

What is the Global Gag Rule?

Abortion bans — at home and those we export abroad — are against our religion.

The Global Gag Rule is a US policy with devastating consequences worldwide. First introduced in 1984, it bans international organizations that receive US aid from using any of their funds — whether from the US or not — to:

- Provide abortion services
- Offer referrals or information about abortion
- Advocate for abortion access

No matter which country.

Even if abortion is legal in their country, these organizations are forced to stop critical work or lose vital US funding. On Friday, January 24, 2025, the Trump Administration reinstated the Global Gag Rule.

What does this mean in real life?

- **Clinics close:** Trusted health care providers lose funding, leaving people without access to essential care like contraception, HIV prevention, maternal health, infectious disease treatment, and even basic health services, like vaccinations and malaria treatment, for all ages and genders.
- **Unsafe abortions increase:** Without access to safe abortion, more women and girls turn to dangerous, life-threatening methods.
- **Doctors are silenced:** Organizations can't even talk about abortion care without risking their funding.
- **Women and families are harmed:** Women often play the largest role in their families when it comes to decision-making about nutrition and health care, and they provide financial support.
- **Health and economic disparities worsen:** Without access to comprehensive sex education and contraception, people face higher risks of unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and limited reproductive autonomy.

It's not just about abortion — it's about health, safety, and basic human rights.

By reinstating the Global Gag rule, the Trump Administration is exporting extreme anti-abortion restrictions that hurt millions across the globe. 218 million women of reproductive age in low- and middle-income countries have an unmet need for contraception, while an estimated 287,000 women will die annually from causes related to pregnancy. Harmful, targeted restrictions on foreign aid block people in vulnerable contexts from receiving the lifesaving health care they need and deserve.

These policies:

- Undermine local governments' ability to care for their citizens
- Deny people the right to make decisions about their own bodies
- Leave communities without the resources they need

Judaism is clear that abortion is permitted, and even required if the health of the pregnant person is at stake.