



WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR **SEXUAL HEALTH**



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Leading the Way in Sexual Health Education, Research,
Clinical Services, Policy Development, and Advocacy.



“Sexual health is fundamental to the overall health and well-being of individuals, couples and families, and to the social and economic development of communities and countries. Sexual health, when viewed affirmatively, requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.”

The World Health Organization (WHO) working definition on Sexual Health (2002, 2006), as developed in consultation with WAS.



The Extended Advisory Committee and Contractors of The World Association for Sexual Health during the 26th Congress of the World Association for Sexual Health, Antalya, Türkiye, November 2023.

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Foreword

President of WAS

Dr. Elna Rudolph South Africa

As a Global Confederation, we proudly represent thousands of professionals in Sexual Health and Rights. We are delighted to share with you our collaborative initiatives in leading Sexual Health Education, Research, Clinical Services, Policy Development and Advocacy. These efforts have significantly progressed our mission of promoting **Sexual Health and Rights for ALL** in 2023.

We live in a world where too many people don't have access to their right to informed and autonomous choices regarding sexual health. Only a handful of nations have strong laws and policies ensuring sexual health, rights, justice, and pleasure for all citizens. Sex-positive attitudes are far from universal, and diversity is often met with resistance and persecution. Tragically, gender inequality and sexual violence persist worldwide and in particular in zones of armed conflict and war.

Despite the wealth of technological advancements, it remains a challenge to access comprehensive sexuality education that is grounded in scientific evidence, based on rights-based principles and shaped by experience-informed insights. Moreover, the absence of Training and Certification in Sexual Health, especially in the Global South, highlights the need for leadership in Sexual Health and Rights. That is precisely where WAS comes in. In 2023, we built on the leadership WAS has provided in these areas during the last four and a half decades.

We believe that professionals in Sexual Health and Rights are pivotal in advancing almost all the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly good health and well-being, gender equality, reduced inequalities, partnerships, and building strong and equitable institutions. Therefore, as an organization, our main focus is to support these professionals in Sexual Health and Rights to be catalysts of change in their own regions and to enhance sustainable development through sexual health, rights and justice.

As we navigate these critical issues, WAS beckons for your support. While we possess the experience and expertise to effect change, we need allies to stand with us. I invite you to be inspired and mobilized by this report and to join us in our vision of realizing Sexual Health and Rights for ALL, by supporting and cultivating professionals in sexual health and rights globally.

Sincerely,
Dr. Elna Rudolph
President, World Association for Sexual Health
On behalf of the 2021-2025
WAS Executive and Advisory Committees



“In a world where Sexual Health and Rights are still far from universal, our collective efforts serve as beacons of hope.”

Organogram of WAS

The General Assembly is the highest governing body of WAS and consists of representatives of WAS Member Organizations and Federations.

WAS Leadership

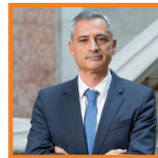
WAS Executive Officers



President:
Elna Rudolph
SOUTH AFRICA
Medical Doctor, Sexologist
and Clinical Head of My Sexual Health



Vice-President:
Alain Giami
FRANCE
Emeritus Research
Professor INSERM



Past President:
Pedro Nobre
PORTUGAL
Professor of Psychology & Director of the Faculty of
Psychology & Edu Sciences at the University of Porto



Secretary-General:
Luis Perelman-Javnozov
MEXICO
Sexuality Educator and Activist, Co-
Founder of El Armario Abierto

Appointed Members of the WAS Executive Committee



Esther Corona Vargas
MEXICO
Founder and past President of
the Mexican Association for
Sexuality Education (AMES)



Jeyarani Kamaraj
INDIA
MBBS, DGO - Gynecology
& Obstetrics



Eszter Kismödi
SWITZERLAND
CEO of SRHM, JD, LL.M.,
International Human Rights Lawyer
on SRH Law, Policy and Research



Esben Esther Pirelli-Benestad
NORWAY
Physician, Sexologist and
Ph.D. Researcher



Erick Janssen
BELGIUM
Professor in Sexology and Director of
the Institute for Family and Sexuality
Studies at the University of Leuven

