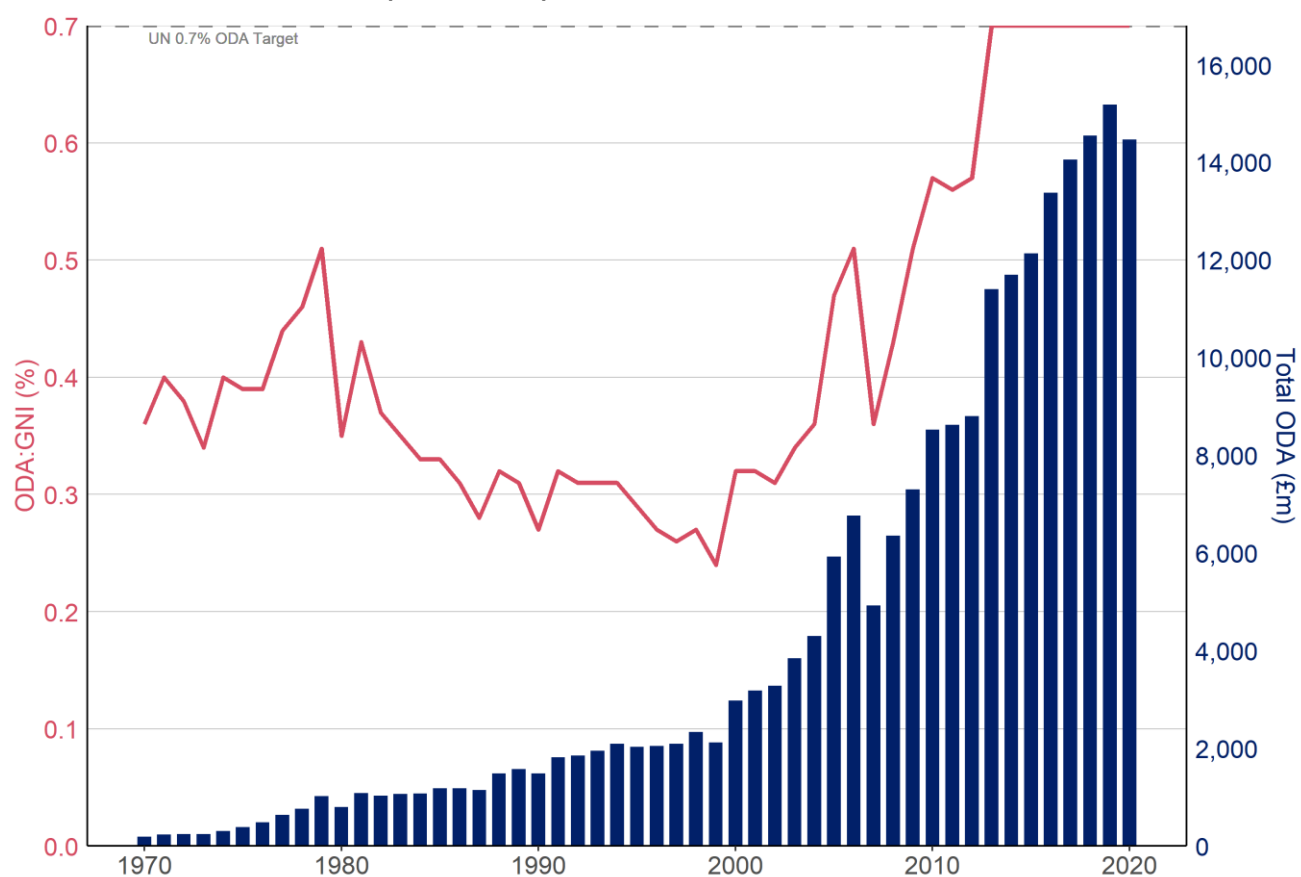
DFID bilateral expenditure directly targeting reproductive health, April-March 2010/11-2017/18 and calendar years 2018, 2019 (£ millions)

Input Sector Code	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018	2019
13010 Population Policy and Administrative Management	7.1	6.1	5.4	11.5	4.3	3.1	3.9	6.3	4.0	6.0
13021 Reproductive Health Care	48	108.9	36.7	49.4	55.4	46.3	51.4	49.8	45.5	49.4
13022 Maternal and Neonatal Health	50	121.4	125.8	163.4	207	124.7	122.5	134	117.3	99.3
13030 Family Planning, Health	31.1	43.8	109.7	127	124.5	121	108.2	159.1	174.5	252.1
13081 Personnel Development for Population and Reproductive Health				9.3	12.9	18.6	21	22.7	17.1	14.6
Grand Total	136.1	280.1	277.6	360.6	404.1	313.7	307.2	371.9	358.5	421.3

