Educating, Advocating, and Agitating for Change in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for All

CENTER FOR HEALTH AND GENDER EQUITY (CHANGE) ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal year 2018: July 2017-June 2018
Letter from the President

“You’ve got to educate, legislate, and — when necessary — agitate . . . when we don’t get what we know is our human right — and gender equality is a human right — then we have to agitate.”

Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole’s sage words speak to the power of the Center for Health and Gender Equity’s (CHANGE) advocacy.

First, CHANGE educates. In 2018, we traveled to Mozambique and Zimbabwe to meet with health care providers and advocates to learn about the devastating impact of Trump’s expanded Global Gag Rule firsthand. We then hosted these experts in Washington, D.C., where we launched our groundbreaking report, Prescribing Chaos in Global Health, with findings that we shared with Congress and the administration to educate them about the harms of the policy.

Then, CHANGE advocates. Just days after Trump reinstated and expanded the Global Gag Rule, Representative Nita Lowey (NY) and Senator Jeanne Shaheen (NH) introduced the Global HER Act — legislation that would repeal the dangerous and inhumane Global Gag Rule once and for all. While more members of Congress than ever support repealing the Global Gag Rule, there is still much to do.

Now, CHANGE is ready to agitate and work alongside a Congress that is historically the most diverse, female, and openly LGBTQ+.

As we enter the next two years of the Trump administration, CHANGE is redoubling our commitment to using our independent voice to seek bold policy solutions to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

Society must have a strong foundation to be healthy, thrive, and be sustainable. That’s why CHANGE has been at the forefront of holding the U.S. government accountable to its international and domestic commitments to the global sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda. Our 2018 Annual Report celebrates our key achievements toward achieving this goal.

I hope you will continue to stand by CHANGE as we work to safeguard those who face discrimination in every corner of the world.

In solidarity,

Serra Sippel
President, CHANGE
Advocates from the Global South speaking truth to power

This past year, CHANGE hosted eight advocates from Mozambique, South Africa, eSwatini (formerly Swaziland), Uganda, and Zimbabwe in Washington, D.C., for our signature advocacy tool: reverse congressional delegations (co-dels).

Co-dels are an important education tool for members of Congress to visit countries to learn about development and U.S. foreign assistance. CHANGE reverses these co-dels so advocates from the Global South can speak truth in the halls of power in Washington, D.C.

Last year, advocates met with Congressional offices and administration officials to share their knowledge and expertise about how U.S. global health policies and programs impact their communities. They highlighted the impact of the Global Gag Rule on health access and civil society; the health needs and rights of key populations, including LGBTQ+ youth and sex workers; and shared stories of success related to U.S. investments in sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls in HIV prevention.

“My experience coming to Washington, D.C., was empowering as I had an opportunity to engage with members of Congress (or their representatives). The experience gave me confidence to continue advocacy work for access to safe abortion in Zimbabwe. To date, there are so many organizations working on abortion. The stigma related to abortion is slowly disappearing. I know one day I will look back and celebrate the successes of our work.”

— Edinah Masiyiwa, executive director, Women’s Action Group (WAG) in Zimbabwe

“CHANGE’s reverse co-dels were an opportunity to reveal that the strings attached to U.S. assistance directed toward poor countries often produce a perverse and often unintended effect, rather than improving people’s lives.”

— Helena Chiquele, gender program officer, Oxfam in Mozambique
Mitigating the harms of the Global Gag Rule

Days after his inauguration, President Donald Trump issued a presidential memorandum to expand the Mexico City Policy (also known as the Global Gag Rule) to include nearly all global health assistance. The policy obstructs women’s right to safe abortion by prohibiting non-U.S. organizations from receiving global health assistance if they advocate around, provide, educate, or counsel on abortion services as a method of family planning, even though these organizations use their own non-U.S. funds to do so.

CHANGE published Prescribing Chaos in Global Health: The Global Gag Rule from 1984-2018 based on fact finding trips to Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The report maps the policy’s development, implementation, and impact from 1984 to the present and documents how Trump’s iteration of the Global Gag Rule threatens health and human rights across the world, including:

- Rural communities being cut off from access to health services
- HIV prevention programming for youth abruptly ending
- LGBTQ+ individuals and sex workers who rely on health services from reproductive health facilities and organizations losing access to care
- Girls who live in rural communities being at increased risk of early marriage and unintended pregnancy
- Health care providers are being forced to withhold information from their clients about safe, legal abortion

Congressional offices are using findings from our report extensively to understand the policy’s impact on the prevention and treatment of HIV and reproductive health, especially for marginalized populations. The report has also been invaluable to our partners in the Global South.


“CHANGE’s study allowed the Mozambican Association for Family Development (AMODEFA) to bring to the world evidence in a very short time about the impact of the Global Gag Rule, moving from estimative data to actual data, and, consequently, better planning of our mitigation and advocacy actions.”

— Santos Simione, executive director, AMODEFA in Mozambique
Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights for marginalized women and girls

Too many women and girls worldwide experience barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health services due to stigma and discrimination against women and girls who are sex workers, incarcerated, and LGBTQ+ among others.

To advance female sex workers’ sexual and reproductive health and rights, CHANGE hosted Kholi Buthelezi, national coordinator of the Sisonke Sex Workers Movement in South Africa, in a reverse co-del. Kholi met with Congressional offices, advocates, and the media to discuss sex worker rights and how criminalizing sex work is a barrier to health services. While in Washington, D.C., Kohli also met with local D.C. Councilmember David Grosso who introduced legislation to decriminalize sex work in the District of Columbia, to share knowledge and lessons learned.

