

WAS Declaration on Sexual Rights 2014

WAS Declaration on Sexual Rights

In recognition that sexual rights are essential for the achievement of the highest attainable sexual health, the World Association for Sexual Health:

STATES that sexual rights are grounded in universal human rights that are already recognized in international and regional human rights documents, in national constitutions and laws, human rights standards and principles, and in scientific knowledge related to human sexuality and sexual health.

REAFFIRMS that sexuality is a central aspect of being human throughout life, encompasses sex, gender identities and roles, sexual orientation, eroticism, pleasure, intimacy, and reproduction. Sexuality is experienced and expressed in thoughts, fantasies,

all of them are always experienced or expressed. Sexuality is influenced by the interaction of biological, psychological, social, economic, political, cultural, legal, historical, religious, and spiritual factors.

RECOGNIZES that sexuality is a source of pleasure and wellbeing and contributes to overall fulfilment and satisfaction.

REAFFIRMS that sexual health is a state of physical, emotional, mental and social wellbeing in relation to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity. Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

REAFFIRMS that sexual health cannot be defined, understood, or

to be attained and maintained, the sexual rights of all persons must be respected, protected and fulfilled.

RECOGNIZES that sexual rights are based on the inherent freedom, dignity, and equality of all human beings and include a commitment to protection from harm.

STATES that equality and nondiscrimination are foundational to all human rights protection and promotion and include the prohibition of any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, including disability, age, nationality, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, health status, place of residence, economic and social situation.

RECOGNIZES that persons' sexual orientations, gender identities,

RECOGNIZES that all types of violence, harassment, discrimination, exclusion, and stigmatization are violations of human rights, and impact the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.

AFFIRMS that the obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil human rights apply to all sexual rights and freedoms.

AFFIRMS that sexual rights protect all people's rights to fulfil and express their sexuality and enjoy sexual health, with due regard for the rights of others.

Sexual rights are human rights pertaining to sexuality.

1. The right to equality and nondiscrimination: Everyone is entitled to enjoy all sexual rights set forth in this Declaration without distinction

opinion, national or social origin, place of residence, property, birth, disability, age, nationality, marital and family status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, health status, economic and social situation and other status.

2. The right to life, liberty, and security of the person:

Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security that cannot be arbitrarily threatened, limited, or taken away for reasons related to sexuality. These include: sexual orientation, consensual sexual behavior and practices, gender identity and expression, or because of accessing or

bodily integrity: Everyone has the right to control and decide freely on matters related to their sexuality and their body. This includes the choice of sexual behaviors, practices, partners and relationships with due regard to the rights of others. Free and informed decision making requires free and informed consent prior to any sexually-related testing, interventions, therapies, surgeries, or research.

4. The right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment: Everyone shall be free from torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment related to sexuality, including:

other forms of torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment perpetrated for reasons related to someone's sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and bodily diversity.

5. The right to be free from all forms of violence and coercion: Everyone shall be free from sexuality related violence and coercion, including: rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, bullying, sexual exploitation and slavery, trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation, virginity testing, and violence committed because of real or perceived sexual practices, sexual orientation, gender

Everyone has the right to privacy related to sexuality, sexual life, and choices regarding their own body and consensual sexual relations and practices without arbitrary interference and intrusion. This includes the right to control the disclosure of sexuality-related personal information to others.

7. The right to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual health, with the possibility of pleasurable, satisfying, and safe sexual experiences: Everyone has the right to the highest attainable level of health and wellbeing in relation to sexuality, including the possibility of pleasurable, satisfying, and safe sexual experiences. This requires the

conditions that influence and determine health including sexual health.

8. The right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application: Everyone has the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications in relation to sexuality and sexual health.

9. The right to information: Everyone shall have access to scientifically accurate and understandable information related to sexuality, sexual health, and sexual rights through diverse sources. Such information should not be arbitrarily censored, withheld, or intentionally misrepresented.

has the right to education and comprehensive sexuality education. Comprehensive sexuality education must be age appropriate, scientifically accurate, culturally competent, and grounded in human rights, gender equality, and a positive approach to sexuality and pleasure.

