

U.N.G.A.A.G

United Network: Global Alliance Against the Gag

Senior Capstone Project for W.I.L.L.

The College of New Jersey

Spring 2007

Noha Aljawhary ♦ Jen Butch ♦ Blakely Decktor ♦ Aida Figuero

Brittany Graf ♦ Brittany Hammer ♦ Syd Herman ♦ Ginet Hernandez ♦ Hillary Hewit

Sharon Kohn ♦ Miriam Nazmy ♦ Vanessa Polizzi ♦ Linda Talarico

Dana Tallman ♦ Jess VanLiere

“Your Silence Will Not Protect You...”

What Is the Global Gag Rule?

President Bush reinstated the Global Gag Rule, officially termed the Mexico City Policy, in 2001. The policy bars U.S. family planning assistance to foreign non-governmental organizations that, with their own, non-U.S. funds, engage in abortion-related activities in their own countries. It is designed to prevent these groups from providing abortion information and care to women, and from engaging in advocacy to change abortion law and policy, even if they are using their own funds. Any NGOs who refuse to comply with these restrictions lose U.S. family planning monetary assistance and access to effective birth control methods. The Global Gag Rule isolates and stigmatizes family planning services worldwide, resulting in extreme loss of funds for AIDS/HIV testing and treatment, women’s access to contraceptives, sexual healthcare, education, and counseling. The Global Gag Rule is an example of how the United States has put ideology before reality and valid health policy. Simply put, the Global Gag Rule is *undemocratic*.

And the Affect On Women?

Without access to safe abortions, contraceptives, education, and healthcare treatments, many women will suffer and many will die. Birth control methods and access to family planning services enable women to protect themselves from AIDS/HIV, unwanted pregnancy, diseases, and unsafe, fatal abortions. Developing countries in particular are highly dependent on the U.S. for family planning funds. AIDS/HIV and maternal death are the two highest leading causes of death in women of developing countries.

Additionally, the problems associated with limited family planning services in turn cause the Earth’s population to steadily increase. The Earth’s growing population accelerates the negative consequences of global warming. Greater populations of people means greater use of fossil fuels, more carbon emissions, and an even larger overall contribution to the climate crisis known as global warming. Through an elimination of the Global Gag Rule and giving women their rightful access to improved family planning services including access to safe abortions, we can improve the lives of women, as well as help slow the deterioration of the Earth.



The Plan

Goal

To raise awareness about the Global Gag Rule, its detrimental impact on women, and the restrictions placed on access to family planning services worldwide.

Objectives

- ◆ Have an event that raises awareness on campus and leaves a lasting impression
- ◆ Provide information on campus, such as flyers or pamphlets, reporting on the harsh impact of this U.S. policy
- ◆ Petition legislators and contact policymakers against the Global Gag Rule
 - ◆ Raise funds to support *The Global Gag Rule Impact Project*

Mission Statement: Recognizing the historic leadership role of the United States in supporting voluntary family planning and related health care internationally, the project's objective is to document the effects of the Global Gag Rule on the availability of life-saving family planning services, as well as efforts to address other major threats to public health, including HIV/AIDS and maternal deaths due to unsafe abortion

Timeline

Week One: March 8th

- ◆ Join committees
- ◆ Discuss goals
- ◆ Generate and fuse ideas
- ◆ Set dates for events

(March 12th – 18th: Spring Break!)

Week Two: March 22nd

- ◆ Share work completed thus far
- ◆ Decide on project name, logo, t-shirt design
- ◆ Discuss fundraising idea
- ◆ Share website information to be used
- ◆ Place t-shirt order
- ◆ For Global Gag Group, choose weekly readings

Week Three: March 29th

- ◆ Project plan first drafts due

- ◆ Pieces e-mailed to website committee
- ◆ Finished pamphlets, posters, banners
- ◆ Procure condoms for distribution
- ◆ Newspaper ad written and submitted to Signal (should run between April 5th and 14th)
- ◆ Tables reserved in Eickhoff (for April 17th) and Brower Student Center (for April 19th)
- ◆ Movie (“Access Denied”) purchased and television reserved for screening

Week Four: April 5th

- ◆ Website uploaded
- ◆ Facebook/Myspace invites sent out
- ◆ Campus organizations e-mailed for participation
- ◆ Petition finalized
- ◆ T-shirts finished
- ◆ Establish tabling schedules

Week Five: April 12th (catch-up day! Tie up loose ends, work on journals, revise drafts to be sent in for handbook)

- ◆ Hang up first banner (15th – 21st)

Week Six: April 17th and 19th

- ◆ Tabling: 4:00 pm-8:00 pm on the 17th in Eickhoff, 11:00 am-3:00 pm on the 19th in Brower Student Center
- ◆ Set up 30 minutes before table
- ◆ Hang up second banner (22nd – 28th)
- ◆ Reflection!

Week Seven: April 26th

- ◆ Teary goodbye (until WILL graduation!)

Minutes

Recording minutes is an excellent way of maintaining organization. We designated one secretary whose responsibility was to take extensive notes each class, and then e-mail those notes to the list on SOCS. By doing this, every group member had access to the day's accomplishments, important dates, and basic information concerning our project. Whether it is the responsibility of one or several class members, this undertaking was essential in the management of our project as a whole.

03-08-2007

WGS 496: Leadership and Social Change

Remember: Rough draft of project plan due 03-29

- This is an individual assignment in which you write about your particular component of the project
- Explain the who, what, where of your section
- All together, papers will form our class' handbook
- Make them look and sound professional!

- Core group breaks down project into the following components (these are not isolated from one another!):

1. Networking: on and off campus connections; Prism, Planned Parenthood, Facebook, Myspaceetc.
2. Website: set-up, graphics, editing and posting sections, etc.
3. Publicity: posters, flyers, banners, Signal article, Gag Day(s), tabling, film, etc.

