



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

27th and 28th Congresses of the World Association for Sexual Health in 2025 and 2027

The World Association for Sexual Health (WAS) is calling for expressions of interest for MEMBER Organisations to host the 27th or 28th Congress of the World Association for Sexual Health in 2025 and 2027 respectively.

INTRODUCTION OF WAS

Since 1978, the World Association for Sexual Health (WAS) is the pre-eminent global organization concerned with sexual health and rights. Our membership represents thousands of experienced & trainee sexologists from various disciplines. With biennial congresses held in different regions of the world, WAS has facilitated sexual health through education, health promotion, and networking for four decades. In recent years, WAS constituency has become involved in advocating for changes in public policy to recognize sexual health and rights as key ingredients in overall health and social justice. Financial support from individuals, foundations, corporations, and governments has sustained this work around the world.

WAS works to promote sexual health for all. Sexual health is a goal not only for clinicians. It is the common goal of many disciplines. Sexuality education is meant to foster human development and facilitate sexually healthy lives for people at all stages of the life cycle. Interventions in clinical sexology have the goal of promoting, maintaining and restoring sexual health. Sex research is involved in the creation of evidence-based knowledge that supports others to attain and maintain sexual health. Advocacy aims to ensure public policy contributes to the well-being of the population at large.

WAS MISSION STATEMENT

The World Association for Sexual Health (WAS) promotes and advocates for sexual health and sexual rights throughout the lifespan and across the world by advancing the field of sexology, sexuality research, comprehensive sexuality education, and clinical care and services, all of these informed by evidence and scientific enquiry.

WAS CONGRESS BOARD

President	Elna Rudolph (South Africa)
Vice President	Alain Giami (France)
Secretary General/Treasurer	Luis Perelman
(Mexico) Past President	Pedro Nobre (Portugal)
Scientific Committee Chair	Erick Janssen (Belgium,
USA) Congress Committee Chair	Mehmet Sungur (Turkey)

HISTORY OF WAS CONGRESSES

Date	City	Country	Attendance
2023	Antalya	Türkiye	
2021	Cape Town/Virtual	South Africa	1500
2019	Mexico City	Mexico	1 460
2017	Prague	Czech Republic	650
2015	Singapore	Singapore	380
2013	Porto Alegre, RS	Brazil	1 100
2011	Glasgow	United Kingdom	1 250
2009	Göteborg	Sweden	1 000
2007	Sydney, NSW	Australia	800
2005	Montreal, QC	Canada	1 200
2003	Havana	Cuba	2 500
2001	Paris	France	3 000
1999	Hong Kong	China, Hong Kong, SAR	1 000
1997	Valencia	Spain	2 000
1995	Yokohama	Japan	730
1993	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	1 500
1991	Amsterdam	Netherlands	1 200
1989	Caracas	Venezuela	1 800
1987	Heidelberg	Germany	1 200
1985	New Delhi	India	1 000
1983	Washington, DC	United States	1 600
1981	Jerusalem	Israel	1 000
1979	Mexico City	Mexico	1 600
1978	Rome	Italy	3 000
1976	Montreal, QC	Canada	n/a
1974	Paris	France	n/a

*estimated; n/a= not available

DATES

It is planned that the WAS Congress will be held between April and October for four days. We are, however open to suggestions from the local host as to the most optimal time for the congress in their area. It is recommended that the congress dates include a weekend. The conference anticipates about 1500 participants in general, but it largely depends on local participation.

The proposed dates shall avoid clash with the following events:

- Congress of the European Society for Sexual Medicine (ESSM);
- Congress of the International Society for Sexual Medicine (ISSM)
- Congress of the Latin American Society for Sexual Medicine (SLAMS);



- Annual Meeting of the International Academy of Sex Research (IASR);
- Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS);
- Annual Meeting of the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists (AASECT);
- Biennial Meeting of the Asia Pacific Society for Sexual Medicine (APSSM);
- Congress of the International Union Against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI);
- Congress of the International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research (ISSTD);
- European Congress on Menopause and Andropause (EMAS).
- Major UN Meetings
- Major international religious holidays
- Congress of the WAS regional federations: EFS, AFSE, AOFS, FLASSES, NAFSH.

REQUIREMENTS

Scientific aspects

- A recognized local active community/society/institution, WAS member organization in the field of sexual health and sexual rights with at least one member based in the proposed city is necessary. In addition, it is necessary that the entity present a history list of scientific events held by them.
- A local team has to be available to assist the Professional Congress Organiser (PCO) with practical arrangements for the congress.
- At least one person should represent the local scientific committee on the organizing committee of the congress to ensure that the appropriate local topics and speakers are selected by the WAS Scientific Committee.

Congress President:

This person takes the primary responsibility for the planning of the congress, with the support of the local host organisation, WAS and the PCO. This should be a well-respected local person with strong leadership abilities and experience in organising a congress.

City

- Well organized and supportive convention bureau;
- Support from city authorities, convention bureau;
- Easy accessibility for international participants (international airport and other means of transport);
- No other major events taking place on preferred dates.

Hotel

- Availability of diverse accommodation options and proximity to the congress venue and the city center;
- Competitive rates.

Venue

- The number of rooms required for the congress will depend on the program which will be decided by congress and scientific committee, usually at the site visit;
- There must be room for plenary sessions able to seat at least 800 – 1000 participants (theater style), and a number of smaller rooms (50 – 200 participants, theater style) for more interactive sessions as determined by the program and space for 250 posters and exhibition.
- The congress has to be in a Hybrid form with the possibility of broadcasting the content to an online audience.
- Recording and Translation of the content that will be generated is a basic requirement.
- Full Accessibility for those who are in wheelchairs.