“Sex work is work. We need to bring change into sex workers lives because they are human beings just like any other person. Sex workers are not asking for special human rights. They are asking for basic human rights like everyone else … Decriminalization is about changing laws. We strongly believe that decriminalization is the only remedy that will create an enabling environment for the key populations that we work with on the grassroots to be able to record the cases, to be able to come forward with the issues that they face, to be able to have access to treatment, care, and other services.”

— Kholi Buthelezi, national coordinator, Sisonke Sex Workers Movement in South Africa
Advancing U.S. leadership to reduce the incidence of HIV among women and girls

Launching the DREAMS report

On the eve of World AIDS Day 2017, we launched a groundbreaking report, The U.S. DREAMS Partnership: Breaking Barriers to HIV Prevention for Adolescent Girls and Young Women, based on field research on sexual and reproductive health and rights in the U.S. DREAMS partnership in eSwatini and Uganda. Coinciding with our report launch, the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) released data showing a 25-40 percent reduction in HIV diagnoses in targeted DREAMS countries. This confirmed CHANGE’s key advocacy point: Investing in HIV prevention interventions for young women and adolescent girls that combines rights-based biomedical and structural approaches works.

As a result of CHANGE’s continued educational efforts, DREAMS was incorporated into PEPFAR’s Country Operational Plans (COPs) in early 2018. Our advocacy has also helped to eliminate abstinence-only language from the draft COPs guidance.

Promoting the integration of female condoms in U.S. global health programs

In celebration of Global Female Condom Day on September 15, CHANGE organized “The Future of Male and Female Condoms in U.S. Investments for HIV Prevention” Capitol Hill briefing, in cooperation with Representative Barbara Lee (CA) and AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC). Speakers on the panel included Denise van Dijk, president, Female Health Company; Ebony Johnson, public health and gender consultant; and Nina Hasen, director of HIV and TB programs, PSI. The briefing focused on the important role that condoms, especially female condoms, play in preventing HIV and ending the HIV epidemic. The need for continued funding to supply condoms in foreign assistance was also addressed.
Advocating for respectful maternity care

Aligned with our belief that pregnant women must have access to timely, quality, and respectful care before, during, and after childbirth, we launched the International Day for Maternal Health and Rights (IDMHR) in 2015 and have celebrated it annually on April 11 since then. In 2018, Black Mamas Matter, Women Enabled International, and Every Mother Counts joined the IDMHR steering committee.


#IntlMHDay Blog Carnival
International Day for Maternal Health and Rights
CHANGE hosted our 3rd Annual Art & Advocacy with honored guest Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole, former director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African Art. Dr. Cole and CHANGE board member Mohini Malhotra, led a special conversation about the importance of storytelling in art, and how art has the power to speak to our common humanity.

Art & Advocacy is CHANGE's annual fundraiser that highlights the work of women artists from all over the world and gives our supporters a glimpse of the realities of women’s experiences. A total of 29 art pieces were featured at the silent auction. Illustrations ranged from exploring gender relations, embracing life’s transformative journey, women standing in solidarity with one another, highlighting cultural reflections, fusing realism with abstraction, weaving mythology and feminism, and reflecting on identity in exile.

“Whether it expresses our own story or tells another story . . . art in some way must ultimately speak to our common humanity . . . that is the ultimate expression of righteous art.”

— Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole
former director, Smithsonian’s National Museum of African Art

Art & Advocacy
Financial Information

Statement of Financial Position
June 30, 2018

Assets
Current Assets
Cash and cash equivalents 385,512
Investments 1,943,446
Receivables 124,649
Prepaid expenses 35,455
2,489,062

Fixed Assets
Furniture and Equipment 93,970
Accumulated Depreciation 60,074
33,896

Other Assets
Deposit 13,537
Total Assets 2,536,495

Liabilities
Current Liabilities
Accounts payable and accrued expenses 108,627
Long Term Liabilities
Lease Allowance 9,997
Deferred lease obligation 16,274
134,898

Net Assets
Unrestricted - Non-designated 258,599
Unrestricted - Board Designated 717,734
Temporarily Restricted 1,425,264
2,401,597

Total Liabilities and Net Assets 2,536,495

Statement of Activities
Year ending June 30, 2018

Revenue
Grants and Contributions 261,255
Contract Revenue 18,500
Interest and Dividends 29,337
Unrealized Gain on Investments 6,795
315,887

Satisfaction of program restrictions 2,166,586
Total Revenue 2,482,473

Expenses
Program Services 2,111,462
General and Administrative 140,381
Fundraising 128,566
2,380,409

Change in Net Assets 102,064
Beginning Net Assets 874,269
Ending Net Assets 976,333

Net assets released from:
Total Revenue (2,166,586)

Ending Net Assets 2,401,597

FY18 Expenses

Program Services 2,111,462 89%
General and Administrative 140,381 6%
Fundraising 128,566 5%

89% 5% 6%
Institutional Donors

Anonymous (2)
Arent Fox (pro bono)
AVAC
Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation
Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
Female Health Company
Ford Foundation
MAC AIDS Fund
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Moriah Fund
Open Society Foundations
Open Society Policy Center
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
Sunflower Foundation
Wallace Global Fund

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as of June 30, 2018

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President
Center for Health and Gender Equity

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as of June 30, 2018

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Beirne Roose-Snyder
Director of Public Policy
Kate Segal
Policy Analyst
Global Health Corps Fellow
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About CHANGE

The Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) is a U.S.-based nongovernmental organization that promotes sexual and reproductive health and rights as a means to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, by shaping public discourse, elevating women’s voices, and influencing U.S. and global policies. We are guided by our vision of a world that respects, protects, and honors sexual and reproductive rights for all. Our four-pronged impact model—advocacy, research, partnerships, and communications—is grounded in and driven by a human rights framework at the intersection of multiple sectors including women’s rights, human rights, family planning, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, and gender-based violence.