# All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health

## Annual Review 2008/2009

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FOREWORD

As the Chair of the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health (the Group), I am pleased to inform you, that we have had yet another active and successful year, with increased UK political and financial support to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

The UK Government announced a £6 billion investment in strengthening health systems in developing countries up to 2015, and funding of over £11 million for safe abortion in Africa.

In 2008 the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) core funding was approved for a four year period, increasing from £20 million in 2008/09, to £23.74 million in 2010/11.

A new five-year core funding commitment to IPPF was also announced of £8.5 million per annum, for the next five years.

Direct bilateral funding to reproductive health is also increasing.

In December 2008 the Group held Parliamentary Hearings into maternal morbidity and the subsequent Report: ‘Better off Dead?’ was launched in the UK Parliament on 6th May 2009. Sarah Brown was the key note speaker and Geri Halliwell the special guest. The launch was supported by the White Ribbon Alliance (WRA), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Marie Stopes International (MSI) and received good press coverage.

This year the UK Department for International Development (DfID) published several development reports and strategies including an updated HIV/AIDS Strategy: ‘Achieving Universal Access’, which stressed the importance of universal access to SRHR including Family Planning (FP) services, in an integrated approach to combating HIV/AIDS. The importance of an integrated approach had been highlighted in the Group’s 2004 Hearing Report ‘The Missing Link’.

DfID’s Annual Departmental Report was also strong on SRHR and referred to the additional funding of £100 million over the next five years to UNFPA to improve the supply of reproductive health commodities.
A third Maternal Health progress report was also published, setting out DfID’s focus areas: health system strengthening; targeting investments in interventions with a high impact; high level international advocacy; and support for civil society advocacy.

In January, DfID held an open space conference and consultation on its new Maternal Strategy and in September 2008 published a cross-departmental Health Strategy which was strong on SRHR.

In the Council of Europe (CoE) I have been preparing the International Conference on Population and Development+15 Report and a Report on Conscientious Objection, due to be debated in 2009/10.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (HFE) Bill was debated in both UK chambers this year and many members spoke strongly against attempts to cut the current UK 24-week upper limit for abortions. I am pleased to say that all amendments were defeated with large majorities.

Modernising amendments to remove the need for two doctor’s signatures; extending provision of services to nurses and primary care settings; and extending the remit of the Abortion Act 1967 (as amended) to Northern Ireland; were not successful due to time constraints in the Chamber. The Bill received Royal Assent on 13th November 2008.

Members continue to be updated on SRHR issues via meetings, briefings, receptions, seminars, workshops, conferences and study tours.

Baroness Thomas participated in a European Parliamentary Forum (EPF) study tour to Mexico this year, which raised awareness amongst European Parliamentarians of the unmet SRHR needs of many Mexicans.

Sandra Gidley MP and I participated in a MSI study tour to Addis Ababa and the surrounding area, with a focus on Maternal Health and in particular obstetric fistula. The study tour helped inform the Maternal Morbidity Hearings Report.

Lyn Brown MP, the Group representative on the EPF Executive Committee, attended the United Nations Commission on Population in March 2009 and gave an oral statement on behalf of the parliamentary delegation, urging donor governments to maintain current levels of aid to developing countries.

The Group will continue to advocate for universal access to SRHR in 2009/10.

Christine McCafferty MP
Chair APPG on PD&RH
COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF

The APPG on PD&RH committee is active in planning and running the Group's business.

**Chair**
Christine McCafferty MP (L)

**Vice Chairmen**
Viscount Craigavon (XB)  Robert Key MP (C)

**Secretary**
Baroness Flather (XB)

**Treasurer**
Baroness Tonge (LD)
Officers

Lyn Brown MP (L)  Baroness Gould (L)
Baroness Lockwood (L)  Lord Rea (L)
Baroness Massey (L)

Parliamentary and Policy Advisor
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APPG PD&RH AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Aim
Ensure the full implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (PoA) with specific reference to stabilising the world’s population through choice and ensuring sustainable development.

Objectives
Raise the profile of population, and sexual and reproductive health and rights including family planning in Parliament and internationally;

Provide parliamentary backing to the Secretary of State for International Development (SS for ID) in his negotiations with the Treasury with a view to increasing the United Kingdom Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.7% of GNI – 10% to the ICPD PoA;

Keep under review population trends and sexual and reproductive health and rights programmes/policies/legislation nationally and internationally;

In consultation with Government departments, international agencies and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), assess how this country might respond to requests from outside for support and to press for action by Parliament and the Government;

Study the results of research into the causes and consequences of population changes and the effect that access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services has on population and draw these to the attention of both Houses of Parliament;

Increase awareness of the interdependence between countries, with reference to poverty reduction, women’s equality, access to sexual and reproductive health and rights services, environment, consumption and pollution and the impact of legislation, policies and practices of one country upon others.
PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES

APPG on PD&RH Committee Meetings
The Group held 6 committee meetings between April 2008 - March 2009.

April 21st 2008
June 9th 2008
July 19th 2008 (AGM)
October 20th 2008
December 15th 2008
March 16th 2009

Please find enclosed agendas and committee meeting minutes as appendix 1.

APPG on PD&RH Parliamentary Briefing Meetings
11 general parliamentary briefing meetings/receptions were organised by the Group this year, where members were briefed on national and international SRHR/population and international development issues. Questions and answers, lively discussions and networking took place at the events. As well as these general briefing meetings, 17 pro-choice meetings were co-organised with supportive cross-party MPs and the Voice for Choice NGO Network between April – November 2008, in connection with the HFE Bill and abortion debate.

UK HFE Bill and Abortion, April – November 2008
Christine McCafferty MP together with other supportive cross-party MPs, organised numerous pro-choice strategic meetings, including many with the UK Voice for Choice NGO network. Meetings were held on: 2nd April, 8th April, 17th April, 22nd April, 23rd April, 29th April, 6th May, 7th May, 13th May, 19th May, 20th May, 27th May, 4th June, 3rd July, 8th July, 22nd July and 15th October.

The majority of the meetings were strategy meetings, but some were briefing and press meetings. On 28th April there was a 1967 Abortion Act reunion meeting and the 29th April saw a press conference, which included interviews with Lord David Steel who introduced the 1967 Abortion Bill 40 years earlier. Both events received good coverage.

Please find enclosed press release and articles as appendix 2.

The 7th May saw a mass pro-choice lobby in Parliament and further press event was held on 8th July.

Please see under general written briefings and parliamentary Bills page 10 and 24 for further details on this national pro-choice campaign.

This report was launched in Parliament in collaboration with the Group and examined how aid and the mechanisms for delivering it can better support women and their SRHR. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development (PUSS for ID), Gillian Merron MP had been invited as the key note speaker, however unfortunately she was unable to speak. Malcolm McNiel, DFID Team Leader for the AIDS and Reproductive Health Team within the Policy and Research Division, kindly agreed to speak on her behalf. Dia Timmermans, Senior Policy Advisor for AID Effectiveness at UNFPA and Felicity Daly, Advocacy Manager at Interact Worldwide also spoke at the event, which was well attended by Group members, DFID, academic and NGO representatives, as well as other interested stakeholders.

Please find enclosed invitations to speak, event invitation, briefings, summary report and contents page, chairs draft speech and other communications as appendix 3.
Action for Global Health report launch: ‘Healthy Aid: Why Europe must deliver more aid, better spent to save the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)’, 18th June 2008
This report was launched in the UK Parliament in collaboration with the Group and the APPG on AIDS. It was also launched in Brussels, Paris, Berlin, Rome and Madrid. The report included case studies conducted in six developing countries on aid delivery for health and made recommendations on how governments and the European Commission can improve mechanisms to ensure progress in achieving MDGs 4 and 5 on maternal and child health and MDG 6 on combating HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria. Gareth Thomas MP, PUSS for ID was the key note speaker. Glenys Kinnock MEP had been invited to speak, however, unfortunately had to send her apologies. Bruno Oudmayer, Chief Executive Interact Worldwide spoke as did Christopher Chabu Kangale, Acting Country Director for the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Zambia.

Please find enclosed invitations to speak, event invitation, letter to MPs, report front and contents page, chair’s draft speech and other communications as appendix 4.

ActionAid meeting: Adverse Sex Ratios: ‘A study of Northern India’, 23rd June 2008
This study which provided fresh evidence about the fate of millions of unwanted girls in India, where sex-selective abortion and neglect of girls continues unabated, was presented in Parliament in collaboration with the Group. ActionAid’s new report ‘disappearing daughters’ looked behind the figures to explore why parents make the choices they do, and asked what these worrying trends mean for future generations. Professor Ravinder Kaur, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi and Vijayalakshmi Joshi, ActionAid were key note speakers. Samira Ahmed, Channel 4 News, chaired the event with Viscount Craigavon opening and closing it.

Please find enclosed invitation, report front and contents page with briefing as appendix 5.

Christian Fiala briefing meeting on Abortion Legislation in Europe, 30th June 2008
In response to requests from MPs and Peers, the Group organised a briefing on abortion legislation in Europe. The briefing was highly relevant as the HFE Bill and abortion were debated in both chambers in 2008. Christian Fiala, a specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and President of the International Federation of Professional Abortion and Contraception Association (FIAPAC) and Joyce Arthur from Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada made a presentation on the topic: ‘Abortion in Europe: Patronising women or evidence based solutions – different social concepts to cope with unwanted pregnancies’.

Please find enclosed PowerPoint presentation, discussion points and minutes as appendix 6.

MSI zoom in! exhibition launch, 8th July 2008
The international photographic zoom in! exhibition was displayed in various European Parliaments in 2008. In the UK Parliament the exhibition on young people and SRHR across the world was displayed between July 8th – 11th 2008 in the Upper Waiting Hall, House of Commons. The unique and creative education project allowed young people in developing countries and the UK to share their thoughts and experiences about SRHR through stories and photography. In the UK, it was launched on 8th July with Jim Knight MP, Minister for Schools and Learners attending as the guest of honour and key note speaker. The exhibition was topical, as the UK parliament debated in 2008 whether to make Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) statutory in schools.

Please find enclosed invitation to speak and invitation as appendix 7.

World Population Day reception with IPPF and SRHR NGOs, 14th July 2008
The theme of the 2008 World Population Day was: ‘Family Planning and Maternal Health – one cannot do without the other’. The event was, as usual, co-organised with IPPF and SRHR NGOs. Sarah Brown, patron of the White Ribbon Alliance (WRA) was Guest
Speaker, alongside Gillian Merron MP, PUSS for ID and Dr Gill Greer, Director General, IPPF. The reception offered DfID a platform to outline their position on FP and Maternal Health and especially on how to progress on MDG 5. At the event Gillian Merron MP announced DfID’s new five-year funding commitment to support IPPF’s core work of £8.5 million per annum, for the next five years.

*Please find enclosed invitation to speak, invitation, draft speeches and thank you letter from IPPF as appendix 8.*

**White Ribbon Alliance and Dr Arzu Deuba, President of the Nepal Safe Motherhood Federation meeting, 16th July 2008**

A meeting was set up between female Group member and Dr Arzu Deuba, President of the Nepal Safe Motherhood Network Federation and newly elected MP, to discuss a new Bill being proposed in Nepal, steered by Dr Arzu Duba to safeguards women’s rights to health care during pregnancy and birth, in Nepal.

Christine McCafferty MP, Julie Morgan MP, Ann Clwyd MP, Baroness Massey, Baroness Tonge, and Baroness Thomas met with Dr Arzu Deuba and WRA representatives to discuss ways in which members could support their work at this critical time.

*Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 9.*

**Felicity Holman, Overseas Programme Manager, Street Children Africa briefing meeting, 20th October 2008**

In response to requests, Group members were briefed on street children and their SRHR needs.

*Please find enclosed PowerPoint presentation and briefings on the Consortium for Street Children as appendix 10.*

**Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation lunch, 13th November 2008**

Christine McCafferty MP hosted lunch in the Churchill Room, House of Commons (HoC) for Tadataka Yamada, President, Global Health Programme; Joe Cerrell, Director, Global Health Policy and Advocacy; and Laurie Lee, Consultant, Global Health Policy and Advocacy at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The lunch was a follow up to the advisor and assistant’s meeting at EuroNGO’s AGM in October 2008 with Oying Rimon, Senior Programme Officer, Joerg Mass, Global Health Policy and Advocacy - Europe and Steven Sinding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, where representatives praised the Group’s Parliamentary Hearings and showed a keen interest in the Group’s future work and Hearings.

The lunch discussions revolved around European parliamentary advocacy priorities, Group’s forthcoming Maternal Morbidity Hearings and the Foundation’s Global Health agenda and new strategy on Reproductive Health.

*Please find enclosed briefing for meeting and thank you letter as appendix 11.*

The Gates Foundation has now opened up a London office.

**Countdown 2015, RAISE and Interact Worldwide video event: ‘Dead Mums Don’t Cry’, 4th February 2009**

This documentary was screened in Parliament in collaboration with the Group. The Panorama programme, about Maternal Health in Chad, followed a doctor as she struggled to save the lives of the mothers under her care.

Rob Yates, senior health advisor, DfID spoke after the video screening about health financing and removing user fees for pregnant women.

*Please find enclosed invitation and chair’s draft speech as appendix 12.*
International Women’s Day (IWD) event with MSI documentary on the struggle of women in Afghanistan, 4th March 2009
This documentary was screened in Parliament in collaboration with the Group. The documentary, by Afghan film director Diana Saqib, explored the unique challenges faced by women MPs in the Afghan National Assembly. One of the MPs in the programme, Sabrina Saqib spoke at the event, after the viewing, as did Mr Farhad Javid, Country Director, MSI Afghanistan. The event was organised on the occasion of IWD 2009 and to highlight the difficulties female parliamentarians encounter in Afghanistan.

Please find enclosed invitation and chairs draft speech as appendix 13.