WAS Federation Presidents



**Asia-Oceania Federation for
Sexology (AOFS):**
Rosediani Muhamad
MALAYSIA



**European Federation of
Sexology (EFS):**
Mehmet Sungur
Turkey



**Latin American Federation of Sexology
and Sex Education Societies (FLASSES):**
Felipe Hurtado Murillo
SPAIN



**North American Federation for
Sexual Health (NAFSH):**
Lynn Barclay
USA



**East Mediterranean Federation
of Sexual Health (EMFESH):**
Fayal El Kak
LEBANON



Sexual Health Africa (SHA):
SHA will be the newly formed
official federation of
WAS in Africa

Advisory Committee

Elsa Almås - NORWAY
Stefano Eleuteri - ITALY
Bradley Daniels (ex officio) - SOUTH AFRICA
Osmo Kontula - FINLAND
Leisze R Lapping-Carr - USA
Kristen Mark - USA
Osmar Matsui-Santana - MEXICO
Tomoko Saotome - JAPAN
Mehmet Sungur - TÜRKİYE
Ana Yáñez-Otero - SPAIN
Terry Humphreys - CANADA



Past Presidents

Romano Forleo - ITALY (Deceased 2009)
Gilbert Tordjman - FRANCE
Fernando Bianco - VENEZUELA
Alan Wabrek - USA
Rubén Hernández-Serrano - VENEZUELA
Eli Coleman - USA
Marc Ganem - FRANCE (Deceased 2011)
Eusebio Rubio-Aurióles - MEXICO
Rosemary Coates - AUSTRALIA
Kevan Wylie - UK
Pedro Nobre - PORTUGAL

Who We Are

Our Values, Interdisciplinary Approach and Theory of Change

The World Association for Sexual Health is a global confederation for professionals in Sexual Health and Rights.

Our vision is to bring Sexual Health and Rights to ALL, through leadership in Sexual Health Education, Research, Clinical Services, Policy Making and Advocacy.

The WAS Theory of Change outlines **the eight key outcomes the organization aims to achieve for long-term societal improvement**. Here it is overlaid with our values and interdisciplinary approach.



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)

WAS's mission is deeply intertwined with the pursuit of the UN SDGs. The WAS Strategy demonstrates a clear commitment to global progress and to a synergy between WAS's activities and the SDGs.

Advancing Sexual Health and Rights for ALL indirectly advances all of the UN SDGs, but WAS primarily focuses on the following goals:



Additionally, other SDGs like ending poverty (SDG 1), promoting decent work and economic growth (SDG 8) and combating climate change (SDG 13) are vital in shaping the determinants of sexual health.

What We Do

WAS Official Federations

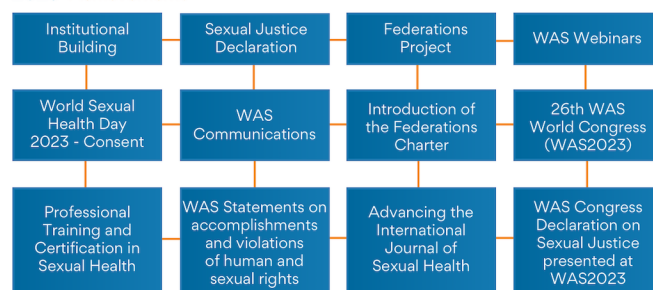
In 2023, our partnership with federations has expanded our representation to thousands of professionals and organizations dedicated to sexual health.



Our Achievements and History

- 1978** Formation of the World Association for Sexology.
- 1988** Launch of the International Journal of Sexual Health.
- 1997** Valencia Congress: Declaration on Sexual Rights announced, Adopted by WAS General Assembly in Hong Kong in 1999.
- 2000** Technical Document: Promotion of Sexual Health. Recommendations for Action. Antigua Guatemala convened by PAHO/WHO.
- 2002** WHO Working Definition of Sexual Health in consultation with WAS in Geneva.
- 2005** Creation of Guiding Ethical Principles.
- 2007** International Journal of Sexual Health becomes the official Journal of WAS.
- 2009** Publication of International Standards for Sexual Professionals.
- 2010** Inaugural World Sexual Health Day celebration.
- 2014** WAS Declaration on Sexual Rights (Revision).
- 2021** Publication of WAS Declaration on Sexual Pleasure. Gained Consultative Status with ECOSOC.

