



Policy Brief

International Planned Parenthood Federation and Children’s “Right” to Sex

International Planned Parenthood Federation seeks to establish “sexual rights” as internationally protected human rights. A major way they seek to accomplish this goal is by exposing children and teenagers to graphic sexual materials and teaching them that experiencing sexual pleasure is not only a human right to which they are entitled but is necessary for their health and well-being.

Origins of IPPF

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) was founded in 1952 with the emerging motto “Be brave and angry,” which is still in use today. IPPF has six regional offices that oversee 133 Member Associations and collaborative partners in 140 countries.¹ IPPF maintains 65,000 service points worldwide. Major services they promote include contraceptives, STI/HIV testing, and abortion. More recently, at least their U.S. affiliate now even dispenses cross-sex hormones to young people.²

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) is the IPPF member association for the United States. According to the IPPF website, PPFA has 82 unique, locally governed affiliates nationwide, operating nearly 800 health centers. IPPF does not provide services per se; their member associations (such as PPFA) and service points do that. IPPF is the administrative head of the organization that produces the philosophy and propaganda materials and engages in worldwide advocacy for the acceptance of sexual behaviors as “rights.”

IPPF Philosophy: “Sexual Rights are Human Rights”

IPPF’s prevailing philosophy is that sexual pleasure is a basic right that should be protected as an international human right. IPPF promotes radical sexual rights worldwide under the banner of sexual and reproductive health and rights, also known as SRHR.

In 1998, IPPF launched their “Youth Manifesto: Our Bodies, Our Lives, Our Rights” stating “We demand our sexual and reproductive health and rights” and called for mandatory sexuality education that goes “beyond biology” and teaches about sexual pleasure, among other things.³

¹ International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). (2021). Annual Performance Report 2020. <https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/Annual%20Performance%20Report%202020.pdf>

² Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida. (n.d.). *Gender affirming hormone therapy*. <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-southwest-central-florida/medical-services/transgender-hormone-services>

³ International Planned Parenthood Federation. (n.d.). *Youth Manifesto*. <https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/Youth%20Manifesto%20English.pdf>

In 2008, IPPF launched its official “Declaration of Sexual Rights” with ten Articles self-declaring sexual rights to be human rights.⁴ Then in 2011, IPPF published a sexual rights guide for youth called “Exclaim!” showing how sexual rights apply to young people and exhorting young people to claim their “sexual rights.” IPPF “champions sexual and reproductive health and rights for all” because they believe they are internationally recognized human rights.

In 2020, IPPF launched “**Vision 2020 Manifesto**” which seeks to advance “sexual and reproductive health and rights” encompassing “the right to seek pleasure” and called on governments to “Support a woman’s right to abortion by removing legal and policy barriers.”

The strategy of promoting sexual rights as “human rights” was adopted by IPPF in 1992. Its advocacy of this “rights”-based approach has been a major factor contributing to the decline of sexual responsibility and fidelity as engaging in casual sexual intercourse has become a perceived “right” rather than a means of forming and sustaining lasting relationships and families.

However, even IPPF itself at times has had to admit that their effort to redefine the range of accepted human rights is a stretch. For example, Carmen Barroso, Western Hemisphere Regional Director for IPPF, stated, “**Traditional human rights, they were civil and political rights, they were not referring to the sexuality of anybody.**” This statement concedes that human rights as they were originally outlined and internationally agreed upon had nothing to do with sexuality or sexual rights. Further, Esther Vicente, Chair of IPPF’s panel on Sexual Rights called promoting sexual rights as human rights a “new concept,” again conceding that the inclusion of sexual rights under the umbrella of human rights was never the intent of original human rights declarations or agreements.

Nevertheless, as a result of the concerted efforts of IPPF and others to force “sexual rights” onto the stage with legitimate human rights, the right to engage in virtually any sexual behavior is now increasingly masquerading as a genuine human right rather than being viewed as a personal choice that carries not only responsibilities but often grave risks and costs for individuals, families, communities and nations. The results of this paradigm change can be seen in the approach IPPF and its member associations use in sexualizing children.