Committees (not written in stone, will overlap!):

Publicity: Sharon, Syd, Dana, Jess, Miriam, Jen, Ginet

Website: Brit, Hilary, Brittany, Aida, Linda, Vanessa

Networking: Noha, Blakeley, Linda, Vanessa, Lauren

- Incorporating "Go Green"

- Advertise Global Warming awareness on website, at table on Gag Day, on our fliers, etc.
- Broadens our target audience!
- Recycled paper for fliers?
- Be sure to sign up for "green" on committee sheet to be passed around

- Website issues

- BUY website (will be reimbursed)
- Need disclaimer so as to negate involvement with the College
- WHO knows how to make one? Mac programs (Syd and Brittany H.)
- Make is simple, easy to access information, examples of letters to legislators linked, etc.

- **Check out last years project for insights into website construction**

EVENTS

1.) Website

2.) Gag Day(s): publicize first!

- Eickhoff 4:00-8:00 on 04-17, Student Center 11:00-3:00 on 04-19
- “Day of Silence” with mouth covered and handout that accompanies (check with Prism to see if this is okay)
- Sell/give out arm bands for individuals to wear on day
- Incorporate Facebook, WILL, people with any interest

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Website:

- Layout: **Brit and Brittany**
- Written information: **Jess**
- Politician information, letter templates: **Vanessa, Aida**
- Voting, presidential candidates, policy: **Vanessa, Aida**
- Links to organizations: **Blakeley**
- MySpace, Facebook: **Lauren**

“Green”ness – develop website portion, how to incorporate with publicity: **Hilary, Linda**

Tabling – organization of table itself with pamphlets, armbands, etc.:

- Pamphlet
- Armbands (lime green!): **Blakeley**
- T-Shirts: **Brittany, Vanessa**
- Poster with information from website: **Miriam, Jen**
- Banner: **Dana, Syd**
- Face painting: **Ginet, Syd**
- Condoms to hand out: **Blakeley**
- Advertisement ideas/fliers: **Sharon, Noha**

Film – 04-17 and 04-19: **Miriam, Jen**

****Need to break down tasks BY WEEK, what needs to get done by WHEN**

How do we combine Go Green and Gag?

- Icon of pregnant woman (Earth) with mouth covered? Seek Jen Braverman’s help?
- Hand stamp? Stamp on posters? Banners?
- Colors: Green and Maroon

****Over Spring Break...DO AS MUCH AS YOU CAN! Be prepared to share progress on
03-22
Read Gag Rule Information provided by the group!

03-22-2007

WGS 496: Leadership and Social Change

Remember: Rough draft of project plan due NEXT CLASS! Be sure to discuss your particular portion of the project in detail, and look at past handbooks for help/inspiration.

** Global Gag Group needs to select readings for remainder of classes (journal entries for the second half of the semester will correspond to those articles)

- Logo Issues:

- Slogan: “Our Bodies, Our Children, Our World”
- Shirts: one color \$4.90, \$20 for a screen; two colors \$7.10
- \$10-15 per girl; are we going to buy more to sell during Gag Day?
- Mock up needed for next class – different styles, captions, etc. (Vanessa?)
- Send logo to Dana and Syd for banners

- New Saying: UN-GAAG (United Network: Global Alliance Against the Gag) Thanks Aida!

- Website has been started!

- Brit will send link for us to view it
- If you have pictures of International women, send to Brit to be put on website
- Needed: 1.) WILL summary, a “who we are” synopsis for potential viewers 2.) A volunteer to purchase website space with a card (you **will** be reimbursed) 3.) Disclaimer negating TCNJ’s involvement with our website 4.) “Our Story”: how we will inspire activism on other campuses
- No message board!
- Myspace-impact: form an account?

- Video: “Access Denied” DVD

- Reserve for outside (projector) but prepare for inside (laptop) on both the 17th and the 19th

- Green:

- Check out the Sierra Club website (www.sierraclub.org/population/global_warming.asp) for fact sheets, activism ideas, etc.; contact in order to use link on our website
- Connect two ideas using the family planning angle

- Plants: shout out to Vanessa for finding them wholesale! (MVP of today’s meeting by the way)

- Options for selling plants: at table, make list and then buy (a la Girl Scout cookies), advertise in residential buildings and give CA’s order forms.

- 5 different plants recommended for sale: Butterfly (pack of 9) for \$6, Gardenia (pack of 6) for \$8.50, African Violets (pack of 15) for \$2.60, Spring Ceramic Ivy (pack of 12) for \$4.50, Jade for \$6
- 6" pots at most (great for dorms!)

- Environment friendly advertising:

- We have to use 22" x 20" paper, 10 cents per copy, must be stamped, and hang for 30 days or for one day after the program (whichever comes first)
- There are other ways to SAVE on paper: passive programming, chalking, WTSR

- Armbands:

- Lime green
- Logo: iron on, transfer paper?

- Stamp: green ink on posters, hands, flyers, etc.

- Tabling: will include facepainting, armbands, letters, pamphlets, a laptop for movie/website (depending on weather), plants, and the poster (basic information, country specifics, how to get involved)

03-29-2007

WGS 496: Leadership and Social Change

**Concerning weekly readings...please resend list to the rest of the class! Also, "Green" group is more than welcome to contribute their own readings to the list as we are incorporating their ideas in our project.

- Projector issues: in order to view we need a screen, projector, and a DVD player
 - This is too much of a distraction in BSC, detracts from our project
 - Plans to meet Dana Matlock of Auxillary Services are in effect
 - If it becomes necessary to choose, we will opt for an indoor viewing and use a TV

- Passive programming is a go; no charge!
 - Will post in Travers, Wolfe, and Cromwell
 - Table tents in BSC and Eickhoff
 - Plans to collaborate Green advertising with passive programming (cardboard?)

- Write-Ups:
 - Green portion has been handed in for review
 - Other sections still needed?

- Condoms: need more!
- Armbands: will use transfer paper to put logo on fabric
- First banner has been approved for the location above the Café; second request form handed in and we are waiting approval
- Pamphlet: rough draft created! Any additional information to be added, see Ginet!

