

PRESS RELEASE



Statement by Baroness Jenny Tonge, Chair, UK APPG on PDRH following meetings with Naasu Fofanah, Sierra Leone, 18th July 2018

The APPG on PDRH have met with Naasu Fofanah to discuss Sierra Leone's Abortion Act, which is of mutual interest.

Naasu Fofanah's position on FGM in Sierra Leone has subsequently come to the attention of the APPG on PDRH – and this statement is published to clarify that the APPG on PDRH does not agree with the views of Naasu Fofanah on FGM.

FGM at any age, which some people refer to as cutting, is one of the most shocking cultural practices found around the world. It contravenes women's rights in a violent and obvious manner and is a serious threat to the health and wellbeing of millions of girls around the world.

FGM must be stopped as it causes physical damage, leads to psychological trauma, reinforces gender inequality, has no health benefits, and is a violation of human rights.