



IPPF

International
Planned Parenthood
Federation

European Network

**CHAMPIONS
FOR SEXUAL
AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH
AND RIGHTS**



**The International
Planned Parenthood
Federation European
Network (IPPF EN)
champions sexual and
reproductive health and
rights for all.**

We are one of the International Planned Parenthood Federation's six regional networks. IPPF EN works in 41 countries across Europe and Central Asia to empower everyone, especially the most socially excluded, to live with dignity and to have access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. This access is essential to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals in all countries.

**IPPF EN covers a hugely
diverse region stretching
from Iceland to Kyrgyzstan,
and Norway to Israel.**

Our member associations are independent organisations championing the needs of their local populations, especially the most marginalised. They work with young people, ensuring they are fully literate in the skills they need to manage their health and to engage in safe and fulfilling intimate relationships. They provide and advocate for essential care such as contraception, maternal health care, HIV prevention, safe and legal abortion and support for survivors of rape and sexual violence.



IPPF EN cares for all women, men, children, and young people across Europe and recognises their right to lead safe and dignified reproductive lives, free from harm and discrimination.

Gender-based power inequalities mean that many people face barriers deciding if, when and with whom to have sex, form relationships, or create a family. We advocate for a world in which love and sexuality are recognised both as natural and precious aspects of life, and as fundamental human rights. We strive for a world where misogyny and sexism have ceased to exist, and gender or sexuality are no longer a source of inequality or stigma. We will not retreat from safeguarding these fundamental choices and rights for current and future generations.

**WHO
WE ARE**



1

FIGHTING FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AND ACCESS TO CARE

We believe that everyone has the right to lead a free reproductive life. Our mission is to ensure that women, couples and young people are free from reproductive bullying and interference, and can make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health. This means they need to have full access to modern contraception, to abortion care if they decide not to move through a full pregnancy, and to have help with having children when they need it.

Far too many barriers to accessing essential care still exist. We work to break these down by eradicating legal obstacles through our advocacy work; helping to ensure high quality care is accessible to all; and empowering vulnerable people to stand up for their sexual and reproductive rights.

**OUR
PRIORITIES**

2

PUSHING

WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' RIGHTS TO THE HEART OF THE EUROPEAN AGENDA



Attempts to reduce or undermine women's reproductive safety and care have significantly increased in recent years in Europe and Central Asia and these have been further emboldened by the expansion of ultra-right-wing movements. This, combined with widespread inequality in the region, means access to modern contraception, abortion and fertility care becomes increasingly a privilege for the few. Women, girls and young people, especially those from socially excluded populations, bear the brunt. IPPF EN and our members hold firm against those who would push Europe backwards. We continually work with governments and service providers to ensure that women, couples and families have access to quality reproductive care and are free to decide upon the most vital areas of their lives, including if and when they want children.

Access to sexual and reproductive health care is crucial to saving lives, promoting global health and achieving sustainable human development. The EU is one of the world's most influential development actors. Our Regional Office in Brussels, together with our member associations, engages with the EU and its Member States to ensure that together they are a progressive voice on sexual and reproductive health and rights in development cooperation and humanitarian aid policies.

We also advocate towards the EU, European and national institutions to deliver strong policies and adequate resources for sexual and reproductive health and rights in Europe and Central Asia.

We work to ensure the EU fulfils its strong commitment to promoting gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment. By engaging with European institutions, we also promote a supportive and positive policy environment for young people so they can become active and healthy citizens in society, wherever they live.

IPPF EN engages with EU policy-makers to speak up and act against regressive discourse, laws and policies that undermine women's sexual and reproductive health, and flout human rights principles and EU law.

3

CHAMPIONING YOUTH RIGHTS



Young people are at the heart of our work. We fight with them and for them, recognising their potential as educators, activists and advocates, and helping to ensure that no young person is neglected. In Europe today, there are 90 million young people. They have the potential to drive change to build a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable world. However, far too many young people are placed in danger because they can't access the sexual and reproductive health care, information and education they need.

IPPF EN works to equip young people with the crucial life skills needed to achieve health and well-being through ensuring access to youth-friendly care, and developing their emotional and sexual literacy. More than half of all our care is delivered to young people. We strive to ensure that all young people in our region can speak up and make informed decisions about their right to sexual and reproductive health care, including

those not in formal education. This reflects the global sustainable development targets requiring education programmes to enhance gender equity and build happy and healthy relationships based on consent and respect. Sexuality education is essential to protect all young people from violence and sexual harassment.

Currently, 27 million young people in Europe are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Young people in Europe are too often kept on the fringes of decision-making processes that will affect their lives and futures. This is why we ensure that they are at the heart of all IPPF EN programmes and why we require a minimum of 20% of young people at all levels of our governance. We support them to take leadership roles in their communities, and our youth network has created an important space for young volunteers to represent their peers. This ensures they remain at the centre of decision-making processes in all our member associations across the region.

4

REACHING THOSE WHOSE NEEDS ARE GREATEST



Millions of women, girls and young people across the region are neglected and abandoned by governments and societies. This is particularly the case for those living in poverty or impacted by humanitarian crises, disability, gender-based violence or HIV. The failure of governments to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive care has far-reaching consequences for individual rights, health and well-being, as well as economic development. Our region faces huge discrepancies in rates of modern contraceptive use, with some states having lower levels than the world's least developed countries. Eastern Europe and Central Asia is also the only region in the world where HIV is on the rise.

IPPF EN's mission is to ensure that all people, everywhere, have access to high quality care and

information. Through our member associations, we support those who are socially excluded and/or have limited access to services, to know and stand up for their rights, to fulfil their aspirations.

In humanitarian emergencies, women and girls are often subjected to sexual violence and unwanted pregnancies and are vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections. Their acute need for care is very often overlooked or denied. More than half of the refugees arriving in Europe are women and children. Our members respond to their needs through ensuring life-saving care, education and counselling.

SEXUAL RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEY BELONG TO US ALL. Empowering individuals creates positive change throughout entire communities. People should be able to determine how to live their lives without fear of attacks, legal sanctions or stigma. IPPF EN focuses on empowering all young people, including those with disabilities and living in repressive communities, to know their human rights and protect themselves against sexual abuse and violence to lead healthy and dignified lives.



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