Planned Parenthood’s Sexuality Education Materials (Warning: Graphic Content)

IPPF and its member associations specifically target children and young people in their efforts to promote sexuality under the guise of sexual rights. Planned Parenthood Federation of America (widely known as Planned Parenthood) is one of the largest IPPF member associations. Here are some resources Planned Parenthood has used to educate children about sexuality:

- ***It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health.***⁵ This illustrated children’s book openly normalizes homosexuality and contains graphic

⁴ International Planned Parenthood Federation. (2008). Sexual rights: An IPPF Declaration. https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/sexualrightsippfdeclaration_1.pdf

⁵ Harris, R. (2009). *It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health*. Somerville: Candlewick Press.

illustrations of both male and female children masturbating. Masturbation is encouraged as a normal and desirable behavior. The book shows illustrations of entirely nude men and women having sex, and of naked girls and boys in a variety of sexual situations.

- ***The G Spot Show.***⁶ This cartoon, created by Flickerlab for Planned Parenthood, is a program that introduces children to sexual topics. The show is hosted by two characters: one is an animated penis and the other, a vagina. In the episode, *How Pregnancy Happens*, the penis and vagina characters present a sex-ed lesson explaining the mechanics of fertilization and implantation. Throughout the episode the two characters engage in crass dialogue and joke about the many places people can have sex. The penis character gets repeatedly aroused, and the episode ends with him inviting the vagina over to his place.
- ***Planned Parenthood Website - FOR TEENS.***⁷ The FOR TEENS section at www.plannedparenthood.org addresses a wide range of sexual topics, one of which is masturbation. The site asks and answers these questions: “Is masturbating normal?” “Can you masturbate too much?” “What should I do if someone catches me masturbating?” “Can I get an STD from masturbating?” The site also includes a mock game show segment wherein a teenage girl promotes and normalizes masturbation.

Planned Parenthood’s site also poses and answers these questions about sexual orientation and gender identity: “How do I know my sexual orientation?” “What’s coming out?” “What’s the difference between sex and gender?” “What do transgender and cisgender mean?”

The answer provided for the transgender question is: “Some people have a gender identity that doesn’t match the sex they were given at birth — for example, they were born with a vulva, vagina, and uterus, but they identify as male. These people are transgender (or trans). Transgender is the “T” in LGBTQ.”

IPPF ignores the reality that the best way to stem the growing epidemic of STIs and unwanted pregnancies is abstaining from sex before marriage and practicing fidelity after marriage (i.e., sexual responsibility and monogamy) because these realities neither support IPPF’s sexual-rights rhetoric nor advance their business model.

Additionally concerning is that as teens move into their college-age years, Planned Parenthood’s VOX program is ready to help emerging adults continue to exercise their sexual rights through providing services such as “pants-off parties,” orgasm workshops, and vaginal and anal fisting kits.⁸

⁶ The G Spot Show. (2006). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZKuuUPjk1Q>

⁷ Planned Parenthood. (n.d.). Sexual health information for teens: Sex facts & myths. <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/teens>

⁸ American Life League. (2012). Hooking Kids on Sex II. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7XR9yH2ETk>

IPPF Publications

- ***“Healthy, Happy and Hot”***⁹ is one of over 200 publications and videos available on the IPPF website. This pamphlet is intended for youth who are HIV positive. The pamphlet, which has been distributed to youth at the UN, makes this astounding and very disturbing assertion: **“Young people living with HIV have the right to decide if, when and how to disclose their HIV status.”**¹⁰ “Healthy, Happy and Hot” also condemns the fact that “some countries have laws that say people living with HIV must tell their sexual partner(s) about their status before having sex,” stating that “these laws violate the rights of people living with HIV.”¹¹

“Healthy, Happy and Hot” asserts that “young people living with HIV have the right to sexual pleasure” and suggests ways readers can obtain sexual pleasure.¹² The pamphlet encourages masturbation and instructs readers to “explore your partner’s body with your hands and mouth ... Talk about or act out your fantasies. Talk dirty to them. Tickle, tease and make them feel good.”¹³ It further states, “Lots of people don’t mind whether their partner(s) is HIV negative or positive.”¹⁴ The overriding message of the document is that people who are HIV positive have a right to sexual pleasure even at the risk of exposing others to a potentially deadly disease.