- Signal:
 - We want to get somebody to cover the event
 - Need to e-mail editor concerning an article; needed for the week of April 11th, must submit by April 6th
 - Must remember to coordinate website launch with the article so readers can view what we've done

- Shirt:
 - One color (two is too expensive)
 - We need to decide on layout! Must include UN-GAAG, logo, and website
 - Vanessa will e-mail designs and we'll vote

04-05 Minutes

WGS 496: Leadership and Social Control

- T-shirts are ordered; still need design!
- Recycled paper is in for both pamphlets and fliers
- Activism portion of website has been handed in
 - Includes “how to be green” and related websites for taking action
- Green portion of website has been handed in
- Resources portion of website has been reformatted
 - Have chosen Planned Parenthood International as the recipients of our donations (Plants? Paypal? Any other ideas?)
- TV is all set for the Student Center viewing (April 19th); still working on Eickhoff (laptop instead?)
 - DVD is in
- Poster for tabling is complete
- Tables have been reserved for the 19th; sign up sheet for Gag Day to be passed around, choose any 2-hour block that works for you
- Pamphlet now includes new logo; still needs “green” info
- Policy portion of website has been handed in
- Signal: issues with responses; neither the Editors of the paper itself (signal@tcnj.edu) have responded
 - Sharon and Jess will work together to fix it
 - Will send Gag Day information to the writers of “This Week @ TCNJ” to be sent out to all TCNJ students and faculty
- Passive Programming:
 - Cardboard for posters has been obtained
 - ResLife has allowed us to create a bulletin board in Wolfe Hall about the Global Gag; when we need to compete this by is still unknown
- Mock fliers printed; will send to Graphic Design to produce more eye-catching photos
 - Are going to print small pamphlets to put in condiments baskets in dining halls (more effective and less troublesome than table tents)
- Politician portion of website has been handed in
- Armband fabric is purchased, cut, and need to be decorated
 - Have a “decorate your armband” day before the 19th?
- Website will be under a .mac name
 - Format is awesome!
 - New e-mail address for UN-GAAG: ungag@gmail.com
 - April 12th is the day set for the launch

04-12-2007

WGS 496: Leadership and Social Change

- Tabling schedule has been sent via e-mail
 - Issues with Eickhoff tabling: policy states that you must reserve the table two weeks in advance, nowhere on the website does it say this so we do not have access to tables and chairs for the 17th
 - Will ask Sodexo managers to donate table and chairs
 - Will also contact Kevin Minich (ARD of Eickhoff)

- Pamphlets will be printed this weekend
- Mary Lynn will send out information about the 17th and 19th via the WGS and WILL lists; make sure to send her flier information!
- Have added website and event information to Facebook group
 - Everybody (with a profile): make sure to add information about Gag Day to your profile and change pictures to the logo!

- Website looks AWESOME!
- The first banner is complete and ready to be put up; still awaiting word from Campus Activities concerning the second banner
- Cromwell lounge has been reserved for the 18th, 8:00pm – 12:00am for armband decorating
- T-Shirts: the logo has been sent to our contact
 - Should arrive by Tuesday
 - Remember to pay \$10 for the shirt!

- Plants will be sold at tables (Girl Scout Cookie ordering style)
 - Need location for students to pick up plants (Bliss Lounge? WILL office?)

- Hand in any receipts to Mary Lynn for a full refund
- Journals: of the 5 entries for this half of the semester 2 can be reflections on some aspect of the project, 3 on readings
- Essay, journals, and handbook are due on the last day of class (April 26th)
 - Groups (Publicity, Campus, Website) need to summarize responsibilities and send to Syd to add to the Handbook

*** Be sure to go over readings before tabling this coming week! Jess will be drafting a fact sheet with basic questions and answers people may ask.

Organization

This is an essential component of any activism project. Breaking down the class into smaller groups ensures that all facets of the project are covered, and not to mention it prevents unnecessary chaos. We split the seminar into the following groups with respective duties listed below:

Networking

- ◆ Establish internet connections (facebook, myspace, e-mail networks on campus)
- ◆ Community and campus networks
- ◆ Contact elected officials
- ◆ Petition

Website

- ◆ Building site
- ◆ Writing and posting each section (home page, disclaimer, general information, politicians, links, “go green”, activism, international effects)
- ◆ Collecting graphics
- ◆ Editing
- ◆ Launching

Publicity

- ◆ Fliers
- ◆ Signal Ad
- ◆ Armbands
- ◆ Fundraising and “freebies”
- ◆ Banner
- ◆ T-Shirts
- ◆ Poster
- ◆ Movie
- ◆ Tabling

As our project is serving a dual purpose by encouraging an overall “greener” outlook on life, each organization was sure to remain environmentally conscious through the process of the project:

Ideas for Greening Activism

Linda Talarico and Hillary Hewit

Eco-Friendly Alternatives

- **Recycled paper.** If your school does not already use recycled paper draw attention to the issue and advocate for change meanwhile make an effort to go out and buy your own paper if possible.
- **Recycled materials.** Get creative with your advertising, consider using recycled materials (e.g. milk cartons, cereal boxes) for bulletin boards and table tents.
- **Recycled and energy efficient products.** Do your research before making a purchase and try to choose energy efficient products whenever possible.
- **Take the time to table.** Tabling may take your time and energy but it is certainly more efficient than many alternatives.
- **Design a stamp.** Instead of printing a logo or website to put on related materials have a rubber stamp made, it is reusable and saves paper.

Utilize Electronic Resources

- **Create a website.** Instead of printing up flyers and pamphlets save paper by directing people to your website for more information. For an even more energy efficient project use a 100% renewable energy hosting company like sustainablehosting.com.
- **Use electronic messaging and online networks.** Another great way to get the word out without distributing printed materials is to send invitations electronically. E-invites via email to friends or on mass through online social networks like Facebook or MySpace may very well prove more effective than conventional methods.
- **Utilize green search engines.** Search engines like greenmaven.com search for eco-friendly products and services like recycled paper and renewable energy web hosting.
- **Generate an online petition.** More effective and more efficient than form letters online petitions save on time and paper, plus the internet makes it easy to access.