Venue for Social Events

- Final meeting of the organising committee (night before the start of the congress)
- Welcome reception for all participants paid by the Congress or Sponsored (first night)
- Gala Dinner: Seated dinner for 200 – 300 participants (purchase seats) (second night);
- Presidential Dinner paid by the Congress or Sponsored – for 100 participants (Local Organizing Committee, Local Scientific Committee, WAS Scientific Committee, WAS Advisory Committee and Special Guests, third night).

Rooms

All rooms should have:

- Good sight-lines to the screen and speakers and good acoustics;
- A computer able to project all recent versions of PowerPoint, which accepts data on USB Flash Drives;
- A projector and screen clearly visible from all seats in the rooms;
- A laser pointer;
- A remote control for the slide presentation;
- A slave monitor on which the speaker can see the presentation without having to look back at the screen. In the smaller rooms the lap-screen might be sufficient for this purpose;
- A technician who is immediately available in case of problems. This does NOT imply the need for one technician per room;

- A table and seats for all speakers and chairs of the session – unless the chair of the session specifically request otherwise;
- Water, glasses, for the chair and each speaker;
- Free WIFI Internet access for all participants included in registration fees.
- Ability to facilitate a hybrid event

Where necessary rooms should also have:

- A sound amplification system (may not be necessary in rooms seating fewer than 50 people);
- A microphone for the speaker – preferably with a wireless connection to the sound system to allow the speaker to move about – (this is compulsory for interactive sessions);
- Microphones for session chairman or members of panels where necessary;
- A “roving microphone” or sufficient static microphones to allow the audience to ask questions immediately.

Additional information

- The financial model of the congress will be negotiated with the PCO as well as the local host organisation and is determined by multiple factors.
- WAS does not have an official PCO and the entity is open to negotiations with a PCO that best meets the needs of the event.
- Bid applications can be submitted only by WAS members;
- Successful applicants will fully address and demonstrate compliance with specifications and criteria as requested.
- The venue, hotels and other local suppliers including potential sponsors and exhibitors will be contracted by PCO;
- WAS has the right not to select any venue/destination in case the venues/destinations will not meet the desired criteria for any of the above mentioned years;
- Shortlisted candidate cities will be visited by representatives of the WAS. The expenses related to the site inspection shall be borne by candidate cities/local host organizations.

Program Structure

Pre-conference workshops and satellite events (Youth, Trans, Sexual Justice, etc...)

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
08:00 - 08:30	Workshops	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions
08:30 - 09:00		Plenary Sessions	Plenary Sessions	Plenary Sessions
09:30 - 10:00		Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break

10:30 - 11:00	Opening Ceremony	Plenary Sessions	Plenary Sessions	Plenary Sessions
11:00 - 11:30		Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions
11:30 - 12:00	Plenary Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:30 - 14:00	Plenary Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Plenary Sessions
14:00 - 14:30				
14:30 - 15:00				
15:00 - 15:30				
15:30 - 16:00	Plenary Sessions	Plenary Sessions	Plenary Sessions	
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
16:30 - 17:00	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Closing Ceremony
17:00 - 17:30				
17:30 - 18:00				
18:00 - 18:30	Welcome Cocktail	Plenary Sessions	Plenary Sessions	
18:30 - 19:00		Plenary Sessions	Plenary Sessions	



DEADLINES AND SUBMISSION

Bids should be submitted to the WAS Congress Committee at office@worldsexualhealth.net no later than **15 October 2023**. You will receive an email to confirm receipt of your bid submission.

Any questions concerning the bidding procedure shall be sent to the WAS Congress Committee at congress@worldsexualhealth.net or phone +27 76 976 4224 no later than **October 1st, 2023**.

Please find below a model document for the application. Use the topics to describe the information needed. Create your own proposals using the topics and return it by e-mail to WAS Congress Committee: office@worldsexualhealth.net (**deadline 15 October 2023**).

Application for hosting the 27th or 28th Congress of the World Association for Sexual Health, 2023

1. Name of the bidding organisation:
2. Duration of WAS Membership:
3. Year that you are bidding for: 2025 or 2027
4. Contact details including a named contact person.
5. Proposed:
 - a. Country:
 - b. City:
 - c. Date:
 - d. Congress President:
 - e. Local Scientific Committee:
 - f. Local Organizing Committee:
 - g. PCO (professional congress organiser) - please give reasons for your suggestion for PCO.
6. Number of sexologists in your country/city and expected number of participants from your country and region at the WAS Congress.
7. Describe the proposed venue and its compliance with WAS requirements.
8. Availability of accommodation in the city/country, accessibility from the city center.



9. City or country financial support for the congress, city authorities or convention bureau subventions or donations:
10. Provide information about other sponsorship possibilities for the WAS Congress.
11. Please include any additional information relevant to this offer below.
12. Contact details including a named contact person.
13. Proposed:
 - a. Country:
 - b. City:
 - c. Date:
 - d. Congress President:
 - e. Local Scientific Committee:
 - f. Local Organizing Committee:
 - g. PCO (professional congress organiser) - please give reasons for your suggestion for PCO.
14. Number of sexologists in your country/city and expected number of participants from your country and region at the WAS Congress.
15. Describe the proposed venue and its compliance with WAS requirements.
16. Availability of accommodation in the city/country, accessibility from the city center.
17. City or country financial support for the congress, city authorities or convention bureau subventions or donations:
18. Provide information about other sponsorship possibilities for the WAS Congress.
19. Please include any additional information relevant to this offer below.

