“Parliament can do everything but make a woman a man and a man a woman.”

– de Lolme
Keep in mind...

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- Harmonize conflicting legal systems, appropriate funds for SRH services, include men in SRH policies.
Keep in mind...

RH outcomes have remained poor in Africa despite several policies, guidelines and commitments of our governments.

- Poor investment in, and controversies about, family planning, sexuality education, and abortion.
- Reduction in unintended pregnancies, unsafe and repeat abortions, adolescent pregnancies.
- Harmonize conflicting legal systems, appropriate funds for SRH services, include men in SRH policies.
What’s the evidence?

Family Planning

In maternal and child health
- Child spacing
- Mothers recovery
- Prevents unintended pregnancies

Why the low usage?
- Unmet need for contraception
- Limited funding
- Dependence on short term unreliable methods
Global contraceptive prevalence, 2015

- North America: 69.6
- Europe: 58
- Asia: 60.9
- Latin America & Caribbean: 66.7
- Oceania: 53.5
- Africa: 24.7

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Modern contraceptive prevalence
Married or in-union women aged 15–49 years by sub-region 2015 – Tsui et al 2017
FP Takeaways

- It's cost effective
- Increasing access and utilization will contribute to reducing maternal and child deaths
- It is not a woman's issue but everyone's
Sexuality education...

Parent-teacher meeting on sexuality education

Would sex ed encourage our children to have sex?

No, sexuality education does not lead to early or increased sexual activity

Children need information to be healthy and make good choices

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Policy & Implementation

- Several policies support the provision of sexuality education but are not comprehensive
- Sexuality education is integrated into other school subjects but it is not examinable
- Fear-based or negative frames are used to introduce sexuality & a weak focus on gender and rights

Adolescent Health

Sexuality education practice
Sexuality education – an example

How comprehensive is the CSE in Kenyan schools? – What students learn about

- Contraception and Unintended Pregnancy: 7
- Gender and SRH Rights: 8
- Values and Interpersonal Skills: 14
- HIV/STI Prevention: 41
- Sexual and Reproductive Physiology: 47

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Adolescent Health Takeaways

- Many adolescents are sexually active and are ill-prepared for it.
- Sexuality education is critical in addressing gender relations, GBV, unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions and STIs/HIV.
## Unsafe abortion

### Abortion

- Out of every 1,000 women between 15-49 years 48 of them procured abortions.

### Key data

- In 2012, an estimated 464,000 induced abortions occurred in Kenya.
- About 120,000 resulted in complications.
Proportion of Abortions by region

- Africa: 11%
- Asia: 20%
- Europe: 22%
- North America: 12%
- Latin America: 23%
- Oceania: 12%

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Safe versus unsafe abortion by region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>% Safe Abortions</th>
<th>% Unsafe Abortions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>54.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>66.3</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 in 4 unintended pregnancies in Zimbabwe end in abortion

- Births 60%
- Unintended pregnancies in 2016 265,000
- Abortion 25%
- Miscarriages 15%

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Abortion rates for adolescents

APHRC, 2012; Sully 2018
We can no longer be silent about abortion

- Africa has the highest rate of unsafe abortions
- Without legally sanctioned access, women & girls, resort to unqualified providers
- Complications from unsafe abortions take a toll on women’s health and on public health finance
- Post-abortion care is absolutely necessary contraceptive counselling
Parliamentarians to the rescue...

Harmonize conflicting legal systems
- Religious
- Cultural
- Constitution

Use power of appropriation to allocate funds for family planning & other RH services

Write men into RH policies
You have the power to make a difference

Use evidence and be bold in formulating laws that improve reproductive health

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Thank You