Additional Ideas to Keep in Mind

- **Reuse and Recycle paper after you print.** Either put copies straight into the recycling bin when you're done with them or even better, flip the paper over and use the back of the sheet first.
- **Turn your computer off.** Turn off your computer when you can or at least the monitor whenever you are not using it.
- **Call, email, or check online first.** Driving around aimlessly wastes gas, comparison shop online and call the store to find out if they have what you need in advance.
- **Compare energy consumption when making a purchase.** Make it a priority with whatever you're purchasing from light bulbs to computers to do your research, take the time to look for energy saving alternatives.

As you read the process by which we carried out our project, you will see exactly how we utilized many of these aspects in hopes of maintaining an eco-friendly methodology for activism.

Networking

Making Connections

Lauren Fradella

The Internet can provide your project the tools necessary for increasing visibility and awareness, especially through the utilization of high-interest websites targeted at the student community. *Facebook* and *Myspace*, two of the most popular and widely used social utilities, made it easy for us to network to thousands of people as well as access other resources and information. *Facebook* is an especially useful tool for making campus connections. By making a group, people from all schools and areas in the network were able to join, gain access to information, post on the discussion board, and be informed of upcoming events. *Myspace Impact* also provided us with the opportunity to network, as well as provided links to activist websites, ways to make a global difference, and provides information on candidates and upcoming elections. Not only are these websites easily accessible, they are simple ways of connecting not only to your peers but a much larger and diverse audience than one may find on campus. The links are below:

www.facebook.com

www.myspace.com

www.impact.myspace.com

Make connections with community and campus organizations can provide your project with necessary donations (pamphlets, fliers, condoms, etc.), resources (Global Gag Rule Impact Project Movie), and suggestions and activism toolkits.

Contacts we made and resources we used are as follows:

The Global Gag Rule

Access Denied <http://www.globalgagrule.org/>

A very enlightening website on the Global Gag Rule, providing information on its impact on affected countries and ways that you can get involved and make change in your community.

The Center for Reproductive Law and Policy <http://www.reproductiverights.org/>

Provides a wealth of information on the Global Gag Rule as well as explanations of the effects of the policy worldwide. CRLP has filed suit against President Bush for censoring the speech of Americans under the gag rule. You can sign an online petition urging President Bush to repeal the policy, or fill out a brief questionnaire on how the gag rule may affect your organization.

Reproductive Health and Sexual Rights

The Alan Guttmacher Institute <http://www.agi-usa.org/>

The Institute seeks to advance sexual and reproductive health and generate new ideas, encourage public debate, and promote progressive policy and program development.

EngenderHealth <http://www.engenderhealth.org/about/index.html>

Works to improve the health and well-being of people in the poorest communities of the world, by sharing expertise in sexual and reproductive health and transforming the quality of health care.

International Planned Parenthood Federation <http://www.ippf.org/en/>

Works with member associations throughout the world and is one of the few organizations that have refused to sign the Global Gag Rule. This site includes an online petition, questions and answers about the policy and many links, commentaries, and news alerts.

New Jersey Planned Parenthood Affiliates <http://www.plannedparenthoodnj.org/>

Planned Parenthood Mercer County <http://www.ppmercer.org/>

IPAS <http://www.ipas.org/english/>

This comprehensive website provides information on the organization's efforts to increase women's ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights and to reduce deaths and injuries of women from unsafe abortion all around the world.

Pathfinder International <http://www.pathfind.org/site/PageServer>

Provides women, men and adolescents in the developing world with access to quality family-planning services. Take action by joining the group's e-mail action network and becoming a "Pathfinder for Policy."

Population Action International <http://actionnetwork.org/popaction/home.html>

This website makes it simple for you to contact elected officials when they are making important decisions that affect people and families around the world.

The Environment

Sierra Club <http://www.sierraclub.org/>

This website explores ways that people can take action to help save our environment. It also provides information on the devastating effects of Global Warming.

Save Our Environment <http://www.saveourevironment.org/>

The national coalition works to harness the power of the internet to increase public awareness and activism on today's most imperative environmental issues.

The College of New Jersey

Office of Anti-Violence Initiatives <http://www.tcnj.edu/%7Ewellness/antiviolence/>

Seeks to create a campus environment conducive to victims reporting assaults/abuse and accessing resources needed for healing, while perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

PRISM <http://www.tcnj.edu/~prism/>

The gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered students' union.

Voices for Planned Parenthood @ TCNJ <http://www.tcnj.edu/~vox/>

Student organization dedicated to educating the community on the services that Planned Parenthood provides.

Women in Learning and Leadership <http://www.tcnj.edu/%7Ewill/>

W.I.L.L provides active learning opportunities that empower women as leaders, fosters a deeper understanding of women's roles and contributions to society, and offers opportunities for women to investigate career and life choices.

The Women's Center <http://www.tcnj.edu/%7Ewmncentr/>

Provides information and support about the following issues: feminism, violence against women, sexual abuse, empowerment, and community development

Networking

Voter Guide Blakeley Decktor

In addition to making connections to the campus and community, there proves an even greater need to explore those institutions that greater affect either the repeal or support the Global Gag rule. By contacting elected officials, individuals are breaking the silence and speaking up and out about a cause they feel very passionately about.

On our website, we have provided for viewers a voter guide which provides factual information concerning United State Legislators for choice. Listed on both the National and State levels, we have provided several charts which reveal who voted to amend the policy and who voted against this decision.

Additionally and in preparation for 2008 election, we have listed various candidates and a brief description on where they stand on relevant issues.

This information is important as it can and will be used as a resource for people to check both their individual legislator and also become aware of the political climate as a whole.

An example of a chart found on our website is provided below:

<u>US CONGRESS</u>		
DISTRICT	MEMBER	POSITION
1	Robert Andrews (D)	PRO
2	Frank LoBiondo (R)	ANTI
3	Jim Saxton (R)	ANTI
4	Chris Smith (R)	ANTI
5	Scott Garrett (R)	ANTI
6	Frank Pallone (D)	PRO
7	Mike Ferguson (R)	ANTI
8	William Pascrell (D)	MIXED
9	Steven Rothman (D)	PRO
10	Donald Payne (D)	RO
11	Rodney Frelinghuysen (R)	MIXED
12	Rush Holt (D)	PRO
13	Vacant	

All information is presented in a clear and concise manner to ensure facts are easy to understand. Resources are quoted below the charts, and are linked to original web pages so visitors can learn even more without any difficulty.

