

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000552/25
to the Commission**

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(6 February 2025)

Subject: Funding for sexual and reproductive health and rights

Access to safe and high-quality sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is one of the fundamental pillars of human rights. Civil society organisations have played a key role in maintaining and giving access to these rights. In the light of recent setbacks in SRHR globally, exemplified by policies such as the US's 'global gag rule', there is growing concern about potential regression in access to essential SRHR services and support. The EU has been a pivotal player in advancing these rights, and it is crucial to understand how the Commission plans to maintain and enhance this commitment in the current geopolitical climate.

1. What specific strategies and funding initiatives is the Commission implementing to safeguard and promote SRHR in regions affected by restrictive policies such as the US's global gag rule?
2. How does the Commission intend to collaborate with international partners and local organisations to ensure that SRHR remains a priority, despite the challenges arising from diminishing support from other major global actors?

Submitted: 6.2.2025

Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(14 April 2025)

The EU has been and remains committed to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), as enshrined in the European Consensus on Development ⁽¹⁾, the EU Global Health Strategy ⁽²⁾, the Gender Action Plan III ⁽³⁾, the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and the new Roadmap for Women's Rights ⁽⁴⁾, among other policy and legal frameworks.

The commitment to SRHR translates into a wide range of actions in development and humanitarian settings. This for example includes programming under the Team Europe Initiative on SRHR in Africa and financial contributions to civil society organisations and multilateral organisations such as the United Nations Population Fund.

Everyone in the international community must shoulder their responsibility as the scale and complexity of the current global needs require a collective response.

To uphold EU's commitment to global health and SRHR, the Commission engages in partnerships based on equal footing, co-ownership, mutual interest and strategic priorities.

These partnerships involve policy dialogue and programmatic initiatives at global, regional and country levels. Stakeholders include EU institutions, Member States, partner countries, civil society, private sector, and development and humanitarian partners, including United Nations agencies.

The EU also provides operational grants for framework partners who work on SRHR matters to ensure facilitation of their work.

⁽¹⁾ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/european-development-policy/european-consensus-development_en

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_7153

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020JC0017>

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en