- ***“Exclaim! Young people’s guide to “Sexual rights: an IPPF declaration”***¹⁵ is a pamphlet promoting sexuality at all stages of life including childhood and young adulthood stating:

“There is a common misconception that young people are not, or should not, be sexual beings with the exception of ... married young people or young people above a certain age. Sexuality is a central aspect of being human during **all phases** of each person’s life.”¹⁶

“Sexuality and sexual pleasure are important parts of being human for everyone – **no matter what age**, no matter if you’re married or not and no matter if you want to have children or not.”¹⁷

“Any limitation on sexual rights must be non-discriminatory, **including on the grounds**

⁹ International Planned Parenthood Federation. (2010). Healthy, Happy and Hot. https://www.comprehensivesexualityeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/healthy_happy_hot.pdf

¹⁰ Ibid, p. 3.

¹¹ Ibid, p. 6.

¹² Ibid, p. 7.

¹³ Ibid, p. 8.

¹⁴ Ibid, p. 4.

¹⁵ International Planned Parenthood Federation. (2011). Exclaim! Young People's Guide to 'Sexual Rights: An IPPF declaration.' http://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/ippf_exclaim_lores.pdf

¹⁶ Ibid, p. 9.

¹⁷ Ibid, p. 37.

of age.”¹⁸

“**Parental involvement** or spousal consent laws that prevent young people from seeking sexual and reproductive health services” **should be removed.**¹⁹

Other publications available on the IPPF website include:

Sex Between Men in Your City

Falling in Love with HIV

The Truth About Men, Boys and Sex

Sexual Diversity: From the Margins to the Mainstream

Pussypedia

Keys to Youth Friendly Services: Adopting a Sex-Positive Approach

Profiting by Sexualizing Children

IPPF says it “puts young people at the centre of everything we do.”²⁰ IPPF explains its focus on young people saying, “The adolescence period provides a unique opportunity to shape the behaviour and attitudes of young men and boys for life.”²¹ What interest does IPPF have in “shaping the behavior and attitudes” of young people for life? According to its stated objectives, IPPF wants to persuade young people to accept and live out the ideal that experiencing sexual pleasure is a human right and is “necessary for the development and well-being of all people and societies.”²² It is interesting to note, however, that there is virtually no scientific evidence offered in IPPF resources to support the claim that sexual pleasure at every stage of life is necessary for physical or emotional well-being of individuals or societies. This is likely because of the scarcity of such data as well as the overwhelming data showing the exact opposite: that delaying sexual activity and reserving sexual intimacy for one partner offers the most physical, emotional, social and monetary benefits.²³

In 2019, IPPF reported a net income of \$144,792,000.²⁴ That number does not include the income of IPPF’s member associations worldwide. There are over 150 member associations in countries around the globe. All of them receive funding from government grants, taxpayer monies, corporate donations, private donations, or other sources.

¹⁸ Ibid, p. 21.

¹⁹ Ibid, p. 17.

²⁰ IPPF love, sex and young people learning from our peer educators. (2013). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tf1e7Nsefzs>

²¹ International Planned Parenthood Federation. (2009). *The Truth About Men, Boys and Sex: A gender-transformative guide.* https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/truth_about_men_boys_sex.pdf

²² International Planned Parenthood Federation. (2011). Exclaim! Young People's Guide to 'Sexual Rights: An IPPF declaration.' http://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/ippf_exclaim_lores.pdf

²³ Fagan, P. (2010). The Family GDP: How Marriage and Fertility Drive the Economy. *The Natural Family* 24(2). <https://thenaturalfamily.org/article/the-family-gdp-how-marriage-and-fertility-drive-the-economy/>

²⁴ International Planned Parenthood Federation. (2020). IPPF Financial Statements 2019. <https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/IPPF%20Financial%20Statements%202019.pdf>

Planned Parenthood Federation of America is one of those member associations. In 2017, the average compensation for a CEO at a Planned Parenthood Federation of America affiliate was \$255,523. Breaking it down a little further, all 56 affiliate CEOs made over \$100,000 a year; 37 made over \$200,000 a year; 14 made over \$300,000 a year; and eight made over \$400,000 a year. Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood from 2006 to 2018, was paid \$744,833 in 2017.

It stands to reason that IPPF has recognized that the sooner a child becomes sexually active, the sooner he or she will become eligible for the services IPPF and its member associations offer, including contraceptives, STI testing and abortion. If you can convince a young person that they have a human right to experience sexual pleasure even in the face of great physical risks and other potential negative consequences, while at the same time offering to sell them all the remedies to ameliorate those risks, this can create a client for life. Planned Parenthood Federation of America takes in a reported **\$1.6 billion** in combined annual revenue.²⁵ Recruiting young people to the cause of sexual rights is big business.

Driving Public Policy

IPPF's "Goal 1" for much of the last decade was to spearhead "a global movement fighting for sexual rights and reproductive rights for all." To achieve this goal, IPPF states it will **"fight for international agreement on the meaning and importance of human rights in sexual and reproductive health. We will similarly fight for national fulfillment of these rights in every country in which we operate."**²⁶ If IPPF's philosophy triumphs at the international level, it is likely that their influence will increase exponentially as their universally legitimized sexual programs affect the minds and influence the behavior of children all over the world, paid for by their own governments. Planned Parenthood states that it will advocate at every level for sexual rights and education, fighting "on campuses and online, in statehouses and courts, in community settings, and in the media ... with members of Congress, parents, or faith leaders, or arguing cases before the U.S. Supreme Court."²⁷

Another IPPF official states, "We are still discussing with people about the right for sexuality education. I think we should not do that anymore, I mean it is a right; we should stop trying to negotiate about it."²⁸ This statement reveals a tactic IPPF has used and will continue to use in the effort to establish sexual rights as globally recognized human rights once and for all: **to simply close the door on discussion and categorically declare that "sexual rights" are international human rights because they say so.** It would seem that IPPF does not really want to reach "international agreement" on sexual rights as they say, but rather they intend to declare their position as fact when in reality there is no international consensus on these highly

²⁵ Planned Parenthood Federation of America. (2020). 2019-2020 Annual Report. https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/finder_public/67/30/67305ea1-8da2-4cee-9191-19228c1d6f70/210219-annual-report-2019-2020-web-final.pdf

²⁶ International Planned Parenthood Federation. (2013). Financial Statements 2012. http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/financialstatements_2012_en.pdf

²⁷ International Planned Parenthood Federation. (n.d.). Planned Parenthood Federation of America. <https://www.ippfamr.org/about-us/member-associations/planned-parenthood-federation-america>

²⁸ International Planned Parenthood Federation. (2012). Happy 60th Birthday IPPF. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2u5gaHHgeGE>

controversial sexual issues. Their strategy is reminiscent of standard propaganda philosophies: “If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it.”²⁹

Funding

As the sexual rights position gains popularity and protection under the law, IPPF’s funding is steadily increasing: Where does most of IPPF’s funding come from? According to IPPF’s financial statements for 2019, “IPPF’s main source of funding is government grants, which account for 88 per cent” of total income.³⁰ Further, Planned Parenthood Federation of America reportedly received over \$1.5 billion in taxpayer funds during a three-year period ending in 2015.³¹

IPPF also receives significant funding from **UN agencies** including UNFPA, UNAIDS and WHO.³²

Conclusion

IPPF and its member associations spend billions of dollars in countries around the world to expose children and teenagers to explicit sexual materials, normalize homosexuality, legalize prostitution, undermine religious and cultural values, and elevate sexual behaviors to the status of international human rights. **A key strategy to combating these efforts is to refuse to accept “sexual rights” as legitimate human rights.** Just as surely as IPPF can declare that sexual rights are human rights, others can maintain, with greater factual and historical basis, that they are not. Those in a position to oppose the acceptance of sexual-rights language into binding and non-binding international declarations and agreements should fight vigorously to keep such language out. Additionally, citizens should seek to reduce or eliminate government funding for IPPF comprehensive sexuality education programs which indoctrinate children in sexual rights philosophies that not only run counter to prevalent religious and cultural beliefs in their countries but have been shown to sow the seeds of personal and social harm.

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²⁹ ThinkExist.com. (n.d.). http://thinkexist.com/quotation/-if_you_tell_a_lie_big_enough_and_keep_repeating/345877.html

³⁰ International Planned Parenthood Federation. (2020). IPPF Financial Statements 2019. <https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/IPPF%20Financial%20Statements%202019.pdf>

³¹ The Heritage Foundation. (2018). New Report Shows Planned Parenthood Raked in \$1.5 Billion in Taxpayer Funds Over 3 Years. <https://www.heritage.org/marriage-and-family/commentary/new-report-shows-planned-parenthood-raked-15-billion-taxpayer-funds>

³² International Planned Parenthood Federation. (2020). IPPF Financial Statements 2019. <https://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/IPPF%20Financial%20Statements%202019.pdf>