

IPPF European Network policy statement on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People

Based on the principles of the IPPF Sexual Rights Declaration, the IPPF European Network believes that in order to achieve sexual health and rights for all it is essential to also fight discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression by mainstreaming an LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) inclusive perspective into all work on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The SRHR of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people should be fully recognized and being an integral part of IPPF EN's advocacy and programme work, for reasons of:

HEALTH: to reduce the risks for their sexual and reproductive health, mental health and morbidity caused by stigma and discrimination.

CHOICE: to ensure that LGBT have the information needed to exercise self-determination, sexual and reproductive freedom and sexual equality, and access to confidential counselling and services

RIGHTS: to protect LGBT's basic human rights which are not different from the universal human rights and ensure that these rights are not legally impaired or compromised.

The IPPF European Network further believes that:

Sexual health is dependent upon a positive and respectful approach to sexuality, sexual relationships, the possibility to establish partnerships based on love and respect; of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence,

In order to achieve its vision of a world in which sexuality is recognized as a natural and precious aspect of life and where diversity is respected and celebrated it is essential to fight stigma and discrimination in relation to gender and sexuality.

Although many human right documents do not explicitly mention sexual orientation as a protected group, human rights are understood to encompass all human beings. The basic human right principles of equality and non-discrimination include Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people.

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IPPF EN Regional Office and the Member Associations will develop strategies to:

- Mainstream an LGBT inclusive perspective into all work on sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- Include LGBT issues in internal training sessions for staff and cooperation partners to raise awareness, influence discriminatory attitudes and/or behaviours, build competence and establish good knowledge of LGBT issues;
- Advocate for equal SRHR for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, age or marital status; the adoption of non-discriminatory health policies and programmes as well as laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity;
- Work towards the realization of sexual education that treats diverse sexual orientations and gender identities as equal in value which necessitates an inclusive approach that does not imply or express condemning attitudes towards LGBT people or which ignores discussing sexual orientation and/or gender identity;
- Not to tolerate discrimination against LGBT persons within the own work force by explicitly including LGBT issues in internal staff policies or in organizational policies where relevant;
- Encourage the participation of LGBT people/organizations in the technical work and strategic planning of to increase the effectiveness and appropriateness of actions and interventions;
- Use a language which is inclusive of LGBT individuals at all times, such as speaking about partners rather than about husbands or wives. Inclusive language should be used within the own organization as well as in all advocacy, educational and political work that IPPFEN engages in;
- Initiate or further develop collaboration with LGBT rights groups to support their work for equality and non-discrimination and to obtain new valuable knowledge and resources that is likely to improve the SRHR work.

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