

Taking stock of comprehensive sexuality education during the COVID-19 pandemic

Online side event during the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Council
Tuesday 29 March 2022, 13:30 - 15:00 CEST

Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) plays a key role in the realisation of a wide set of rights relating to sexuality, gender, reproduction, livelihoods and education. Many states from all regions of the world have recognized the transformative impact of CSE and have taken political, financial and policy steps to ensure that children, adolescents and young people have access to high quality, scientifically accurate and non-judgemental CSE. While there is a growing, though uneven, consensus on the importance of CSE, there also continues to be unrelenting resistance to it. Added to this, are the many institutional and structural barriers and challenges in rolling out CSE. COVID-19 has only exacerbated the situation; with school closures, CSE programmes were disrupted where they were running and children and young people lost direct access to trusted adults outside the home. Isolated at home with family or strangers, and often in unsafe spaces, young people's need for information and resources increased at precisely the time when their access decreased or even vanished.

In this context, the organisers of this side event will host a conversation with a range of actors committed to ensuring access to CSE, to explore the significance of CSE; the impact COVID-19 pandemic has had on CSE and related SRHR; and share strategies moving forward.

Speakers

- Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health (video statement)
- Mr. Julius Natangwe Nghifikwa, Deputy-Director, HIV & AIDS Management Unit, Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, Namibia
- Anne Philpott, Founder and Co-Director of The Pleasure Project
- Pahola Peñaranda Villarroel, National Education Manager, CIES Salud Sexual – Salud Reproductiva
- Maria Bakaroudis, CSE Specialist and focal point on SRHR and young people with disabilities, UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office

Moderator

- Lobna Darwish, Gender and Human Rights Officer, Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights

Click here to register for the online event:
www.sexualrightsinitiative.com/webinar

Interpretation will be provided in English, Spanish and French, and captioning will be provided in English and Spanish. If you require additional accommodations, please contact pooja@srigenewa.com

