

EuroNGOs and other International NGOs statement

Members of EuroNGOs and other international NGOs were appalled to learn of USAID's decision to force six African governments (Malawi, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda) to cease the provision of contraceptive commodities to Marie Stopes International partners.

Given that Marie Stopes International is a global leader in reproductive health care and in many countries provides a significant proportion of all family planning services, USAID's decision is likely to endanger the lives of thousands of women. Lack of access to reproductive health supplies may result in unintended pregnancies and could force women into unsafe abortion and increase the rate of maternal mortality and morbidity.

In light of the above, we, the undersigned, call upon our governments to:

1. Challenge USAID on this decision by informing the US government of their objections
2. Support the affected governments in rejecting this USAID pressure
3. Ensure that no lives are lost or impaired by responding to MSI's needs and immediately making available resources to ensure the continued supply of vital commodities
4. Redouble its efforts to address commodity security in developing countries, including the principle of national stewardship and leadership.

Members of EuroNGOs:

Swedish Association for Sex Education (RFSU) – Sweden
German Federation for World Population (DSW) – Germany
P&S – UK
World Population Foundation (WPF) – Netherlands
Sex & Samfund – Denmark
Vaestelitto – Finland
Cyprus Family Planning Association - Cyprus
Polish Family Planning Association - Poland
Latvian Family Planning Association- Latvia
Associação para o Planeamento da Família (APF) - Portugal
Interact WorldWide – UK
Lithuanian Family Planning Association - Lithuania
Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS) – Italy
Equilibres & Populations (E&P) - France
Mouvement Français pour le Planning Familial (MFPPF) – France
International Foundation for Population and Development (IFPD) - Switzerland
Sensoa – Belgium
Polish Federation for Women - Poland
Federación de Planificación Familiar de España (FPPE) – Spain
Bruin Organisation for Civilisation of Sustainability (BOCS) – Hungary
Marie Stopes International – UK
Österreichische Gesellschaft für Familienplanung (OEGF) – Austria
Commonwealth Medical Trust (Commat) – UK
Fondation suisse pour la santé sexuelle et reproductive (PLANes) - Switzerland
Fédération Laïque de Centres de Planning Familial (FLCPF) – Belgium
Norsk forening for seksuell og reproduktiv helse og rettigheter (NSRR) - Norway

Other organisations supporting this Statement:

Population Action International (PAI) – USA
International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) - UK
Venture Strategies for Health and Development - USA
The Center for Reproductive Rights – USA
Asia Pacific Alliance (APA) – New Zealand
Family Planning Association (FPA) – New Zealand
Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) – Phillipines
Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD) – Canada
European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) – Belgium
Advocates for Action (SPW) - UK