

PRO BONO LEGAL SUPPORT FOR ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED BY THE GLOBAL GAG RULE

The Global Gag Rule (GGR) was recently implemented by the United States government. The policy prohibits nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that are incorporated outside of the U.S. and that receive U.S. global health assistance from performing or “actively promoting” abortion as a method of family planning—even using separate, non-U.S. funds.

The policy is confusing and has not been implemented consistently. Many U.S. and non-U.S. NGOs have questions about the policy and its requirements. That’s why the Center for Reproductive Rights is connecting organizations to global law firms with relevant expertise. These firms have agreed to provide free legal representation to U.S. and non-U.S. organizations that have specific legal compliance questions about the GGR, such as:

- Will signing the GGR affect the kinds of activities my organization can engage in?
- Will the GGR affect existing grants?
- Are any of my organization’s activities prohibited by the GGR?
- Can I reconcile GGR requirements with domestic legal and ethical rules?
- Can I structure my organization to minimize the GGR’s impact?

To find out more information on the GGR and connecting to a law firm, please visit: reproductiverights.org/ggrlegalsupport

About the Center for Reproductive Rights

For 25 years, the Center for Reproductive Rights has used the law to advance reproductive freedom as a fundamental human right that all governments are obligated to protect, respect, and fulfill. The Center works with dedicated lawyers around the world who are critical to the success of our mission. Our Pro Bono Program matches law firms with short- and long-term projects that utilize litigation, research, and transactional skills.



FAQ

WHAT IS THE GLOBAL GAG RULE?

The GGR is a policy promulgated by the Trump administration that requires NGOs incorporated outside the U.S. that receive U.S. global health assistance funds to certify that they will not perform or actively promote abortion as a “method of family planning.” U.S. NGOs are not directly subject to the GGR but are required to impose the policy on any non-U.S. subgrantees.

WHY PRO BONO LEGAL SUPPORT?

The GGR raises complex questions for NGOs relating to compliance, liability, and corporate structure that require legal counsel. In response, the Center for Reproductive Rights is providing support to U.S. and non-U.S. organizations affected by the rule, by connecting them with a law firm that provides pro bono assistance.

WHO ARE THE PRO BONO LAW FIRMS?

The Center enlists global firms with expertise in U.S. agency compliance, corporate restructuring, intellectual property, and other relevant legal areas.

HOW CAN WE GET PRO BONO LEGAL SUPPORT?

When an NGO contacts the Center, a Center attorney will assess the organization’s legal needs and determine if the legal issue falls within the scope of work addressed by the Pro Bono Counsel. If it is determined that the NGO would benefit from counsel, a referral will be made to a law firm. The referral process is overseen by the Center’s Pro Bono Program, which will check in regularly to ensure the referral is advancing successfully.

WHAT IS THE NGO’S RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAW FIRM?

The NGO will be the firm’s client. All communications are confidential and will not be shared with the Center unless the NGO chooses.

CONTACT US

Please visit us at reproductiverights.org/ggrlegalsupport for more information.