



GLOBAL HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Take Action: Hold a Panel Discussion on International Family Planning!

Why is IFP important?

In many developing countries, pregnancy is the most common cause of death for women of childbearing age. Panel discussions will allow students at your school to learn more about how the lack of access to contraceptives in the developing nations have a devastating impact on women's lives. At the same time, they will learn about how U.S. policies restrict access to family planning for women in the developing world. The panel should allow you to connect the dots between the lack of access to family planning, cheap labor, and sweatshops.

How can I arrange a panel on it?

Start early: It's important to settle on an evening well in advance so people can clear their calendars and attend. Obtain permission from administrators for a location that will accommodate a large group of people and will also give the panel a place to sit at a table in front of the crowd.

Select the panel: Talk to friends and faculty to find out who would be good to discuss IFP in front of an audience. Try professors from Global Health/International Studies or Gender Studies. Invite representatives from student groups or the administration. Include at least one person who opposes IFP. Make an effort to maintain racial, age, and professional diversity. Contact the FMF's Global Programs Coordinator to help you come up with a list of speakers.

Figure out a format: Create a list of open-ended questions and make sure to send these questions to the speakers ahead of time. The FMF's Global Programs Coordinator can help you brainstorm questions and different formats.

Contact speakers and finalize your list: Give each of your panelists details on who they will be sharing the stage with. Your moderator should be well-versed in the field of IFP, and should also have some sense of each of the panelists' positions on the issue.

Get the word out: Advertise anywhere and everywhere students gather for this event! Flier the library, cafeteria, gym, classrooms and send out emails to campus listservs. Spread the word to friends, professors and department chairs that would inform others about the panel presentation. FMF can provide you with free posters, Ms. magazines featuring stories about international family planning, fact sheets, handouts and other literature. Contact ahossain@feminist.org for any of these supplies.

Follow up: Have petitions and people handing out literature before and after the lecture. Create a sign-up sheet for people who want to get more involved with the issue. FMF can send you our fact sheets, petitions, DVDs and any other educational materials you may need!

Take action on your campus today! Educate your peers about the consequences of unplanned pregnancy on a woman's health, and fight to change U.S. policies on international family planning.