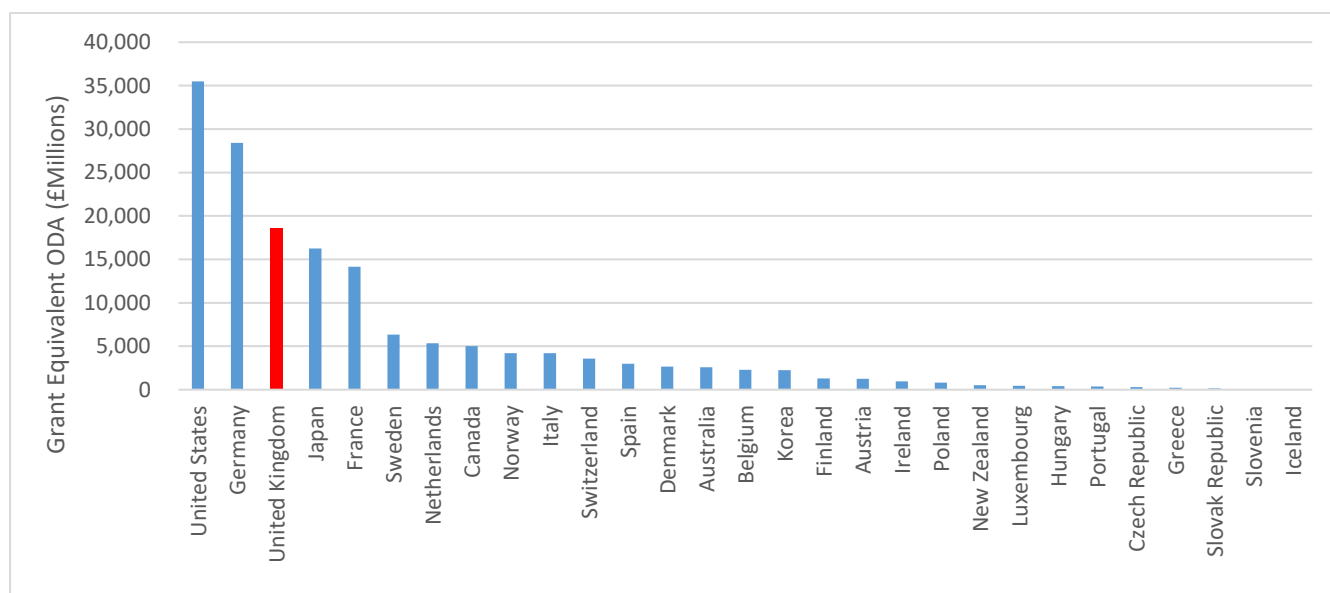
Tables above provide details of DFID/FCDO bilateral expenditure directly targeting reproductive health and HIV/AIDS activities. However, according to DFID/FCDO, the UK's direct spend on HIV should not be seen as the sum total of their work. DFID/FCDO is seeking to optimise linkages and integration with other sectors where greater impact and efficiency can be achieved. The UK also supports the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS projects and programmes at country level, strengthening health systems in their partner countries to deliver HIV outcomes and funding research. DFID/FCDO are unable to accurately disaggregate UK HIV expenditure from these wider interventions.

In 2018 UK Government started tracking bilateral ODA January – December as opposed to UK financial year April – March.

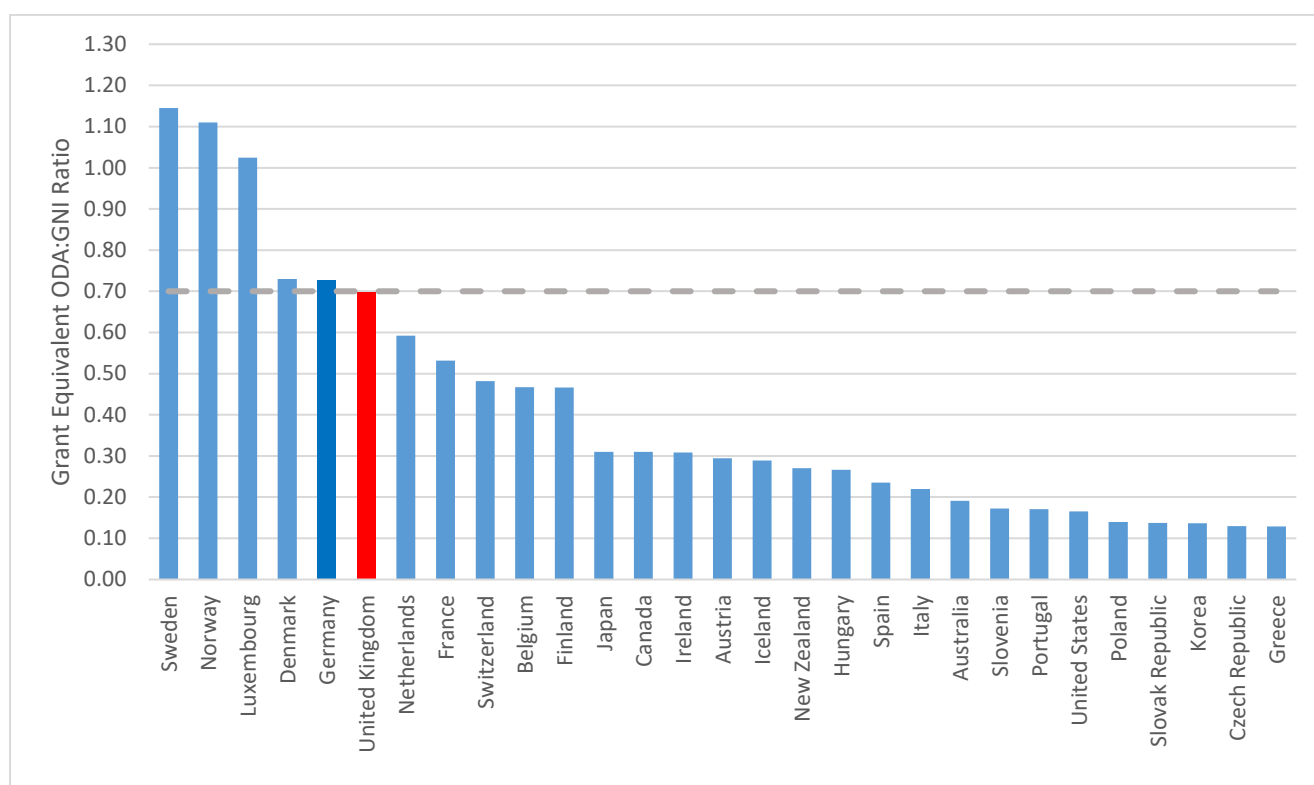
UK ODA level 1970-2020 (£ millions)



