**Women’s human rights must be at the centre of the Family Planning Summit: Civil Society Declaration**

We, civil society organizations working to promote women’s and young people’s human rights, call on world leaders on the eve of the “Family Planning Summit”, hosted by the UK Government and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to ensure that sexual and reproductive health and rights are at the centre of all efforts to meet reproductive health needs, including family planning.

Contraceptive information and services – “family planning” – form an essential part of the health services that women need throughout their lives. Any steps to increase demand for contraceptives must actively support efforts to improve comprehensive and integrated sexual and reproductive health. Contraceptives must be provided through primary healthcare, with full regard for women’s human rights and the specific needs of young and unmarried women and other groups.

Our experience, built over decades of work around the world, has taught us that the failure to take actions guided by women’s human rights – to health, to life, to live free from discrimination among others – can have devastating consequences. Policies that accept or tacitly condone forced sterilization, the coercive provision of contraceptives, and the denial of essential services to the young, poor and marginalized women that need them every day have violated, and continue to violate, women’s human rights.

Nearly twenty years ago, governments at the International Conference on Population and Development agreed that respect for women’s reproductive autonomy is the cornerstone of population policy. Any return to coercive family planning programs where quality of care and informed consent are ignored would be both shocking and retrograde. The Family Planning Summit must ensure that the clocks are not put back on women’s human rights: women’s autonomy and agency to decide freely on matters related to sexual and reproductive health without any discrimination, coercion or violence must be protected under all circumstances.

In order to expand contraceptive access with full respect for women’s human rights, we urge governments, donors and other actors supporting the Family Planning Summit to:

- Take all possible measures to ensure that this initiative is designed with quality of care and human rights at its core, so that no coercive measures are introduced in the provision of contraceptives;

- Ensure that meaningful participation by women, including young women, is built into all stages of program design and implementation to ensure that services are responsive to their needs and to prevent any human rights violations;

- Ensure that the provision of contraceptives is integrated into existing and new sexual and reproductive health services, and that a full range of contraceptive methods is offered;

- Design and implement a system for monitoring, evaluation and accountability to track and measure its impact on the human rights of women as this initiative is rolled out, and urgently make necessary corrections should violations come to light;

- Commit to tackling the existing legal and policy barriers that hinder access to contraceptive information and services, without which efforts are likely to be ineffective and exacerbate disparities in access.

In 2012, nothing less will do.
Endorsed by:

Center for Reproductive Rights
Amnesty International
Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)
International Women's Health Coalition
Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice (RESURJ)
Women and Children First (UK)
Sexuality Policy Watch
Cynthia Rothschild
AIDOS, Associazione italiana donne per lo sviluppo
Aids Orphans care and support program (AOCASP)
Charlotte Soulayr
Catholics for Choice
Fundacion Huesped
L'association Tunisienne des femmes démocrates (ATFD)
Fiji Women's Rights Movement
Women's Action for Change
National Council of Women's Organizations
Voice for Change
Lice Cokanasiga
PROMSEX
Generation Initiative For Women and Youth Network
Rosia Koian
ICW Global
ICW North America
Michelle Redman-MacLaren
New Zealand Family Planning Association
Space Allies
Women and Media Collective
Pamoja Communications
World YWCA
YP Foundation
SUTRA
Beth Tinning
Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA)
Susan Paxton, PhD
Women's UN Report Network - WUNRN
Devika Biswas
Renu Khanna
Women Living Under Muslim Laws
Common Language
Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)
Grupo de Informacion en Reproduccion Elegida, A.C. (GIRE)
Melanie Hughes McDermott
Diana Tietjens Meyers
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CREA  
International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific  
PODA-Pakistan  
Foundation Kinderen Centraal -Suriname  
MADRE  
Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (APA)  
Ipas  
Nanette Funk  
Engender  
GESTOS- HIV+, Communication and Gender  
TARSHI (Talking About Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues)  
Pathfinder International  
Susan Herrman  
CEDPA  
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)  
ASRAD-MALI  
Hampshire College Population and Development Program  
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Red Flag Women's Movement  
Action on African Women Foundation  
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Nell Rasmussen  
Gail Lerner  
Elsa Gomez  
Drodrolagi Movement  
Gamcotrap  
Cevahir Özgüler  
EngenderHealth  
SAKBE, Comunicacion y Defensa para el Cambio, AC  
CLACAI Latin American Consortium Against Unsafe Abortion  
Sahiyar (Stree Sangathan)
BPW ISTANBUL Business and Professional Women Association
Human Rights Law Network (HRLN)
Nepal-International Consumers Union
Réseau des Associations et Groupements des Femmes Handicapées du Tchad (RAGFHT)
ELA - Equipo Latinoamericano de Justicia y Genero
Popular Education Programme
REDRESS Jovenes
Maria Raguz
Women and Law in Southern Africa Research Trust Mozambique (WLSA Mozambique)
Foro Regional por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos Arequipa
Fundación Desafío
Grupo Médico por el Derecho a Decidir
BPW Turkey: The Turkish Federation of Business & Professional Women
Fundación ESAR
Women and Media Collective
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Jayanthi Kuru Uthumpala
Sepali Kottegoda
Sarala Emmanuel
Chulani Kodikara
El Colegioc de México
Susana Lerner
Sisterhood Is Global Institute - Jordan
Helen Ridsdale
Netherlands Council of Women
Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR) - New Ways
MYSU, Mujer y Salud en Uruguay
Ipas Pakistan
Mariana Romero
The Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT)
Coast Women In Development (CWID)
Gender Alternatives Foundation
Eskişehir Business and Professional Women – Eskişehir BPW
Conseil National des Femmes du Luxembourg
Center for Equality Advancement
Red ACTIVAS
Dr. Nisha Gupta
WoMen Against Rape Trust
Dr Divya Bhagianadh
Ipoade Omilaju
Carol Bradford
YouAct
Anne-Marie Rey
Euroregional Center for Public Initiatives
Občan, demokracia a zodpovednost (Citizen, Democracy and Accountability)
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Mabel Bianco Argentina
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Commonwealth Medical Trust (Commat) United Kingdom
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The Society for Education on Contraception and Sexuality Romania
International Disability Alliance International
Campaign to Stop Torture in Health Care International
Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) Nigeria
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Ma. Luisa Becerril Straffon Mexico
Izabel Marri Brazil
Maria Quinteiro Brazil
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Vladimir R. Gil Ramón, Ph.D., Peru  
Cruz Caridad Bueno  
Organización de Mujeres Tierra Viva  
SUTRA  
Violence is Not our Culture (VNC) campaign  
Our Bodies Ourselves (Our Bodies Ourselves Global Network)  
Mexican Association for Sex Education (Asociación Mexicana de Educación Sexual, AMES)  
Marta de Oliveira, Brazil  
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(Our Bodies Ourselves Global Network) Women and Their Bodies  
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A Rede Mulheres Negras - PR  
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ONG Femmes Sante Developpement (FESADE)  
Si Mujer, Nicaragua  
The Latin American and Caribbean Women’s Health Network (LACWHN)  
CLADEM Brazil  
Management Sciences for Health  
Women’s Rehabilitation Centre (Our Bodies Ourselves Global Network)  
Sanlaap (Our Bodies Ourselves Global Network)  
Reproductive Health Matters  
Asia Pacific Women’s Watch  
Federation of Women Lawyers Kenya (FIDA Kenya)
Women Advocates' Research and Documentation Center (WARDC) Nigeria
Athena Network International
E. Tyler Crone USA
Empower People India
AIDS Legal Network South Africa
WISH Associates South Africa
Österreichische Gesellschaft für Familienplanung/ Austrian Association for Family Planning Austria
STOP AIDS NOW! Netherlands
(FAMEDEV) Inter African Network for Women, Media, Gender and Development/Le Réseau Inter Africain Des Femmes, Médias, Genre et Développement Senegal