EPF is a network of Members of Parliaments throughout Europe who are committed to protecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of the world’s most vulnerable people, both at home and overseas.

In advocating for these human rights, EPF parliamentarians work on the following topics, amongst others:

- Cervical Cancer,
- Child marriage,
- Family planning,
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM),
- Fistula,
- Gender equality,
- Girls’ rights,
- HIV/AIDS,
- Maternal mortality,
- Prematurity,
- Safe abortion,
- Sexuality education,
- Violence against women

**Our Mission**

Upholding the human rights of women, men and young people has long been a hallmark of European states. The EPF network ensures that in Europe’s parliaments there are decision-makers who fully understand the importance of gender equality and safeguarding SRHR. Equipped with this understanding, they can support these causes in the range of ways available to them as parliamentarians.

**Our Goals**

1. To increase funding for population and development issues from the governments of donor, partner and middle-income countries.
2. To improve policy that stands to increase gender equality, and enable women to decide freely upon the timing, spacing and number of their children.
3. To hold governments to account for their pledges to population and development issues, and check that they live up to their promises - both in the amount they pledge and the way they present them.
EPF Activities

Study Tours
We believe that experience is the best teacher. That’s why EPF regularly leads study tours for parliamentarians to developing countries to see first hand the need for sexual and reproductive health programmes. Back home, parliamentarians relate their experience to governmental policies and budget priorities. Parliamentarians who have seen for themselves the transformative effect of projects, such as family planning clinics or fistula hospitals, can then advocate for funding and policies with significant authority. Having organised scores of visits involving hundreds of parliamentarians, EPF has established itself as a trusted specialist in engaging and inspiring study tours. Recently, we have led study tours to Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Senegal. EPF welcomes both new and established MPs to participate in these trips.

Delegations to UN meetings
The wording agreed and targets set at United Nations negotiations have very real implications for women and girls in the developing world. Because parliamentarians attending these events can make their voices heard in a powerful way, EPF organises MP delegations to meetings like the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the UN Commission on Population and Development (CPD). EPF delegations also participate in side events and hold separate meetings with EU governments, UN agencies and NGOs.

Global MPs Conferences
EPF has organised 15 major international parliamentary conferences on women’s and girl’s rights. These gatherings draw together elected representatives from a vast array of countries, regions and political traditions. Expert presentations, stories from the field and workshops serve to inspire MPs to become even stronger SRHR advocates. The attending parliamentarians also agree statements calling on world leaders to prioritise SRHR funding and policies. Recently, EPF co-organised the Berlin G7/G20 Parliamentarian Conference (2015) and the IPCI Conference in Stockholm (2014).

“The EPF study tour to Ethiopia gave me the information and first hand experience to make progress on population and development issues in the UK Parliament.”
Hon. Holly Lynch, Member of Parliament United Kingdom
Council of Europe

EPF assists parliamentarians in introducing and promoting written declarations at sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Strasbourg.

In the Media

EPF proactively works to build public awareness about our topics, multiplying our message using the media. As part of our media relations activities EPF members regularly author articles in leading European media. Over 2014 and 2015, EPF MPs published 45 opinion articles. We also ensure that SRHR topics are on the news agenda by inviting journalists to our events and leading press trips to developing countries.

Publications

The EPF Secretariat provides MPs with high quality and up-to-date publications to assist them in being effective champions for the world’s most vulnerable. Recent examples include, a parliamentary handbook on the sustainable development agenda and a parliamentary handbook on cervical cancer prevention. EPF sends a monthly online newsletter in English, French and Russian.
Our Structure
EPF parliamentarians come from parties across the political spectrum. At national level they are organised into All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs). EPF’s membership is currently made up of 31 such groups spread across Europe.

EPF is led and represented by our President who chairs an Executive Committee consisting of 11 members of parliament.
Our member parliamentarians are served by a Brussels based secretariat with expertise on SRHR, advocacy, communications and finance.

Our APPGs

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