

WORLD **SEXUAL HEALTH** ASSEMBLY

Porto Proclamation on Sexual Health, Rights and Justice

At the **Inaugural World Sexual Health Assembly** in Porto, Portugal, leading global organizations, institutions, and advocates committed to Sexual Health, Rights, and Justice, hereby proclaim that:

- Sexual Health is an essential component of overall health, human dignity, and development.
- Sexual Rights are human rights.
- Through Sexual Justice, we can achieve a more equal and inclusive world.

Building on the achievements of the past decades and at a time when the world is facing political crises, international conflict, humanitarian emergencies, funding cuts, climate change, and widening inequalities, **we pledge to advance Sexual Health, Rights, and Justice for all.**

With this proclamation, we set our strategic priorities to guide collective action and ensure progress with purpose, unity, and accountability.

Guiding Principles

Sexual rights, justice, and pleasure

Sexual Rights are human rights. Sexual Justice advances these rights by dismantling systemic barriers and structural inequalities that oppress marginalized communities. It ensures that all people can live safe, pleasurable, and fulfilling sexual lives, free from violence and coercion, with access to care, education, legal protection and recognition, and equitable resources.

Redress and reparation are necessary - at both systemic and individual levels - for those whose sexual rights have been violated or denied. Sexual pleasure is a fundamental part of sexual rights, sexual health, and sexual well-being, as well as human connection, dignity, and joy for those who choose to experience it.

Equity and inclusion

Equity and inclusion mean guaranteeing sexual health and rights without discrimination on any ground - including sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, sex characteristics, race, ethnicity, color, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, class,

birth, disability, age, health or economic status, marital or family status, nationality, or place of residence - while centering the needs and voices of those most marginalized and transforming systems so that all people can participate fully and equally in shaping their sexual lives with dignity and autonomy.

Evidence

All sexual health-related interventions must be grounded in evidence that is rigorous and transparent, supported by research and informed by the lived experiences of people and communities.

Accountability

Accountability for sexual health and rights requires governments and institutions to be answerable through transparent laws and policies, adequate funding, effective monitoring, and meaningful community participation, particularly from marginalized groups. Beyond compliance, accountability advances sexual justice by dismantling systemic inequalities, combating stigma, and ensuring equitable access to services and protections, while affirming dignity for all.

Person-centered sexual health services

Every person has the right to accessible, respectful, and confidential sexual health services, with full informed consent and shared decision-making across the life course. Sexual pleasure is a fundamental part of sexual health, sexual rights, and sexual well-being, and should be integrated into the provision of high-quality sexual health services.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Access to Information

Every person has the right to comprehensive sexuality education, both in and out of school, and access to evidence-based and rights-based information that supports their health, well-being, and dignity. Such education should foster respectful social and sexual relationships, support individuals in understanding how their choices affect their own well-being and that of others, and ensure the protection of their rights throughout life.

Solidarity and partnership

Lasting progress in sexual health, rights, and justice requires solidarity with marginalized groups, ensuring that no one is left behind. It further requires equitable, multi-sector partnerships that place marginalized voices at the center and align efforts across health, education, training, justice, finance, and technology.

Strategic priorities:

1. **Strengthen sexual health, rights, and justice** by advancing priority levers and clear pathways of impact—driving legal reform, policymaking, community action, professional training, clinical services, comprehensive sexuality education, and cross-sector collaboration at national, regional, and international levels.
2. Promote and protect universal access to **high-quality, integrated sexual health services, comprehensive sexuality education, and professional training.**
3. Strengthen a **coordinated global narrative and advocacy strategy** supported by a commitment to joint advocacy mechanisms and movement building that ensure alignment and solidarity.
4. Address the urgent need to confront **misinformation, disinformation, and censorship** by strengthening research, data, education, and training to inform action and accountability.
5. Develop **digital strategies** that amplify sexual justice, counter misinformation, and ensure that sexual health information and advocacy reach broad and diverse audiences with unrestricted access, where it is age-appropriate.
6. **Integrate sexual health, rights, and justice** with broader justice and democracy movements, and with cross-sector collaboration, ensuring solidarity and collective action.
7. **Ensure sustainable and equitable funding** for sexual health, rights, and justice, recognizing that such investment saves lives, strengthens service delivery, and enables global and local action.

We, the signatories of this proclamation, commit to sustaining the World Sexual Health Assembly through **annual meetings** and to **realizing a shared plan of action** that advances our collective priorities.

Porto, Portugal

5 September 2025