Networking

Petitioning

Vanessa Polizzi and Aida Figuero

Raising awareness means encouraging change, and we felt an affective method of doing so lies in petitioning. We believed our website to be the most effective tool for increasing the availability of the petition. Our online petition was created through www.ipetitions.com, and was then placed on our final website so signatures could be obtained from whomever and whenever. This continuous access allows for constant visibility and an unlimited potential support.

A copy of the petition as it appears on the website is featured below:

Save Women's Lives: UNGAAG

The Global Gag Rule also known as the Mexico-City Policy is an international policy which denies women and families and Non-Government Organizations the right to receive US Aid if they choose to provide information about abortion or perform abortion as a method of family planning. This is in essence a way to gag foreign countries from their right to speak about alternative methods of family planning other than abstinence by cutting off much needed funding for family planning if they do so. This is a violation of the United States democratic way. Citizen's rights in the United States include Freedom of Speech. That freedom of speech is silenced in foreign countries. Preventing the knowledge of alternative methods of family planning in these countries has detrimental effects on women's health. The World Health Organization estimates over half a million women are dying each year from preventable maternal deaths and back alley, illegal abortions because of lack of funding for international family planning and harmful restrictions like the Global Gag Rule. I urge you to release the authorized funds for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), lift the Global Gag Rule and fully fund our international family planning commitments to help women and their families with lifesaving services such as contraception, prenatal care, protection from HIV/AIDS and other reproductive health care services.

Website

What you need to know...

Brittany Graf and Brittany Hammer

United Network Global Alliance Against the Gag (UNGAAG) has created a website aimed at the enlightenment of viewers worldwide. As Global Gag Rule is a policy with transnational concerns and consequences, the purpose of our website is to provide educational and activist-based resources.

The layout of the website is as follows: Homepage, GGR definition, International Effects, Your Politicians, Links, Go Green, Take Action and Contact Us.

The mission statement is based on the original power point presentation made by the transnational group, which reads, "Please join our alliance and take action within your own school to educate your peers about the oppressive force our government currently places upon the reproductive rights and overall health of the global community.

Pressure our political leaders to enact laws which truly represent our human rights ideals." Included on the Homepage is the a description of our project: "UNGAAG is the 2007 capstone project developed by the women in learning and leadership (WILL) program at The College of New Jersey in response to the Global Gag Rule. This capstone projects is the final component to the Women and Gender Studies classes and co-curricular WILL program. The UNGAAG project is intended to raise awareness about the Global Gag Rule and the pervasive harm it has caused internationally."

Our mission statement/capstone description maps out the rest of the website which incorporates six main sections or pages. First, there is a page dedicated to the definition of the global gag rule. With a brief explanation, this page incorporates important and easy to understand legislation. The International Effects page incorporates quick facts, encouraging readers to get involved with the fight against the GGR. The links page provides a plethora of resources, including over twenty organizations and websites. You Politicians is a page devoted to political awareness. With a few simple charts, this page illustrates politicians' views on the GGR. The final two pages incorporate information on the connection between the GGR and environmental issues. There are also suggestions for green activism that can help fight the GGR. We also have a Contact Us section incase there are any questions, concerns or networking inquiries.

This website was built through iWEB and a .mac account. This is a fairly easy program to use. The site was built over a few weeks in which volunteers were assigned different pages of the site. After researching and writing their sections, these documents were emailed to the web designer who then was responsible for combining artwork with information and making the website look as aesthetically pleasing and informative as possible.

We collaborated with artist and fellow WILL member Jen Braverman on the design and creation of a project logo using PhotoShop. The purpose of this logo is to portray our project mission in an empowering and eco-friendly context.



Appearance: Logo features a woman in meditation pose cradling her pregnant belly depicting the planet Earth.

Colors: Green and maroon are used to signify the merger of concerns for our bodies (maroon – WILL colors) and our world (green).

Slogan: Our bodies, Our children, Our world.

By combining the images of pregnancy, childbirth, and the world connects these issues as the Global Gag Rule undoubtedly connects them. The woman featured in the logo is *holding* the world, demonstrating that women have the *power* and *responsibility* to care for humanity and our Earth. *The world is in our hands!*

Overall, the web designing process was very interactive. This was a collaborative effort where the class commenting and helped critique the site over time. After the initial launch, there were a few additional problems (matching links, fonts, placement, colors, etc) and these were corrected.

If a future capstone class is looking to make a website, we would suggest choosing an easy web designing program and keeping as many people involved as possible. This was a major element to our project so it was important that everyone had the opportunity to contribute the final outcome.

Publicity

General Advertisement: Fliers and Ads

Noha Aljawhary and Sharon Kohn

For our Global Gag project, we needed to use a vast amount of publicity so as to bring attention to our cause. This was an essential part of the project, as it determined the success of the culminating project in the class. In order to effectively publicize on the TCNJ college campus, we must utilize all resources that we have available to our group. Ultimately, we advertised through fliers, armbands, t-shirts, fundraising and “freebees”, banners, posters, a movie, and tabling on what we would be called “Gag Day”.

Fliers are some of the most widely used means of advertisement on the TCNJ campus. However, there are strict regulations that the College uses with respect to printing and posting fliers. All fliers need to fit between the dimensions of 22x2 and the Office of Campus Activities must stamp them. Every flier must be able to be hung against corkboards that the College designates for organization publicity. All stamps of approval must be easily recognizable when the flier is displayed. Fliers may also be constructed into three-dimensional table tents and displayed in all dining halls; however, the same regulations must be followed for approval.

The maximum amount of time fliers and table tents can be displayed is 30 days from the date of approval, or one day after the date the event takes place. Unless copies will be made, only 25 fliers can be approved per day. If an organization wants to use other forms of publicity to be displayed in specific areas of the college, the organization must contact the main departmental office to request approval. If there are any more questions regarding this procedure, please contact Ms. Carol Willis, or willis@tcnj.edu in the Office of Campus Activities.