Net ODA from DAC Donors, 2019 (£ millions)



Net ODA/GNI ratios from DAC Donors, 2019



International Conferences

Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health (FSRH) AGM, Brighton, 20th-21st April 2020

Baroness Tonge and Ann Mette Kjaerby were registered to attend the above conference, which was subsequently cancelled due to Covid-19.

Time for Justice: Putting Survivors First, 2nd conference of the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative hosted by the UK Government, 2020

Members were planning to attend the above conference, but it was further postponed due to Covid-19.

The FSRH annual virtual one-day conference 'SRH in 2020 and Beyond', 18th November 2020



Baroness Tonge and Ann Mette Kjaerby attended the above virtual conference which provided an expert-led, clinically robust update on the practice, science and politics surrounding the provision of SRH in the UK. Topics included the impact of Covid-19 on SRH, upcoming FSRH clinical guidance, contraception, hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and menopause, and gynaecological cancers.

Speakers included:

- Dr Asha Kasliwal, President, FSRH
- Dr Edward Morris, President, RCOG
- Dr Cecilia Akrisie Anim CBE FRSA, Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Emma Collins, Sexual Health Nurse Consultant (Emergency Contraception)
- Dr Neha Pathak, Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Training Fellow, UCL Institute of Health Informatics; and Specialty Trainee in Community SRH, Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

Several side events were of interest, in particular Bayer's lunchtime symposium, 'A digital evolution for contraception' by Dr Zara Haider, Consultant Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare, Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation, and several presentations on self-administered unijet contraception, now widely available.

Please find full programme enclosed at Appendix 40

The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, Core Group and UHC2030 virtual conference, 'Lives in the Balance: Improving the health of women, children and adolescents through Universal Health Coverage', 11th December 2020



Select APPG on PDRH members and Ann Mette Kjaerby attended the above virtual conference with more than 2000 delegates from over 100 countries to UHC Day 2020. The virtual conference included presentations taking stock of how Covid-19 had affected progress towards achieving UHC and built on a previous conference, 'Lives in the Balance: A Covid-19 Summit', in July 2020, where a range of partners came together to call on global leaders to commit to PMNCH's seven-point action plan for improving and increasing investment in health systems and social protection policies for women, children and adolescents as the world rebuilds in the wake of the pandemic.

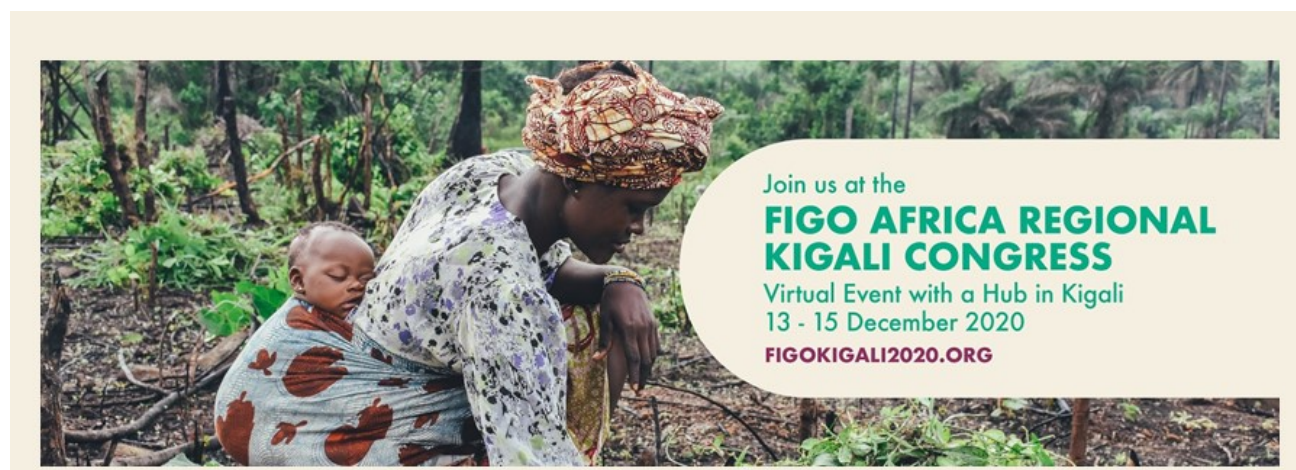
At the conference, countries including Afghanistan, India, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, and Nigeria announced domestic policy and financial commitments to improve the health of women, children and adolescents as part of the global response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Donor countries including Canada, Germany, Sweden, the UK and the USA, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, also pledged further support in this critical area of global health and development, which is vital to the achievement of UHC.