2023 Achievements



Global Partner Relationships



ECOSOC
United Nations

Consultative Status



World Health Organization

Non-State Actors in Official Relations



Pan American Health Organization

Non-State Actors in Official Relations

WAS Membership

WAS Represents Thousands of Sexual Health Professionals, Globally.

Our organization is built on a growing number of local, regional and international organizations, representing healthcare professionals, academia, teachers, and advocates, all dedicated to various aspects of Sexology, Sexual Health and Sexual Rights.



International Relations: WAS has cooperated with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), to develop sexual health terminology and definitions, develop the Sexual Health Chapter in the ICD11, identify program options, and address sexual health concerns including body integrity, sexual safety, eroticism, gender, sexual orientation, emotional attachment and reproduction.

WAS Impact 2023

WAS Webinars

WAS2023 Webinar: Sexual Health & Sexual Pleasure Registrations: 885	The Importance of Sexual Science: Musings from the WAS Scientific Committee Registrations: 332	Global Sexual Health Education Registrations: 672	WAS WSHD Webinar: Consent Registrations: 365	Global Sexual Health, Rights and Justice: Introducing WAS 2023 Registrations: 511
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WAS embarked on a webinar journey, during COVID, and was one of the first organizations to start with open-access online seminars. WAS chose this platform because it remains one of the best ways to reach a global audience and to make information accessible to as many people as possible - remaining true to our value of leaving no one behind. As an NGO, this is the most cost-effective way, to disseminate information and empower professionals to achieve Sexual Health and Rights for ALL. In 2023, **WAS Webinars were attended by people from 54 countries.**



Funding: Self-Funded **Committee:** WAS Congress Committee

WAS Communications

For the first time, WAS employed a communications expert, on a monthly retainer. A worthy investment! WAS experienced significant growth and engagement across social media, in the past year, demonstrating digital influence in sexual health. We now publish communication weekly, via newsletter and social media

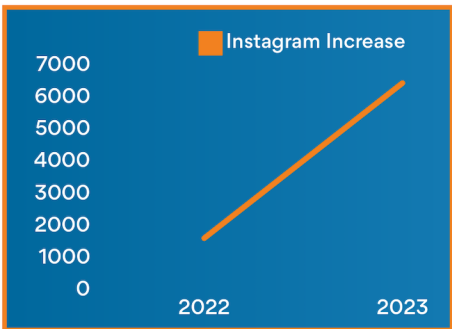
Funding: Self-Funded

Committee:
WAS Communications Committee



Lisa Welsh
Communications Lead

Facebook
@WAS.org
Instagram
@wasworldsexualhealth
X (Twitter)
@WAS_org
LinkedIn
@world-association-for-sexual-health



	<h2>Instagram</h2>	
Followers		6 392
Following		3 059
Engagement		8.71%

	Facebook	
Followers	9 785	
Reach	10.76K	
Impressions	848.9K	

	<h2>Email Marketing</h2>	
	Subscribers	8770
	Open Rate	41.2%
	Click-Through Rate	3.72%



LinkedIn

Followers

1231

Page Views

2695

Unique Visitors

1118

	X (Twitter)	
Followers		1 231
Engagement		23.3%
Impressions		48.2K

WAS Statements

March 2023:

WAS Statement about Ugandan Anti-LGBT Legislation

April 2023:

WAS Statement about the Conclusion of the Commission on Population and Development

May 2023:

WAS Statement on the Human Reproductive Programme Meeting in Geneva

June 2023:

WAS Statement on the Kinsey Institute

July 2023:

WAS Statement on Comprehensive Sexuality Education

September 2023:

WAS Statement on World Sexual Health Day (WSHD)

October 2023:

WAS Statement on Sexual Health and Rights during Times of War

Funding: Self-Funded **Committee:** WAS Executive Committee

WAS Federations Project

On November 3, 2023, WAS solidified its transformation into a Confederation, signing a charter that enhances collaboration with its regional federations, to intensify efforts towards universal sexual health and rights, aligning strategic plans with the unique needs of each region.

