

Sexual health, human rights and the law



World Health
Organization

human
reproduction
programme **hrp.**
research for impact

UNDP · UNFPA · UNICEF · WHO · WORLD BANK

NOTE: The following excerpts were taken directly from this publication. The excerpts clearly show that the World Health Organization and other partners in the Human Reproduction Program—including the UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF, as well as the World Bank, UNAIDS and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)—are pushing a radical abortion and sexual rights agenda under the guise of “sexual health.”

INTRODUCTION

The following excerpts from “Sexual Health, Human Rights and the Law” are quite disturbing.

Most troubling is the fact that these quotes reveal that the World Health Organization (WHO), regarded as the premier health organization that sets the health standards for the entire world, is promoting radical sexual rights for children, ironically at the expense of sexual health.

Joining WHO in promoting these radical sexual rights are other co-sponsors and partners in what is referred to as the Human Reproduction Program (HRP), which includes UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNFPA, World Bank, and UNAIDS as well as International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

According to its website, the HRP is the **“main instrument and leading research agency within the United Nations system concerned with sexual and reproductive health and rights.”** And, the World Health Organization **“serves as the executing agency for HRP.”**

This all-out assault by the WHO and multiple UN agencies, in partnership with Planned Parenthood, is an unprecedented aggressive effort to sexualize our children and to advance abortion across the world and much more.

We hope you are deeply disturbed by what you see and that you will join us in calling upon the WHO and these UN agencies to stop this onslaught on our families and children.

The WHO and UN Interagency Partners Push Abortion, Promiscuity, Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage, Transgender Rights, and More

Note: The WHO partners with multiple UN agencies, and with International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), in sponsoring, and thus endorsing, highly controversial documents, like “Sexual Health, Human Rights, and the Law.”

Excerpts from *“Sexual Health, Human Rights, and the Law”¹*

The following excerpts from the document, “Sexual Health, Human Rights, and the Law,” show that “sexual health,” which is listed as a component of “reproductive health” in the International Covenant of Population and Development (7.25), is now being interpreted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and multiple UN agencies in conjunction with International Planned Parenthood, to promote abortion, comprehensive sexuality education, and radical sexual rights, including prostitution and transgender rights. Thus, the terms, “sexual health,” “reproductive health,” and “sexual and reproductive health,” are dangerous terms that should be avoided at all costs in policy documents.

WHO-Supported Definition for “Sexual Health”

“Sexual health encompasses issues related to sexuality, sexual practices, contraception and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) ...” (pg. 16, 3.3.1—Guarantee of privacy and confidentiality)

“Sexual health today is widely understood as a state of physical, emotional, mental and social wellbeing in relation to sexuality. It encompasses ...”

- “being able to control one’s fertility through access to contraception and abortion ...” (pg. 1, Executive Summary)
- “the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences ...” (pg. 1, Executive Summary)
- “the recognition of the diversity of sexual behaviour and expression contributes to people’s overall sense of well-being and health.” (pg. 1, Executive Summary)

WARNING: Most of the following claims made in these multiple quotes in this document, “Sexual Health, Human Rights, and the Law” are false. References to rights related to sexual health and international human rights standards related to sexual health are misleading and deceptive interpretations of UN human rights law and are intended to promote unscientific ideologies around sex and gender.

¹ World Health Organization. *Sexual Health, Human Rights, and the Law*, Geneva, Switzerland. 2015.