UHC2030 presented key findings from its recent 'state of commitment to UHC: synthesis 2020', which charts current global progress one year on from the UN High Level Meeting which reaffirmed world governments' commitment to achieving UHC and ensuring healthy lives and wellbeing for all by 2030.

It was clear from presentations that the Covid-19 pandemic had a huge impact on health systems, economies and the lives, livelihoods and wellbeing of people and communities. Forecasts indicated that Covid-19 may push 71 million people back into extreme poverty in 2020, in what would be the first rise in global poverty in more than 20 years (since 1998). Another study estimated that 6.7 million additional children could suffer from wasting in 2020, compared with projections pre-Covid-19, due to abrupt decreases in household incomes, disruptions to the supply of affordable, nutritious foods, and interruptions to health, nutrition and social protection services.

The impact of the pandemic on the world's most vulnerable women, children and adolescents will be even more pronounced, as funding for services in this area of healthcare were already insufficient before Covid-19 struck, as detailed in the recent Every Women Every Child 2020 Progress Report. The full conference programme is available [here](#).

FIGO virtual Africa Regional Kigali Congress, 13th-15th December 2020



Select members and Ann Mette Kjaerby attended the above two-day virtual conference which brought together 1,100 health professionals and specialists in the field of obstetrics, gynaecology and women's health from 74 countries. Across 30 on-demand and 24 live sessions, including two panel debates and four keynote presentations, more than 200 speakers engaged with guests in discussions to help shape national, regional, and global policy. The First Lady of Rwanda, Her Excellency Mrs Jeannette Kagame, opened the Congress with an inspiring keynote speech with the quote: 'No woman should die while giving life'. The Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, also spoke at the opening as did the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr Jakaya Kikwete, who addressed accountability for women's, children's, and adolescents' health in relation to building back better for Africa.

Of particular interest were presentations on: indirect maternal deaths; how to promote respectful childbirth; maternal health products; the most common gynaecological cancers and treatments; self-care including injectable contraception, STI/HIV testing and insulin; pressure to reduce lower uterine segment Caesarean section; tranexamic acid for post-partum haemorrhage; influenza vaccination in pregnancy; and rhesus disease, hearing loss and cerebral palsy.

Further information is available [here](#).

Global Health Practitioner Virtual Conference: Unlocking Potential: Prioritizing Child & Adolescent Health and Well-Being in the New Decade, 27th-28th January 2021



Ann Mette Kjaerby attended the above virtual conference which brought together over 3,200 people including implementers, UN agencies, academics, donors, private sector, youth, civil society, and community health advocates from more than 100 countries.

Among many others, keynote and plenary speakers included Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO; Diene Keita, UNFPA; Ahmed Arale, CORE Group Polio-Global Health Security Project; Cecilia Vaca Jones, Bernard Van Leer Foundation; and Omnia el Omran, International Federation of Medical Students' Associations.

The conference had numerous partners:



Over the two days CORE Group and collaborators presented and discussed how the Covid-19 pandemic has threatened progress made in prioritising child and adolescent health as global health systems struggle to respond to the crisis. Children and adolescents often bear the brunt of Covid-19's impact. A few of the issues currently facing children and adolescents include increased violence against children, reduced access to routine healthcare, especially SRH services, and stunted social development, including education services – all of which are exacerbated by this global pandemic.

The conference report is available [here](#) with the key messages, action items, and next steps from the conference.

Virtual International Family Planning Forum in lead up to the IFPC, November 2021 now postponed to 2022, 2nd-3rd February 2021, Pattaya City, Thailand



Select members and Ann Mette Kjaerby attended the above virtual conference, which saw more than 7,500 delegates from civil society, youth organizations, academia, governments, businesses, cities, parliaments, trade unions, the media and more. Conference topics included youth, the private sector, advocacy and accountability, the demographic dividend, and humanitarian and crises settings. The conference served as a strategic inflection point for the FP and reproductive health community worldwide. Delegates shared knowledge and identified successes, and discussed next steps toward reaching the goal of universal access to FP systems, services and products. The opening plenary session illustrated the importance of UHC and why integrating FP is essential to its success.

Mr Anutin Charnvirakul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health of the Kingdom of Thailand, and Dr Natalia Kanem, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNFPA, gave the opening keynote speeches. Ann Starrs, Director of FP at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, then facilitated a dynamic and engaging conversation that illustrated the unique perspectives of each panellist. Panellists included:

- Dr James Kiari, Head Contraception and Fertility Care Unit, WHO, Kenya
- Frehiwot Nigatu Yimer, Executive Director, International Institute for Primary Health Care in Ethiopia (IIPH-E), Ethiopia
- Dr Natasha Salifyanji Kaoma, CEO, Copper Rose Zambia, Zambia
- Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO, Ayushman Bharat 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and the National Health Authority', Government of India, India

Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng, United Nations Special Rapporteur, Author, and Reproductive Rights activist served as the Host.

The conference supporter can be seen here:



Full programme and information can be found [here](#).

After two cancellations due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the ICFP is now scheduled for 14th-17th November 2022, Pattaya City, Thailand.