Signing of the WAS Charter by the WAS Federations.

Funding: Donor-Advised Funds



Left to right: Mehmet Sungur (President EFS), Faysal El Kak (President EMFeSH), Erick Janssen (Chair of the Scientific Committee), Lynn Barclay (President of NAFSH), Luis Perelman-Javnozov (WAS Secretary General), Verónica Delgado Parra (FLASSES Secretary General).

Institutional Building

Most Notably in 2023

Appointed Interim Executive Director

René de Klerk
South Africa

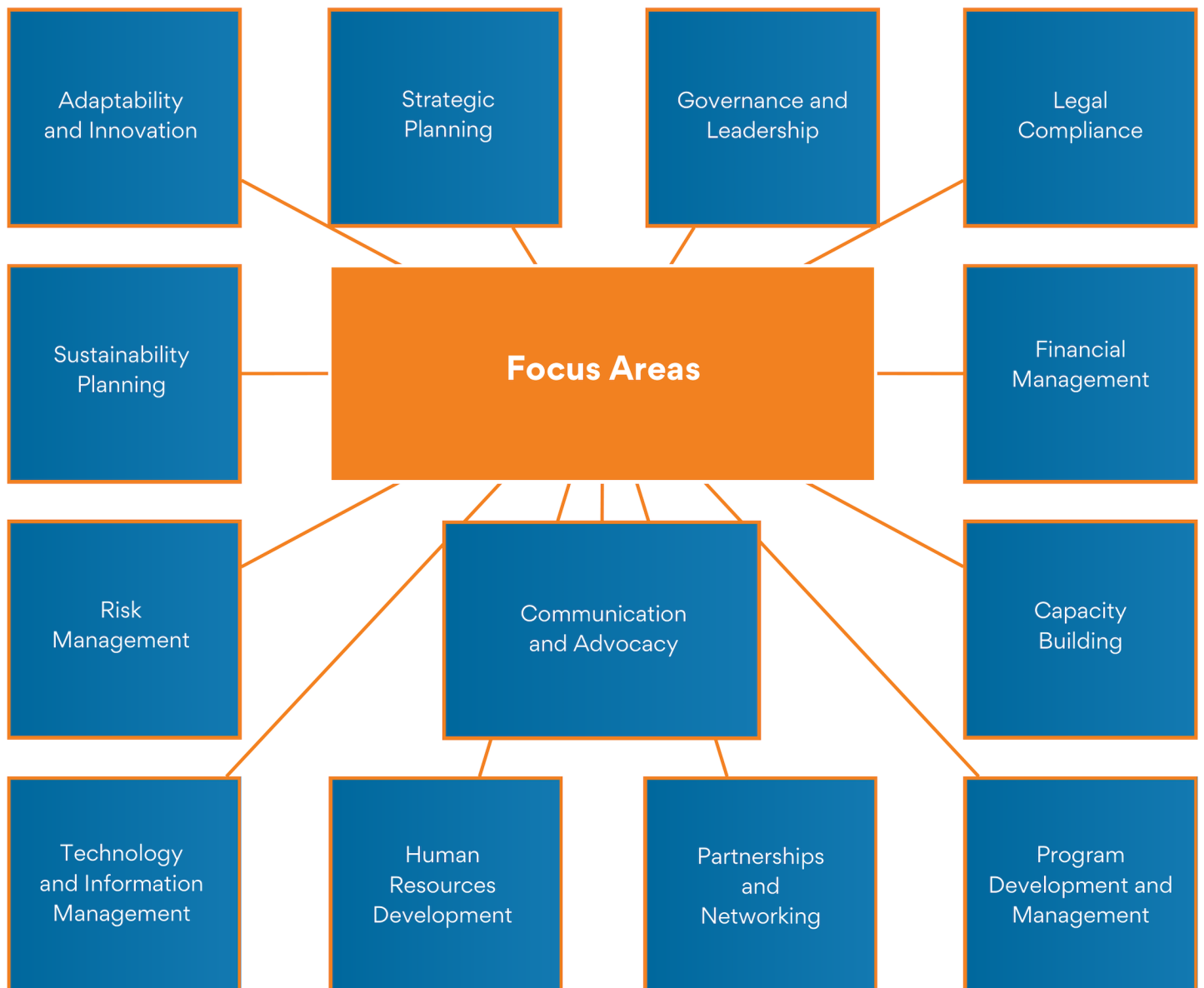
BCOM(LAW); LLB; LLM; PHD
(LEADERSHIP)



