



Share-Net
International



Share-Net
The Netherlands

Invitation

23 May 2017,
12.15 – 17.30hr
Pakhuis de Zwijger, Amsterdam

Share-Net Thematic Meeting Contraception & Abortion

‘From Mexico City to She Decides and beyond’

Share-Net Netherlands would like to invite you for a thematic meeting, organized by the Working Group “Contraception & Abortion”, 23rd of May 2017, Pakhuis de Zwijger, Amsterdam.

Soon after the Women’s March in Washington, President Donald. J. Trump announced the Global Gag Rule (also known as the “Mexico City Policy”). First introduced in 1984, by President Ronald Reagan, Trump’s Global Gag Rule stipulates that non U.S. nongovernmental organizations receiving U.S. family planning funding cannot inform the public or educate their government on the need to make safe abortion available, provide legal abortion services, or provide advice on where to get an abortion.

While the Global Gag Rule is reinstated, it is an illustration of a more conservative climate developing worldwide, including in Europe. Also in the EU opposition against laws and policies concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is increasing. Conservative movements, often based on religious beliefs, are trying to entice citizens to actively participate in ultra-conservative politics regarding issues dealing with family, gender equality, and SRHR. Not addressing women’s need for contraception and safe abortion has a negative impact on the health and well-being of women and their families, economic productivity and public (health) budgets.

During this thematic meeting, we will gain insights in the present political and funding climate for contraception and abortion and discuss recent developments & trends. We will learn more about the background of the Mexico City Policy, its effects in previous periods, and its current effect in the 'Trump era'.

Share-Net members and other participants share their experiences, barriers and dilemmas: how to advocate, operate and implement programmes in countries with a restricted environment (in terms of political, legal and policy constraints) for SRHR and women's rights, including contraception and abortion.

Kindly RSVP by **18 May** to the Share-Net Secretariat via our [registration form](#).

Please do forward this invite to relevant colleagues!

PROGRAMME

12.15 - 12.45 **Walk-inn**
Sandwich and coffee/tea

12.45 - 13.10 **Welcome & Introduction**
Elly Leemhuis - Member WG "C&A"; Senior Adviser SRHR
Lindsay van Clief (RNW) - Moderator

Session 1: The conservative political climate including the Mexico City Policy (MCP): historical background, developments & trends, effects

13.10 - 13.30 **Presentation**
Historical background of the MCP, Kemp-Kasten, related US policies and funding, and its effects.
Alanna Galati - Senior Policy Manager, Guttmacher Institute TBC

13.30 - 14.45 **Panel Discussion**
Developments and trends in the opposition against SRHR and women's rights. The effects (as far as known) of Trump's reinstatement of the MCP, and actions that followed.

Panelists:

Neil Datta – Secretary, European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF), Brussels

Elena Zacharenko – Independent Policy and Advocacy Consultant

Matthew Lindley – Advocate, Campaigner and Fundraiser, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF HQ) tbc

Moderator:

Lindsay van Clief

14.45 - 15.00 **Coffee/Tea Break**

Session 2: Interactive session on experiences, barriers and dilemmas: how to advocate, operate and implement programmes in restricted environments relating to SRHR.

15.00 - 15.20 **Pitches**
Organizations pitch their case in 2 minutes

15.20 - 16.40 **Three rounds of discussions in small groups**
Women on Web, Female Health Company, Prisma, Simavi and more to be confirmed

16.40 - 17:00 **Summary of highlights from each table**

Moderator:

Lindsay van Clief

Conclusions

16.50 - 17.15 **Closing statement & conclusions**
TBC

INFORMATION

Registration required!
Registration is free but required **before May 18th**, please RSVP to via our [registration form](#).

Lunch will be provided.

Language
English

Location
Pakhuis de Zwijger
Piet Heinkade 179
1019 HC Amsterdam