

Mandates of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

1 June 2023

Dear Ms. Marotta,

In accordance with the United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 51/2 on the World Programme for Human Rights Education and in response to the call for views of the relevant stakeholders on the target sectors, focus areas or thematic human rights issues of 1 May 2023, the signing UN Human Rights Special Procedures wish to suggest the inclusion of sexuality education in the thematic focus areas for the fifth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

As such, the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, and the Special Rapporteur on the right to education would like to highlight and share their views on Sexuality Education. Sexuality Education is a focus area that promotes human rights, gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, healthy and respectful relationships, well-being, empathy, respect, autonomy, consent, and diversity. It works to prevent sexually transmitted infections, early pregnancies, and sexual and gender-based violence. Issued by the four referred Special Procedures, the Compendium on Sexuality Education (CSE) offers new guidelines on Sexuality Education based on a human rights framework. It assembles standards and best practices while strongly emphasizing that comprehensive sexuality education should be inclusive and provided to everyone, particularly with a target sector of those who remain marginalized because of their age, disability, sexual orientation, and sex and gender identity, among other factors and conditions.

The CSE attached to this letter advocates for the principles of equality, empowerment, and non-discrimination in the area of sexuality education as part of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Marina Sandul, Associate Human Rights Expert supporting the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender

Ms. Francesca Marotta
Methodology, Education and Training Section
Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

identity at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (marina.sandul@un.org).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor Madrigal-Borloz', written in a cursive style.

Victor Madrigal-Borloz
Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tlaleng Mofokeng', written in a cursive style.

Tlaleng Mofokeng
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Farida Shaheed', written in a cursive style.

Farida Shaheed
Special Rapporteur on the right to education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy Estrada-Tanck', written in a cursive style.

Dorothy Estrada-Tanck
Chair of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls