

Expected Participants

Participation is by registration and participants are expected to be policymakers, activists and practitioners, including young persons, people living with HIV & AIDS, people living with disabilities and LGBTIIs – from Civil Society Organizations, Non Governmental Organizations, research based institutions, international NGOs as well as representatives from the African Union, Regional Economic Commissions (ECOWAS, SADC, IGAD, EAC, etc), governments, bilateral donors and United Nations agencies.

Conference Structure

The Conference will include a Keynote Address, Plenary Sessions, Skills Building Workshops, the African Sexuality Institute for Young People, Parallel Youth Sessions and Exhibitions.

8th - 12th February 2010, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Introduction

The Fourth Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights will be taking place from 8th – 12th February 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Conference is being convened under the auspices of the Africa Federation for Sexual Health and Rights, the regional representative body of the World Association for Sexual Health, and hosted by the International Planned Parenthood Federation– Africa Regional Office, Nairobi Kenya.

Purpose

The purpose is to examine the interrelationship between sexuality and HIV & AIDS. The Conference will open up discourse on sexuality in Africa and how this might lead to new insights in reducing the spread of HIV & AIDS in Africa.

Focus

- Identifying new and emerging vulnerabilities and vulnerable people using the concept of sexual rights and sexuality in the fight against HIV & AIDS;
- Exploring how the application of human rights framework to sexuality might provide new insights in developing interventions to reduce the spread of HIV & AIDS;
- Mapping out new and innovative strategies, programming and funding best suited to deal with those most vulnerable to HIV & AIDS infection.

Critical Issues of Intervention

- Gender based violence including female genital mutilation, child marriage and concept of positive pleasurable sex.
- Rape as a weapon of war.
- Interpretations of Masculinity and impact on sexuality and HIV & AIDS.
- Sexual orientation and diversity.
- Gender equality and sexuality.
- Sexuality of people living with HIV & AIDS.

Objectives

Objective I:

To identify new, emerging and existing vulnerabilities and vulnerable/marginalized people that are critical to sexual health and rights/HIV & AIDS interventions using a sexuality and rights approach.

Sub-Themes

- Sexuality, Vulnerability and HIV & AIDS.
- 'Achieving sexual rights' – a mirage in the context of gender inequality and denial of women's human rights?
- Choice, Sexuality and HIV & AIDS.
- Sexuality, Sexual Rights, HIV & AIDS and Young People – Exploring what young people know, believe and act on.
- Multiple Sexualities, Sexual Diversity, Sexual Rights and HIV & AIDS.
- Sexuality, people living with disabilities and HIV & AIDS.

Objective II:

To explore how the application of human rights framework to sexuality might provide new insights in developing interventions to reduce the spread of HIV & AIDS and provide a more comprehensive sexual health to all persons.

Sub-Themes

- Exploring positive sexuality and sexual pleasure.
- Traditional institutions, sexuality and rights – an incompatible marriage?
- Pleasure, Positive Sexuality – What messaging for HIV & AIDS Prevention?
- Redefining Masculinities – How to engage men in positive sexuality.
- Legal Abortion and Politics of Choice – Impact on HIV & AIDS.
- Redefining 'Culture and Religion' – Sexuality, Sexual Rights in the era of HIV & AIDS.
- 'Silencing' or 'Openness'? The Media, Sexual Rights and HIV & AIDS.
- Sexual Rights, the Law and Legal Reforms.
- Marketing Sex and Sexuality – Pharmaceuticals, Corporations and HIV & AIDS.

Objective III:

To review and map out new and existing innovative strategies, programming and funding that best addresses the interlinkages between sexuality, sexual health/rights and HIV & AIDS for future SRH and HIV & AIDS interventions.

Sub-Themes

- Where is the money for Sexuality, Sexual Rights and HIV & AIDS?
- Developing Policy and Programmatic Frameworks for comprehensive integration of Sexuality and Sexual Rights within HIV & AIDS Responses and Programming, and in the accelerated implementation of the Maputo Plan of Action.