Non APPG on PD&RH Briefing Meetings
APPG on PD&RH members, advisor and assistant attended 8 non APPG on PD&RH SRHR briefing meetings this year.

The Royal Commonwealth Society meeting on Reproductive Health and Child Mortality, 3rd June 2008
Baroness Tonge proposed this event and its title to the June 2008, Commonwealth Society meeting. Advisor supported the Commonwealth Society’s secretariat in organising and preparing the event. Dr Peter Odili, former Governor of Rivers State, Nigeria, Professor John Cleland, LSHTM and Sandra Kabir, Executive Director BRAC UK were key note speakers and Nancy Dell’Olio was the special guest.

Please find enclosed invitation and correspondence as appendix 14.

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) briefing meeting, 16th July 2008
Chair was briefed by Tony Falconer, Vice President, and Gerald Chan, RCOG, at their request, on their international projects and initiatives to improve maternal healthcare in under-resourced countries and several forthcoming RCOG events.

Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 15.

Family Planning Association (fpa) evening Annual Reception, 22nd July 2008
This annual event was hosted by Baroness Gould, Chair of the Pro-Choice and Sexual Health APPG in the Cholmondeley Room, House of Lords (HoL). Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Public Health was the guest speaker.

Please find enclosed invitation as appendix 16.

White Ribbon Alliance women’s luncheon at the Tate Modern, 23rd July 2008
Chair attended a WRA briefing lunch with Sarah Brown and Dr Arzu Deuba hosted by Carolyn McCall of Guardian Media Group and Diana Thompson of Camelot to discuss and raise the profile of Maternal Health in the developing world.

Progress Educational Trust event on ‘Free Fetal DNA: Testing the Waters’, 23rd September 2008
This event was held at and in collaboration with the Royal Society of Medicine. Presentations and discussions were held on non-invasive prenatal diagnosis (NIPD) via maternal blood test a few weeks into pregnancy. It is predicted that Downs syndrome, cystic fibrosis and beta thalassemia will be predicted via NIPD in the next few years.

Please find enclosed invitation and briefing as appendix 17.

Myriad/Durex briefing meeting, 10th November 2008
Charles Shepherd, Head of Health Promotion, Durex UK, Steve Weaving, Managing Director, Myriad PR and Valerie Amar-Matthews, Project Manager, Myriad PR briefed Christine McCafferty MP on Durex UK’s work.
Ms Thoraya Obaid, UNFPA Executive Director launched: The State of the World Population Report, 2008: Reaching Common Ground: Culture, Gender and Human Rights at the Foreign Press Association. The 2008 report was a call to action to increase cultural knowledge, awareness and engagement in efforts to promote development and human rights: particularly the rights of women.

The Report, press release, Ms Obaid’s speech and a covering letter were sent to committee members.

Please find enclosed report cover and contents page, press release, Ms Obaid’s speech and cover letter sent out as appendix 19.

No 10 Downing Street meeting on Maternal Health, 9th December 2008
Sarah Brown, Patron of WRA invited influential people including the Group’s Chair to 10 Downing Street to discuss practical ways of working together to address Maternal Health.

Please find enclosed invitation as appendix 20.

Pro-Choice and Sexual Health APPG and APPG on AIDS meeting to review the National Strategy on Sexual Health and HIV: Key conclusions and where next? 15th December 2008
The event highlighted the 2008 review of the National Sexual Health and HIV Strategy, which recommended a wide-ranging set of action to drive improvements in UK SRH. Ruth Lowbury, Executive Director of the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health (MedFASH) was key note speaker.

Please find enclosed invitation as appendix 21.

Hewlett Foundation Dinner, 27th January 2009
The dinner was organised in conjunction with IPPF, Hewlett Foundation and DfID’s workshop on 28th January at IPPF, to discuss ICPD+15, 20 and beyond. At the dinner, each table was asked to name and present three outcomes expected for the following day’s workshop.

White Ribbon Alliance Million Mums photo shoot, March 16th, 2009
WRA organised this photo-shoot with Sarah Brown and numerous celebrities to raise awareness of Maternal Deaths in the developing world. The event received good press coverage.

![“Million Mums” photo shoot](image-url)
European Meetings
European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development
Collaboration between the EPF and the Group and its member organisations continue to be strong.

Lyn Brown MP, remained the UK representative on the EPF Executive Committee until the end of the year, before having to stand down, as she became a UK Government Whip.

Baroness Tonge has now been elected the UK representative on the EPF Executive Committee as an associate member.

Group members and advisor participated in a number of EPF meetings, conferences and study tours this year as follows.

Lyn Brown MP and the UK APPG on PD&RH secretariat provided input on UK parliamentary activities to meetings. Lyn Brown MP was also registered to participate in the Conference on: “The future of Parliamentary Involvement in Global Health and Development in Brussels, Belgium after one of the council meetings but unfortunately had to send her apologies at the last minute.

**EPF Strategic workshop on: SRHR/Population the Environment, Degradation and Climate Change, Istanbul, Turkey, 15th – 16th May 2008**
Richard Ottaway MP and Chair of the Group’s 2007 Hearings: ‘Return of the Population Growth Factor and its impact upon the MDGs’, presented the Hearing Report and its findings and recommendations at this workshop. The event brought together 32 SRHR environment and humanitarian aid experts from EU member states, the USA, and Africa and saw lively and thought-provoking discussions.

Please find enclosed EPF newsletter on the workshop as appendix 23.

**EPF conference for European APPG on PD&RH secretariats, 2nd - 4th December 2008, Brussels, Belgium**
Advisor attended this conference, which was also attended by APPGs on P&D secretariats’ within Europe, as well as Canada, MSI, UNFPA, IPPF and the Asian and African Parliamentary Networks. All participants gave an overview of SRHR funding and policies in their respective countries and introduced participants to their annual activities. Representatives from prospective European APPG secretariats attended the meeting, in support of their future parliamentary activities.

Please find enclosed programme and general correspondence together with an EPF self-assessment of impact of Parliamentary advocacy in Europe, EPF 2009 activities, as well as all member organisations overview of past and future activities as appendix 24.

At the conference UNFPA’s strategic plan was also presented and UNFPA evaluators on advocacy support interviewed all APPG on P&D secretariats to determine levels of parliamentary activity and its impact.

Please find enclosed follow up e-mail sent to the evaluating consultants as appendix 25.

European Non Governmental Organisations
Collaboration between European SRHR NGOs and the Group remain strong and important. Events and campaigns continue to be co-organised with both national and international SRHR NGOs.
European Non Governmental Organisations' (EuroNGOs) e-mail lists and websites ensure that advisor and Group members are updated on new and relevant SRHR campaigns and advocacy, in support of UK parliamentary activities.

Information of particular interest to members has been circulated via e-mail or standard mail.

**EuroNGO Annual General Meeting, Lyon, France, 2nd – 3rd October 2008**

Advisor and assistant attended the EuroNGO AGM in Lyon, France. The EuroNGO AGM remains an excellent platform for sharing experiences, networking and obtaining information on new SRHR campaigns and advocacy activities.

The year’s AGM had the theme: “The interface between Population, Environment and Poverty Alleviation - Possibilities and Challenges for SRHR Advocacy against the Background of ICPD and the MDGs”.

There were lively discussions on this issue. On the second and third days participants were updated on ICPD+15 events and activities. Of particular interest was the decision to prepare and organise an international Parliamentary ICPD+15 campaign with similar PQs being tabled in parliaments throughout Europe to pressure governments on their ICPD commitments.

The UK tabled the following campaign PQs:

5 March 2009

**Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the Government representatives at (a) the 53rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and (b) the 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development will be.

**Gillian Merron:** The Government will be represented at the 53rd Session on the UN Commission on the Status of Women by officials from the Government Equalities Office, as the lead Department. They will be supported by an official from DFID and a Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) official from the Our Mission to the UN in New York.

As in previous years the Government will be represented at the 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development by FCO officials from the Our Mission to the UN in New York. They will be supported from London by DFID officials. The Government will be represented at the 53rd Session on the UN Commission on the Status of Women by officials from the Government Equalities Office, as the lead Department. They will be supported by an official from DFID and an FCO official from Our Mission to the UN in New York.

As in previous years the Government will be represented at the 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development by FCO officials from Our Mission to the UN in New York. They will be supported from London by DFID officials.
Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how he plans to report to hon. Members the outcomes of (a) the 53rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and (b) the 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development.

Gillian Merron: The main outcome document of the UN Commission on the Status of Women is the agreed conclusions on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS. This will be disseminated across relevant Government departments. This and all other outcome documents are publicly available on the UN Commission on the Status of Women website at:

Please find enclosed briefing and drafted PQs disseminated as appendix 26.

At the EuroNGO AGM advisor and assistant met with UNFPA and Gates Foundation representatives, at their request, to discuss past, present and future UK APPG on PD&RH activities including Hearings.

Please find enclosed AGM invitation and outline of programme together with full agenda and participant list as appendix 27.


Advisor participated in the media training workshop “Making the Media Work for You: Communicating Support for SRHR in Europe and Worldwide”. The workshop brought together 33 senior SRHR advocates to discuss the challenges of communicating support for SRHR in different environments and venues, both hostile and friendly. The workshop involved practicing and developing skills regarding appearances on TV and radio as well as communicating messages in other media. The workshop was facilitated by Jon O’Brien, President of Catholics for Choice (CfC). The skills-building workshop surpassed expectations and is highly recommended to all SRHR advocates, around the world.

Please find enclosed invitation, concept note, agenda and other briefings on the workshop as appendix 28.

IPPF European Network
IPPF EN workshop for national Parliamentary advocacy on SRHR, 29th October 2008, Brussels, Belgium
Advisor attended above workshop as a resource person and presented practical examples of engaging parliamentarians to affect policy change.

Please find enclosed full agenda, presentation and other communication as appendix 29.

Council of Europe
Christine McCafferty MP is now the Chair of the CoE, Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee (SHFC) and advisor and assistant have supported Chair in this capacity in collaboration with the CoE secretariat.

CoE Report on Access to safe and legal abortion in Europe, April 2008
Mrs Gisela Wurm, prepared the CoE pro-choice Report on Access to safe and legal abortion in Europe this year.

Christine McCafferty MP, was elected Rapporteur to the Report, as the Chair of the SHFC.

The Report was debated at length and included votes on 72 amendments in the CoE plenary session. It was finally adopted on 16th April 2008 with a majority of 33.
The CoE report calls for member states to:

- decriminalise abortion, within reasonable gestational limits, if they have not already done so;
- guarantee women’s effective exercise of their right to abortion;
- allow women freedom of choice and offer the conditions of a free and enlightened choice;
- ensure that women and men have access to contraception at a reasonable cost, of a suitable nature for them, and chosen by them.

Whilst most European member states permit abortion, particularly where the life of the mother is at risk; there are several, including Andorra, Ireland, Malta, Monaco and Poland, where abortion is illegal or severely restricted.

The report is a great achievement for women in Europe.

Please find enclosed the Report as appendix 30.

CoE draft ICPD+15 Report, March 2008 (Strasbourg), March 2009 (Paris), June 2009 (London) and September 2009 (Paris)
Christine McCafferty MP drafted and presented the 1st draft ICPD+15 Report and Resolution to the CoE in March 2008. A Hearing on the report was held at a SHFA committee meeting in Paris in March 2009 with expert speakers from IPPF, UNFPA and EPF. Assistant attended this Hearing to provide administrative and logistical support to the Chair.

The 2nd draft Report and Resolution will be presented in June 2009 in London. It is hoped that the Report will be adopted in the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE in September 2009 and presented at the IPCI ICPD PoA in Addis Ababa in October 2009.

The Report calls for increased funding to SRHR as well as policies to respond to SRHR needs which are not coercive. It also calls for health systems to be strengthened, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and in particular, MDG 5, to improve Maternal Health.

It further calls for a full range of FP (including emergency contraceptives), safe abortion, skilled birth attendants and obstetric emergency care to be accessible, affordable, appropriate and acceptable to all, irrespective of age, community or country.

Please find enclosed drafted report as appendix 31.

Prior to the ICPD+15 draft report, Christine McCafferty MP considered drafting a report on the halfway stage of the MDGs. This idea was incorporated into the ICPD+15 Report.

Please find enclosed MDG half way briefing as appendix 32.

CoE draft Conscienious Objection Report 2009
Christine McCafferty MP is also drafting a report on Conscientious Objection and is planning a study tour to Vienna, Austria and Prague, Czech Republic (29th June – 1st July 2009) to inform the report.

Please find enclosed draft study tour programme as appendix 33.

Study Tours
Mexico study tour, 8th - 10th August 2008
Baroness Thomas participated in the EPF and Vaestolitto study tour to Mexico, which was hosted by the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning and followed the XVII
International AIDS Conference 2008. The mini study tour raised awareness amongst European parliamentarians of the unmet SRHR needs of Mexicans. Parliamentarians gained first-hand experience of the reality of the SRHR and HIV/AIDS situation on the ground in Mexico.

Please find enclosed study tour programme and information as appendix 34.

Ethiopia study tour, 16th – 20th February 2009
Christine McCafferty MP and Sandra Gidley MP, both members of Group’s Maternal Morbidity Hearing panel, participated in a MSI study tour to Addis Ababa and surrounding area, with a focus on Maternal Health and obstetric fistula. The study tour helped inform the Maternal Morbidity Hearing Report and the Chair’s foreword to the report reads:

‘I recently visited the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, in Ethiopia, to see the wonderful work being done to restore the health and dignity of thousands of women. Words cannot express the trauma and distress I witnessed. Young girls curled up in the foetal position, doubly incontinent and unable to walk, due to obstetric fistula. It is a moral outrage that millions of women are allowed to suffer like this, in the 21st century. Political leaders must speak out to prevent further tragedy.’

