

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

4TH AFRICA CONFERENCE ON SEXUAL HEALTH AND RIGHTS

On behalf of the Scientific Committee, the Organizing Committee for the 4th Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights would like to invite Abstracts (oral presentations and posters) exploring the overall theme of the Conference ‘Sexuality and HIV & AIDS in Africa’ and through the following objectives and sub-themes:

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. Focus will be on **inequality in particular through expression of sexuality; interconnectedness of barriers to the achievement of full sexual health & rights; multiple vulnerabilities as a result of denial of sexual expression; disability; conflict etc.** The key focus will be on **shifting interventions away from morality to the application of rights in identifying vulnerabilities to reduce the spread of HIV & AIDS.**

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. The focus will be on **key rights, drivers and linkages between sexuality and HIV & AIDS; gender based violence especially in intimate partner relationships, child marriages, female genital mutilation as ways of suppressing women’s expression of sexuality/pleasure; explore rights based approaches to sexuality, and in particular within the context of the provision of sexual health and rights;** the roles of religions and cultural institutions in advancing or impeding the application and advancement of sexual rights looking at marriage, reproduction as the *raison d’être* for humanity, personal control over sexuality in relation to African community/collective to sexuality; masculinities as defined and implications for sexual autonomy, freedoms and rights; how laws, practices and policies can be reformed to support the expansion of sexual rights; the role of the media in promoting positive sexuality; etc. .

Sub-Themes

- Exploring positive sexuality and sexual pleasure as a strategy for combating HIV & AIDS.
- Sexual and Gender Based Violence and implications on HIV & AIDS and achieving sexual and reproductive health.
- 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. The focus of the abstracts will be on practical strategies currently being implemented, funding frameworks and programming that can best advance the use of sexuality and sexual rights in interventions aimed at providing comprehensive sexual health, including the reduction and prevention of HIV & AIDS in Africa

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.

Abstract Format

- 15-minute oral presentations (10 minutes presentation + 5 minutes for questions). These presentations will be scheduled according to theme by the Scientific Committee.
- 5 minute oral poster presentations (3 minutes for presentation + 2 minutes for questions).

Authors may choose among the following abstract formats:

1. **Standard format** (Introduction and objectives, Method(s), Results and Conclusion).
2. **Qualitative Research Studies** (Introduction, Method(s), Findings and discussion, Recommendations and References)
3. **Experiential & Practice Samples** (Introduction, Action. Outcome, Discussion, Recommendations and References).
4. **Historical Survey** (Introduction, Approach, Findings and discussions and References).

Abstracts Submission Criteria

- Abstracts should be submitted for poster and podium presentations.
- All abstracts must be submitted online at <http://www.africalsexuality.org/openconf/openconf.php>
- Abstracts can be submitted in English, French or Portuguese.
- Abstracts will be printed as submitted. It is the author's responsibility to submit the abstract in the correct order with no spelling or grammar errors.
- Abstracts that are not received in the proper format will not be considered for review by the Scientific Committee.
- The Abstract should include a summary of not more than 200 words and an extended abstract of 2-3 pages (Arial font 11, spacing 1.5).
- The abstract should provide as much relevant information as possible and should follow the one of the 4 formats highlighted above.
- The title should be in capital letters.
- For multiple submissions, consistency in authors' names should be maintained to avoid duplication in the Author index of the final Program.
- The presenting author's name should be listed first and underlined.
- Authors must indicate the name of the funders (if any) of research being presented.
- Authors must disclose any potential conflict of interest for their research.
- PowerPoint presentations using a PC data projector will be the standard method of visual data presentation.
- Authors should indicate whether they prefer a podium or poster presentation.
- The final decision on the presentation format will be made by the Scientific Committee.
- Receipt of all abstracts will be acknowledged by e-mail.

- All accepted abstracts will be published in the Conference Proceedings, online and may be reproduced in relevant scientific journals.
- Submitted Abstracts will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Evaluation of Abstracts

Originality: abstracts containing significant new findings to improve sexuality and HIV & AIDS linkages.

Quality: abstracts that significantly advance the evidence base for meeting the sexual and rights needs of vulnerable groups leading to a reduction of HIV & AIDS.

Importance: abstracts that directly address key themes identified for the conference;

Presentation: abstracts that are based on the formats highlighted above.

CONFERENCE TRAVEL SUPPORT

Limited travel support is available and those whose abstracts are selected for oral presentation will be eligible to apply. Priority will be given to those with clearly demonstrated financial needs. Travel support application forms will be provided with notification letters.

Kindly refer to the website www.africalsexuality.org for more information.

Any queries/request for additional information should be sent to:

4srhconference@ippfaro.org

Abstract Submission Deadline: 30th September 2009