The Leigh Day virtual conference on the rights of LGBT+ women in healthcare, 11th March 2021

Rights of LGBT+ Women in Healthcare

Raising awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer women's health inequalities, to make it easier for service providers to empower service users and for communities to support LGBTQ women

Baroness Baker spoke at the above event with select members and Ann Mette Kjaerby in attendance alongside numerous health professionals, lawyers, and activists. Expert speakers included Lizzie Streeter, National LGBT Programme Manager; Nancy Kelley, CEO of Stonewall; Dr Nikki Kanani, Medical Director of Primary Care for NHS England and NHS Improvement; Dr Kate Nambiar, Sexual Health, HIV and Gender Identity clinician; and Dr Sue Mann, Public Health. Opening and closing remarks were by Philippa Wheeler from Leigh Day.

The event was organised to raise awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer women's health inequalities, to make it easier for service providers to empower service users and for communities to support LGBTQ women.

Part of the event focused on the health inequalities experienced by LGBT+ women, and what organisations can do to better support them. Recordings for the event can be found [here](#).

Support and Collaboration with Other All-Party Parliamentary Groups

The APPG on PDRH continues to exchange information and support the establishment and activities of other APPGs both in the UK and abroad. Support has been given via emails, telephone conversations, and at virtual meetings.

UK APPGs working on health

Several virtual meetings have been held this year amongst APPG secretariats working on issues in international health, generally convened by Melanie Scagliarini from AfGH. The APPG on PDRH was represented at meetings in December 2020 and February 2021 where APPGs shared campaign activities and decisions were made on collaborative activities, including joint letter writing to ministers. In February 2021, secretarial support was provided in connection with virtual AGMs and election of new officers.

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 41

UK APPG on LGBT+ Rights

Several conversations have taken place this year over the phone including in July 2020 and March 2021 to discuss APPG websites, reports, disclaimer, and general APPG administration.

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 42

UK APPG on Sexual and Reproductive Health (APPG SRH)

Communications this year have been in connection with APPG hearings and report writing, abortion in NI, buffer zones and the re-establishment of APPGs. In April 2020, the APPG on PDRH disseminated the Incisive survey on contraception access during Covid-19 in the UK to its members and email list at the APPG SRH's request. In December 2020, during debates in the HoC and HoL about commissioning abortion services in NI, the APPGs undertook joint parliamentary activities, including disseminating briefings to members and writing a joint letter to the Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP, SoS for NI, expressing concerns that around 8-10 women each week were still being forced to travel to the British mainland during the Covid-19 pandemic to obtain an abortion. The APPGs also worked collaboratively on parliamentary advocacy activities around buffer zones at abortion clinics, and the APPG on PDRH has shared those activities with EPF in support of the CoE report on the same subject.

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 43

Scottish APPG on Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses

The APPG on PDRH has repeatedly contacted the above APPG at EPF's request to involve Scottish parliamentarians in EPF activities. Despite numerous assurances, Dylan Morris, the Secretariat of the Scottish APPG on Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses, did not manage to set up a meeting. In February – March 2021, Henry Gray of HIV Scotland helpfully set up a meeting in April 2021 between Becky Earl, Policy Officer, and Alastair Hudson, CEO of HIV Scotland, Ann Mette Kjaerby and Neil Datta, EPF coordinator. As Scotland has elections in May 2021, a roundtable meeting will be organised in autumn 2021 between members of the three APPGs.

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 44

Rwanda APPG on Population and Development

The APPG on PDRH continues to forward potential funding opportunities to the Rwanda APPG on Population and Development.

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 45

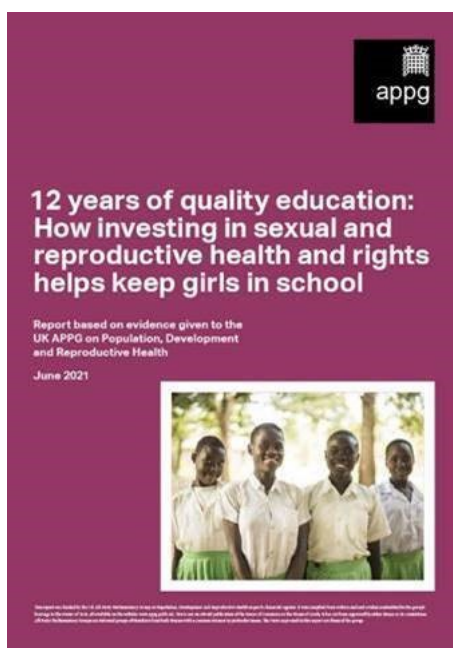
Latin American Regional APPG on Population and Development

The APPG on PDRH continues to forward potential funding opportunities to the Latin American Regional Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development.

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 46

Hearing Reports

APPG on PDRH Hearing Report: '12 years of quality education: How investing in sexual and reproductive health and rights helps keep girls in school', June 2021



The APPG on PDRH 2021 hearings on girls' education and SRHR were launched on 18th November 2020 with a request for written evidence from interested stakeholders. The request was disseminated widely via a press release to numerous email lists including those of the UK SRHR Network, EPF, Abortion Rights, the IDC's call for evidence list, APPG on PDRH members, the University of Sussex, the APPG on Global Education, those of various education NGOs, and other associated organisations.