Christine McCafferty MP and Sandra Gidley MP, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Fistula Hospital, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Please find enclosed study tour programme and article as appendix 35.

General Written Briefings
Group members have received UNFPA’s Global Population Policy and ‘Opposition’ updates throughout the year, and 3 APPG on PD&RH newsletters have been circulated.

Please find enclosed Group’s newsletters as appendix 36.

A further 20 written briefings have been sent out, as requested by members to ensure that members are updated on new developments and publications on SRHR.

April – November 2008: In response to the HFE Bill and abortion, Christine McCafferty MP and other supportive cross-party MPs organised numerous briefing meetings and disseminated pro-choice briefings in support of the current 24 week upper time limit for most abortions in the UK and in support of modernising amendments.

Please find enclosed briefings from Doctors for a Woman’s Choice on Abortion, Catholics for Choice, Voice for Choice as appendix 37.

May 2008: Select members of the Group were sent NGO briefings on MDG 5 and SRHR in support of the HoL debate on 1st May on the MDGs.
Please find enclosed NGO briefings sent to select members as appendix 38.

**May 2008:** Chair was sent a briefing on the proposed UN Gender Agency, upon request.

*Please find enclosed briefing as appendix 39.*

**May 2008:** Committee members were sent Boris Johnson MP, the newly elected Mayor of London’s article ‘global over-population is the real issue’.

*Please find enclosed the article as appendix 40.*

**May 2008:** Baroness Thomas and Baroness Northover were sent links to DfID’s Gender Report 2007 as spokespeople on Women and International Development in the HoL.

*Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 41.*

**May 2008:** Richard Ottaway MP was sent a scientific update and briefing on neonatal survival rate in the lead up to the HoC debate on Abortion and HFE Bill to inform his decision on whether or not to propose a 22 week upper time limit for abortion in the UK.

*Please find enclosed written briefing as appendix 42.*

**June 2008:** Martyn Jones MP was sent UNFPA’s definition on population and demographics following a discussion on the subject.

*Please find enclosed briefing and e-mail correspondence as appendix 43.*

**June 2008:** Sandra Osborne MP was sent a briefing confirming that the World Health Organization had not made a statement on a 20 weeks upper time limit for abortion, after discussions on the subject in response to the HoC debate on Abortion and the HFE Bill.

*Please find enclosed e-mail correspondence as appendix 44.*

**June 2008:** Select committee members were sent links to DfID Select Committee report on Climate Change and Women and Development, upon request.

*Please find enclosed briefing as appendix 45.*

**June 2008:** All members were sent the link to DfID’s new HIV Strategy: Achieving Universal Access – the UK strategy for halting and reversing the spread of HIV in the developing world, as well as Alexander Douglas MP, SS for ID’s speech at the launch of the report.

*Please find enclosed briefing as appendix 46*

**July 2008:** All members were sent a briefing on SRHR and the outcomes of the G8, Hokkaido Summit Declaration in Japan, 7th - 9th July 2008.

*Please find enclosed briefing as appendix 47.*

**July 2008:** Committee members were sent the Optimum Population Trust’s press release on its report that challenged the ‘right’ to have children.

*Please find enclosed press release and note sent as appendix 48.*

**July 2008:** Committee members were sent a copy of Thorya Obaid, UNFPA’s Executive Director’s letter informing partners of UNFPA’s new organisational arrangements to further strengthen its field activities.

*Please find enclosed letter sent out as appendix 49.*
July 2008: Christine McCafferty MP was sent briefings on the newly introduced UK cervarix vaccination for the wart virus.

Please find enclosed briefings as appendix 50

September 2008: Baroness Northover was sent a briefing on MSI’s contribution to SRHR in response to her concerns that MSI generally charge for services.

Please find enclosed briefing as appendix 51.

September 2008: All members were sent a copy of the letter sent to the Prime Minister by the UK Maternal Health Working Group of the UK SRHR Network, on UK leadership needed on SRHR at the MDG High Level Event.

Please find enclosed briefing as appendix 52.

October 2008: All members were sent MSI press release on United States Agency for International Development (USAID) ban on contraceptive supplies to MSI; a decision likely to result in more abortions and maternal deaths in Africa.

Please find enclosed briefing as appendix 53.

November 2008: All members were sent an audio-flyer on the Strategies for Hope on HIV, Women and Motherhood to commemorate the 2008 World AIDS day on 1st December.

Please find enclosed briefing as appendix 54.

January 2009: Select members were sent MSI briefing on: Health Agencies join forces to address contraceptive ban in Africa.

Please find enclosed briefing as appendix 55.

February 2009: Sandra Gidley MP was sent a briefing on the Maternal Morbidity Hearing Report and its recommendations in support of her follow up PQ on Maternal Morbidity.

Please find enclosed briefing as appendix 56.

General Correspondence and Collaboration
The Group has correspondence and collaborated with a variety of national and international SRHR stakeholders to further SRHR, including:

DFID and Department of Health (DoH) Ministers, officials and civil servants; UN representatives; national, regional and international APPGs on PD&RH and secretariats; Trusts; Foundations; academics; SRHR and general NGOs; and national press.

General enquiries about the Group and its parliamentary activities have been dealt with via the phone, e-mails and by referring people to the Group’s website, which is updated regularly.

The Group has also been involved in a number of NGO and UN evaluations. Advisor agreed to a telephone interview with an evaluator for Action for Global Health, and follow up information on the Group’s parliamentary activities was subsequently collated and sent.

Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 57.
The Group was also involved in the Countdown 2015 campaign evaluation and follow up information was sent, as requested.

*Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 58.*

In April 2008, Angela Gorman briefed advisor on her new charity: 'Making Birth Safer in Sub-Saharan Africa' and advice was given on funding opportunities for small NGOs.

*Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 59.*

In May 2008 the UNFPA Nordic Office was sent information on anti-choice organisations upon request.

*Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 60a.*

In May 2008, a request was received from the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University for advisor to present the Group’s mission and activities, which was successful, and collaboration has followed since then.

*Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 60b.*

A survey was completed in July 2008 in response to J. Joseph Speidel, Steven Sinding, Duff Gillespie, Elizabeth Maguire and Margaret Neuse’s request to help them to develop a case for increased funding for USAID’s family planning programme. The authors published their final summary report: ‘Making the Case’ in 2009 with calculations on both the United States’ (US) fair share to FP and the US’s share to FP if they want to be a world leader in the field.

*Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 61.*

In July Christine McCafferty MP and advisor agreed to meet with Julien Anseau, a researcher from the HoC Library who was soon to be seconded to the Asian Forum for Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). Support was given later in the year around speakers to a conference he was organising on 1st November on behalf of the AFPPD with the World Bank Parliamentary Network on climate change and food security.

*Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 62.*

As part of the preparatory work for the upcoming High Level Event on the MDGs – halfway point towards 2015 an MDG blog was launched in September 2008. The Group submitted comments, which were forwarded to the Co-Chairs and Thematic Experts of the round tables at the High-Level Event on the MDGs.

*Please find enclosed written submissions as appendix 63.*

In 2008 Christine McCafferty MP also agreed to support the Kiel Institute on their forthcoming conference on population, to be held in September 2009. She was contacted by Frank Bickenbach, at the Kiel Institute, and provided input to their outline paper for the symposium and suggested speakers for the event.

*Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 64.*

In January the Group was asked by MSI to guide an influential US delegation around the UK Parliament. Viscount Craigavon kindly agreed to give a guided tour.

*Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 65.*
Parliamentary Statements, Bills, Debates, Early Day Motions (EDM) and Questions
The UK Government remains supportive of international SRHR. There have been several important statements, bills, debates, EDMs and Parliamentary Questions (PQs) relating to SRHR/population throughout the year, which are listed below and can be found on the Group’s website.

There has been an increase in parliamentary activities this year on national SRHR issues in response to the HFE Bill, which had its HoC stages between May and October 2008, and debates and discussions around compulsory sex and relationships education in UK schools. Briefings, PQs and EDMs have been drafted by advisor and assistant as needed and upon request and can also be found on the Group’s website.

House of Commons (HoC)
Oral Ministerial Statements
G8 Summit, 10th July 2008
The Prime Minister, Gordon Brown MP, reported on the G8 summit discussions, held in Japan between 7th - 9th July. These included talks on Zimbabwe, the world economy, the food crisis, international development, energy efficiency and the MDGs. A short debate with interventions from front bench opposition spokespeople and backbenchers across the House followed.

Please find enclosed full text as appendix 66.

Written Ministerial Statements
AIDS Strategy, 2nd June 2008
The SS for ID, Douglas Alexander MP, placed in the libraries of both Houses, copies of DfID’s AIDS strategy 2008 - 2015. The strategy focused particularly on long-term, predictable financing for health systems; the needs of orphans and vulnerable children; and comprehensive prevention, treatment and care - including prevention of mother to child transmission and comprehensive family planning services.

The Group had previously submitted a response to the AIDS strategy consultation, emphasising the importance of prevention in the fights against HIV and AIDS.

Please find enclosed full text as appendix 67.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE), 23rd October 2008
The Minister for Schools and Learners, Jim Knight MP, reported on the sex and relationships education and drugs/alcohol reviews. They had recommended making PSHE statutory in schools. In response, the Minister had asked Sir Alasdair Macdonald to engage with stakeholders and report on how the Government’s intention to make PSHE statutory, and the legitimate concerns of schools and parents, could be translated into a practicable way forward. He asked Sir Alasdair to report back in April 2009.

Please find enclosed full text as appendix 68.

Prostitution, 19th November 2008
The Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith MP, published the findings of the Government’s review into tackling demand for prostitution and placed copies in the libraries of both Houses. The review made several recommendations that shifted the focus for reducing prostitution on to the sex buyer, the person responsible for creating the demand for prostitution markets, which in turn creates demand for the trade of women to be trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Please find enclosed full statement as appendix 69.
**Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, 9th March 2009**

The Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith MP, published a consultation document, “Together we can end violence against women and girls”, which seeks views on how to prevent and combat gender based violence.

*Please find enclosed full statement as appendix 70.*

**Human Trafficking, 24th March 2009**

Solicitor-General, Vera Baird QC MP, announced Government investment of a further £3.7 million over two years to the POPPY project to help vulnerable victims of human trafficking. The POPPY project has provided refuge to hundreds of victims of human trafficking since 2003, backed by £5.8 million Government support. The new investment would help meet the commitments of the CoE convention on action against human trafficking which the UK ratified in December 2008, and which would come into force in April 2009.

*Please find enclosed full statement as appendix 71.*

**Bills**

**Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill**

The new HFE Bill was welcomed by many Peers and MPs, as it had the potential to strengthen regulation in important areas of reproductive technologies. The Bill was a result of a lengthy process of review since the 1990 HFE Act, including White Papers, consultations and Committee Reports, prior to the scrutiny of the draft Bill by a Joint Committee of both Houses.

The Bill centred on human embryos outside the body, regulated by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), admixed embryos for research, sex-selection for non-medical reasons and the welfare of the child when providing fertility treatment.

The Bill was debated in the HoL between November 2007 and February 2008 and entered the HoC for its 2nd Reading on 12th May 2008.

Of particular importance to the Group, was the fact, that the new HFE Bill had the potential to amend the 1967 Abortion Act, in that a precedent had been set in 1990, when the 1990 HFE Act amended the 1967 Abortion Act, by lowering the upper time limit for abortion from 28 to 24 weeks and clarifying under what circumstances it could be obtained at a later stage.

A strategic MP/Peer committee was established with support from the UK Voice for Choice pro-choice NGOs before the HoL stages, which continued to meet regularly to discuss strategies to combat anti-choice campaigns and amendments during the passage of the Bill. Briefing meetings and letters were prepared and disseminated prior to all debates and committee meetings. Individual MP and Peer briefing meetings were also undertaken and a detailed voting record of all MPs and Peers was prepared to inform campaign and advocacy activities.

The Bill had its HoC Second Reading on 12th May 2008. The Committee stage was split between normal Committee meetings on 3rd, 5th, 10th and 12th June (comprising of 17 MPs) and issues of conscience, which were taken on the Floor of the House on 19th and 20th May 2008. On 22nd October 2008 the Bill had its Report Stage and Third Reading. The HoL debated amendments from HoC on 29th October and the Bill received Royal Assent on 13th November 2008.

The main principles of the Bill were debated at Second Reading on 12th May and a division was held. The vote was: ayes 340 and noes 78.
During the Committee Stages on the Floor of the HoC, four major issues were debated: human admixed embryos; saviour siblings; need for a father and the abortion time limit. Amendments were introduced by pro-life MPs to reduce the abortion time limit to 12 weeks, 14 weeks, 16 weeks, 18 weeks, 20 weeks, 22 weeks; remove the grounds of foetal abnormality, set in law what information must be provided and add a 5 day waiting period.

Following the debate there were votes on a selection of these amendments. The results are below:

- Reduce to 12 weeks: ayes 71 noes 393 (amendment defeated)
- Reduce to 16 weeks: ayes 84 noes 387 (amendment defeated)
- Reduce to 20 weeks: ayes 190 noes 332 (amendment defeated)
- Reduce to 22 weeks: ayes 233 noes 304 (amendment defeated)

This vote ensured the upper time limit remained at 24 weeks.

At Report Stage and Third Reading, a number of pro-choice amendments were tabled, including removing the need for two doctor’s signatures; extending the provision of services to nurses and primary care settings; and extending the remit of the Abortion Act 1967 (as amended) to Northern Ireland. However, as a Programme Motion was agreed to, there was not enough time to debate and vote on these amendments.

Throughout the HFE Bill’s HoC stages Christine McCafferty MP, Dr Evan Harris MP, Dr Phyllis Starkey MP, Robert Key MP, John Bercow MP and Judy Mallaber MP (all Group members) and others spoke strongly in favour of reproductive health, choice and rights.

Please find enclosed all HoC HFE Bill Hansard debates including voting record on abortion and chair’s draft speech for proposed amendment on misoprostal to be taken at home, as appendix 72.

