

Intervention in the section on Families, sexual and reproductive health over the life course

Thank you for this opportunity. I speak on behalf of IPPF Norway, affiliate to International Planned Parenthood Federation.

Almost 30 years after ICPD it is timely that we should reconfirm its principles. But we should also take into account the vast knowledge and experience that has been gained since 1994, and move forward.

IPPF Norway is promoting positive sexuality, from kindergarten to old age. We have an age appropriate program on comprehensive sexuality education that aims at improving the competence of teachers. We also have a pioneer program on sexuality among elderly persons. Elderly people are often, and wrongly, seen as non-sexual. Our program assists elderly people in enjoying sexuality, and educates health staff on how to facilitate pleasurable sexual relationships among aging persons.

Norway is in a fortunate situation in terms of sexual health and sexual rights compared to many other countries. But there are challenges. Some groups carry multiple risks. Our organization therefore focuses on intersectionality. As already acknowledged in Cairo in 1994 there are diverse families such as same sex unions and in Norway also same sex marriages, many with children. We recognize and celebrate sexual and gender diversity.

Stigma is intrinsically linked to sexuality, and needs to be combatted. Trans persons in Norway are stigmatized and experience considerable mental health risks. We work for their rights. Abortion is also stigmatized, even in our country where it has been legal on demand for more than 40 years. We are advocating for expanding abortion rights in Norway and elsewhere.

Sexual freedom and sexual justice are a noble aim, that we work towards hand in hand with our sibling organizations around the world.

Thank you.