20 written submissions were received from:

- Alliance of Women Advocating for Change (AWAC) Uganda
- CARE International
- EngenderHealth
- FCDO
- Frontline AIDS and University of Witwatersrand
- Guttmacher Institute and African Population & Health Research Centre
- Impact Initiative
- Ipas
- IPPF
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)
- MSI Reproductive Choices
- Plan International UK
- Population Matters
- Prof. Coast and Mr Strong, Ipas
- Promoting Equality in African Schools (PEAS)
- Save the Children
- The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

- UNFPA
- Voice4Girls and Newcastle University; and
- Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)

The APPG on PDRH hearing committee included Baroness Tonge (until her retirement in February 2021), Baroness Sugg, Baroness Hussein-Ece, Baroness Jenkin of Kennington, Viscount Craigavon, Harriett Baldwin MP, Pauline Latham MP, Virendra Sharma MP, Tommy Sheppard MP and Yasmin Qureshi MP.

The following organisations were invited and gave oral evidence in February/March 2021:

- Esi Prah Asare, MSI Ghana
- Bekky Ashmore, Plan International UK
- Ian Askew, WHO
- Laura Brown, PEAS
- Laura Denham, Malala Fund
- Cecilia Espinoza, Ipas
- Jennifer Gassner and Sarah Shaw, MSI RC
- Matt Jackson, UNFPA
- Sarah Keogh, Guttmacher Institute
- Susannah Mayhew, LSHTM
- Sagri Singh, UNICEF
- Seri Wendoh, IPPF; and
- Olabukunola Williams, EVA Nigeria and Malala Fund



Screenshot of committee members and expert witnesses at oral hearings in March 2021

The hearing report was titled ‘12 years of quality education: How investing in sexual and reproductive health and rights helps keep girls in school’, and was launched jointly with EPF on 10th June 2021, ahead of the G7 summit hosted by the UK Government.

Helen Grant MP, the UK Prime Minister’s Special Envoy for Girls’ Education was the keynote speaker at the launch, alongside Petra Bayr, President EPF; Esi Asare Prah, Advocacy and Youth Focal Coordinator, MSI Ghana; and Daniela Meneses Valle, Medical Doctor from Ecuador and activist for SRHR. Baroness Sugg chaired the launch with support from Baroness Hussein-Ece.



Screenshots from the virtual APPG on PDRH hearing report launch on 9th June 2021

The APPG on PDRH hearing report found that nearly one third of girls who drop out of school do so because of pregnancy. In order for the UK Government to achieve their goals on girls’ education, they will have to invest in SRHR services to enable girls and young women to remain in school. Formal education is key to avoiding pregnancy and child marriage. Investing in adolescent girls through education and reproductive health and rights, ensures sustainable development, as well as economic development.

The report recommends:

- Donors and their programme delivery partners should commit to long-term predictable investment, taking a multi-pronged approach to reach girls both in school and out of

school, that includes the provision of adolescent reproductive health services and CSE;

- The UK Government needs to include a clear strategy for long-term investment in SRHR, with a particular focus on adolescent girls, as part of the upcoming International Development Review;
- National governments need to invest in high-quality, rights-based CSE for children and adolescents both in and out of school, and repeal policies and practices that result in the exclusion or expulsion of girls from school for reasons of pregnancy, marital status or sexual activity.

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

APPG on PDRH Hearing Report: 'WHO DECIDES? We trust women: Abortion in the developing world and the UK', March 2018



The UK APPG on PDRH continues to disseminate and promote its hearing report on abortion in the developing world and the UK.

Since the launch of the report several recommendations have been instituted.

In October 2019, abortion was decriminalised and became lawful in NI. The law change came about after Stella Creasy MP tabled an amendment to the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Bill in July 2019 in the UK Parliament. The amendment provided that abortion would be decriminalised in NI if the Executive there was not restored by 21st October 2019. There was a brief sitting of the NI Assembly in a last-ditch attempt to stop the changes, but it ended in failure. The APPG on PDRH disseminated numerous NGO and academic briefings in support of the amendment to the Bill immediately prior to the debates in both Chambers.

The new framework for lawful abortion services in NI came into effect on 31st March 2020. Terminations in NI are now allowed:

- unconditionally up to 12 weeks;
- up to 24 weeks when continuing the pregnancy would risk mental or physical injury to the woman or girl that is greater than the risk of terminating the pregnancy;
- with no time limit when there is substantial impairment to the foetus, including when death is likely before, during or shortly after birth; and
- when there is a risk of death or serious permanent injury to the woman or girl:
 - greater than the risk of termination, or
 - when necessary to prevent serious physical or mental harm, including immediate necessity such as during birth.

Professionals may conscientiously object to performing a termination, unless it is necessary to save the pregnant woman or girl's life or prevent serious permanent physical or mental injury.

However, despite abortion being lawful in NI, the provision of services remains problematic because authorities in NI have not commissioned services. APPG SRH members, with support from the APPG on PDRH, have expressed concerns about this in parliamentary debates (please see Parliamentary section for further information). A joint cross-party letter was sent to the Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP, SoS for NI, also expressing concerns that around 8-10 women each week were still being forced to travel to the British mainland during the Covid-19 pandemic to obtain an abortion.