Debates

**International Aid Transparency, 13th November 2008**

The SS for ID, Douglas Alexander MP, introduced a wide ranging debate on international development issues with a specific focus on Official Development Assistance (ODA) transparency. Many speakers highlighted the importance of remaining committed to the MDGs and the UN target of 0.7% of GNI spent on ODA.

Please find enclosed full debate as appendix 73.

**Sex Education, 26th November 2008**

Philip Davies, an anti-choice MP who opposes sex education in schools, introduced a debate on sex education. The Minister for Schools and Learners, Jim Knight MP, reiterated the Government’s commitment to require schools to provide high quality PSHE education, including comprehensive SRE.

Please find enclosed full debate appendix 74.

**Cervical Cancer Screening, 17th December 2008**

Fraser Kemp MP introduced a debate on cervical cancer screening, specifically focussing on the screening of women under 25 years old. The PUSS for Health, Ann Keen MP, stated that the advisory committee on cervical screening constantly kept the age range for screening under review, but would only formally review the policy if there was new evidence that the NHS should be screening from age 20. The Minister committed to looking at the evidence again.

Please find enclosed full debate as appendix 75.
Support for Women (Economic Downturn), 5th March 2009
Harriet Harman MP, Minister for Women and Equality, introduced a debate on support for women in the economic downturn, to mark IWD. A number of MPs spoke about women’s rights in the developing world and also unplanned teenage pregnancies in the UK.

Please find enclosed relevant debate sections as appendix 76.

Unplanned Teenage Pregnancies (Nottingham), 25th March 2009
Graham Allen MP introduced a debate on unplanned teenage pregnancies, with particular reference to his constituency, which has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Western Europe. Beverley Hughes, Minister for Children, Young People and Families, reiterated the Government’s intention to make PSHE statutory.

Please find enclosed full debate as appendix 77.

Early Day Motions
EDM 1592 – Abortion Informed Consent
Angela Watkinson MP
12 signatures

‘That this House notes that the Royal College of Psychiatrists, in response to a Government request and in view of the controversy over the risk to mental health of induced abortion, issued a new Position Statement on Women’s Mental Health in Relation to Induced Abortion on 14th March 2008; further notes that this statement acknowledges that whilst the specific issue of whether or not induced abortion has harmful effects on women’s mental health remains to be fully resolved, that nonetheless some studies identify a range of mental disorders following abortion; further notes the College’s recommendation that healthcare professionals who assess or refer women who are requesting an abortion should assess for mental disorder and for risk factors that may be associated with its subsequent development; further notes the College’s recognition that good practice in relation to abortion will include informed consent and that consent cannot be informed without the provision of adequate and appropriate information regarding the possible risks and benefits to physical and mental health; further notes that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill provides the opportunity to amend the Abortion Act 1967; and calls upon the Government to bring forward measures to ensure that women are adequately informed of the possible dangers of abortion as well as being provided with full details of the help available if they continue with their pregnancies.’

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 78.

EDM 1598 – 24-Week Abortion Time Limit
Christine McCafferty MP
104 signatures

‘That this House notes that reducing the abortion time-limit from 24 weeks would force some women to continue a pregnancy and give birth against their will; further notes that the time-limit is considered by many people to be set on the basis of when the foetus would be viable; further notes the findings of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee’s recent report Scientific Developments relating to the Abortion Act 1967, and its conclusion that below 24 weeks they ‘have seen no good evidence to suggest that the foetal viability has improved significantly since the abortion time-limit was last set, and seen some good evidence to suggest that it has not’; further notes that this view, that there is no medical or scientific justification for a reduction in the current abortion time limit, is shared by the BMA, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the British Association of Perinatal Medicine, the RCN, the FPA and Antenatal Results and Choices; observes that less than 2 per cent. of abortions take place above 20 weeks gestation and involve the most vulnerable women in the most difficult personal circumstances who are not undertaking abortion lightly; believes that the best way to reduce the number of abortions is to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies by improving sex and relationships education, and improving access to effective contraception; and therefore supports women’s access to safe legal abortion, within the current ethically and scientifically justified time-limit of 24 weeks.’
EDM 1666 – Abortion and Informed Consent (No. 2)
Lynne Jones MP
10 signatures

‘That this House notes that the Position Statement on Women's Health in Relation to Induced Abortion by The Royal College of Psychiatrists states that the specific issue of whether or not induced abortion has harmful effects on women's mental health remains to be fully resolved; further notes that it does not then use the word 'nonetheless' before going on to explain some studies identify a range of mental disorders following abortion but that it in fact makes this statement in conjunction with statements that other studies indicate no evidence of harm and that the current research evidence base in inconclusive; further notes that the Position Statement makes the point that women with pre-existing psychiatric disorders who continue with their pregnancy, as well as those with psychiatric disorders who undergo abortion, will need appropriate support and care; and deplores those who selectively quote from independent academic sources in order to further their particular agenda.’

EDM 1732 – Personal, Social and Health Education (No. 2)
Annette Brooke MP
55 signatures

‘That this House notes that the UK has the highest levels of teenage pregnancy, birth and abortion rates in Western Europe; further notes that for every 1,000 births between 2000 and 2005, 27 births were to under 19 year olds while the figure in France was just 8; further notes that 57.5 per cent. of under 16 conceptions in 2005 resulted in legal abortion; further notes that of more than 20,000 teenagers questioned about sex education in a UK Youth Parliament survey published in 2007, more than half rated the teaching in school as poor, very poor or merely average and only a quarter said it was good; joins the UK Youth Parliament in calling for sex and relationship courses to be made a statutory part of personal, social and health education; and further calls for trained staff to deliver such courses.’

EDM 1760 – Global Action to Improve Maternal and Child Health
Christine McCafferty MP
60 signatures

‘That this House notes with concern that maternal and child death rates are still extremely high in developing countries, owing to the inadequacy of human resources and the absence of quality health services, particularly in rural areas of Africa, Asia and Latin America; acknowledges that the international community agreed to reduce maternal mortality by 75 per cent. by 2015 under Millennium Development Goal 5; therefore welcomes the emphasis placed on strengthening health services, especially sexual and reproductive health and rights, including maternal and child health and family planning services, in the Department for International Development's Achieving Universal Access, The New UK Strategy for Halting and Reversing the Spread of HIV in the Developing World; further notes that United Kingdom medical organisations, including the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists are working to ensure that training and expertise are provided in developing countries; and calls upon the Government to highlight maternal and child health at forthcoming key events in the European Parliament, the G8 Summit and UN meetings.’

EDM 1886 – Breastfeeding in Public
Nicholas Winterton MP
77 signatures

‘That this House recognises the clear health benefits of breastfeeding; welcomes reports that legislative proposals on rights for women to breastfeed in public may be brought forward later in 2008; is concerned by reports that this right may only extend to the first six months of a child's life; and therefore calls on the Government to support calls by the Royal College of Midwives for it
to bring forward proposals that give mothers the legal right to breastfeed in public, with no time limit on that right.'

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 83.

EDM 1944 – National Infertility Day 2008
Dari Taylor MP
49 signatures

‘That this House welcomes National Infertility Day on 19th July 2008 in recognition of 30 years of IVF; notes that around one in six couples in the UK has difficulties in conceiving which can cause profound psychological and emotional strain; deplores the fact that huge inequalities in access to NHS treatment exist despite the 2004 National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guideline on fertility; congratulates Infertility Network UK, ACeBabes and all associated organisations for organising the largest one-day conference ever hosted by infertility patient associations; praises the work of the National Infertility Awareness Campaign in highlighting the need for greater equity in the provision of NHS-funded treatment; and calls for full implementation of the NICE clinical guideline to ensure that all those affected by difficulties in conceiving receive equitable access to infertility treatment, regardless of where they live.’

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 84.

EDM 1953 – Free Votes on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill
David Taylor MP
21 signatures

‘That this House notes that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill permits the creation of human-animal hybrids, so-called saviour siblings (children who could be created specifically for their tissues and part-organs) and removes the requirement on IVF clinics to have regard for a child's need for a father; notes that these issues were subject to a free vote at Committee stage; notes however that the Bill, as amended in the Public Bill Committee, will not be subject to a free vote for Labour hon. Members at Report stage and Third Reading; further notes that the Bill currently provides for a loophole in the law via secondary regulation that could allow reproductive cloning, germline genetic engineering of nuclear DNA and the creation of genetically-modified babies, through alterations to their mitochondrial DNA, continues the practice of the state colluding in a deception with respect to the birth certificates of donor-conceived children and allows cells to be used to make human-animal hybrid embryos without a person's explicit consent in some cases; believes that these controversial issues, which were not manifesto commitments, should be subject to a free vote; and calls on the Government to respect the consciences of individual hon. Members and allow a free vote at Report stage and Third Reading.’

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 85.

EDM 2009 – Abortion Law
Christine McCafferty MP
59 signatures

‘That this House supports access to safe abortion as early as possible for women who need one; recognises that medical ethics, practice and social attitudes about abortion have progressed since the Abortion Act was framed in 1967; is concerned that the current legislation imposes clinically unnecessary restrictions which cause delays, resulting in abortion taking place at a later gestation than is necessary; notes the Science and Technology Committee's recent inquiry into the ‘Scientific Developments relation to the Abortion Act 1967’ which found no evidence to support the need for two doctors’ signatures for a woman to have an abortion; recommended that suitably trained healthcare practitioners as well as doctors should be permitted to perform abortions, that the restriction on the locations where abortions could take place should be removed to give women the choice of completing the second stage of early medical abortion at home; further notes these recommendations are supported by the RCOG, the RCN, the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare, fpa, Antenatal Results and Choices, Abortion Rights, the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, Marie Stopes International, Doctors for a Woman's Choice on Abortion and Brook; further notes these organisations support provision of safe abortions in other primary care settings as a way to increase choice, improve access and minimise delay; and
urges hon. Members to support amendments to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill to modernise the law and improve women's early access to abortion.'

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 86.

**EDM 2011 – Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine**
Christine McCafferty MP
45 signatures

'That this House notes the recent Department of Health decision to purchase a bivalent, rather than quadrivalent, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine for the national HPV immunisation programme; recognises that, as well as preventing cervical cancer, a quadrivalent vaccine would protect against a wider range of conditions, including genital warts, reducing sexually-transmitted infections and costs for the NHS; understands that the UK will be the only country in the world to opt for a bivalent rather than quadrivalent vaccine for a national programme; shares the disappointment of Fpa, the Terrence Higgins Trust, Brook and the British Association of Sexual Health and HIV at this decision; and urges the Government to reconsider.'

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 87.

**EDM 2065 – Abortion, Counselling and Informed Consent**
Angela Watkinson MP
40 signatures

'That this House notes with concern that there were 198,500 abortions in England and Wales in 2007, a rise of 2.5 per cent. on 2006 and the highest total ever; notes that this represents a rate of 18.6 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years and that this is comparable to the average rate of 18.8 in European countries which allow abortion on demand; further notes that European countries that have informed consent legislation (offering counselling, provision of information and/or a cooling off period) have an equivalent average rate of 11.9; further notes the Royal College of Psychiatrists' recommendation on 14th March that good practice in relation to abortion will include informed consent and that consent cannot be informed without the provision of adequate and appropriate information regarding the possible risks and benefits to physical and mental health; acknowledges that the Annual Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association (BMA) on 10th July passed a motion (545) acknowledging that abortion can be a psychologically traumatic process for women, and urges the BMA to campaign for increased counselling and support for women before and after abortion and that this is therefore now official BMA policy; and commends the amendments to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill seeking to ensure that women considering abortion are offered counselling and are also adequately informed about the health consequences of abortion, of alternatives to abortion, including adoption, and of help available should they decide to continue with their pregnancies.'

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 88.

**EDM 2218 – Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children and Compulsory Sex and Relationship Education**
Christine McCafferty MP
29 signatures

'That this House congratulates the UK on signing the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse; notes that Article 6 of the Convention states that each party shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that children, during primary and secondary education, receive information on the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, as well as on the means to protect themselves, adapted to their evolving capacity and this information, provided in collaboration with parents, where appropriate, shall be given within a more general context of information on sexuality and shall pay special attention to situations of risk, especially those involving the use of new information and communication technologies; and therefore calls on the Government to make age-appropriate, gender-sensitive sex and relationship education compulsory both through legislative proposals and its current review of sex and relationship education delivery.'

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 89.
EDM 2237 – NHS Cervical Screening Programme
Fraser Kemp MP
56 signatures

'That this House believes that the NHS Cervical Screening Programme, which aims to reduce the number of women who develop invasive cervical cancer and the number of women who die from it, should review its current policy of only screening women over the age of 25 years; and considers that the programme should examine the figures for cervical cancer incidences in women under 25 years and offer routine cervical screening to women under 25 years if such figures could be reduced by routine screening.'

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 90.

EDM 2371 – More Women, More Power Campaign
Emily Thornberry MP
49 signatures

'That this House is concerned that less than 20 per cent. of parliamentarians worldwide are women; recognises that this is a matter of justice and democracy and essential to tackling poverty and inequality and achieving the Millennium Development Goals; encourages hon. Members to support One World Action's More Women, More Power Campaign for greater political representations globally and in the UK by pressing for more aid to go to programmes in developing countries which promote and support women's political participation; and calls for action now to implement Article 7 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women on ending discrimination in political and public life.'

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 91.

