

RESOLUTION: WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

Whereas the United Nations has declared that equality between women and men is a prerequisite for social justice and necessary for development and peace;

Whereas gender equality is widely acknowledged to be key to eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development; furthermore, stress on the environment and the depletion of natural resources both reinforce and are exacerbated by gender inequality, poor health, and poverty;

Whereas reproductive rights and access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including family planning and access to safe abortion, are necessary for women’s empowerment and gender equality;

Whereas the U.S. Administration has refused to release tens of millions of dollars that Congress appropriated to the United Nations Population Fund, which works to ensure universal access to reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health to all couples and individuals; and whereas U.S. family planning funding is increasingly going to abstinence-only programs, which are ineffective without comprehensive sex education and family planning services; and whereas U.S. foreign policies such as the Global Gag Rule (which denies U.S. funding to overseas organizations that provide information, counseling, or referrals about abortions services, or that lobby for abortion reform laws, even with their own funds) are contributing to higher rates of unplanned pregnancies, unsafe abortions, maternal mortality and morbidity, and the spread of HIV/AIDS;

Whereas preventable reproductive health problems make up the leading cause of death and disability for women the world over; each year worldwide 500,000 women and girls die due to complications related to pregnancy, 80,000 women and girls around the world die from botched abortions (with hundreds of thousands more injured and maimed), and an estimated 100,000 women worldwide suffer obstetric fistulas because of prolonged labor and no access to medical care;

**Therefore be it resolved that _____
fully endorses the Feminist Majority Foundation’s *Global Reproductive Rights Campaign*, which holds that women’s rights and reproductive rights are human rights, and that women’s empowerment and access to family planning and safe abortion are fundamental for reducing poverty, improving the health and education of the world’s population, creating sustainable economic development, protecting the environment and fostering an active democratic civil, peaceful and safe society.**

Further, we resolve to promote access to family planning and comprehensive reproductive health care as essential components of our human rights, global development, peace and environmental agendas. Therefore we call on the government of the United States to immediately repeal the Global Gag Rule, to reinstate U.S. funding of the UNFPA, and to increase international family planning funding to close the gap between the need for international family planning assistance and funding from donor nations.

Name of Organization: _____

College or University: _____

Organization Email: _____

Contact Person and Phone Number: _____