

[No images? Click here](#)

Welcome to EPF's Newsletter! Read all you need to know about EPF activities, events, policy developments and SRHR-related news!

Upcoming events

Launch of the new HPV Prevention Atlas EMRO

The **HPV Prevention Atlas for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO)** will be officially launched on **April 17 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**, in collaboration with the **Rofaida Women's Health Organisation**. The event will be broadcast online, providing a key platform to discuss HPV prevention strategies across the region. **Register now!** Ahead of the launch, the **HPV Prevention Atlas EMRO** will also be **presented on April 15 during Global Health Week in Abu Dhabi**.

[Register Now](#)

G20 Parliamentary Conference on Women's Health in Cape Town, South Africa



EPF is organising the **G20 Parliamentary Conference on Women's Health: "The Economic Benefits of Investing in Women's Health"** in Cape Town from 5-6 May 2025, in collaboration with the **Southern and East African Parliamentary Caucus on SRHR** and **IPAS**. This high-level event will convene **40 Members of Parliament from G20 countries**, representatives from **Africa, OECD-DAC countries, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)**.

Parliamentary Delegation to Visit Sri Lanka

From 26-30 May 2025, Members of Parliament from **Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, the UK and the European Parliament** will visit Sri Lanka on a study tour organised with the **Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPA)**. During the visit, the delegation will hold **high-level meetings with ministries, local parliamentarians and embassies**, as well as site visits in clinics, service delivery points and rural communities.

EPF News

Call for Action for Women's Rights Signed by 80 MPs from Across Europe and Canada



At the CSW69, **80 parliamentarians signed a declaration calling for women's rights and standing in solidarity against the global rise of reactionary politics led by Donald Trump and other ultra-conservative forces. "This is the message we brought**

to the United Nations this week for the 69th Commission on the Status of Women. There are women and men in this world who refuse to accept a future built on submission and oppression. There are still women and men who choose respect, equality, and freedom over fear and control", reads the statement.

[Read More](#)

Parliamentarians Attend CSW69 and Visit Capitol Hill



From **9-13 March 2025**, the **EPF delegation** participated in the **CSW69 opening session**, where global leaders reaffirmed **commitments to the Beijing Platform for Action**. The delegation also traveled to **Washington D.C. to discuss US funding for SRHR** and possible **transatlantic cooperation** with key members of Congress, including **Rep. Sarah McBride (Delaware)**, **Rep. Lois Frankel (Florida)**, **Rep. Grace Meng (New York)**, **Rep. Dina Titus (Nevada)** and **Rep. Kamlager-Dove (California)**.

MPs Release Joint Statement Against SRHR Disinformation



The **EPF parliamentary delegation to the Philippines supports Filipino policymakers and civil society** in advancing adolescent health through the **Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Bill and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)**. Following last January's visit to the Philippines, nine MPs signed a **statement to call for stronger international coordination against disinformation** and more transparency in public funding.

[Read More](#)

New Report Released: "Beyond the Chaos, a New World is Emerging"



On 3 March 2025, EPF released a new report authored by Neil Datta on **Trump's strategy for a new global order** aimed at **redefining SRHR, gender equality and human rights**. On 26 March 2025, Neil Datta presented **"Beyond the Chaos, a New World Is Emerging"** to the **Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)** at the **Council of Europe**.

[Read More](#)

SRHR and ODA News

On 7 March, the **EUROPEAN COMMISSION** published the **EU Roadmap for Women's Rights**, reaffirming its commitment to gender equality. Building on the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, the Roadmap focuses on **combating gender-based violence, ensuring equal pay, improving work-life balance and increasing political participation**. It highlights progress made and areas where further action is needed and briefly mentions the need to support **women's health** by strengthening and complementing Member States' actions on access to SRHR. **"Despite our requests for a clear commitment to sexual and reproductive rights, we have seen only timid progress,"** said MEP Melissa Camara (Greens/EFA, France).

[Read More](#)

FRANCE launched its **Feminist Foreign Policy Strategy 2025-2030**: this is the first time that France has fully integrated gender equality into its foreign policy framework. The strategy has five priorities: defending SRHR, strengthening feminist diplomacy within multilateral institutions, increasing funding for feminist organisations, mainstreaming gender equality in global transformations such as climate and AI, and promoting comprehensive sexuality education. France is also positioning itself as a **coalition builder** to counter the global backlash by hosting the 4th edition of the **Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy Conference**.