EDM 2393 – Abortion Rights in Northern Ireland
Diane Abbott MP
38 signatures

'That this House supports safe, legal abortion for women, with existing time limits, no matter where they live in the United Kingdom; recognises that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, despite having abortion within its scope, was not necessarily the most appropriate way to amend the law on abortion; notes that because the Abortion Act 1967 was never extended to Northern Ireland, women in Northern Ireland do not have the same access to abortion as women in the rest of the United Kingdom; further notes that as a consequence women who are, for example, the victims of rape or incest or who are carrying a severely abnormal foetus are forced to continue their pregnancy against their will or to travel to England and pay for a private abortion, which can cost up to £2,000 and takes place later in gestation than necessary; condemns the inequity that this causes by its impact on poorer, younger and other vulnerable women; deprecates the fact that thousands of women are forced into motherhood, illegal abortion or debt each year because they do not have the same reproductive rights as women in other parts of the United Kingdom; and calls on the Government to relieve this burden and provide funding for women in Northern Ireland to access NHS abortion services in Britain.'

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 92.

EDM 2548 – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 2008
Jeremy Corbyn MP
31 signatures

That this House notes that 25th November 2008 is International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; expresses concern that in the UK at least one in four women still experience domestic violence during their adult lives, at least two women are killed by their current or former partner each week and three quarters of these violent incidents are witnessed by children who as a result can suffer from anxiety and depression later in life; supports the efforts of all those who are working to prevent violence against women, especially recognising the efforts of men who are seeking to reverse the cycle of violence within their own home with the help of perpetrator programmes in the voluntary sector; and joins with the Everyman Project in welcoming this day in its efforts to raise awareness of the fact that violence against women is unacceptable.
Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 93.

**EDM 105 – Premature Births**
David Anderson MP
79 signatures

‘That this House recognises that every year around 50,000 babies are born prematurely in the UK; acknowledges that premature birth can lead to lifelong conditions as well as being a significant contributor to infant mortality; and urges all hon. Members to back the call by the charity Action Medical Research to the Department of Health and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills urgently to develop a 10-year national research strategy in order to understand the causes of premature birth and to stop unnecessary suffering.’

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 94.

**EDM 200 – Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals**
Neil Gerrard MP
131 signatures

‘That this House marks the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; highlights Article 22 - the right to social security; further highlights Article 25 - the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being; further highlights Article 26 - the universal right to education; deplores the fact that despite 60 years of recognition for universal human rights, millions of the world’s citizens still live in abject poverty, without access to adequate nutrition healthcare, sanitation, education and clean water; notes that the millennium development goals (MDGs), if achieved, would substantially contribute to the realisation of the rights of millions of the world’s poorest by reducing hunger and poverty and by improving health, the environment, education and gender equality; is deeply concerned that progress toward the achievement of the MDGs for improving basic standards of living for the world’s poorest remains seriously off-track; supports the Government in continuing working towards achieving the MDGs by meeting its full obligations regarding the quality and quantity of overseas development assistance it provides and also by encouraging the international community to do likewise; and urges the Government to ensure that such efforts are not undermined by redoubling its commitment to ending the harmful global trade rules and conventions that constrain the economies of the world's least developed countries.’

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 95.

**EDM 556 – Maternity Services in Greater Manchester**
Paul Rowen MP
11 signatures

‘That this House notes the decision of the Secretary of State for Health following the conclusions of the Healthy Futures and Making it Better consultation documents, including the closure of Fairfield, Trafford and Hope Hospitals and Rochdale Infirmary maternity units; further notes that when the aforementioned consultation was concluded 31,100 births were predicted across Greater Manchester in 2007 yet 35,030 took place; further notes that 2,700 births were predicted in Rochdale for 2007 yet 3,113 took place; and urges the Government to reconsider the closure of these maternity services which are affecting a much greater number of expectant mothers in Greater Manchester than predicted.’

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 96.

**EDM 612 – Rape as a Weapon**
Lorely Burt MP
65 signatures

‘That this House condemns the use of rape as a weapon; notes the rape capital of the world is the eastern Congo where in some areas three-quarters of women have been raped; further notes that in Darfur, raped women are scarred or branded, or occasionally have their ears cut off and that this is often done by police officers or soldiers, in uniform, as part of a co-ordinated government policy; and calls on the Government to condemn violence against women, to work to
highlight this abhorrent use of force in conflicts around the world and do everything that it can to prevent the systematic use of rape as a weapon.'

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 97.

**EDM 625 - Abortion Rights in Northern Ireland**
Diane Abbott MP
61 signatures

‘That this House supports safe, legal abortion for women, within existing time limits, no matter where they live in the United Kingdom; notes that because the Abortion Act 1967 was never extended to Northern Ireland, women in Northern Ireland do not have the same access to abortion as women in the rest of the United Kingdom; further notes that as a consequence women who are for example the victims of rape or incest or who are carrying a severely abnormal foetus are forced to continue their pregnancy against their will or to travel to England and pay for a private abortion, which can cost up to £2,000 and takes place later in gestation than necessary because of the burden on women to raise significant sums of money at short notice and to organise travel to Britain; condemns the inequity that this causes by its impact on poorer, younger and other vulnerable women; deplors the fact that thousands of women are forced into motherhood, illegal abortion or debt each year because they do not have the same reproductive rights as women in other parts of the UK; and calls on the Government to relieve this burden and provide funding for women in Northern Ireland to access NHS abortion services in Britain.’

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 98.

**EDM 653 – Report on Map of Gaps: Funding Violence against Women Services**
Julie Morgan MP
81 signatures

‘That this House welcomes the ‘Map of Gaps' report and website by the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the End Violence Against Women coalition; notes with alarm that three million women across the UK experience violence each year; further notes that over a quarter of local authority areas across Britain have no specialised violence against women support services such as rape crisis centres, refuges, domestic violence outreach projects and services for black and minority ethnic women; recognises the need for local authorities and other public bodies to undertake needs assessments under their gender equality schemes and to ensure both sufficiency and diversity of provision; encourages local strategic partnerships to prioritise tackling violence against women, including within local area agreements; welcomes the Government's commitment to consult on a Violence Against Women strategy; and calls on the Government urgently to establish a funding strategy and work with local strategic partnerships to ensure that women's access to support does not depend on where they live.’

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 99.

**EDM 911 – Sands Why 17? Campaign**
Richard Taylor MP
85 signatures

‘That this House congratulates Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, on the parliamentary launch of the Why 17? campaign; welcomes the publication of the Sands Saving Babies Lives Report 2009; notes that every day in the UK an average of 10 babies are stillborn and seven more die shortly after their birth, which is 17 babies dying every day; is concerned that rates of stillbirth in the UK are at unacceptably high levels and have barely changed in the last 10 years; recognises that with better care and targeted research many of these deaths could potentially be avoided; and calls on the Government to develop a national strategy for reducing levels of stillbirth and neonatal deaths, to fund further research to improve understanding of why stillbirths and neonatal deaths happen, to develop gold standard antenatal care provision in all trusts and to work with the charity to improve public awareness of the issues.’

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 100.
EDM 989 – More Women, More Power Campaign  
Emily Thornberry MP  
79 signatures

‘That this House is concerned that less than 20 per cent. of Parliamentarians worldwide are women; recognises that this is a matter of justice and democracy and essential to tackling poverty and inequality and achieving the Millennium Development Goals; encourages hon. Members to support One World Action's More Women, More Power Campaign for greater political representations globally and in the United Kingdom by pressing for more aid to go to programmes in developing countries which promote and support women's political participation; and calls for action now to implement Article 7 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women on ending discrimination in political and public life.’

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 101.

EDM 1173 – Access to HIV Treatment  
Bob Spink MP  
52 signatures

‘That this House notes with grave concern that almost 6,000 people die every day from AIDS-related illnesses; congratulates the Government on making progress on its promise of universal access to HIV treatment, prevention, care and support by 2010; and urges the Government to promote generic medicines by tackling trade barriers and by developing a patent pool for essential medicines, as promoted by the Stop AIDS campaign, and to address the health worker shortage and provide long-term financing to continue to strengthen services and infrastructure in developing nations.’

Please find enclosed list of MPs signing EDM as appendix 102.

Oral Parliamentary Questions

HFE Bill and Abortion, 24th April –, 30th April –, 6th May –, 22nd May –, 10th July –, 9th October –, 16th October –, and 23rd October 2008

Many MPs, both pro-choice and anti-choice, made enquiries about the scheduling of the HFE Bill and abortion amendments at Business Questions, Prime Minister’s Question Time and Topical Health Questions. The Government committed to free votes on the ethical issues contained in the Bill, including abortion at Committee Stage and Report Stage; committed to allowing a full day’s debate at Report Stage (subject to urgent statements); however, a programme motion was subsequently voted on which restricted debate on key issues, including abortion at Report Stage.

Please find enclosed Hansards as appendix 103.

Gender Equality, 30th April 2008

Helen Southworth MP, asked the Government what steps they had taken to promote gender equity in access to education in developing countries, recognising that when girls are educated there are reductions in infant and maternal mortality. The Minister stated that the Government had committed £8.5 billion for education in developing countries over the ten years to 2015. In addition, she stated that educating girls is one of the best investments a country can make to further social and economic development and improve health. Supplementary questions concentrated on reducing HIV/AIDS risk and education in conflict zones.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 104.

HIV/AIDS, 30th April 2008

Graham Allen MP, asked the Government what progress had been made in halting and reversing the spread of HIV and AIDS, as outlined by MDG 7 and stated his opposition to abstinence only prevention programmes. The Minister referred to the scaling up in financial assistance to tackle the epidemic and the increasing numbers of people accessing antiretroviral treatment (ARV). He also reiterated the Government’s opposition to abstinence only prevention programmes, as the available evidence does
not suggest they are an effective strategy for HIV prevention. Supplementary questions related to the forthcoming UK AIDS strategy, earmarking funding for HIV/AIDS services and corruption.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 105.

**Abortion, 6th May 2008**
Philip Hollobone MP, asked the Government for repeat abortion statistics and asked what steps they were taking to reduce the numbers. The Minister emphasised the Government’s commitment to ensuring early access to abortion services. Supplementary questions were asked on the link between drug and alcohol abuse and abortion and emergency contraception.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 106.

**Premature Babies, 6th May 2008**
Katy Clark MP, asked the Government about survival rates for premature babies born before 24 weeks gestation. The Minister stated there were 435 premature births in 2005 with a gestational age under 24 weeks, of which 383 died before their first birthday. Supplementary questions referred to available scientifically evidence on viability.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 107.

**Abortion, 5th June 2008**
During Business Questions, Jo Swinson MP, requested a debate on the Government’s strategy for reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies and abortions. Harriet Harman MP, Leader of the House, said there had been a recent debate on teenage pregnancies and reiterated the need for SRE, contraception and early access to abortion. She stated that she would look for an opportunity for these issues to be debated.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 108.

**HIV Infection, 17th June 2008**
Patrick Hall MP, asked the Government how many newly acquired HIV infections were recorded in the UK in 2007. The Minister stated that new data was not available but there were an estimated 5,817 people newly diagnosed in 2007. Supplementary questions were asked on early diagnosis of infection, medical assessments for people with HIV on benefits, NHS charging exemptions and pre-screening.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 109.

**G8 Summit, 16th July 2008**
Malcolm Bruce MP, asked the Government what was the outcome for development policy from the G8 summit. The SS for ID, Douglas Alexander MP, said the summit had reiterated G8 commitments to aid, including the 0.7% of GNI to development aid. Richard Ottaway MP, a group member, asked the SS for ID about the link between poverty and population growth. Other supplementary questions referred to the food crisis in Zimbabwe, water and sanitation and reductions in ODA by other G8 economies.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 110.

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), 7th October 2008**
Linda Riordan MP, asked what recent reports the Government had received on FGM in other countries. The Minister stated that the UK condemns FGM as a violation of human rights and was working through international organisations to eradicate the practise, which was now a criminal offence in the UK.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 111.
Sex and Relationships Education, 13th October 2008
John Bercow MP, asked what assessment the Government had made of the quality of SRE in schools. Jim Knight MP, the Minister for Schools and Learners, said the Government had reviewed best practise in SRE and the recommendations would soon be published. Supplementary questions referred to the non-statutory status of PSHE, qualified teachers and the age-appropriateness of SRE.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 112.

Teaching Life Skills, 13th October 2008
Graham Allen MP, asked the Government what steps it was taking to make life skills teaching more relevant in areas with high levels of teenage pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse and low educational aspiration. The Minister stated that the review on sex, relationships and drugs education would report soon, but there was flexibility already in the new secondary school curriculum. Supplementary questions were asked on PSHE, contraception education, alcohol consumption and unsafe sex, and school nurses.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 113.

People Trafficking, 12th November 2008
Anthony Steen MP, asked the Government what support they were offering third sector organisations dealing with the social exclusion of trafficked people. The Minister replied that the Ministry of Justice and Home Office were currently tendering for a third sector partner to deliver supported accommodation and advocacy for trafficked people. Christine McCafferty MP asked about the need for compulsory, comprehensive SRE to allow all young women to protect themselves.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 114.

Sex and Relationships Education, 17th November 2008
Dr John Pugh MP, asked what assessment the Government had made of the quality of SRE in schools. Jim Knight MP, the Minister for Schools and Learners, said the review of SRE had been completed and the Government’s response published. The Government had decided to make PSHE statutory. Supplementary questions focused on the importance of relationships education; Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs); and the role of parents.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 115.

Life Skills, 17th November 2008
Graham Allen MP, asked if the Government would take steps to improve the teaching of life skills at secondary school level in deprived areas. The Minister, Sarah McCarthy-Fry MP, said life skills were embedded throughout the curriculum and the Government had recently announced it would be making PSHE statutory. Supplementary questions were asked about early intervention; school nurses; engaging with young people; and family and community education units.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 116.

South Africa (HIV/AIDS), 17th December 2008
David Burrows MP, asked the Government what assessment it had made of the effect of recent political developments in South Africa on policy to tackle HIV/AIDS. The Minister stated that there had been a marked change in policy language in South Africa to tackle HIV/AIDS and he particularly welcomed their major public awareness campaign and plans to scale up Prevention of Maternal to Child Transmission of HIV.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 117.
Sexual Abuse Victims (Court Proceedings), 15th January 2009
Julie Morgan MP, asked what plans the Government had to make it easier for those who have undergone sexual abuse to give evidence in court proceedings. The Solicitor-General, Vera Baird QC MP, said that the Government was bringing forward a number of provisions in the Coroners and Justice Bill to make the process easier.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 118.