Please find communications enclosed at Appendix 36

Baroness Barker and Dame Diana Johnson MP tabled PMBs to decriminalise abortion in the UK, most recently after the Queen's Speech in May 2021, but these were not successful in the ballot. The proposed Abortion Bill would decriminalise the consensual termination of a pregnancy which has not exceeded its twenty-fourth week and in other prescribed circumstances, and create a criminal offence for non-consensual termination of pregnancy.

In March 2020, home use of medical abortion in the UK was debated as part of the UK Coronavirus Bill. The UK Government initially rejected the proposal, but then made a U-turn and approved it. The UK Government's decision finally allowed women in England to take both sets of early medical abortion pills at home during the Covid-19 pandemic up to 10 weeks gestation.

In November 2020, the UK Government opened a consultation on abortion telemedicine after pressure to keep the service available after Covid-19, see [here](#). The APPG on PDRH submitted its hearing report on abortion in February 2021, which recommends medical abortion at home for women and girls wanting it.

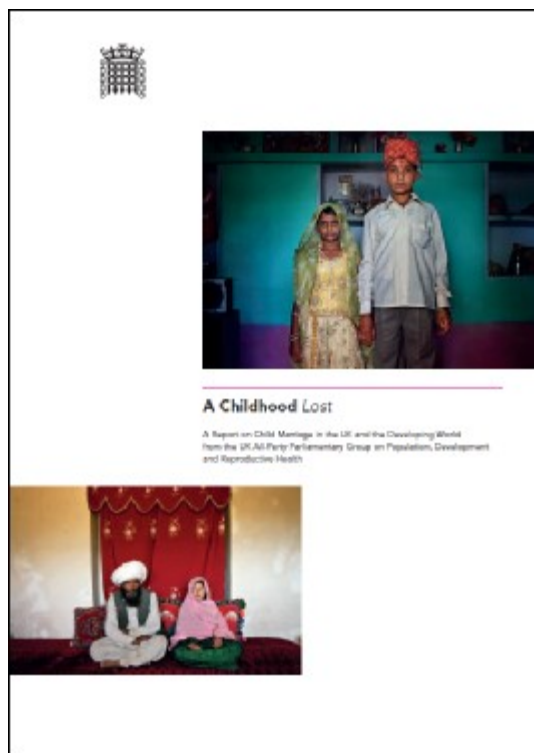
In June 2020, the HoL liaison committee requested topics for inquiries. Baroness Tonge and Baroness Barker, as Co-Chairs of the APPG on PDRH and APPG SRH respectively, submitted a request for an inquiry into abortion in the UK, which was unsuccessful.

There have been several anti-choice activities in the UK Parliament and demonstrations outside UK abortion clinics which resulted in debates in the UK Parliament. Baroness Stroud made claims about the complication rates associated with early medical abortion at home (telemedicine), to which NGO briefings were disseminated to counteract allegations. In June 2020, Dr Rupa Huq MP tabled a PMB, the Demonstrations (Abortion Clinics) Bill, to create buffer zones outside abortion clinics in England and Wales, preventing protesters from gathering outside (please see Parliamentary section for further information).

The UK Government remain supportive and outspoken in their support for FP and women's right to abortion services globally, but as ODA declines so will abortion services provision to women and girls globally.

The full report and written and oral evidence from the hearings can be downloaded from the APPG on PDRH website [here](#).

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



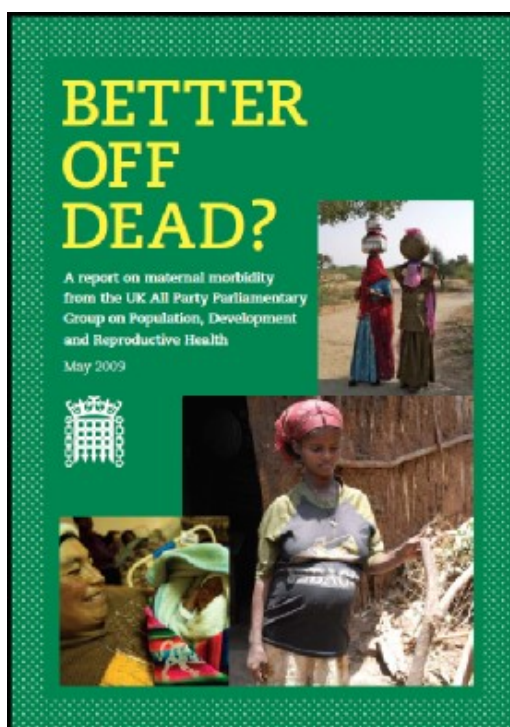
The APPG on PDRH continues to follow up on its hearing report on child marriage. In January 2021, the report was submitted as written evidence to the Home Office open consultation on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Pauline Latham MP, Sarah Champion MP, Baroness Hussein-Ece and other UK APPG on PDRH members continue their parliament advocacy and activities to raise the minimum age of marriage and civil partnership to 18 in the UK. Pauline Latham MP re-tabled the PMB, Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill, in November 2020 and again in May 2021 following the Queen's Speech, as did Baroness Hussein-Ece, but neither were successful in the ballot.

However, Sajid Javid MP was selected fifth in the ballot and agreed to take over the minimum marriage age PMB (see [here](#)). When Sajid Javid MP was appointed as the SoS for HSC, sponsorship of the Bill was taken over by Pauline Latham MP. The Bill is scheduled to receive its second reading in November 2021.