There are no international treaties that support these false claims, only activist interpretations of these treaties and standards by sexual rights and abortion rights activists. These activists get on UN treaty body monitoring committees and then issue radical, nonbinding misinterpretations of provisions in human rights documents. **Indeed, the majority of "rights" promoted by the quotes that follow, are actually sexual wrongs, being deceptively promoted as sexual rights.**

The WHO-Supported Definition for CSE

“... ‘**sexuality information**’ refers to information **pertinent to sexual health**, including **information about sex and sexuality**, about different forms of **relationships and sexual practices**, as well as ... **diverse perspectives on sexuality**. ... but it also covers issues of **non-discrimination and equality, tolerance, safety** ...” (pg. 31, 4.2— Defining sexuality information and education)

The WHO AND PARTNERS’ FALSE CLAIMS REGARDING COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION (CSE)

The WHO and Partners Claim CSE is Crucial for Sexual Health

- “Information and education, including **comprehensive sexuality education**, are **crucial for sexual health** in several respects.” (pg. 31, 4.1—Introduction)
- “**...sexual health and well-being depends on their access to comprehensive information about sexuality ...**” (pg. 1)

The WHO and Partners Claim All States are Obligated to Provide CSE

- “The importance of the state providing sexuality information and **comprehensive sexuality education** is reinforced by international human rights standards that place **legally binding obligations on governments to take steps to ensure that both adults and adolescents have access** to such information and education ...” (pg. 34)
- “Human rights standards clearly articulate that **states must proactively put in the public domain information of public interest, including information related to sexual health**, and make every effort to ensure easy, prompt, effective and practical access to such information. (pg. 32, 4.4-Human rights standards and legal protections)

The WHO and Partners Claim States Cannot Censor Sexuality Information

“International and regional human rights standards clearly stipulate **that states must refrain from censoring, withholding or intentionally misrepresenting health-related information, including sexuality education and information**. Provision of

information is an essential part of good quality sexuality and **reproductive health services.**" (pg. 32, 4.4—Human rights standards and legal protections)

- **"Laws and regulations that exclude specific topics from sexuality information and education, or exclude certain people from gaining access to sexuality education, have detrimental consequences for sexual health."** (pg. 2, Executive summary)
- **"International human rights bodies** have emphasized the importance of states providing sexuality information and **comprehensive sexuality education** ... and have specifically stipulated that **states should refrain from censoring scientifically accurate sexual health information**, ... the **restriction on information regarding abortion services**, for example, has been **successfully challenged** at the regional level." (pg. 2, Exec. summary)
- **"The freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print**, in the form of art, or through any other media, is a fundamental human right that **cannot be arbitrarily restricted** (89, 321- 323)." (pg. 32, 4.4 Human rights standards and legal protections)

The WHO and Partners Claim CSE is Part of Right to Education, Health and Information

"International human rights standards call on **states to provide access to comprehensive and scientifically accurate sexuality education as part of the respect, protection and fulfilment of all individuals' rights to education, health and information.** This includes information ... **aimed at addressing cultural and other taboos surrounding adolescent sexuality.**" (pg. 33, 4.5—Restrictions)

The WHO and Partners Claim Obscenity Laws Should Not Apply to CSE

- **"... sexuality-related information and education have often - historically and still today - been considered "obscene"** (pg. 32, 4.3—Legal restrictions on sexuality)
- **"... criminal law often use terms such as 'obscene', 'indecent', 'offensive', 'pornographic', 'prurient' or 'against public morals' to indicate material that cannot be published, distributed, purchased or viewed/read."** (pg. 32, 4.3—Legal restrictions)
- **"... materials with sexuality-related content should not be considered harmful or pornographic** ... provided that the materials have been approved by the competent authority." (pg. 33, 4.4—Human rights standards)

VIOLATING PARENTAL RIGHTS

The WHO and Partners Claim Parental Consent Not Needed for Confidential Counselling or Sexual Information

- “... **children should have access to confidential counselling and advice without the consent of a parent or legal guardian ...**” (pg. 33, 4.5—Ensuring no arbitrary or unnecessary restrictions to information and education)
- “States should review and **consider allowing children to consent to certain medical treatments and services without the permission of a parent or guardian**, such as HIV testing and sexual and reproductive health services, including education and guidance on sexual health, contraception and safe abortion.” (pg. 33-34, 4.5—Ensuring no arbitrary or unnecessary restrictions to information and education)
- “**While states and parents have a duty to protect children from harm**, this must be balanced with the **duty of the state to provide children with information and education essential for their lives, their sexual health and their well-being, commensurate with their evolving capacities.**”