UK Human Trafficking Centre, 23rd March 2009
Anthony Steen MP, asked if the Government would ensure that the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) provided training for all police forces on human trafficking. The Minister stated that the UKHTC had developed a training programme on human trafficking for all new police recruits, police community support officers, special constables and community officers as part of their core training.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 119.

HIV/AIDS, 25th March 2009
Russell Brown MP, asked the Government what discussions it had had with international counterparts on global efforts to tackle HIV/AIDS. The Minister, Ivan Lewis MP, stated that dialogue with key international partners was ongoing and he had recently discussed AIDS issues with senior figures at the Global Fund, WHO, UNFPA and the World Bank and with Ministers during country visits to Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda. Supplementary questions focused on second-line HIV drugs; prevention programmes; and the disproportionate effect of HIV/AIDS on women and girls.

Please find enclosed Hansard as appendix 120.

Written Parliamentary Questions
APPG on PD&RH members tabled a wide variety of SRHR/population written PQ’s throughout the year including PQ’s on:

- Breastfeeding
- Contraceptives
- Family planning
- Health education and services
- HIV/AIDS
- Infant and maternal mortality
- Overseas aid
- Pregnant women and childbirth
- Teenage pregnancy

Other MPs tabled written PQs on:

- Abortion
- Caesarean sections
- Cervical cancer
- Female genital mutilation
- Fertility treatment and In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF)
- International Health Partnership
- Sex education
- STIs and human papilloma virus
- United Nations
House of Lords (HoL)
Bills
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill
The HFE Bill was debated in the HoL between November 2007 and February 2008 and re-entered the HoL to debate Commons’ amendments on 29th October 2008. The amendments related to human admixed embryos; embryonic stem cells; assisted contraception; need for a father, surrogacy; and the conditions under which cells and tissues could be used without a patient’s consent. All the HoC amendments debated were agreed to and the Bill received Royal Assent on 13th November 2008.

Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 121.

Debates
HIV/AIDS, 3rd April 2008
Lord May of Oxford introduced a debate on HIV/AIDS during which he made reference to a report he co-authored on the likely future demographic impact of HIV in Africa. Baroness Gould, a group member, raised the importance of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in the UK. Baroness Flather, Hon. Secretary to the Group focussed on the feminisation of the epidemic, the disproportionate impact on poor women and the need to promote condom use. Viscount Craigavon, Hon. Vice-Chair to the group spoke about the importance of HIV prevention in the UK. In response, Baroness Thornton, speaking for the Government, said that sexual health and HIV remained a priority for the NHS and spoke at length about the situation in the UK. She also reiterated the Government’s support for condom procurement globally and mentioned the recent £100 million funding to UNFPA for reproductive health commodities.

Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 122.

Millennium Development Goals, 1st May 2008
The Earl of Sandwich opened a debate to raise awareness of the MDGs and the need to achieve them by 2015, particularly emphasising in his speech the importance of health MDGs 4, 5 and 6. Baroness Prosser spoke about MDG 3, to promote gender equality and empower women, referring to child marriage, access to healthcare and HIV/AIDS. Baroness Verma also referred to maternal mortality ratios for poor, rural women and those in urban slums. Lord Jay and Lord Crisp concentrated on the health MDGs, with Lord Crisp focussing on the shortage of health workers. Lord Patel, a group member, spoke about maternal mortality and morbidity and called for proper investment in health systems. Viscount Craigavon, Vice-Chair to the Group, spoke about the new MDG target 5B, for universal access to reproductive health, and the importance of addressing the unmet need for FP and increasing the contraceptive prevalence rate. Baroness Northover, a group member, spoke of the importance of comprehensive prevention, treatment and care for HIV/AIDS.

Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 123.

Health: Obesity During Pregnancy, 9th June 2008
Baroness Rendell, a group member, initiated a debate on how the Government proposed to combat the increasing threat to women’s health of obesity during pregnancy and childbirth. Contributions were also made by group members Baroness Thomas, Baroness Tonge and Lord Patel.

Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 124.

Millennium Development Goals, 7th October 2008
Lord Alton, and anti-choice Peer, introduced a debate on progress made with the MDGs, particularly in relation to child mortality. Lord Joffe, a group member, spoke on MDG 5 – maternal mortality – emphasising the need for countries to commit politically to improving maternal health and funding health services over the long-term.
Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 125.

**Women in Public Life, 30th October 2008**
Baroness Gale asked the Government what measures they had taken to encourage the full participation of women in public life. Baroness Massey, a group member, spoke about the importance of educating young people, particularly in PSHE.

Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 126.

**Democratic Republic of Congo, 26th November 2008**
Lord Malloch-Brown, Minister at the Foreign Office, introduced a debate on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The debate largely focussed on the conflict taking place in eastern DRC. Lord Avebury specifically referred to an “appalling epidemic of violence against women” and Baroness Northover stated that “women and children are especially vulnerable in this situation”. The Minister stated in his response to the debate that he had visited an officer training school in the DRC which was training soldiers in issues of discipline and response to civilian emergencies, with a bias towards combating sexually based violence.

Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 127.

**Health: Stem Cell Therapy, 3rd March 2009**
Lord Alton introduced a short debate on what additional resources the Government was allocating to developing therapies using adult stem cells.

Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 128.

**Women: Economic Crisis, 12th March 2009**
Baroness Gould, a group member, introduced a debate to call attention to the role of women on the global economic crisis to commemorate IWD. Baroness Flather, Secretary to the Group, spoke about the effect of the economic crisis on women worldwide; specifically referring to the Group’s Hearings report on Maternal Morbidity. Baroness Gardner emphasised the importance of microfinance in empowering women and allowing them to educate their children and improve the health of their family. Lord McColl also spoke of the importance of microfinance and the danger that the economic crisis may result in increases in human trafficking. Baroness Verma highlighted the plight of women with low status in south Asian countries. Baroness Royall, replying to the debate for the Government, reiterated the links between women’s control over their fertility and their economic status.

Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 129.

**Oral Parliamentary Questions**
**International Aid, 24th April 2008**
Baroness Rawlings asked the Government how they measured the effectiveness of their aid. Lord Tunnicliffe stated that the Government were committed to ensuring UK aid was used effectively to reduce poverty in the world’s poorest countries and explained the evaluation system for DFID expenditure.

Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 130.

**Female Genital Mutilation, 5th June 2008**
Baroness Rendell, a group member, asked the Government, whether they would consider the introduction of routine disclosure by health professionals when evidence of FGM is discovered in patients. Baroness Thornton said that it was normally expected that for women who have undergone FGM that information is shared with others, with the woman’s consent. Baroness Tonge, Treasurer of the Group, made reference to the Group’s Hearing Report on FGM in 2000 and asked if progress would only be made on eradicating FGM when a high profile prosecution was made. The Minister responded
sympathetically and stated she believed the 2003 FGM Act had been a catalyst for recent outreach work, raising awareness of FGM.

*Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 131.*

**International Development: World Food Prices, 2nd July 2008**
Baroness Quin, asked the Government what changes had been introduced and planned to be introduced to development aid policies in the light of increased food prices. The Minister, Lord Tunnicliffe, said the Government had reprioritised policies and committed further spending to address the challenge. Baroness Tonge, Treasurer of the Group, asked how the world would cope with feeding everyone if population continued to increase and whether the Government was making an effort to ensure non-coercive family planning and supplies were available worldwide.

*Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 132.*

**Schools: Personal, Social and Health Education, 28th October 2008**
Baroness Massey, a group member, asked the Government how their proposals for PSHE would be implemented in schools. The Minister, Baroness Morgan, reiterated the Government’s decision to make PSHE statutory. Supplementary questions were asked on teacher training; parental involvement; STIs and the role of school governors.

*Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 133.*

**International Development: Agriculture, 20th November 2008**
Lord Judd asked the Government what support they were giving farmers in poor countries in light of the pressures on world food demand. Lord Tunnicliffe stated that the Government was committed to helping farmers in poor countries increase productivity, thereby increasing the availability of food to the most vulnerable. Baroness Tonge, Treasurer of the Group, asked the Minister about links between food security and population growth and highlighted the need to support family planning and safe abortion in developing countries.

*Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 134.*

**HIV/AIDS, 8th December 2008**
Baroness Northover, a group member, asked the Government in the light of World AIDS Day what further action they were taking to assist those in the poorest countries affected by HIV/AIDS. Lord Tunnicliffe reiterated the Government’s commitment, in policy and financial terms, to the fight against HIV/AIDS. Supplementary questions related to AIDS orphans; generic drugs; support for faith groups; susceptibility of children with HIV/AIDS to pneumococcal disease; Prevention of Maternal to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT); and microbicides.

*Please find enclosed HoL Hansard as appendix 135.*

**Written Parliamentary Questions**
APPG on PD&RH members tabled a wide range of SRHR/population written PQ’s throughout the year including PQs on:

- Contraception
- FGM
- Genito-urinary clinics
- HIV/AIDS
- Official Development Assistance
- PSHE
- STIs & sexual health
Ministers and senior civil servants were key note speakers at 5 APPG on PD&RH Parliamentary events this year. Chair and Group members have also met and spoken both formally and informally with DfID, DoH and other Ministers and civil servants this year. Advisor has been in regular contact with DfID and DoH civil servants throughout the year.

DfID new AIDS and Reproductive Health Team, Human Development Group is as follows:

- Julie Bunting is team leader – Jerry Ash acting whilst Julie Bunting is on maternity leave
- Sandra MacDonagh technical advisor on SRH
- Danny Showell support on SRH
- Benny Panai support on SRH
- Scott Hardie leading on Maternal Health
- Jo Nichols technical advisor on Maternal Health
- Will Niblett is leading on HIV/AIDS
- Silke Seco is technical advisor on HIV/AIDS
- Sally Chakrabati support on HIV/AIDS
- Alison Crockett support on HIV/AIDS

Meetings
Ivan Lewis MP was appointed the new PUSS for ID in October 2008 and soon after his appointment requested a meeting with the Group. Despite three meetings being organised with the PUSS for ID, the Group did not manage to have an official meeting, due to cancellations by both parties. In June 2009 there was another Government re-shuffle and Michael Foster MP was appointed the new PUSS for ID. A meeting between Group members and the new PUSS for ID is being organised.

Please find enclosed briefing for meeting as appendix 136.

Correspondence
ECOSOC 2008 High Level Segment, 30th June – 3rd July 2008, New York, USA: UK National Voluntary Presentation on the theme: MDG Goal 7 – Ensure Environmental Sustainability
The Group wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown MP and SS for ID, Douglas Alexander MP on 21st April 2008 prior to the ECOSOC 2008 High Level Segment on MDG 7, asking them to draw attention to the importance that SRHR/population has in relation to environmental sustainability and poverty eradication. Reference was made to the Group’s 2007 Hearing Report: Return of the Population Growth Factor – Its impact upon the MDGs.

A reply was received on 9th May 2008 welcoming the Group’s contribution and stating that UK officials would draw on the useful information sent.

Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 137.

G8 Summit, 7th – 9th July 2008, Japan
The Group wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown MP on 24th June 2008, asking him to advocate for strong reference to improving SRHR in the health outcome document from the G8 summit. A favourable reply was received.

Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 138.

A similar letter was also sent to the Yasuo Fukuda, Prime Minister of Japan.
USAID and contraceptive supplies in Africa, October 2008
The Group wrote to SS for ID, Douglas Alexander MP on 30th October 2008 about the recent move by USAID to prevent African governments from supplying MSI clinics with USAID funded contraceptive supplies, in order to determine what work the UK was undertaking to prevent a FP ‘stock out’ in Africa.

A favourable response was received, reiterating DfID’s work with like-minded partners to enable dialogue with US missions and affected countries’ Ministries of Health to seek country-level solutions to prevent stock-outs at MSI clinics.

Consultations/Publications
DFID HIV/AIDS Strategy update, June 2008

The HIV/AIDS Strategy update: ‘Achieving Universal Access’, was launched on 2nd June 2008 by SS for ID, Douglas Alexander. The Strategy was welcomed by the Group, as it highlighted the importance of universal access to SRHR including FP services, in an integrated approach to combating HIV/AIDS.

On the day of the launch, parliamentarians were invited by PUSS for ID, Gillian Merron MP to discuss the new Strategy, providing an opportunity for them to hear about DFID’s future plans on HIV and AIDS.

Members of the Group and advisor attended the meeting.

DFID Departmental Report 2008
DFID’s Departmental Report 2008 was welcomed by the Group, as DFID continues to reiterate its commitment to funding and supporting international SRHR services.
Extracts from the report include:

- UK ODA is projected to rise to £9.1 billion by 2010/11 – four times the amount in 1997 – and representing 0.56% of Gross National Income. This is in line with the European Union’s commitment for its member states to reach collectively 0.56% ODA/GNI in 2010 and keeps the UK on track to reach its commitment of 0.7% GNI by 2013 – 2 years ahead of the EU’s collective commitment to 0.7% GNI by 2015;

- The UK government will provide an additional £100 million over the next five years to UNFPA to improve reproductive health and to give women real choices;

- MDG 5: Improve maternal health: Some progress has been made in reducing maternal deaths in countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal and in parts of India. However, less progress is being made in Africa. This is because of: the continuing impact of HIV/AIDS, conflict, and weak health systems. Last year (2007) was an exceptional year for political advocacy for MDG 5 as highlighted by the international Women Deliver conference and there is now a renewed focus on this target;

- UK contribution to MDG 5: DFID makes significant contributions to the maternal health programmes of the EC, the World Bank and international and national civil society groups. We also fund and collaborate with the health and development agencies of the United Nations system and support a number of research programmes. DFID support has also helped the national and state Governments of India to recruit and train more than 540,000 community-based health workers. These workers are playing a crucial role in saving lives of millions of women and children by promoting safer delivery. A new safe motherhood scheme (Janani Surakya Yojana) to reduce maternal deaths has reached over 5 million women.

