**Fighting the Global Gag Rule with the HER Act**

**Activist Happy Hour Call-In Script**

First, check if your Representative is already a co-sponsor of the bill here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/671/cosponsors>

If your Representative **is** already a co-sponsor of the bill:

* "Hi, my name is \_\_\_ and I’m a constituent of [Senator/Rep] \_\_\_\_. I am calling to thank [her/him] for their support the HER Act introduced by Representative Nita Lowey."
* “As you know, the Global Gag Rule has a severe, negative impact on women’s health and reproductive rights in developing countries. Resources for supporting women are already limited in these places. Your support for the HER Act is an important step towards preventing drastic cuts in access to reproductive healthcare for women around the world. It’s important that the we don’t contribute to further marginalization of people in need.
* **If the Senator/Rep is anti-choice, you can add**: "I know that some legislators have concerns about the abortion services. However, as they should be aware, federal funding hasn’t supported abortion services since 1973 and data analysis from the World Health Organisation illustrates that the Global Gag Rule actually contributed to a substantial uptick in the number of women who had abortions in developing countries since 2001.”
* "I really appreciate Senator/Rep \_\_\_’s continued support of the HER Act to end the politicisation of women’s health."

If your Representative **is not** already a co-sponsor of the bill:

* "Hi, my name is \_\_\_ and I am a constituent of [Senator/Rep] \_\_\_\_. I am calling to ask [her/him] to support the HER Act introduced by Representative Nita Lowey in January."
* “The Global Gag Rule has a severe, negative impact on women’s health and reproductive rights in developing countries. It has not decreased the rate of abortions and unwanted pregnancies under previous Republican administrations. In fact, its severe limits on access to family-planning services will dramatically erode progress on maternal and child health, and the policy will weaken the effectiveness of our foreign assistance by making ineligible some of our most capable and effective international partners.”
* **If the Senator/Rep is anti-choice, you can add**: "I know that some legislators have concerns about the abortion services. However, as they should be aware, federal funding hasn’t supported abortion services since 1976 and data analysis from the World Health Organisation illustrates that the Global Gag Rule actually contributed to a substantial uptick in the number of women who had abortions in developing countries since 2001.
* "I want Senator/Rep \_\_\_ to please support the HER Act to end the politicisation of women’s health. The HER Act will ensure that eligible organizations can use U.S. funds to keep providing needy women with vital health services while payment for anything abortion-related happens on their own dime. I hope Senator/Rep \_\_\_ will have the moral courage to take a stand for the millions of women depending on their action. Thank you very much.”

If you’d like to learn more about this topic before or after your call, these articles are a great place to start!

* **Introduction of the HER Act** <https://lowey.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/lowey-introduces-her-act-permanently-repeal-global-gag-rule>
* **What is the Global Gag Rule?** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iqVKMgNMGg>
* **The Global Gag Rule and Fights over Funding UNFPA: The Issues That Won’t Go Away** <https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2015/06/global-gag-rule-and-fights-over-funding-unfpa-issues-wont-go-away>
* **HER Act Bill in Congress Wants to Repeal Global Gag Rule** <http://nymag.com/thecut/2017/01/her-act-bill-in-congress-would-repeal-abortion-global-gag-rule.html>
* **United States aid policy and induced abortion in sub-Saharan Africa** <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/89/12/11-091660/en/>
* **Women's Rights / Reproductive Justice - Resistance Manual** https://www.resistancemanual.org/index.php?title=Women%27s\_Rights\_/\_Reproductive\_Justice&section=6&mobileaction=toggle\_view\_desktop

There are also charities that support women’s reproductive rights internationally that would benefit from donations. Check out their websites to learn more about their work:

* Marie Stopes International (<https://mariestopes.org/>)
* International Planned Parenthood Federation (<http://www.ippf.org/>)