



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRUMP MARKS FIRST WEEK IN OFFICE BY BETRAYING WOMEN

48 Hours after Millions of Women March in Unity, Trump Attacks Women's Health and Rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Just 48 hours after women from around the world marched in unity for their health and rights, President Donald J. Trump responded today by announcing his global gag rule, also known as the "Mexico City Policy," which prohibits non-U.S. nongovernmental organizations that receive family planning funds from providing abortions (except in the cases of rape, incest, or life endangerment), and prohibits those same organizations from advocating for or even discussing abortion. In response to Trump's action, Serra Sippel, president of the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) issued the following statement:

"Women's health and rights are now one of the first casualties of the Trump administration. Trump's global gag betrays women and girls around the world. He is starting his administration by building on an outdated and failed policy first implemented in 1984. There is no place for a Trump global gag in 2017.

"Over the last 30 years, the world has witnessed the costly effect of this policy on women and girls. From blocking access to contraception and safe abortion, to derailing HIV prevention and health care access in rural communities, this policy is a direct attack on women's health and rights.

"Since 1984, the world has evolved, acknowledging the importance of investing in the well-being of women and girls. We have seen major shifts in global agreements that embrace sexual and reproductive health and rights just as donor governments have bolstered investments globally. More than 40 countries have liberalized their abortion laws and we have seen an increase in access to family planning and a decrease in maternal and infant deaths.

"Despite the facts, and not surprisingly, President Trump and his administration have made it clear that they are hostile to women, health, and science. Make no mistake: Trump's global gag will not make U.S. investments more efficient or effective. The global gag rule has been associated with an increase in unsafe abortions and we expect that Trump's global gag rule will cost women their lives.

"President Trump should stand on notice. Women will fight these kinds of Machiavellian policies at every turn. This weekend, millions of women and men across the nation - and around the world - marched in solidarity for women's health and rights. And, we have only just begun."

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