Dear Ms in 't Veld, Dear Ms De Sutter,

Thank you for your letter raising concerns about advocacy initiatives against Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.

The EU is firmly committed to playing a leading role in ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, by all.

The lives of millions of women and young people can be saved if there is a continued commitment to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of every individual to have full control over their bodies. This means having the ability to decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence. Ensuring universal access to quality and affordable comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, including comprehensive sexuality education and medical/psychological health-care services, is essential in that respect.

The EU’s commitment is reflected in its policies and programmes, and indeed is an integral part of the EU’s policy on gender equality and women’s and girls' empowerment as reflected in the Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020. The yearly implementation report on the Gender Action Plan contains a specific Annex covering progress on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. Furthermore, preventing and combatting harmful practices, and addressing the rights of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, is a core component of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls, as well as of other specifically targeted programmes and projects on health and population.

The Commission reconfirms the political commitment made inter alia in the European Consensus on Development with respect to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights, to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). With the ICPD marking its 25th anniversary in Nairobi on 12-14 November, the participation of the EU (including a delegation of Members of the European Parliament) and its Member States only served to reinforce their commitment.

Ms Sophie in 't Veld  
Member of the European Parliament

Ms Petra De Sutter  
Member of the European Parliament

MEPs4SRR co-chairs  
European Parliament  
60, rue Wiertz  
1047 Brussels
The EU will also continue to apply a survivor-centred approach to sexual and gender-based violence in its humanitarian aid. Prevention and response components are part of a comprehensive multi-sectorial approach, including our support for transitional and restorative justice. It will also continue to specifically monitor the efforts to eliminate all forms of sexual violence in conflict and inform through its regular reporting on Women, Peace, and Security.

We are further committed on the international scene to assist all such efforts and to that end, we recently confirmed an EU pledge of €2 million at the formal launch, in New York on 30 October 2019, of the new Global Survivors' Fund, created by Dr. Denis Mukwege, Ms. Nadia Murad and UN Women.

We will continue in our efforts to eliminate all forms of conflict-related sexual violence.

Yours sincerely,

Federica Mogherini

Neven Mimica