In order to “green” this section of the project, we used recycled paper for all printed materials. The paper we used for the project partially made from post-consumer waste, and then colored using dyes. We choose this paper not only for its eco-friendly property, but also for the vibrancy and general affect color has upon the appeal of our advertising as well as the pamphlets we would later hand out on “Gag Day”.

The Signal (TCNJ’S campus-run paper), the Trenton Times, and The Trentonian can also be excellent means of publicity for the event. Signal advertisements are \$70 for a half page advertisement, and \$140 for a full-page advertisement. All advertisements need to be email to signal@tcnj.edu the week before the paper in which it should be advertised is released. You could also email the Trenton Times and the Trentonian to see if they would be interested in doing press releases. Matt Golden, who is in charge of press releases for TCNJ, can be of assistance in helping your organization.

Examples of our flier and Signal ad follows:

RESIST THE GAG

UN-GAAG:

**United Network: Global Alliance Against the
Gag**

**Fight to end U.S. Restrictions on
International Family Planning**

Information Tabling in Eickhoff

April 17, 2007

4pm-8pm

***Information**



Global Gag Day

April 19, 2007

11am-3pm

BSC Atrium

***Video, petitions/letters,
face painting and arm
bands!**

**Sponsored by
the**

WGS W.I.L.L.

Senior Capstone

and

Residence Life

This flier printed on recycled paper

**Gag Order...
Gag Reflex...**



**This time, GAG
takes on a whole
new meaning.**

**UN-GAAG:
United Network:
Global Alliance
Against the Gag**

**Fight to end U.S.
Restrictions on
International
Family Planning**

Information Tabling in Eickhoff

April 17, 2007

4pm-8pm

***Information**

Global Gag Day

April 19, 2007

11am-3pm

BSC Atrium

***Letters, arm bands, video, face paint**

**Sponsored by the WGS W.I.L.L. Senior Capstone and
Residence Life**

Publicity

“Freebees”

Blakeley Decktor and Ginete Hernandez

Arm Bands allowed our group to spread the word in an entirely new way. Using simple green pieces of cloth cut into strips, we were able to wear as well as give away free advertisement. With “UNGAAG” written in black across the vibrant green, this material undoubtedly stood out on anybody’s arm and prompted the inquisitive nature of the students on the TCNJ campus. It will also be a way for many members of the college community to walk around in unity against the global gag rule.

Initially we decided to use iron-on transfer paper to transfer the name and logo onto the band. However, the logo proved too small, so the group decided to write on the armbands with black-marker and stencils. Worn by each of us, and provided for the community on the table during “Gag Day”, anybody and everybody was encouraged to pick up an armband and stand up against the Global Gag Rule.

Further encouraging interest in our cause, we procured condoms from Planned Parenthood. These served as a way to encourage students to come over to the table and in turn learn more about our cause. More importantly, these “freebees” demonstrated the kinds of resources that we take for granted, as we are people who live in the United States and have access to the healthcare that we deny other countries from accessing.

We also our information to the condom that read:

UNGAAG

United Network: Global Alliance Against the Gag
<http://web.mac.com/ungaag>

Also available at our tables were pamphlets, given away at will to students passing by. This pamphlet included general information about Global Gag Rule, why is it important, who is affected by it, what you can do to help, etc. Printed on the same recycled paper as the fliers, we used the green sheets in order to combine our efforts with those of environmental health. An example of our pamphlet has also been enclosed with the handbook.

Overall, “freebees” such as armbands and condoms are not only free and easy advertising, but they encourage students unaffiliated with our cause to learn more as well as spread the word concerning the Global Gag Rule.

Publicity

Banners

Syd Herman and Dana Tallman

WILL is often confronted with a campus whose lack of knowledge about our various causes and concerns often results in personal frustration and a need to work even harder. For that reason, it is imperative to make an event, a seminar, or even a simple fact as visible as possible. Specifically, banners are quintessential for the publicity of your particular activism project. Displaying a colorful, eye-catching sign within the Brower Student Center (BSC), the socialization capital of The College's campus, is an excellent way to spread the word. There are, however, various guidelines one must adhere to in order adequately utilize this very optimal advertising opportunity.

In order to display your class' banner, you must obtain permission from the Office of Campus Activities. Doing so requires a Banner Request Form, available at the Office on the second floor of the BSC and online at Student Activities section of the college's website. Make sure you pick up the form or forms early during the course of the project, as the process for hanging banners is dependent on time. You must submit the form at least two weeks prior to the week you wish to hang it, as such it would be rather handy to have a few stored away as soon as your class decides on their topic. Also, the sooner you hand in the form, the likelier it is you will get the spot in the Student Center you most want.

The Banner Request Form, an example attached at the end of this handbook, both asks for basic information concerning your potential advertisement as well as provides guidelines to follow in creating your banner. Be sure to read the instructions carefully as you would not want to go through all the hard work of making the banner just to have to re-do it or start from scratch. After submitting the form, you will receive e-mail confirmation that your form was received as well as whether the design was approved or rejected. Then you are free to begin your, what I am sure will be, an amazing design.

Concerning content, we found it best to create eye catching and simple banners that require no more than mere seconds to read. Too many words will be both difficult to paint as well as difficult for students rushing through BSC to take in. Bold colors and big graphics, however, are memorable and noteworthy. Include, of course, pertinent information such as days for your event, your cause (ex: the Global Gag Rule or Body Image), and or the name of your student coalition. (ex: UN-GAAG) The goal is to make an impact on students, have them ask *what* your banner means and provide the information they need so they can find out how to learn more.

In addition to advertising, we also used a banner to leave an impact even after our event was over. Having participants, WILL members, or merely passers-by sign our second banner underneath a group logo, we were able to lengthen our two-day program beyond those few dates. Our voices continued to have a profound affect upon the student center, and fellow students, faculty, and staff could not only see the numerous people we reached but also the sheer importance of our cause to that same amount of people who

took time to sign. Through our second banner, we were able to relay to everybody that UN-GAAG is not merely a class assignment, over at the culmination of the project.