Maternal Health Strategy review, 3rd progress report, June 2008
The Group was encouraged by DfID’s Maternal Health Strategy review, 3rd progress report. It set out DfID’s focus areas which are:

- Health system strengthening;
- Targeting investments in interventions with a high impact;
- High level international advocacy;
- Support for civil society advocacy.

This is the first UK cross-government strategy published, that highlights the challenges that face us in the area of global health. The strategy outlines a set of principles and actions that the UK Government will focus on over the next five years to improve the health of people across the world, including in the UK. The strategy highlights the importance of coherence and consistency in government policy and identifies ways to work even more effectively with partners to deliver better health outcomes. The Strategy emphasises the importance of strengthening sexual and reproductive and maternal health services at home and abroad.

Please find enclosed SRHR extracts from the Strategy enclosed as appendix 142.

DfID Institutional Strategy Paper on UNFPA, November 2008
DfID update their institutional strategy papers (ISP) on select UN organisations every 5 years. UNFPA’s ISP was updated this year. Christine McCafferty MP and advisor met with DfID civil servants to discuss the ISP. Prior to the meeting the Group took advice from the UK SRHR Network and UNFPA.

Please find enclosed correspondence, presentations, briefings for the meeting and the ISP contents page as appendix 143.

DfID Maternal Health Strategy update – open space meeting, January 2009
DfID organised an open space conference on Maternal, Reproductive and Sexual Health Rights on Tuesday 13th January 2009 to obtain ideas to aid the updating of its Maternal
Health Strategy. The conference was well attended by a large variety of SRHR stakeholders. A summary report was published as a follow up and in support of the update.

DfID remains undecided on the title of the Strategy but did say during the Group’s Maternal Morbidity Hearings evidence session that:

“We are in the process of preparing a new strategy which is for maternal health and sexual and reproductive health together. We will be in touch with you during the process of consultation.”

Please find enclosed correspondence on the conference and SRHR Network briefing sent to DfID as appendix 144.

INTERNATIONAL FUNDING TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS/POPULATION AND HIV/AIDS

DfID channels its SRHR/population financial support via general budget support, sector budget support, sector wide approaches for health, UN, NGOs, research institutions and other partners.

DfID remains supportive of international SRHR and has been a strong advocate for increased investment in general health system strengthening and Maternal Health this year.

In October 2007 DfID pledged additional support to UNFPA of £100 million over five years with a particular emphasis on commodity security supplies and in 2008 UNFPA core funding was again approved, but for a longer period 2008 – 2011, starting at £20 million in 2008/09 and increasing to £23.74 million in 2010/11.

DfID continue to support IPPF’s five strategic areas of work: adolescents, HIV/AIDS, (safe) abortion, access to SRHR services and advocacy.

In July 2008 at the Group’s World Population Day reception, PUSS for ID, Gillian Merron MP, announced DfID’s new five-year funding commitment to IPPF’s core work of £8.5 million each year for the next five years.

| Table 1 DfID’s estimated expenditure on HIV and AIDS activities, by aid type, 2002/03 to 2008/09 (GBP millions) |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Other Bilateral                                 | 161.6    | 196.2   | 239.5   | 326.1   | 359.3   | 385.7   | 475.4   |
| Debt                                            | 1.0      | 0.8     | 0.8     | 2.1     | 4.5     | 0.3     | 1.0     |
| Programme Partnership Agreements               | 6.3      | 6.5     | 7.1     | 8.7     | 8.6     | 8.5     | 11.2    |
| Total Bilateral                                 | 178.1    | 217.9   | 261.8   | 354.3   | 387.3   | 411.9   | 507.2   |
| Multilateral                                    | 57.3     | 41.4    | 50.7    | 75.5    | 101.5   | 111.4   | 182.1   |
| Total                                           | 235.4    | 259.3   | 312.5   | 429.8   | 488.8   | 523.2   | 689.3   |

| Table 2 DfID bilateral expenditure directly targeting HIV and AIDS, 2002/03 – 2008/09, GBP millions |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total                                           | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
| Total                                           | 50.9     | 65.0    | 96.7    | 130.9   | 128.7   | 134.2   | 158.0   |
Table 3 DFID bilateral expenditure directly targeting reproductive health, 2002/03 – 2008/09, GBP millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13010 Population Policy and Administrative Management</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13021 Reproductive Health Care</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>36.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13022 Maternal and Neonatal Health</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>61.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>13030 Family Planning, Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>49.4</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>55.8</td>
<td>55.9</td>
<td>108.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 DFID Core contributions to International Organisations, 2004/05 – 2008/09 (in thousand £)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>2008/09</th>
<th>2007/08</th>
<th>2006/07</th>
<th>2005/06</th>
<th>2004/05</th>
<th>Funding Stream</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>20,038</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>DFID - Core Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>23,824</td>
<td>15,299</td>
<td>25,409</td>
<td>25,641</td>
<td>23,434</td>
<td>DFID and Other Govt. Depts - Core Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>16,151</td>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>22,042</td>
<td>23,813</td>
<td>22,221</td>
<td>DFID and Other Govt. Depts - Core Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNAIDS</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>19,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>16,002</td>
<td>8,069</td>
<td>DFID - Core Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPPF</td>
<td>8,600</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>Core Funding - Bilateral Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSI</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>885</td>
<td>1,032</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>1,698</td>
<td>CSCF - Non Core Bilateral Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interact Worldwide</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>581</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>CSCF - Non Core Bilateral Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>51,000</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>DFID Programme - Core Funding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 Net ODA/GNI ratios for the UK 1997-2008 and projections to 2010

![Graph showing net ODA/GNI ratios for the UK 1997-2008 and projections to 2010]
Table 6 Provisional Net ODA from DAC Donors to Developing Countries 2008

Table 7 Provisional Net ODA/GNI ratios for DAC donors 2008

Table 2 and 3 provide details of DFID bilateral expenditure directly targeting reproductive health and HIV/AIDS activities. However, according to DFID, the overall support to these areas covers a much broader range of activities (including support for health systems in general and general budget support) which are included in table 1.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Group members have been involved with and attended several national and international NGO, UN and parliamentary seminars, workshops and conferences this year.
Christine McCafferty MP and Richard Ottaway MP were invited and attended this conference. Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Director of The Ditchley Foundation had been inspired by the Group’s Hearing Report: Return of the Population Growth Factor – its impact upon the MDGs in his preparation for this conference on population trends on the MDGs. The conference was attended by distinguished guests, including Kofi Annan and the Rt Hon. Lord Malloch Brown. It was designed for participants to assess the progress being made toward the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 against the background of rising population trends, particularly in the developing world.

Please find enclosed invitation, background information and participant list as appendix 145.

The BPAS conference on abortion was topical with the parliamentary debates on the HFE Bill and abortion. The event was opened by the Minister for State of Public Health, Dawn Primarolo MP. She used the event to announce an additional £6 million funding over three years for targeted sexual health improvements in the UK. Group members attended the conference including Evan Harris MP, Baroness Gould, Baroness Tonge, Viscount Craigavon and advisor.

Please find enclosed invitation, briefings, Minister’s speech and programme as appendix 146.

Baroness Thomas was invited by the EPF and Vaestolitto to attended the XVII International AIDS Conference 2008 in Mexico, which brought together a wide range of committed AIDS actors to discuss, share best practices, lessons learned and gaps in knowledge. The Conference programme included a wide variety of session types as well as a number of activities, including satellite meetings, exhibitions, the Global Village and the Cultural Programme.

Baroness Thomas briefed committee members on the conference and the EPF mini study tour that followed the conference, upon her return.

Please find enclosed invitation, conference and study tour information as appendix 147.

Christine McCafferty MP attended this conference as a CoE delegate. The aim of the conference organised by The German Foundation for World Population (DSW), German
Department of International Cooperation (GTZ), Capacity Building International Germany (Inwenti), IPPF, German government International Development Bank (kfw), Bayer Health Care, Our World and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development was to increase awareness on culture, gender and human rights in relation to SRHR. Specific country examples were presented and recommendations from the conference were delivered to the domestic and international development policy makers.

Please find enclosed background to the conference as appendix 148.

Christian Fiala, President of the International Association of Professionals on Abortion and Contraception, invited Christine McCafferty MP to speak at the opening session of the 8th FIAPAC conference.

Please find enclosed invitation, programme and briefings as appendix 149.

Christine McCafferty MP attended above workshop in her capacity as the Chair of the CoE Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee and chaired and spoke at the session on Fertility in Europe.

Please find enclosed background papers to the workshop, briefing and programme as appendix 150.

**DFID, Hewlett Foundation and IPPF, convened a dinner and workshop on Population and Development at 15 years, 20 years and beyond, 27th - 28th January 2009, London, UK.**
Advisor attended above dinner and workshop convened by DFID, Hewlett Foundation and IPPF to look at the ICPD+15, +20 and beyond. Participants discussed the way forward in securing the goals of the ICPD within the evolving development environment.

Please find enclosed invitation, background information, programme and report as appendix 151.

**DFID conference: Securing our Common Future, 9th - 10th March 2009, London, UK.**
Christine McCafferty MP attended above conference, which was part of DFID’s consultation on its new White Paper to be published in Autumn, 2009. The meeting will be followed by other meetings around the UK involving senior officials and NGO representatives. The conference will also assist the UK Prime Minister, Gordon Brown in his preparations for the G20 meeting.

Participants included a number of development experts, Gordon Brown MP, Prime Minister and UK Cabinet Ministers and civil servants, parliamentarians and NGO representatives.

Please find enclosed invitation and Dr Gill Greer, Director General, IPPF’s notes circulated to interested committee members as appendix 152.

**EPF and Countdown 2015 conference: Population, Sustainability and Climate Change, 23rd – 24th March, 2009, Oslo, Norway.**
Baroness Thomas participated in above conference, organised in co-operation with the Norwegian Association of SRHR and held in the context of Countdown 2015. The conference brought together 40 participants including MPs throughout Europe to raise awareness and discuss linkages between SRHR and Climate Change. New research was presented and there was an exchange of information on best practices.
Please find enclosed invitation, agenda, concept note together with briefings and an article in EPF newsletter on the conference as appendix 153.

EPF delegation to 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development, March 30th – April 3rd 2009, New York, USA.
Lyn Brown MP attended above conference and gave an oral statement on behalf of the EPF parliamentary delegation. Lyn Brown MP urged donor Governments to maintain current levels of aid to developing countries. “Anything else would cost more lives and (...) will in the long run cost more money. The cost - human and financial – is too great for us to stop now”; she warned.

Meetings and briefings were also organised with SRHR/Population organisations whilst at the conference including with UNFPA, IPPF, CIC, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), European Union (EU) and USAID representatives.

Please find enclosed correspondence and briefing as appendix 154.

PQs were tabled throughout Europe in the lead up to the Commission on Population and Development to sensitisie european governments on ICPD commitments. PQs tabled in the UK can be found under the EuroNGO section on page 16.

SUPPORT TO OTHER APPGs on PD&RH

The Group continue to exchange information and support the establishment and activities of other APPGs on P&D. Assistant attended the EPF Conference for European APPG on PD&RH secretariats in June 2008 and exchanged information in support of national and international parliamentary activities. Throughout the year support has been given in person, via e-mails and telephone conversations to the UK APPG on HIV/AIDS and Sudan, and to APPGs in Ireland, Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Advisor was one of the resource people at the IPPF European Network training workshop on Advocacy in Brussels on 29th October 2008. IPPF Member Associations from approximately 12 Eastern European and Central Asian countries attended. Advisor
provided first hand experience on how to prepare and organise parliamentary Hearings. Member Associations interested in further capacity building were advised to contact advisor.

**UK APPG on PD&RH workshop with Azerbaijan and Turkey APPGs on P&D, 10\textsuperscript{th} December, 2008, London, UK.**

Advisor conducted a workshop on how to prepare and conduct parliamentary Hearings on 10\textsuperscript{th} December 2008 following the Group’s Parliamentary Hearings into Maternal Morbidity, with the overarching aim of the other two Groups preparing similar Hearings in their national Parliaments.

Further details on the workshop can be found under the Maternal Morbidity Hearings section below.

**APPG on AIDS Hearings on access to HIV medicines in the Developing World, January 27\textsuperscript{th}, 2009, London, UK**


Please find enclosed correspondence and invitation to launch as appendix 155.

Advisor has also met with and communicated with other UK APPGs this year to discuss All Party Parliamentary Group administration, the forthcoming UK General Election and recruitment of new MPs to Groups.

**APPG ON PD&RH HEARINGS**

**Maternal Morbidity – “Better off Dead?”, 2008/09**

In 2008 the Group started preparing and planning Parliamentary Hearings into Maternal Morbidity. Baroness Tonge, Treasurer of the Group was the inspiration behind the Hearings.

Baroness Tonge said:

“We always hear the Millennium Development Goals emphasis on maternal mortality, but I do not think this covers the whole problem, especially nowadays when we talk of billions and trillions... you say ‘around half a million women die every year in childbirth’. We have to add to that, that millions of women are permanently disabled and have their lives ruined by childbirth every year – some of them might even be better off dead!”

A Hearing steering committee was established with Baroness Tonge (Liberal Democrat) as the chair with Sandra Gidley MP (Liberal Democrat), John Bercow MP (Conservative), Lord Rea (Labour) and Lord Patel (Labour).

