



Biden-Harris Administration

Year 1 (2021): Policy Wins



Repeal the Global Gag Rule

On January 28, 2021, the Biden-Harris administration repealed the Global Gag Rule as part of its [executive memorandum](#) on women's health in the United States and around the world.



Fund the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The January 28th executive memorandum also called for the United States to restore funding to UNFPA. This was followed by the president's budget request for \$56 million for UNFPA – a [70% increase above current funding levels](#) – for fiscal year 2022.



Withdraw U.S. cosponsorship and signature from the "Geneva Consensus"

The Geneva Consensus Declaration was a repressive and harmful vision of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) invented by the Trump-Pence administration. It sought other countries' endorsement in an attempt to challenge the international consensus on reproductive choice and sexual expression. The Biden-Harris administration took prompt action to dissociate and disavow this harmful declaration.



Support SRHR

In his January 28th memo, President Biden declared, "It is the policy of my administration to support women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights in the United States, as well as globally." This is the first time an administration has embraced the phrase "sexual and reproductive health and rights" from the time it took office.



Commit to SRHR at Generation Equality Forum

At the Generation Equality Forum, which marked the 25th anniversary of the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women, the Biden-Harris administration, represented by Vice President Harris, committed to "protect and advance sexual and reproductive health and rights." This commitment includes meeting with like-minded progressive countries to discuss expanding SRHR.



Create the White House Gender Policy Council and gender strategy

The White House established a Gender Policy Council in March 2021 to address domestic and international gender issues. In October, the council released the [National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality](#), the first-ever U.S. gender strategy, and identified SRHR as a priority.



Nominate/confirm administration officials

- Antony Blinken, Secretary of State
- Samantha Power, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator
- Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations
- Isobel Coleman, USAID deputy administrator for policy and programming
- Dr. Atul Gawande, USAID assistant administrator for global health

Year 2 (2022): What More Needs to Be Done



Increase funding for family planning and reproductive health

While the Biden-Harris administration's first budget proposal included a modest increase for family planning and reproductive health funding, mostly for UNFPA, the White House needs to increase its request if the administration is going to live up to its commitment to support SRHR.



Support the repeal of the Helms amendment

The administration supported repealing the Hyde amendment in 2021 which would allow U.S. funds to be used to support abortion in the United States. In 2022, it should also champion the repeal of the Helms amendment to allow foreign assistance funds to be used to provide abortions overseas. The administration must also ensure that the United States is supporting access to abortion overseas to the full extent allowed under U.S. law.



Implement the White House Gender Policy Council's gender strategy

We were thrilled to see the White House gender equity and equality strategy, but, in 2022, the administration must develop detailed implementation plans for each federal agency and begin to put these plans into action. The same goes for other SRHR commitments made throughout the administration's first year.



Update other critical gender-focused strategies

The Biden-Harris administration has committed to review and update the [U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally](#) and the [U.S. Agency for International Development Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy](#). These strategies must be then set into motion.



Step up as a leader in multilateral spaces

The Biden-Harris administration has been clear that it intends for the United States to be a global leader on issues related to SRHR, including comprehensive sexuality education and gender equality. This is no easy task after four years of the country actively undermining many of these issues at the United Nations and elsewhere. Now that the United State is fully back at the table, it is time to exercise leadership through our words and actions.