

GLOBAL GAG RULE REVOCATION EXPLAINED

WHAT HAPPENED?

President Joe Biden signed a [presidential memorandum](#) January 28, 2021, that revokes the [global gag rule](#) (GGR), also called the Mexico City Policy and known as Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance by the Trump Administration.

The presidential memorandum:

- States that: “It is the policy of my Administration to support women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights in the United States, as well as globally.”
- Revokes Trump's January 23, 2017 presidential memorandum to reinstate the GGR and all the subsequent expansions of the policy.
- Directs the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of USAID, and all other agencies involved in foreign assistance to:
 - immediately waive any conditions in assistance awards that were imposed pursuant to the January 2017 Presidential Memorandum in any current grants;
 - notify current grantees, as soon as possible, that these conditions have been waived; and
 - immediately cease imposing these conditions in any future assistance awards.
- Withdraws the United States' co-sponsorship and signature from the [Geneva Consensus Declaration](#), a last-minute move by the Trump Administration that attempts to create an alternative anti-abortion and anti-LGBTQI+ narrative of what constitutes women's health.
- Directs the Secretary of State to resume funding to [UNFPA](#), the UN agency responsible for providing critical maternal health and family planning services to more than 150 countries.
- Directs agency processes to begin to undo the “Domestic Gag Rule”.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Here's what we expect in the coming weeks:

- We don't expect the harm, fear, and chilling effect caused by the GGR to disappear overnight. Getting clear communication about the rescission of the GGR from Washington D.C. to U.S. embassies and missions, prime and sub-partners, and organizations that lost U.S. funding will take a concerted effort from all of us. One of the ways we can do that is through sharing the policy change in coalitions and partnerships, as well as through the press and social media.
- We will be working for the expedited revision of the USAID, CDC, Department of State and other standard provisions to remove the policy from current and future grants and agreements. Because Trump expanded the policy across *all* global health assistance, many more U.S. implementing agencies have been required to implement the GGR and now have to take action to remove the policy and cease its implementation. This will take time.
- U.S. implementing agencies should provide mandatory trainings for U.S. global health officials at headquarters and Mission-level on what is now allowable under U.S. law given the directives in President Biden's January 28, 2021 presidential memorandum.
- We will work with the White House and Congress in Washington D.C. to urgently and permanently end the GGR with legislation. The Global HER Act was also reintroduced on January 28, 2021 by Senator Shaheen and Representative Barbara Lee, with an unprecedented number of original co-sponsors!

With the GGR revoked, organizations receiving U.S. global health assistance CAN:

- **provide, promote, and advocate around abortion with NON-U.S. funds**
- **provide counseling and referrals for legal abortion WITH U.S. funds**