SRHR NGO representatives with expertise in Maternal Health were invited onto the committee via the UK SRHR network and included Jennifer Woodside, Advocacy Manager, IPPF; Anne Quesney, Head of Advocacy, MSI; Ros Davies, Chief Executive, Women and Children First UK; Amy Kesterton, Policy and Advocacy Manager for Global Health, Interact Worldwide and Belinda Atim Tima, Co-chair, International Confederation of Women Living with HIV/AIDS UK.

Five committee meetings were held in the HoC between July 2008 and March 2009 (16\textsuperscript{th} July 2008, 14\textsuperscript{th} October 2008, 19\textsuperscript{th} November 2008, 12\textsuperscript{th} March 2009 and 30\textsuperscript{th} March
2009), where the aim of the Hearings was discussed, call for written evidence was prepared, organisations to give oral evidence were selected, report launch date was agreed upon, report dissemination list was developed, a media strategy was prepared, and the invitations and invitation list were finalised.

Please find enclosed minutes from Hearing steering committee meetings as appendix 156.

The press release calling for written evidence into Maternal Morbidity was issued on 25th July 2008. The Group invited short written submissions from interested organisations and individuals with relevant experience and expertise – particularly from developing countries. The press release made specific reference to the fact that the Group was particularly interested in receiving submissions, including country case studies, which addressed any of the following issues:

- Unwanted pregnancies
- Unsafe abortions
- Prolonged obstructed labours - obstetric fistula
- Eclampsia and pre eclampsia
- Haemorrhage and anaemia
- Infections including HIV
- Postnatal depression

The press release was sent via e-mail lists (EuroNGO world and euro pop lists, Bond (UK NGO) list, UK AIDS consortium list, DfID select committee list, Population and Sustainability Network (PSN) list and Irssc list). The press release and personalised letters were also sent to targetted organisations and individuals.

Please find enclosed press release calling for written evidence, sample of personalised letters sent out and the list of organisations and individuals the press release and letters were sent to as appendix 157.

58 organisations submitted written evidence and committee members short-listed 21 organisations to give oral evidence.

Please find enclosed shortlist for oral evidence, sample letter sent to organisations short-listed to give oral evidence and thank you letters sent to organisations that were not short-listed with outline of Hearings as appendix 158.

The Parliamentary Hearings were held over two full days on 8th and 9th of December 2008. Hearing committee members and other APPG on PD&RH members, including Baroness Flather, Baroness Thomas and Baroness Northover, questioned expert witnesses on Maternal Morbidity. Verbatim transcripts were recorded and checked for accuracy with witnesses prior to being made available on the Group’s website.

All written and oral evidence can be found on the Group’s website: www.appg-popdevrh.org.uk

Please find enclosed drafted questions for panel members prepared in response to written evidence submitted as appendix 159.

In order to bring in at least two Eastern European APPGs on PD&RD secretariats for briefing and capacity building, with a particular emphasis on how to prepare and conduct Parliamentary Hearings and how to use the Hearing Reports as Parliamentary Advocacy tools, the advisor agreed to be a resource person at the IPPF European Network training workshop on advocacy in Brussels on 29th October 2008.

IPPF Member Associations from approximately 12 Eastern European and Central Asian countries attended. Member Associations interested in further capacity building were advised to contact advisor.
Please find enclosed conference agenda and advisor’s PowerPoint presentation as appendix 160.

At the same time an e-mail was sent to all Chairs and Secretariats of Eastern European Parliamentary Groups on Population and Development enquiring about their interest in parliamentary advocacy capacity building with particular reference to Parliamentary Hearings. Please find enclosed e-mail invitation as appendix 161.

Malahat Ibrahimgizi Hasanova MP, Chair of the Azerbaijan APPG on PD&RH and Dr Demet İşik, Executive Committee Member, Turkish Association for Family Planning showed an interest and were selected to attend. They both observed the two full days Parliamentary Hearings and participated in a workshop the following day on Parliamentary Hearings, organised and prepared by the advisor of the Group. Two luncheon meetings were also organised between Malahat Ibrahimgizi Hasanova MP, Dr Demet Isik and Baroness Tonge and Christine McCafferty MP to discuss Parliamentary Hearings and advocacy. Both the Hearings and the workshop created interest and questions from the two Eastern European participants. Correspondence and support has continued following the workshop and the Group has received thank you letters from both guests.

Malahat Ibrahimgizi Hasanova MP has been busy introducing a draft law on reproductive health including family planning in Azerbaijan and in April 2009 held a National Parliamentary Forum on Youth Reproductive Health and Rights with support from UNFPA. Please find enclosed e-mail communications and newsletter on Azerbaijan Group as appendix 162.

In February 2009 a study was organised to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in collaboration with Marie Stopes International (15th - 20th February) as discussed under the study tour section.

Christine McCafferty MP and Sandra Gidley MP met with representatives from the UK and DFID, African Union Commission, Reproductive Health Parliamentary Group, MSI and the Ministry of Health and also visited NGO and Government health facilities, including the famous Fistula repair hospital in Addis Ababa.

On 29th September 2008 and 12th January 2009 Baroness Tonge and advisor met with Carol Bradford, Consultant on SRHR and editor of previous Group Hearing reports to discuss the outline and editing of the Maternal Morbidity Hearing Report.
Please find enclosed Editor’s Terms of Reference as appendix 163.

Please find enclosed Report outline prepared as appendix 164.

The Report was written between January – March 2009. Several draft reports were prepared, discussed and edited by committee members at committee meetings and via e-mail communications.

After lengthy debates, the Group decided on the Hearings title: “Better off Dead?” In response to Baroness Tonge’s provocative question that some of the women suffering lifetime morbidities might be better off dead?

The final layout and design of the Hearing Report was prepared by Yumi Kohsaka, a freelance designer in collaboration with Hearing committee members during April 2009.

In the Spring of 2009 a Hearing sub-committee was established with representation from the White Ribbon Alliance to prepare the media strategy and report launch in the HoC.

In order to raise the profile of Maternal Health and The Hearing Report launch on 6th May, members tabled the following PQs:

**PQ 1: Chris McCafferty MP**: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to ensure that his Department’s provision for strengthening government health systems in developing countries meets the needs of women and girls in those countries.

**Mr. Ivan Lewis MP (PUSS for ID)**: The Department for International Development’s (DFID) approach to strengthening health systems seeks to diagnose critical problems and identify needs for strengthening in each country. This enables us to design the best response and set appropriate priorities, including assessing the needs of women and girls, their use of services and any barriers they face. There may be a need for targeted services or approaches to reach specific groups, such as reproductive health services for adolescent girls. DFID also recognises that monitoring the implementation and results of health systems strengthening needs a gender dimension to see if strategies are working.

Progress on strengthening health systems in poor countries is also vital if we are to accelerate progress towards achieving the maternal health millennium development goal. This is why, along with UN health agencies and a wide range of donors and country partners, DFID has championed the International Health Partnership designed to strengthen health systems and improve in-country donor coordination. To help ensure that investments in health systems reach women and children we are working with countries to help remove barriers that stop poor people using health services. This includes support to countries to remove health user fees so that services for children and pregnant women are free at the point of use. 11th February 2009

**PQ 2: Sandra Gidley MP**: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce maternal morbidity in developing countries.

**Mr. Ivan Lewis MP (PUSS for ID)**: Reducing maternal ill-health is the most off-track MDG and therefore a priority in DFID’s country and global-level work. DFID has committed to spend £6 billion up to 2015 on health systems strengthening. The UK strategy has four priorities: Advocacy: Scaling-up evidence-based interventions; addressing the social and economic barriers to maternal health and developing new knowledge.

Advocacy gives voice to disempowered and vulnerable women. Scaling-up expands health services and the availability of neglected high impact interventions, safe abortion and contraception. We also invest in increasing girls’ education, improving women’s rights and increasing research capacity in developing countries. 16th March 2009

**Debate 1: Baroness Flather**: At the International Development debate Baroness Flather said:

“One woman dies every minute from pregnancy-related issues. Globally, 41 per cent of pregnancies are unwanted. The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and
Reproductive Health held some Hearings on maternal morbidity, or illnesses related to pregnancy. It is difficult to quantify exactly, but almost 20 women suffer from pregnancy-related illnesses for every woman who dies.

“If you save mothers, you improve the chances of children”.

That is a quotation from Sarah Brown. It is self-evident but, unfortunately, it is not always followed. There is a direct correlation between high fertility and high child mortality, states the UN Economic Commission on Africa.

The ability of women to control their own fertility is absolutely fundamental to women’s empowerment and equality; states the UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. Between 2002 and 2008, the Bush Administration withheld a total of $235 million from UNFPA and the Administration is still spending money in Africa on teaching abstinence to young people.” 12th March 2009

Please find enclosed debate as appendix 165.

Return of the Population Growth Factor – Its impact upon the Millennium Development Goals, 2007

The Group continue to promote the January 2007 Hearing Report: ‘Return of the Population Growth Factor and its impact upon the MDGs’ in relevant parliamentary debates, national and international consultations and at conferences.

Population continues to rise on the political agenda with stronger linkages to climate change, migration and poverty eradication.

Christine McCafferty MP and Richard Ottaway MP promoted the Report at the Ditchley Foundation conference on 29th – 31st May as described in the conference section. Richard Ottaway MP also presented the Report on 26th June 2008 to the Irish APPG on Population and Development.

The Report was referenced and enclosed with advocacy letters sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown MP and Douglas Alexander MP, SS for ID on 21st April 2008 prior to the ECOSOC 2008 High Level Segment on MDG 7 and enclosed as written evidence to the consultation with Global Stakeholders in preparation for the round table on Environmental Sustainability at the UN High Level Event on the MDGs on 25th September.

Please find enclosed cover letter as appendix 166.

In addition the Group referenced the Report at the MDG blog for the occasion of the High-Level event on MDGs in September 2008.

With support from PSN the Executive Summary and Main Report Graphs have been updated this year and will be launched July 2009.

Various inquiries and requests for the Report has also been forthcoming including from Andrea Dale, Editorial Assistant, CRC Press-Taylor & Francis Group, LLC who requested information on report figures from Hearing Report and Christian Aid made general enquiries in relation to the report.

Please find enclosed correspondence as appendix 167.


Since “The Missing Link” Report was published in 2004, the advantages of linking SRHR and HIV/AIDS, policies, services and programmes, have become commonly accepted amongst both the SRHR and the HIV/AIDS sector.

The Group is hoping that that newly elected US President Obama and his Administration will further promote the linkages between SRHR and HIV/AIDS, especially via its new US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) strategy.

**FGM, 2000**
The Group continue to respond to FGM Hearing inquiries and press for stronger monitoring of FGM via PQs as noted under the PQ section.
APPG PD&RH PUBLICATIONS

**Activity Reports**
Annual Activity Reports have been published every year since 1993/1994 to present year and can been found on the Group’s website.

**Hearings/Surveys/Reports**

The Well-Spent Pound - an assessment of AID Agency priorities for population activities NGO Review 1993

Women's Rights and Sexual Health, Report of Consultations held with agencies involved in women's issues, 1995


Taking Young People Seriously: Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health for the Next Generation, Report of the Parliamentary Hearings held on 6 and 13 May 1998

Female Genital Mutilation, Report of Parliamentary Hearing and Survey on FGM, May 2000


Return of the Population Growth Factor - Its impact upon the Millennium Development Goals, January 2007 (Main Report and Executive Summary Report (translated into German and French))


**ACCOUNTS**

*Please find the Group’s audited accounts April 2008 – March 2009 enclosed as appendix 168.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFPPD</td>
<td>Asian Forum for Parliamentarians on Population and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGM</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Auto-Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>APFPD</td>
<td>Asian Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>APPG</td>
<td>All Party Parliamentary Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>APPG on PD&amp;RH</td>
<td>All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARV</td>
<td>Anti Retro Viral</td>
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<tr>
<td>BPAS</td>
<td>British Pregnancy Advisory Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Conservative</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFC</td>
<td>Catholics for Choice</td>
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<tr>
<td>CoE</td>
<td>Council of Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>DfID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>DoH</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSW</td>
<td>German Foundation for World Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECOSOC</td>
<td>UN Economic and Social Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDM</td>
<td>Early Day Motion</td>
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<tr>
<td>E&amp;P</td>
<td>Equilibres &amp; Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPF</td>
<td>European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>EuroNGO</td>
<td>European Non Governmental Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>FGM</td>
<td>Female Genital Mutilation</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIAPAC</td>
<td>International Federation of Professional Abortion and Contraception Associates</td>
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<tr>
<td>FP</td>
<td>Family Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>FPA</td>
<td>Family Planning Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>GFATM</td>
<td>Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNI</td>
<td>Gross National Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G8</td>
<td>Group of Eight - which consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK, and the US</td>
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<tr>
<td>HFE</td>
<td>Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Bill)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HFEA</td>
<td>Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immune Virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>HoC</td>
<td>House of Commons</td>
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<tr>
<td>HoL</td>
<td>House of Lords</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPV</td>
<td>Human Papilloma Virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICPD</td>
<td>International Conference on Population and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>International Development</td>
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<td>IPPF</td>
<td>International Planned Parenthood Federation</td>
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<td>IPU</td>
<td>Inter Parliamentary Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISP</td>
<td>Institutional Strategy Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>IWD</td>
<td>International Women’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Labour</td>
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<tr>
<td>LD</td>
<td>Liberal Democrat</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSHTM</td>
<td>London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>MedFASH</td>
<td>Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSI</td>
<td>Marie Stopes International</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non Governmental Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NICE</td>
<td>National Institute for Clinical Excellence</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIPD</td>
<td>Non Invasive Prenatal Diagnosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODA</td>
<td>Official Development Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMTCT</td>
<td>Prevention of Maternal to Child Transmission of HIV</td>
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<tr>
<td>PoA</td>
<td>Programme of Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>PQ</td>
<td>Parliamentary Question</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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Appendix 4: Action for Global Health report launch invitations to speak, event invitation, letter to MPs, report front and contents page, chair’s draft speech and communications relating to the event.

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