[Read More](#)

In **THE NETHERLANDS**, on 4 March, the House of Representatives voted on three **motions related to abortion care**, submitted by members of Christian parties (SGP and NSC) and supported by a coalition including far-right party FvD, PVV, BBB, and others. These proposals, framed as efforts to evaluate current legislation and the rise in abortion rates, risk **undermining women's autonomy and reproductive rights**. The first motion, calling for an investigation into

whether the abolition of the mandatory reflection period contributed to an increase in abortions, was adopted. The second motion, requesting an early evaluation of the **Termination of Pregnancy Act**, was also adopted. However, a third motion proposing that the reasons for abortion be registered and published annually was not adopted.

[Read More](#)

POLAND's first ever "abortion clinic" opened in Warsaw on **International Women's Day**. The facility does not provide medical services itself, but it offers a space for women to take **abortion pills** that they can order in advance. The clinic, set up by the activist group **Abortion Dream Team**, also offers pregnancy tests and advice on how to terminate a pregnancy, including helping to arrange and pay for surgical abortions abroad.

[Read More](#)

In **IRELAND**, in response to anti-abortion MP Carol Nolan's question, the government reaffirmed its commitment to **comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** as part of its international development policy. While abortion provision is **not a central element** of Ireland's overseas aid, funding supports a range of essential services, including **contraception access, maternal health, HIV prevention, and post-abortion care**.

[Read More](#)

On 26 March, **THE UK** government announced **immediate cuts to the aid budget**, reducing the ODA to 0.3% of GNI by 2027 to fund increased defence spending. Concerns about the aid cuts were raised earlier in March during a **debate in the House of Lords by Lord Bruce and Baroness Sugg**; an Early Day Motion was tabled; and a cross-party committee, including **MP Sarah Champion, Chair of the International Development Committee and Co-Chair of the UK APPG on SRHR**, wrote to the Prime Minister expressing **concern about the cuts and their impact on global aid efforts**.

[Read More](#)

NORWAY's new one-party Labour government has appointed strong **SRHR advocates**: the **Ministry of Development Åsmund Aukrust and State Secretary Stine Renate Håheim**, both long-time SRHR supporters. Aukrust has already pledged to prioritise **gender equality and SRHR, although financial commitments remain to be seen**. All eyes are now on **15 May**, when the **revised budget** for 2025 will be announced.

[Read More](#)

In his first major move as **CANADA's** new Prime Minister, **Mark Carney** has abolished the position of **Minister for Women and Gender Equality** and folded it into a broader ministry. This decision is a major setback for gender equality. Without dedicated leadership, key initiatives such as the **National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence** risk being sidelined.

[Read More](#)

Challenging the Backlash

Legal Actions Against Misinformation on Sexuality Education in the Netherlands. Dutch knowledge center **Rutgers** is taking legal action against **Civitas Christiana**, an ultra-conservative organisation spreading falsehoods about Rutgers and the **Week of Spring Fever**—an annual program providing structured lessons on relationships, resilience, and sexuality in schools. By challenging these falsehoods, Rutgers stands with **teachers, parents, and students** to ensure that all children receive **accurate, age-appropriate education** in a safe and supportive environment.

[Read More](#)

Appeal to the Portuguese Government & Parliament in Support of UNFPA and SRHR. Nineteen CSOs addressed the Parliament and Government of Portugal at a time of profound changes in international cooperation to call them to strengthen efforts for peace and human dignity. Amid the **crises of government, the Portuguese APPG remains aware of the urgency of the global situation: the reality tends to worsen with each passing day**, with more maternal, child and neonatal deaths and morbidities, and we are witnessing an escalation of situations of violence against the principles of **Equality and Human Rights**

[Read More](#)

Have Your Say: European Parliament Launches Consultation on Women's Health

The **European Parliament's SANT Committee** has launched a **public consultation on women's health in the EU**, inviting input from both **citizens and stakeholders**. The survey covers key issues such as **reproductive health, access to care, and social determinants of health**. Responses will be crucial in shaping **future EU policies** on gender-specific health challenges.

[Read More](#)[f Share](#)

 Tweet

 Share

 Forward

European Parliamentary Forum
Sq. de Meeûs 18
1050 Brussels, Belgium
Phone: +32 (0)2 500 86 50

If you don't want to receive our e-mails, please

[Unsubscribe](#)