

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador Kelley Currie by
Representative Jackie Speier (#1)
House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform
July 23, 2020**

Question 1:

What would the impact of a humanitarian exemption for UNFPA be? Does the Administration recognize that women cannot truly be equal without being able to control their own bodies?

Answer 1:

The United States remains the largest bilateral donor of foreign assistance, and promotes and protects women's health across their lifespan, such as equal access to holistic and optimal health care for women and girls. UNFPA's continued relationship with China's coercive family planning apparatus does not allow us to fund it at this time. Funding withheld from UNFPA as a result of a determination under the Kemp-Kasten amendment are transferred to the Global Health Programs account for use by USAID to support family planning, maternal, and reproductive health activities. We will continue to partner with UN entities and other organizations that share these goals, demonstrate transparency, and value the life of every human being.

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Question 2:

How does the Global Gag Rule compare with the principles outlined in the Women, Peace and Security Strategy?

Answer 2:

The WPS Strategy is focused on the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict peacebuilding. The State Department is dutifully implementing WPS consistent with the principles outlined in the WPS Act of 2017, the corresponding U.S. Strategy on WPS, and all applicable laws and regulations.

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Question 3:

As a first major test of the WPS Act, would you agree that the Afghan peace agreement has failed both in including Afghan women and protecting the gains made by women and girls in Afghanistan since Taliban rule? What can we learn from this process to improve WPS objectives going forward?

Answer 3:

The U.S. is pressing all sides to start intra-Afghan negotiations as soon as possible. Intra-Afghan negotiations provide an opportunity to establish lasting peace, while preserving the gains women have made over the last eighteen years. The Islamic Republic Afghan negotiating team includes four women. We support the meaningful involvement of women throughout the peace process, and we have been working with women's organizations and relevant stakeholders to ensure women have the skills to effectively advocate for their positions. We have made clear to the Taliban and the Afghan government that continued assistance and engagement depends on the extent to which any new post-peace government adheres to commitments to respect the rights of all Afghans, including women and girls.

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