

Coalition Statement Opposing the Confirmation of Mike Pompeo

April 4th, 2018

We, the undersigned organizations committed to diplomacy, reproductive rights, and human rights, oppose the confirmation of Mike Pompeo to the position of Secretary of State of the U.S. Department of State. His extensive record as a Member of Congress makes clear his opposition to reproductive rights and human rights. Mr. Pompeo's confirmation to the position of Secretary of State would endanger both the reputation and credibility of the United States of America, and do nothing to end the rapid devolution of women's rights and human rights within the State Department.

Mr. Pompeo's legislative record illustrates his hostility towards women, girls, LGBTI people, young people, and their sexual and reproductive health and rights. During his six years as a Representative of Kansas' 4th District, Mr. Pompeo established a record in opposition to women's rights and health — casting dozens of anti-women's health votes. He cosponsored so-called "personhood" legislation that would make abortion illegal nationwide in almost all cases and ban some of the most common forms of contraception, stem-cell research, and in vitro fertilization. He has also repeatedly voted for a ban on abortion after 20 weeks and has voted to defund Planned Parenthood health centers.

Mr. Pompeo has consistently voted for legislation that includes the harmful Global Gag Rule, which bans overseas health clinics from receiving U.S. aid if they use their own, non-U.S. funds to provide legal abortion services, give referrals, or even advocate for abortion-related laws. This is particularly relevant to his nomination to be Secretary of State, given that the Secretary is tasked with leading the implementation and enforcement of President Trump's massively expanded Global Gag Rule. He also cosponsored legislation to eliminate funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the principal multilateral organization that works to advance family planning and reproductive health around the world.

Beyond his extreme votes and positions on reproductive rights specifically, Mr. Pompeo has a poor human rights record. Through his actions and rhetoric, Mr. Pompeo has consistently undermined a wide range of human rights, including defending the use of torture, promulgating anti-Muslim rhetoric, discriminating against LGBTI communities, and opposing access to abortion, even in the case of rape. He has expressed opposition to principles of non-discrimination and LGBTI rights, including opposing the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and calling the 2015 *Obergefell* ruling on marriage equality a "shocking abuse of power." Mr. Pompeo's animosity towards LGBTI people is deeply inconsistent with continued State Department policy, which, even under the Trump Administration, has worked to combat violence and discrimination against LGBTI people abroad as part of U.S. foreign policy. With such an extensive and controversial history, it is unlikely he will be able to operate with credibility and engender the good faith necessary to work as the United States' primary, and foremost, diplomat.

To preserve America's global standing and advance its national interests, the U.S. Secretary of State should champion human rights and continue to promote global development and diplomacy. Effective, enduring, and fruitful diplomatic relationships are established and sustained through tireless engagement that must include respect for all persons. Nominating an individual with such an extensive record counter to those values would only hinder diplomacy, development, and security efforts. **We request you vote NO on Mr. Pompeo's confirmation.**

Signed,

1. 9to5, National Association of Working Women
2. Advocates for Youth
3. African American Ministers In Action
4. American Jewish World Service
5. Athlete Ally
6. Bailey House, Inc.
7. Bangladesh Model Youth Parliament
8. Barnabas Charity Outreach
9. Beyond the Bomb
10. CADIRE CAMEROON ASSOCIATION
11. Catholics for Choice
12. Center for Biological Diversity
13. Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
14. CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
15. Equality North Carolina
16. Feminist Majority Foundation
17. Fundacion para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer -FEIM-
18. GirlForward
19. GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
20. Global Rights for Women
21. Global Woman P.E.A.C.E. Foundation
22. Health Global Access Project
23. Human Rights Campaign
24. International Women's Health Coalition
25. Ipas
26. JAGO NARI, Bangladesh.
27. Lambda Legal
28. Legal Momentum, The Women's Legal Defense Fund
29. Medical Students for Choice
30. NARAL Pro-Choice America
31. National Abortion Federation
32. National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
33. National Black Justice Coalition
34. National Center for Lesbian Rights
35. National Center for Transgender Equality
36. National Council of Jewish Women
37. National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH)
38. National Organization for Women
39. OutRight Action International
40. OutServe-SLDN
41. PAI
42. Peace X Peace
43. People For the American Way
44. Planned Parenthood Federation of America

45. Population Connection Action Fund
46. Population Council
47. Population Institute
48. Prevention Access Campaign
49. Promundo-US
50. Rainbow Pride Foundation
51. Religious Institute
52. Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)
53. The Global Forum on MSM & HIV
54. Transgender Law Center
55. Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
56. Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights
57. Win Without War
58. Witness to Mass Incarceration
59. Women Thrive Alliance
60. Women's Refugee Commission
61. Woodhull Freedom Federation