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, and other countries. 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 17 major international parliamentarian 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 Rome G7/G20 Parliamentarian Conference (2017) and the IPCI Conference in 2018.

“After they have joined EPF parliamentary study tours, we witness how our MPs take SRH/FP matters closer to their hearts and tend to attend the meetings of our APPG more regularly, ask parliamentary questions on our issues and show a greater willingness to take parliamentary initiatives, such as the drafting and rallying their peers with parliamentary resolutions on Belgium’s role in advancing SRH/FP.” By Marlies Casier, Sensoa, the Belgian APPG Secretariat and Countdown 2030-Europe member

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Support for All-Party Parliamentary Groups

EPF promotes the growth of all-party Parliamentary groups (APPGs) by connecting parliamentarians who want to start an APPG in one country with those who have already done so in another. EPF provides technical assistance, organises trainings and develops tools to help Parliamentarians become better SRHR advocates. EPF partners with NGOs on the country level who provide the secretariat support for Parliamentary groups to organise events and involve individual Parliamentarians in regional and international activities.

Coordinated Calls to Action

We are stronger when we speak with a single voice. Amplifying the unified voice of MPs committed to SRHR is central to our mission. EPF provides a venue for parliamentarians across Europe to coordinate common statements on international developments related to SRHR. Typically, these statements urge action from governments and international organisations; or call on states to place women's empowerment at the center of key international agreements.

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. We also ensure that SRHR topics are on the news agenda by inviting journalists to our events and leading press trips to developing countries. In 2018, EPF’s activities or work has featured in approximately 70 articles around the world.

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. 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.
“Creating a world where women and girls enjoy and realize their human rights is one of the most urgent challenges of our century.”
Sen. Petra De Sutter, EPF President

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 over 30 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.

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Our APPGs
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Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia & Herzegovina
Denmark
EP
Finland
France

Georgia
Germany
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Lithuania
Macedonia
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal

Romania
Russia
Serbia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey

Hon. Petra Bayr
Vice President
Austria

Hon. Malahat Ibrahimqizi
Member
Azerbaijan

Hon. Hanna Sarkkinen
Member
Finland

Hon. Doerle Sakaliene
Member
Lithuania

Hon. Florian-Dorel Bodog
Member
Romania

Hon. Petra De Sutter, MEP
EPF President
Belgium

Hon. Öznur Çalık
Vice President
Turkey

Hon. Ulla Sandbaek
Member
Denmark

Hon. Alice-Halley Higgins
Member
Ireland

Hon. Heidi Nordby
Member
Norway

Hon. John Mann
Member
UK