The WHO and Partners Promote Reproductive Health Services Without Parental Consent

“**Human rights standards** at the international, regional and national levels are well developed regarding the protection of adolescents under 18 from discrimination in accessing both information and services for sexual health. They also **require states to guarantee adolescents’ rights to privacy and confidentiality by providing sexual and reproductive health services without parental consent** on the basis of their evolving capacities.” (Excerpt from 2015 WHO publication, “Sexual Health, Human Rights and the Law”) (pg. 19-20, 3.4.1—Adolescents [under 18 years of age])

The WHO and Partners Claim CSE Rights Trump Religious Rights & Obscenity Laws

“... while the parents or guardians may take steps **to raise their children consistent with their religious and cultural beliefs**, and may choose the form of primary education, **yet the rights of the child to objective and scientifically supported information, commensurate with their evolving capacity, is coupled with the duty of the state to present information and education in an objective manner to that child ...** This set of rights and duties means that **parents can share their values and perspectives with their children, but cannot bar their children from receiving scientifically accurate sexuality-related information and education.**” (pg. 34, 4.5—Ensuring no arbitrary or unnecessary restrictions to information and education related to sexuality and sexual health for people under 18)

PROMOTING PROSTITUTION

The WHO and Partners Call for Legalized Prostitution

- “Criminalization and application of other **punitive regulations to sex work** foster **discriminatory practices and stigmatizing social attitudes** and drive sex work underground, making health services hard to reach.” (pg. 27, 3.4.10—People engaged in sex work)
- “... all countries should work toward **decriminalization of sex work** and elimination of the unjust application of non-criminal laws and regulations against people engaged in sex work.” (pg. 28, 3.4.10—People engaged in sex work)

The WHO and Partners Claim Legalizing Same-Sex Marriage Required

- “Various countries around the world have **legalized same-sex marriages to protect fundamental human rights, including access to health services** and social benefits (e.g. Argentina, Canada, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa).” (pg. 21, 3.4.2—Marital Status)
- “Another dimension of marital status that may hinder access to health services is the **lack of legal recognition for marriages or civil partnerships for same-sex couples on an equal basis with heterosexual couples.**” (pg. 21, 3.4.2—Marital Status)
- “... ensure that **unmarried same-sex couples are treated in the same way and entitled to the same benefits as unmarried heterosexual couples.**” (pg. 21, 3.4.2—Marital Status)

PROMOTING TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

The WHO and Partners Promote Cross-Sex Hormones and Sex Change Operations

- “... for people whose deeply felt gender does not correspond to their sex assigned at birth, **access to hormonal treatment or gender reassignment surgery**, or other treatment, may be needed for the protection of their health including their sexual health.” (pg. 14, 3.1—Introduction)
- “Where **health services are expensive and not subsidized, or are disrespectful, transgender and gender variant people may obtain hormones of dubious quality** from outside the health system, often through the black market or the Internet, and take them without proper supervision of dosage. The **improper use of sex hormones can lead to serious health problems** such as liver damage, blood clotting, deep vein thrombosis, hypertension and potentially harmful impacts on pubertal growth.” (pg. 25, 3.4.8—Transgender and gender variant people)

- **“If care from a trained person is not available, transgender people may also end up receiving crude methods of castration by unqualified people, with serious risks such as urinary stricture, septic infection and even death.”** (pg. 25, 3.4.8—Transgender and gender variant people)
- **“... access to, and reimbursement of, gender-affirming surgery has been specifically addressed by international and regional human rights and professional bodies.”** (pg. 25-26, 3.4.8—Transgender and gender variant people)

The WHO and Partners Promote Radical Gender Ideology, Including Transgender/Gender Identity

