Trump’s Global Gag Rule: Offensive Restrictions, Appalling Consequences

Below are suggested talking points to be used when discussing the #Fight4HER campaign. This is not meant to be a script but rather a guide to help you highlight the key messages of the campaign.

Talking Points

Trump’s Global Gag Rule seems to have two objectives: to hamstring efforts to seriously address the crisis of unsafe abortion throughout the developing world; and, to turn the U.S. global health budget into a slush fund for conservative religious organizations.

- 47,000 women die every year from complications of unsafe abortion, nearly all in developing countries. Indeed, it’s impossible to have a serious campaign to address women’s health without considering the impact of unsafe abortion.
- In the past two decades, numerous countries have acted to allow legal abortion.
- The Global Gag Rule forces health care providers to make an impossible choice: either accept U.S. support and deny patients accurate and complete information about and access to their full range of health care options; or, decide that they are ethically bound to ensure patients with all the care they deserve and need and lose desperately need U.S. support for contraceptive and other health supplies. Either choice limits access to care and hurts vulnerable girls, women and families who rely on these providers.

Trump’s Global Gag Rule denies women access to family planning services and information to prevent unintended and unwanted pregnancy.

- The Global Gag Rule is the epitome of putting ideology ahead of evidence. It undermines, rather than improves, global health programs and outcomes.
- All the Global Gag Rule does is ensure that women can’t get family planning information and contraceptives, which are highly effective at preventing pregnancy.

Trump’s Global Gag Rule Increases Unsafe Abortion

- Supporters of the policy claim that they want to prevent abortion, but when a similar policy was in effect between 2001 and 2009, abortion rates in several African countries more than doubled. Nearly all of those abortions were unsafe.
- The policy caused clinics to close, contraceptive supplies to dwindle, mobile health delivery to end and costs to patients to rise. It should surprise nobody that unsafe abortion skyrocketed and women’s health suffered.
- Despite the claims of Global Gag Rule supporters, the United States has long – and wrongly – prohibited the use of assistance to provide abortion. Trump’s Global Gag Rule goes much further and attempts to use the U.S. Global Health Budget to prevent safe abortion care supported by other sources.
Investment in international reproductive health and family planning saves lives and helps women and girls.

- The power to prevent or delay pregnancy is critical to a girl’s or woman’s health, autonomy, dignity, educational opportunity and economic security. And ensuring that every girl and every woman has this power will strengthen families, communities and countries across the globe.
- Last year, the U.S. invested more than $600 million on family planning funding in other countries and helped prevent more than 6 million unintended pregnancies, 12,000 maternal deaths and approximately 3 million unsafe abortions. We should be investing in more international family planning, not less.
- Women with access to contraception and family planning counseling are found to have higher income, own more farmland or assets, and have healthier families.
- This leads to greater economic freedom and stability for women and families in developing countries, which has been found to contribute to economic growth and greater prosperity. If the proponents of this policy were truly interested in reducing abortion, they would join us in fighting to make family planning and contraceptives more available to women everywhere.

President Trump and Vice President Pence have proven that they don’t trust women to make their own healthcare decisions.

- Pence has led the charge to defund Planned Parenthood and supported personhood legislation. And Pence has direct experience with the disastrous consequences of shuttering clinics that serve low-income families. As Governor of Indiana, he pushed policies that closed a Planned Parenthood clinic in a poorer region of the state. As it happened it was the only place in that region providing HIV testing and prevention services. Soon after the closing, HIV rates skyrocketed in the very area where Pence closed the clinic.
- And President Trump has said there should be some form of punishment for a woman who gets an abortion.
  - Not only is this an antiquated idea, it's not based on facts.
- We know that when women can make their own healthcare decisions their families, our, country, and the world thrive.
- The Global Gag Rule restricts family planning and results in appalling consequences.