

MÉDECINS DU MONDE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

STATEMENT ON THE MEXICO CITY POLICY

Médecins du Monde International Network warns of the severe and dangerous consequences of the expansion of the Mexico City Policy, commonly known as the Global Gag Rule, on the health and rights of women and girls.

On 26 February, a major expansion of the Global Gag Rule (GGR) will enter into force. This marks a deeply regressive shift in U.S. foreign policy. It has severe consequences for humanitarian and development aid, with impacts beyond U.S. funded projects. From this date, U.S. foreign policy bars foreign organizations receiving U.S. funding from providing, referring to, or advocating for abortion even when using their own or other non-U.S. funds. The expansion significantly broadens the scope of the GGR by extending it to new funding streams and actors.

For the first time, the Global Gag Rule goes beyond abortion-related restrictions to target so-called “gender ideology” and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). This unprecedented expansion threatens people’s health, rights, and lives—including the safety of and access to care for LGBTQI+ people and gender-diverse communities.

This extension is part of an ideological approach. It echoes policy proposals advanced in initiatives such as Project 2025. It conditions access to aid on alignment with views that **are explicitly opposed to certain human rights and social and public health policies and rights.**

The situation poses a serious public health risk, with a major reduction in access to essential healthcare, particularly sexual and reproductive health services. It will further weaken already fragile health systems, deepen health inequalities, and restrict the ability of health professionals and organizations to share vital medical information. At the same time, increased administrative complexity undermines partnerships and slows humanitarian response efforts.

The GGR severely limit organizations’ ability to provide care, conduct advocacy, and deliver education on maternal mortality, protection from discrimination, and legal reform—anywhere in the world, across all programs—with effects well beyond U.S. funding streams. By silencing health professionals and excluding entire communities, this policy puts lives at risk.

We are already receiving reports of early spillover effects from this policy across humanitarian funding chains. In some awards and sub-awards, partners are encountering restrictive language that seeks to prohibit the use of funds to “advocate for or against

abortion” or to provide abortion services “as a method of family planning.” Transparency, clear guidance, and safeguards are urgently needed to prevent these conditions from being passed down to implementing partners, to protect staff and medical confidentiality, and to ensure that life-saving health services are not interrupted. People’s needs, not politics, must guide global engagement and humanitarian funding.

Despite this shift, Médecins du Monde will continue to fight for sexual and reproductive rights and the right of self-determination. Abortion care is essential healthcare and a human right. **We will continue providing safe abortion care and advocate for the right to access it freely.** We will not limit the scope of our interventions or cease fighting for the universal right for health including sexual and reproductive health and rights to adapt to politicized funding policies.

States and other institutional actors must act now.

Together we must ensure that **women and girls are able to realize their rights to life, health, privacy, information, non-discrimination and freedom** from ill treatment. This includes **reforming restrictive abortion laws, ensuring the delivery and availability of quality abortion** and other reproductive health care services, and ensuring **sufficient funding** for these services.

We call on states and institutional donors to:

- Uphold the principled humanitarian approach and the do-no-harm principle
- Uphold the right to health for all, including sexual and reproductive health and the right to sexual self-determination
- Increase financial support for universal health coverage, including SRHR
- Protect international norms and standards on health and protection in humanitarian settings. They must recall that international aid must be guided by the needs of populations, not by political agendas, it should protect the populations and not be used as a tool for political pressure.
- Continue respecting principled humanitarian and health funding, and to refuse the integration of Global Gag Rule conditionalities into their funding frameworks.
- Donor states which are part of initiatives prioritizing access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, such as She Decides and FP2030, should uphold these commitments and ensure they represent new funds. We also call upon more States to join these initiatives.
- Encourage support for legislative initiatives aimed at ending gag rules (e.g., The Global Health, Empowerment and Rights -HER- Act).