11. The right to enter, form, and dissolve marriage and other similar types of relationships based on equality and full and free consent: Everyone has the right to choose whether or not to marry and to enter freely and with full and free consent into marriage, partnership or other similar relationships. All persons are entitled to equal

relationships, without discrimination and exclusion of any kind. This right includes equal entitlements to social welfare and other benefits regardless of the form of such relationships.

12. The right to decide whether to have children, the number and spacing of children, and to have the information and the means to do so: Everyone has the right to decide whether to have children and the number and spacing of children. To exercise this right requires access to the conditions that influence and determine health and wellbeing, including sexual and reproductive health services related to pregnancy, contraception, fertility,

thought, opinion, and expression: Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, opinion, and expression regarding sexuality and has the right to express their own sexuality through, for example, appearance, communication, and behavior, with due respect to the rights of others.

14. The right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly: Everyone has the right to peacefully organize, associate, assemble, demonstrate, and advocate including about sexuality, sexual health, and sexual rights.

15. The right to participation in public and political life: Everyone is entitled to an

contribution to the civil, economic, social, cultural, political, and other aspects of human life at local, national, regional, and international levels. In particular, all persons are entitled to participate in the development and implementation of policies that determine their welfare, including their sexuality and sexual health.

16. The right to access to justice, remedies, and redress: Everyone has the right to access to justice, remedies, and redress for violations of their sexual rights. This requires effective, adequate, accessible, and appropriate educative, legislative, judicial, and other measures. Remedies include

nonrepetition.

The World Association for Sexual Health (WAS) is a multidisciplinary, world-wide group of scientific societies, NGOs and professionals in the field of human sexuality which promotes sexual health throughout the lifespan and through the world by developing, promoting and supporting sexology and sexual rights for all. WAS accomplishes this by advocacy actions, networking, facilitating the exchange of information, ideas and experiences and advancing scientifically based sexuality research, sexuality education and clinical sexology, with a trans-disciplinary approach. The WAS Declaration of Sexual Rights was originally proclaimed at the 13th World Congress of Sexology in Valencia, Spain in 1997 and then, in 1999, a revision was approved in Hong Kong by the WAS General Assembly and then reaffirmed in the WAS Declaration: Sexual Health for the

Assembly in Singapore in 2015.

2014 by a special working group and an expert consultation convened by the [World Association for Sexual Health](#).

[Declaración de Derechos Sexuales 2014 Español – Español](#)

The printable, unformatted text version can be downloaded [here](#), and the 1999 (Valencia & Hong Kong) Declaration can be found in the [Other Documents](#)

OFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS

Thank you to all the volunteer translators and reviewers

ARABIC

Sharif Muhammad Hashimi
Hisham

CHINESE

World Association of Chinese Sexologists (WACS)

FINNISH

Tommi Paalanen, reviewed by
Tiina Vilponen

FRENCH

Alain Giami and Elodie Chatelai,
reviewed by Laurence Brunet,
David Simard and Jean-Baptiste
Thierry.

GREEK

Maria Pateraki, reviewed by
Margarita Gerouki

HEBREW

Mijal Luria and Amit Luria,
reviewed by Sharon Peleg Neshet
and Ilana Berger

ITALIAN

Francesca Tripodi and Valentina
Rossi. Reviewed by Istituto di
Sessuologia Clinica di Roma (ISC).

JAPANESE

Miki Nakao, reviewed by Yuko
Higashi, Daisuke Onuki, Beverley
Anne Yamamoto, Kyoko

Sreysros Keo, reviewed by Koum Kanal, Deng Kheang and Dy Phan Phirum.

MALAYAMAN

Dr. Chinchu C., reviewed by Nithin Lalachan and Naeem E.N.

POLISH

Michalina Skibicka, reviewed by Agata Loewe.

PORTUGUESE

Jaqueline Brendler and Marcia Rocha, reviewed by Oswaldo M. Rodrigues Jr.

RUSSIAN

Katrine Rose (Andryushchenko).

SLOVENIAN

Gabrijela Simetinger and Irena Rahne Otorepec.

SWEDISH

Malin Lindroth y Hans Olsson.

TURKISH

Irmak Dedecan, reviewed by

**Eszter Kismödi, Esther Corona,
Eleanor Maticka-Tyndale,
Eusebio Rubio-Aurioles & Eli
Coleman**

Pages 1-92 | Accepted author
version posted online: 12 Jul
2017, Published online: 18 Sep
2017

In International Journal of Sexual
Health