

## **Civil Society Organizations stand with the “She Decides – Global Fundraising Initiative”**

As civil society organizations, we applaud the Dutch government initiative [She Decides](#) and stand united in opposition to the US Global Gag Rule that President Trump reinstated this month.

The Global Gag Rule, also known as Mexico City Policy, is a US government policy promoted by Republicans that blocks federal funding for NGOs providing information, referrals and services for legal abortion. The result of such a policy is that it reverses progress the world has achieved on reproductive, maternal and child health, it violates women’s rights and, by making essential services out of reach, it increases unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions at the cost of women’s health and lives in particular in the poorest countries of the world.

The She Decides initiative – which is quickly being embraced by several likeminded countries - aims at raising money to counterbalance the funding gap that the Trump administration’s policy will soon create. It will "*prevent women and girls being abandoned,*" said Lilianne Ploumen, the Dutch minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, as all funds will be made available to organizations affected by the Global Gag Rule and fund sexual and reproductive health initiatives in developing countries.

Furthermore, we are proud that the Dutch government is working on this initiative with our civil society colleagues at Rutgers, an international NGO promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights.

We call on likeminded governments worldwide, civil society organizations, the private sector and foundations to join The Netherlands, stepping up financing for sexual and reproductive health and rights and championing these crucial issues at all levels.

We will not let US politics undermine women’s health, rights and autonomy and we will continue to fight to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights worldwide.

Please join us and sign this petition!

Signatures:

EuroNGOs – The European NGOs for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development