



Conference: Norwegian Development Aid – does it strengthen equal rights in Malawi?

Sex og Politikk in collaboration with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights at Stortinget, and the European Parliamentary Forum, welcomes you to this conference on development aid and equal rights in Malawi.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world with a ranking of 173 out of 188 countries on the UN HDI-index. With a fertility rate of 5,7, almost 50% of all girls being married before the age of 18, and one of the strictest abortion-laws on the continent, Malawi is facing steep population growth and challenges in realising equal rights. Politicians are now addressing these issues: Parliament has passed a new marriage act with a minimum-age of 18. There are ongoing discussions on changes in the abortion law, and since 2013 the National budget has a specific budget line for contraceptives and family planning.

Norwegian ODA to Malawi in 2015 was NOK 590,8 million, of these NOK 169 million went to health and social sector. Is this funding helpful in supporting changes in Malawi? How can it be better, more efficient and targeted? What kind of collaboration and support is needed and wanted?

Date and time: Thursday 27 October 2016, 1300-1500 hours

Venue: Kinosalen, Stortinget (Norwegian Parliament). Entrance at Løvebakken.

Programme:

Moderator: **Tor-Hugne Olsen**, Executive Director, Sex og Politikk (IPPF Norway)

1300 Welcome and opening,

Stine Renate Håheim, MP, vice chair, All Party Parliamentary Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (AP, Labour Party)

Feed-back from recent visit to Malawi by the Norwegian All Party Parliamentary Group on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, **Heidi Nordby Lunde**, MP (H, Conservatives)

1315 Equal rights policy in Norwegian development assistance, **Jon Lomøy**, Director General, NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Aid)

1330 Malawian Members of Parliament on equal rights in Malawi

- Equal rights with focus on education, **Hon. Elias Chakwera**, chair education committee (MCP)
- Equal rights with focus on health, **Hon. Mandalitso Kazombo**, member of health committee (MCP)
- Equal rights with focus on women's rights, **Hon. Naomi Kilekwa**, Womens Caucus in the Malawi Parliament (DPP)

1350 Responses from civil society

- **Lonnie Ncozana**, Programme Manager, Family Planning Association of Malawi (IPPF Malawi)
- **Haldis Kårstad**, Senior Advisor Health, Norwegian Church Aid

1400 Debate

1420 Questions from the audience

1450 Closing and thank you, **Stine Renate Håheim**