Keep in mind that all purchases for this or any other aspect of the project you may receive reimbursements. Be sure so save all receipts and give them to Mary Lynn in order to receive a full refund.

Below are photographs of our first banner:



Publicity

Fundraising Vanessa Polizzi

An idea that was brought up before our second week meeting with the purpose of fundraising through plants to go along with our green friendly idea and additionally through t-shirt sales. Not only does this aspect draw attention to our cause, it allowed us to raise money for an important organization that supports the removal of the Global Gag Rule: International Planned Parenthood Inc.

The contact that provided us with plants wholesale is called:

Shamrock Gardens
Cyndi Meyer
Phone: 732-350-1011
Fax: 732-350-1202
640 Route 530
Whiting, NJ 08759

. For selling and buying purposes, an order form was created, students and faculty listed names and e-mail addresses as contact information, and then was used to place the order at Shamrock Gardens. Cash was be collected at the tabling events and Pick up will be the following week in Bliss Lounge, and an email will be sent to those where they can pick up the plants when they are ready. The plants we chose were small enough for dorm rooms, and low maintenance:

Butterfly Garden sell price \$9.00
Spring Ceramic Ivy sell price \$8.00
Jade 4 inch pot sell price \$6.00 half the size of original quote
Profit for each plant sold will be \$3.00-\$3.50 each

T-shirts afforded our group the unity and visibility necessary for the publicity of our event. This is the contact we used:

Marzy Designs
Sheryl A. Marszalek
609-637-0425
Fax: 609-406-7973
www.marzydesigns.com

Slogan: "Our Bodies, Our Children, Our World"
Shirts: one color \$4.90, \$20 for a screen; two colors \$7.10
One time screen fee \$20.00, shirt total \$4.90 per, total \$103.30
\$6.46 per person and Mary Lynn gets her shirt for free ☺
Front of shirt Logo created by Brittany and Jen Braverman
Color "safety green" 6 Large, 8 Medium, 3 small
Black Lettering, UNGAAG (font marker felt), United Network: Global Alliance against the gag (font papyrus)

Publicity

Visuals

Jen Butch and Miriam Nazmy

A vital portion of conveying the message of our project and affectively portraying the urgency and need to address the issues surrounding the Global Gag Rule will be how we visually stimulate our audience. On Gag Day, we informed the campus of this lesser known policy that affects so many foreign nations through the video “Access Denied: U.S. Family Planning Restrictions in Zambia”. This is a seven-minute video produced by Population Action International. The documentary focuses on the reproductive health programs in the country of Zambia and how they are disadvantaged because of they lack of key US assistance to its family planning agencies. The video uses real footage of natives in the country, highlighting specific stories of women that are affected by HIV as well as the horrible vaginal infections and trauma that result in the death of thousands due to improper abortions.

In order to target the largest audience possible, we have decided to play the DVD during our tabling sessions in the Eickhoff Dining Hall from 4-8PM on Tuesday, April 17 and in the Brower Student Center from 11AM-3PM on Thursday, April 19, 2007. The video will be accompanied by with pamphlets, a tri-fold, and various other items intended to draw attention. It is our hope that the film will direct traffic and interest that will cause our audience to want to learn more and become involved with this cause. In order to obtain the DVD, we ordered it from www.globalgagrule.org. The price for the DVD was \$8.00 and the price for the VHS was \$6.00. We decided on purchasing the DVD because it can be played on a variety of mediums, unlike traditional VHS. Payment will be due after the DVD or VHS has been shipped.

We also opted to construct a tri-fold that will be on display both in Eickhoff and in the Student Center. The left fold will contain a brief history of The Global Gag rule and will highlight how the policy affects HIV/AIDS prevention, statistics on deaths associated with unsafe abortions, and information about restricted access to contraceptives in countries that are affected by this policy. Our middle tri-fold will specifically highlight the country of Kenya. We will construct a timeline of how the gag rule has impacted the country’s people, clinics, and way of life. Finally, our last tri-fold will indicate ways for our audience can get involved in repealing the Global Gag Rule and raising awareness among others.

Both of these conventions are both appealing and direct attention to our table. They were essential for the publicity aspect of our project.

Publicity

Tabling

Ginet Hernandez and Jess VanLiere

The tabling portion of our project was ultimately the culmination of all our hard work. On the 17th and 19th of April, we obtained tables in Eickhoff and the Brower Student Center respectively. Bringing all the materials previously discussed, we set up and spread the word.

There are however some important things to remember. Reserving tables must be done, like most things at TCNJ, in advance. By accessing the Conference and Meeting Services page on the college website, <http://www.tcnj.edu/%7Ecms/>, we were able to reserve tables by filling out a Student, Faculty, and Staff request form under the “Reservations” section. Upon their approval, you will receive an e-mail requesting you go to their office located on the second floor of the Brower Student Center to sign a contract. Make sure this is all done in advance so you can obtain the table, time, and day you desire.

Setting up is best done at least half an hour before the beginning of the event. This gives you ample time to set up, spread out, and prepare to inspire! Remember, the more helping hands the merrier!

We found that establishing a tabling schedule ensured that every hour we had reserved was covered. Breaking the slot into one-hour intervals, we took turns as pairs at the table dispensing information and raising awareness. Pairs are ideal, as the table is still the focus and not the crowd of women behind the table and two heads are simply better than one.

In addition to all the materials discussed, we found it necessary to create a “fact sheet” so all information concerning the Global Gag Rule was fresh in our minds. Also, this provided us with points necessary to refute those who may advocate the Global Gag Rule, who are pro-life, and do not understand the link between our cause and Global Warming

This sheet has been attached to the handbook.

Broad harm done by the Global Gag Rule:

*USAID is the largest bilateral funder of family planning and reproductive health services in low-income countries, providing services to over 100 million families and up to 40% of donor contributed contraceptives to the developing world. New NGO's, three to five years old, which are the majority of groups, get their funding from USAID and are unable to obtain alternate funding.

