

FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION

# CHOICES CAMPUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

WORLD'S LARGEST PRO-CHOICE STUDENT NETWORK

## GLOBAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

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### ONE WOMAN DIES EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY...

*"Global rates of maternal mortality remain perilously high; one woman dies every minute of every day in pregnancy or childbirth, and for every woman who dies, another 20 suffer from injury, infection, or disease every minute."*

— SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON

### KNOW THE ISSUE

- The Problem: Women and girls around the world face many barriers that prohibit them from becoming empowered and self-sufficient. Many factors continue to exacerbate increasingly high rates of maternal mortality and injury.
- Factors negatively impacting women and girls:
  - Access to Birth Control
    - An estimated 215 million women around the world wish to either *delay* or *prevent* pregnancy, but lack access to contraceptives.
  - HIV/AIDS and other STIs
    - Globally, HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age and the need for adequate and accessible sexual reproductive health services and education has not been met.
    - Abstinence-only education does not reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS, STIs or unintended pregnancies.

### KNOW WHAT IT MEANS FOR REAL WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' LIVES

- 529,000 women and girls die and 10 million suffer from injury, infection or disease each year during pregnancy & childbirth.

- 70,000 women and girls die and 5 million are injured every year from botched abortions in developing nations, mostly where abortion is illegal.
- The leading cause of death for girls 15-19 in poor countries is complications from pregnancy and childbirth.
- Girls 14 and under face 5 *times* the risk of maternal mortality compared to women 20-24.
- 99% of maternal mortality each year takes place in the developing world, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa (270,000) and South Asia (188,000).

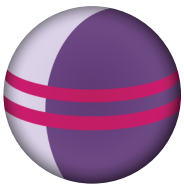
### THE VAST MAJORITY OF MATERNAL DEATHS AND INJURIES ARE PREVENTABLE!!

- Only 1% of maternal deaths occur in the industrialized nations.
  - EXAMPLE: Sweden's rate is 1 in 17,400
- The United States has the highest rate of maternal mortality among industrialized nations (1 in 4800).
- In the U.S., African American women are 4 times more likely and Hispanic women are 1.6 times more likely than white women in the US to die from complications with pregnancy and childbirth.

### KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO SAVE WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' LIVES

*"Women cannot be empowered until they are in control of their reproduction. It is critical to break the barriers women around the world face in accessing adequate reproductive healthcare so that women can determine the number of children they have, and truly attain empowerment."*

— 1994 ICPD, CAIRO



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### **SOLUTION: WOMEN AND GIRLS MUST BE EMPOWERED**

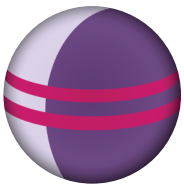
- Women and Girls' Empowerment – ensuring access to reproductive health services must be accomplished to alleviate poverty and ensure a sustainable environment and future.
- Access to Basic Education—When a woman or a girl is educated, she is empowered to make informed decisions about her life. Providing basic education for every woman and every girl gives her the ability to exercise healthy reproductive choices.

### **PROMISES MADE TO EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS**

- 1994 International Conference on Population & Development (ICPD) in Cairo
  - 179 countries agreed to provide universal access to education and reproductive health services by 2015.
  - Meeting the ICPD goal would cost \$29.2 billion in 2010. Donor countries (including the U.S.) pledged to cover 1/3 of the cost, but in no year has the commitment been met. The current global shortfall is at least \$7.5 billion annually.
- 2000 United Nations Millennium Development Goal #5
  - Improve maternal health around the world
  - Reduce maternal mortality rate by three quarters by 2015
  - Achieve universal access to reproductive health and family planning by 2015

### **ACHIEVEMENTS MADE TO EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS**

- USAID & Family Planning/Reproductive Health Aid
  - Currently, the U.S. Congress appropriated and President Obama approved \$648.5 million for family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) aid for the developing nations in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 budget.
  - In total, with increases in 2009, 2010, and proposed for 2011, this will represent a 54% increase in FP/RH funding since FY 2008, the last fiscal year of the Bush Administration.
- UNFPA Funding
  - President Obama reinstated U.S. funding of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), providing \$55 million for maternal health.
  - For the last 7 years of the Bush Administration, UNFPA funds were withheld.
  - In FY 2011, the Obama Administration requested \$50 million for UNFPA.



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### HOPES YET TO BE REALIZED

- Annually, providing contraceptives to 215 million women in developing nations who want to prevent pregnancy would prevent:
  - 53 million unplanned pregnancies
  - 150,000 maternal deaths from pregnancy-related complications
  - 600,000 children from losing their mothers
  - 25 million induced abortions
- Achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health is essential to achieving:
  - eradication of poverty
  - universal access to education
  - gender equality
  - reduced maternal and child mortality
  - reduced incidence of HIV/AIDs
  - ensuring environmental sustainability

### WHAT MUST BE DONE!

#### KNOW WHAT THE U.S. MUST DO!

- The U.S. must be a global leader in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity.
- The U.S. must also provide its fair share of international reproductive health aid to developing nations.
- Currently, the pro-choice community is demanding at least \$1 billion annually in U.S. international sexual reproductive health and rights funding!

- The Feminist Majority Foundation believes to make up for the shortfall of the past years since 1994, this funding should be \$3 billion a year to meet the 2015 goal of universal access.

#### KNOW WHAT EVERY \$1 BILLION WOULD DO!

- Maternal deaths would fall by 40,000 and infant deaths by 700,000
- There would be 21 million fewer unintended pregnancies and over 8 million fewer abortions
- An estimated 36 million people would become contraceptive users
- USAID would be assisted in work to respond to international family planning needs; promote gender equity; address harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation; and prevent and treat obstetric fistula, among many others.

#### KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- Host a die-in representing the needless deaths of women and girls and speakOUTs with informational handouts
- Host a film screening and public forum (i.e. *Walk to the Beautiful* or *Not Yet Rain*)
- Launch an email campaign to decision makers such as the Secretary General of the United Nations, President Barack Obama, and members of the United States Congress. Urge them to do their share in ensuring that women and girls all over the world are empowered to make their OWN choices!