

FPA India response to Mexico City Policy or Global Gag Rule

The Mexico City Policy or the Global Gag Rule as reinstated by Donald Trump Administration prevents international organizations from receiving any U.S. global health assistance if they provide, counsel, refer or advocate for abortion services — even if they are doing so with their own, non-U.S., funds and even if abortion is legal in their own country.

While under previous administrations the “Gag” policy applied only to international family planning funds, the expansion of the policy today to encompass all global health funding is wholly unprecedented.

FPA India and IPPF stand for supporting women’s rights to make choices about their bodies. Access to safe abortions is an important reproductive right, particularly as abortions are legal in India.

FPA India does not receive direct funding from USAID in India. As a proud member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation that operates in 170 countries, we as Family Planning Association of India (FPAI) will not sign a policy that denies human rights and puts the lives of women at risk.

Programs which address HIV, maternal and child health, cervical cancer screening, addressing gender based violence and other health and disease areas will now be affected. It will set back years of gains made to advance the health and well-being of communities worldwide and could undercut health care access for millions worldwide.

It blocks critical funding for health services like contraception, maternal health, and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment for any organization that refuses to sign it.

The Global Gag Rule denies U.S. funding to organizations like IPPF & FPA India if they use money from other donors to provide abortion services, counselling or referrals— even if abortion is legal in a country.

As a result of the Policy, IPPF will lose \$100 million USD for proven programs that provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services for millions of poor women and youth who otherwise go without these vital services, including women suffering the burden of health and humanitarian crises. India, particularly poor people will be affected by this Gag rule.

As an IPPF member we believe everyone should be able to make choices about their well-being. We can’t support something which tries to restrict those choices or take them away. We respect the rights of women and couples to choose if when and how many children to have. The Global Gag Rule undermines those rights, so we cannot support it.