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**TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO CENSOR U.S. DIPLOMATS' USE OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH LANGUAGE**

*Proposal has catastrophic implications for health and human rights*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Last week, [leaked memos](#) revealed that the Trump administration is instructing U.S. diplomats across the world to cease using phrases such as “sexual and reproductive health” and “comprehensive sexuality education” and also to curtail U.S. support for numerous sexual and reproductive health programs. [Such censorship](#) of diplomats’ language is deplorable and part and parcel of the Trump administration’s recent moves to limit language elsewhere. Both the Department of Health and Human Services’ attempt to establish a unilateral, unchangeable, and binary [definition of gender](#) under Title IX and U.S. officials’ efforts at the United Nations to [remove the word “gender”](#) from UN human rights documents are attacks on the very existence of nonbinary and transgender people, and are part of a broader effort to restrict rights on the grounds of gender.

In response to the information revealed from the memos, Serra Sippel, president of the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), stated:

“The impact of the Trump administration’s directives to restrict U.S. diplomats’ language around sexual and reproductive health is not confined to the language itself. Words have consequences, and these words will wreak havoc on the health and lives of women, men, transgender and nonbinary persons, as well as other members of the LGBTQ+ community. Funding to numerous programs, including HIV prevention and treatment, cancer screenings, access to contraception, and avoidance of unsafe abortion and maternal mortality, will be severely impacted by the priorities being set with this shift. These programs simply cannot exist or function without ‘sexual and reproductive health’ and ‘comprehensive sexuality education.’ Removing these phrases from diplomats’ language narrows the scope of sexual and reproductive services and education. It is a regression toward abstinence-only approaches, which data have proven time and time again to be ineffective. The health of people everywhere depends upon a rejection of such censorship.”

CHANGE will continue to monitor the proposed changes.

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### **About the Center for Health and Gender Equity (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 work 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 and AIDS, and gender-based violence. Learn more at:

[www.genderhealth.org](http://www.genderhealth.org).

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