*According to the USAID charter, the goal of USAID is to "further American foreign policy interests in expanding democracy and free markets while improving the lives of citizens of the developing world". On the contrary, Global Gag directly inhibits the democratic process through the following forms of censorship:

-In Peru, gagged NGO's are forbidden to take place in a public debate about a constitutional clause banning abortion. The same occurred in Kenya and Ethiopia. The gag rule does not allow any public debate or advocacy to change abortion law.

- In Peru, NGO's are allowed to do research on unsafe abortions but not draw conclusions or publicize results.

-In Uganda, NGO's say at gatherings they cannot associate with groups who are handing out abortion pamphlets.

*The Gag Rule silences pro-choice advocates but magnifies the voice of pro-life advocates, allowing one sided press coverage, funding, law making and misinformation imparted on the public. A 2003 study by the center For Reproductive Rights found this occurring in all sampled countries; Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Peru.

I am anti-abortion/pro-life. Why should I oppose the Global Gag?

*The global gag does not save lives, it prioritizes a fetal life over the mother's life and as a result both mother and fetus are harmed due to lack of pre-natal care and family planning services.

*From 1982 to 1994, when the first gag rule was in place, no evidence showed that it decreased the incidence of abortion. However, it drastically increased the number of deaths and injury of women and girls seeking unsafe, illegal abortions. In many cases, the person performing an illegal abortion severely damages the organs of the woman's body to the point where even reconstructive surgery cannot repair them.

*The only proven incidence of decreased abortion rates have been in countries such as the Netherlands, where family planning programs (contraception, sex education, pre and post natal care, STI and HIV testing and abortion services) have been fully funded in addition to liberal laws which allow for safe, legal abortion services.

*Women and girls have resorted to drinking poisonous herbs and detergent and in other ways utilizing sticks, catheters, powdered glass, lemon juice and cow dung to self induce abortions.

*According to the World Health Organization, almost 20 million unsafe abortions occur annually, 95% in developing countries. Of those, 70,000 women die each year.

*Abortion is legal in the US as part of a democratic ideal that respects the personal privacy of individuals. Global Gag sends a message abroad that the US is anti-abortion and supports policies which criminalize abortion. Putting women in jail for seeking or having abortions creates unsafe and unproductive conditions for women, children and families. For example, after the criminalization of abortion in Nepal, 1/5 of all women in Nepal's prisons were there because they sought or obtained an illegal abortion.

Why should the US spend money on family planning overseas?

* UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) is part of the UN which helps organize and implement family planning programs, including those which use USAID funds. The inception of UNFPA in 1969, led to the following successes:

-infant mortality rates AND birth rates in developing countries have dropped nearly 50%
-60% of married women in developing countries now use contraception, whereas only 10-15% did when UNFPA began.

The global gag has already begun to reverse these successes.

*The US Centers for Disease Control states the following in regard to the success of family planning inside the US: “During the 20th century, the hallmark of family planning in the United States has been the ability to achieve desired birth spacing and family size. Fertility decreased as couples chose to have fewer children; concurrently, child mortality declined, people moved from farms to cities, and the age at marriage increased”

*The above CDC evidence shows that family planning funding allows for increased health and safety of all parties involved and increased financial planning at the household level, allowing for improved standards of living. By funding family planning abroad, citizens of developing countries would gain financial independence (from the US, the IMF and other international lenders) and move towards a sustainable future.

How does this policy encourage global warming and other broad environmental degradation?

*The Sierra Club and other NGO's have come out strongly against the gag rule and in support of fully funded family planning services because they recognize the fact that slowing population growth will help reduce consumption and CO2 emissions.

*In the 20th century; human population multiplied from 1.6 billion to 6.1 billion people. During this same period of time, CO2 emissions grew twelvefold – Sierra Club

*During the time period between 1950 and today we have added about 4 billion people to the planet while depletable resources like fresh water are shrinking. (The earth is only estimated to be able to support about 6 billion humans).

*Slowing population growth will help tackle the environmental dilemmas of biodiversity loss, deforestation, depletion of fresh water and global warming. Resource depletion disproportionately affects the poor, and 2/3 of the world's poor are women. Resource depletion has led to economic struggles such as the privatization of water and other resources; such that basic human necessities are no longer available as a common right.

*The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects that during our children's lifetimes, global warming will raise the average temperatures on Earth within a range of 2.7 degrees to 10.5 degrees F. The ecological impacts of such a rapid increase include rising sea levels, coastal erosion, decreasing agricultural productivity, and accelerated extinction rates of plants and animals due to their inability to adapt to the changing climate. Global warming also poses threats to human health through increased droughts, hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods.

*Scientists project that as temperatures spread, heat loving mosquitoes which carry malaria will also spread to new regions increasing human risk of malaria by 20%, to a total risk of 65%.

What is the link between HIV/AIDS and the global gag rule?

*The same family planning programs who lose funding due to the global gag rule are the leaders in HIV/AIDS prevention.

*Family planning programs educate the women and children at highest risk for HIV/AIDS and provide male and female condoms as barrier methods against HIV/AIDS. This is done at centers and also through community educators who go out into the most isolated rural areas.

*Family planning clinics are often the only healthcare facility women use. Centers are considered a “one stop” resource for contraception, pre and post-natal care, management of STI’s (including HIV/AIDS) and more.

Reflection

For you from all of us...

- ◆ We are all strong women, so conflict is bound to happen! Remember to have faith in one another and compromise!
- ◆ Power structure tended to establish itself, and we were all surprised with the fluidity that resulted
- ◆ Things are bound to get hectic, just stay organized and break up into smaller groups if necessary. Structure is necessary and you can't always rely on one or two people to "pick up the slack"
- ◆ Hierarchy, despite our distaste for the very concept, was important for planning purposes. Don't be afraid to step up!
- ◆ We want this experience to translate to the "real world environment". The sense of community and the teamwork we developed will certainly impact our transition into the whatever world we find ourselves walking into next
- ◆ Bonds already existed prior to the first day of this class, and for this reason it may have been difficult to approach a friend if she was not doing her job
- ◆ Individuals should take more initiative instead of relying on the group. This is about personal development as well as establishing solidarity
- ◆ Mediator > leader

With all this information you are set to conduct your own activism project! Good luck and most importantly...have fun with it and learn something!