- **Transgender and gender variant people “... not being able to live according to one’s self-identified gender is likely to be a source of distress, exacerbating other forms of ill health.”** (pg. 24, 3.4.8—Transgender and gender variant people)
- Evidence shows that in many cases, **acquiring physical sex characteristics congruent with experienced gender identity (such as by undergoing gender-affirming surgery) improves health**, wellbeing and quality of life, including better self-esteem and improved physical, mental, emotional and social functioning and **some have shown improvement in sexual function and satisfaction.**” (pg. 25, 3.4.8—Transgender and gender variant people)
- “Services related to **gender transition** may include **hormonal therapies, surgical procedures, psychological counselling, permanent hair removal and/or voice therapy**. Depending on individual needs, transgender and gender variant people may need different transition-related services at different times in their lives.” (pg. 25, 3.4.8—Transgender and gender variant people)

The WHO and Partners Call for Recognition of a Third Gender

“Some transgender and **gender variant people** do not identify as male or female, but as a third gender. Recognizing such phenomena, **legal recognition of a third gender** has been implemented in a number of countries throughout the world (e.g. Nepal and Pakistan).” (pg. 26, 3.4.8—Transgender and gender variant people)

The WHO and Partners Call to Destigmatize Sex Work, Transgenderism, and Adolescent Sex

“... discrimination and inequality related to sexuality and sexual health. This includes information about the **marginalization, stigmatization and abuse of those perceived as having socially unacceptable sexual practices or characteristics (e.g. being HIV-positive, engaging in same-sex sex, being a sexually active adolescent, a sex worker, a transgender or intersex person, or any combination of these)**, and the toll that such discrimination takes on people’s health.” (pg. 4, Introduction)

PROMOTING ABORTION RIGHTS

The WHO and Partners Call Abortion a Human Right

“In order to respect and protect human rights, states must ensure that health systems and services are able to meet the specific sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents, including contraception and safe abortion services. States are required to ensure that comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services are available ...” (pg. 19, 3.4.1—Adolescents [under 18 years of age])

The WHO and Partners Urge Liberalizing Restrictive Abortion and Sex Education Laws

“Laws that prohibit or criminalize the use of certain medical procedures represent, by definition, a barrier to access. Such laws and other legal restrictions may prevent access to certain **commodities** needed for sexual and reproductive health (e.g. **contraceptives**), they may directly outlaw a particular service (e.g. **abortion**), or they may ban the provision of sexual and reproductive information through school-based or other education programmes.” (pg. 16, 3.2.4—Criminalization of sexual-health-related services)

The WHO and Partners Say Legal Abortion Required for Sexual Health

- “Yet medicines needed for the promotion of sexual health, such as antiretrovirals for HIV, emergency contraception, or mifepristone and misoprostol for medical abortion – all of which are included on the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines – are often either not available (due to intellectual property laws) or are restricted or prohibited by law. ... While other regulatory and **health system barriers also hinder women’s right to obtain abortion services ...**” (pg. 15, 3.2.2—Conscientious objection by health-care providers)
- “Restricting legal access to abortion, for example, does not decrease the need for abortion, but it **is likely to increase the number of women seeking illegal and unsafe abortions, leading to increased morbidity and mortality.**” (pg. 16, 3.2.4—Criminalization of sexual-health-related services)

The WHO and Partners Promote Emergency Contraception

“Among a number of **examples of legal barriers to access is the prohibition or restriction on the availability of emergency contraception ...**” (pg. 2—Executive Summary)

The WHO and Partners Call Conscientious Objection a Barrier

- **“Barriers to sexual health** that are susceptible to regulation by law include: access to essential medicines, **conscientious objection by health-care providers...**” (pg. 14, 3.2—Creating enabling legal and regulatory frameworks and eliminating barriers)
- **“States have particular responsibility to ensure that adolescents are not deprived of any sexual and reproductive health information or services due to providers’ conscientious objection.”** (pg. 15, 3.2.2—Conscientious objection by health-care providers)

The full document, *Sexual Health, Human Rights and the Law*, can be accessed at:
[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/175556/1/9789241564984_eng.pdf?ua=](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/175556/1/9789241564984_eng.pdf?ua=1)

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