The APPG on PDRH communicated with several child marriage NGOs and lawyers throughout the year, who supported Pauline Latham MP in the drafting of the PMB. The UK Government is now generally supportive of the bill, with some concerns remaining about extra-territorial elements because of different marriage laws in Scotland.

APPG on PDRH Hearing Report: 'Better Off Dead? A report on maternal morbidity', May 2009



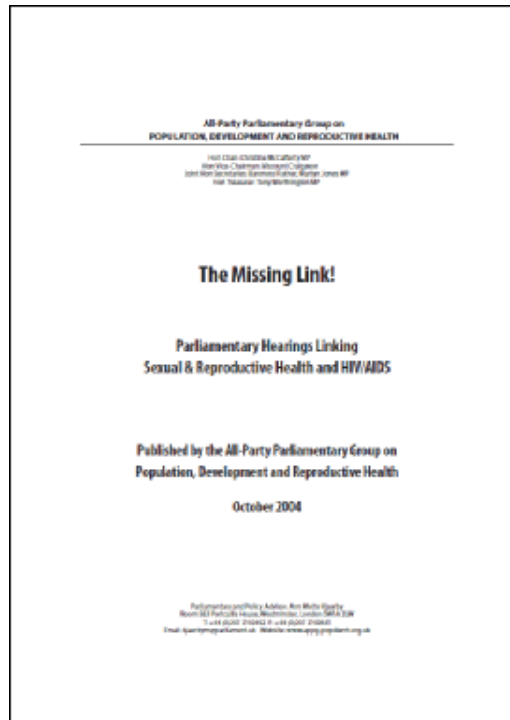
The APPG on PDRH continues to promote its 2009 hearing report and recommendations on maternal morbidity. The report can be downloaded from the APPG on PDRH website [here](#).

APPG on PDRH Hearing Report: 'Return of the Population Growth Factor: Its impact upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)', January 2007/May 2009



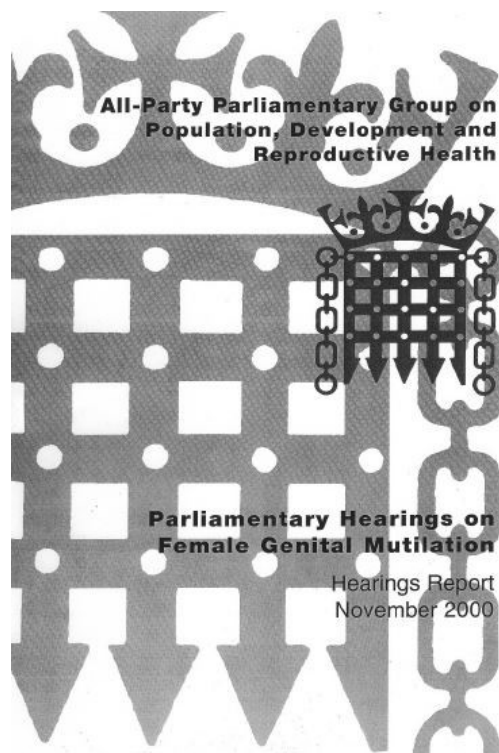
The APPG on PDRH's 2007 hearing report, 'Return of the Population Growth Factor: Its impact upon the MDGs', and the 2009 updated summary leaflet can be downloaded from the APPG on PDRH website [here](#).

APPG on PDRH Hearing Report: '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](#).

APPG on PDRH Hearing Report: 'Female Genital Mutilation', November 2000



In February 2019, the UK saw the first successful FGM prosecution, but there have been no further prosecutions despite the Crown Prosecution Service's efforts.

In March 2020, following numerous requests from FGM activists, the APPG on PDRH invited interested FGM/C experts to a roundtable meeting. Around 50 activists presented current findings and positions on FGM in developing countries and the UK, and a lively discussion followed. The APPG on PDRH agreed to follow up on some of the recommendations and minutes were circulated to attendees. Since this meeting the APPG on PDRH has been inundated with briefings and communications by FGM activists, which resulted in numerous written PQs and debates (please see Parliamentary section for further information). Baroness Jenkin of Kennington and Ann Mette Kjaerby have since met with and spoken to various parliamentarians in connection with the possible re-establishment of an APPG on FGM, to focus specifically on FGM in the UK, but Covid-19 halted progress.

Please find sample communications enclosed at Appendix 47

The FGM report can be downloaded from the APPG on PDRH website [here](#).

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](#).

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 2020 – March 2021 enclosed at Appendix 48

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
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
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
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
HoC	House of Commons
HoL	House of Lords

HSC	Health and Social Care
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
IYAFP	International Youth Alliance for Family Planning
L	Labour
LD	Liberal Democrat
LDCs	Less developed countries
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and questioning
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 RC	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
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
PrEP	Pre-exposure prophylaxis
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	Sexual 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
XB	Cross Bench(er)

Appendices

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Appendix 3	Invitation to the screening of 'Lifeline', 30th November 2020
Appendix 4	Invitation to EPF and DSW virtual launch of 'Donors Delivering for SRHR', 3rd December 2020
Appendix 5	Invitation to Countdown 2020 Europe's webinar, 'The UK's role in supporting SRHR and updates from the International Conference on Family Planning 2021', 4th February 2021
Appendix 6	Invitation to WUNRN webinar on violence against women at Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 17th March 2021
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