

PRESS RELEASE



The All-Party Parliamentary Group on
Population, Development
and Reproductive Health

Baroness Jenny Tonge and Pauline Latham OBE MP

Chairs of the UK APPG on Population, Development and Reproductive Health

New Report by UK Parliamentarians Demands Greater Access to Safe & Legal Abortion

WHO DECIDES? We Trust Women



- 8 to 18% of maternal deaths are due to unsafe abortion;
- Abortion rates are roughly the same in countries where abortion is banned (37 per 1000 women) as in countries where it is legally available (34 per 1000 women);
- Only 27% of all countries in the world allow abortion on request; 33% for economic and social reasons; 39% for foetal anomaly and 43% in cases of rape, sexual abuse and incest;
- In 2014, the cost of untreated abortion complications due to unsafe abortions was estimated to be as high as US\$232 million.

This new cross party report 'Who Decides? We Trust Women: Abortion in the Developing World and the UK' will be launched in the UK Parliament on Wednesday 7th March, the Jubilee Room, House of Commons, 6-8pm, following a series of parliamentary inquiries. Confirmed key note speakers are: Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, Minister of State for International Development; Lesley Regan, President, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and Lord Steel, founder of the UK 1967 Abortion Act.

The report will be launched in celebration of International Women's Day and 50 years of the UK Abortion Act 1967. It highlights the ongoing challenges in providing legal and safe access to abortion services globally and in the UK.

Baroness Jenny Tonge, Inquiry Chairperson and Chair of the APPG on PDRH, explained:

"It is disgraceful that so many women are condemned by their governments' failure to make abortion legal and provide these services. Women deserve to make their own decisions and be in control over their own lives."

This new parliamentary hearing report has 10 recommendations for positive change in developing countries and 12 recommendations for positive change in the UK.

For more information, including arranging interviews with members of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health, please contact Ann Mette Kjaerby (Parliamentary and Policy Advisor) by email on kjaerbym@parliament.uk, or by telephone on [+44 \(0\)7791 082036](tel:+44207791082036).

The UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health is a cross-party platform for MPs and Peers in the UK to raise awareness on key development and rights issues, with a specific focus on population, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The group was established in 1979 and is one of the oldest All-Party Parliamentary Groups in Westminster. It has more than 80 members with representation from all major political parties, and from both Houses in the UK Parliament. For more information visit the group's website (www.appg-popdevrh.org.uk) or twitter page (@APPGPopDevRep).

The report will be available on the group's website on 8th March 2018 here: <http://www.appg-popdevrh.org.uk/Publications.html>, and attached embargoed until Tuesday 6th March midnight.