Strategic Updates to the WAS Statutes

Under the leadership of
Eusebio Rubio Aurioles

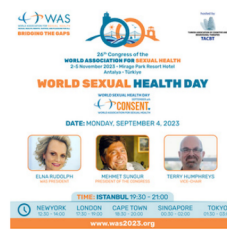
Chair of the WAS
Governance Committee



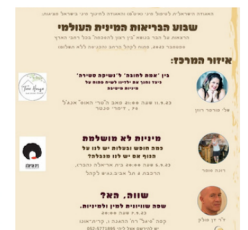
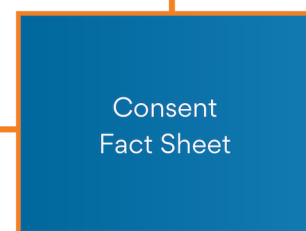
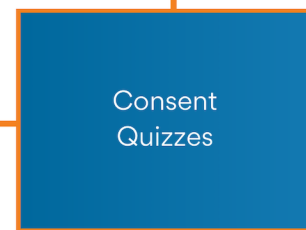
Funding: Donor-Advised Funds

Responsible Committee: WAS Officers

World Sexual Health Day



WSHD Toolkit



Sponsor: ASHA and Donor-Advised Funds

Responsible Committee: WSHD Committee



Chair: Lynn Barclay **Co-Chair:** Stefano Eleuteri

Members: Luis Perelman-Javnozov, Esther Corona Vargas, Kristen Mark, Patti Britton, Leiszie Lapping Carr, Felipe Hurtado Murillo, Cristina Tania Fridman, Jacqueline Brendler, Sara Nasserzadeh, Tomoko Sautome, Jeyarani Kamaraj, Masayoshi Yanagida

26th Congress of the World

WAS 2023

BRIDGING THE GAPS:

Sexual Health, Rights, Justice, and Pleasure for ALL



26th Congress of the
WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR SEXUAL HEALTH
2-5 November 2023

Mirage Park Resort Hotel
Antalya Türkiye

Organizing Committee

Congress President:

Mehmet Sungur

WAS Officers:

Elna Rudolph | Luis Perelman
Alain Giami | Pedro Nobre

Scientific Committee

Chair:

Erick Janssen

Vice Chairs:

Terry Humphreys
Kristen Mark

Invited Speakers



Lori Brotto
CANADA

"Mindfulness in Sexual Health"



Uwemedimo Esiet
NIGERIA

"Bridging the Gaps in Sexual Health, Rights,
Justice and Pleasure in the Global South"



Emily Nagoski
USA

"The Science of Sex in Long-
Term Relationships"



Association for Sexual Health

Statistics

Number of Attendees	510
Countries Represented	65
Abstracts Received	414
Oral Presentation Sessions	26
Poster Presentation Sessions	4
Posters Presented	71
Workshops	16
Invited Keynotes	28
Symposia	35
Roundtable	1
Invited Plenaries	3
Gold Medal Lectures	3

Eli Coleman Institute for Sexual and Gender Health Lecture



Jennifer M. Gómez
USA

“Whose Body Is It Anyway? Culturally Competent & Trauma-Informed Approaches in Sexual Healthcare”

Leaving No One Behind

WAS Supported:

Local LGBTQIA+ Youth:	4
International Youth:	4
Free Registrations:	50+
Bursaries for Workshops:	67
LGBTQIA+ Speakers:	20%
Full or Partial Travel and Accommodation Support:	50+
Reduced Fees for all Global South World Delegates (World Bank Criteria)	

Sponsors



Anonymous Donor

Local Host Organization



Gold Medal Winners



Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli
SWITZERLAND



Cristina Tania Fridman
ARGENTINA



Debra W. Haffner
USA



Professional Education in Sexology Committee

Consultation on Training and Certification in Sexual Health



During WAS 2023, in Antalya, WAS facilitated a consultation with over fifty global thought leaders and stakeholders in Training and Certification in Sexual Health. **The need for global standardization of training and certification in Sexual Health was firmly established.** WAS was positioned as an ideal organization to spearhead such a process and to ensure regional and local applicability through its global network of federations and member organizations.

The Professional Education in Sexology (PES) Committee shared insights from their work and research into this field, during the consultation. The PES Committee is conducting ongoing research into professional training in sexology, with the support of Prof Tor-Ivar Karslen and the University of Agder University.

Committee Chairs:

Elsa Almås (Norway) EFS
Leiszie Lapping-Carr (USA) NAFSH

Countries represented at partially-funded consultation on Professional Training and Certification in Sexual Health:



Committee Members:

Alain Giami (France) EFS
Anthony Smith (South Africa) AFSHR
Bouchra Assarag (Morocco) MENA
Jafaar Nakhli (Tunisia) AFSHR
Osmar Matsui-Santana (Mexico) FLASSES
Osmo Kontula (Finland) EFS
Silvina Valente (Argentina) FLASSES
Tammery Esho (Kenya)
Tommoko T. Saotome (Japan) AOSF
Vijay Ramanathan (Australia/India) AOSF

Funding:

Donor-Advised Funds

The University of Agder generously donated time and resources which made the PES Committee Project possible.



Sexuality Education Committee

Excellence and Innovation in Sexuality Education Awards Winners

These awards for Excellence and Innovation in Sexuality Education were granted during the 26th Congress of the World Association for Sexual Health.

CEPEP
(The Paraguayan Center of
Population Studies)
PARAGUAY

Scarleteen
USA



FLASCO Argentina
(Programa de Educación Integral
de la Sexualidad)
ARGENTINA

Rayka Kumru
CANADA

Honorary Mentions

Borderless Friendship
Western Australia University of Texas
AUSTRALIA

Texas Foster Youth Health Initiative
The University of Texas
USA

CSE Symposium

“Backlash Against Comprehensive Sexuality Education.”

Moderator:

Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli (formerly with WHO).

Participants:



Melis Pehlivan Türk
Kızılkın WHO In
partnership with the
International Association
of Adolescent Health
(IAAH).



Yasmin Jayasinghe
International
Federation of Pediatric
and Adolescent
Gynecology
(FIGO).



CK Bansal
The International
Pediatrics Association
(IPA).



Faysal El Kak
International
Federation of
Gynecologists and
Obstetricians
(FIGO).



Petar Mladenov
The United Nations
Population Fund
(UNFPA).



Arushi Singh
The United Nations
Educational, Scientific
and Cultural
Organization
(UNESCO).



**World Health
Organization**

Lianne Gonsalves
World Health
Organization
(WHO).

Rajesh Mehta

(formerly WHO) representing India.

Alice Saili

(UNESCO) representing Zambia.

Lucy Emmerson

representing England.

Uwemedimo Esiet

representing Nigeria.

Committee Chairs:

Chair: Osmo Kontula (Finland)

Vice-Chair: Esther Corona Vargas (Mexico)

Committee Members

Margarita Gerouki (Greece) | Mariana Cruz Murueta (Mexico) | Karen Rayne (United States) | Patti Britton (United States) | Amé Atsu David (Liberia) | Sachiko Takahashi (Japan)



Sexual Justice Initiative



This initiative involves:

The Sexual Justice Initiative (SJI) by WAS, led by Alain Giami, Esther Corona Vargas and Eszter Kismödi, along with a diverse Steering Committee, is dedicated to developing a **Sexual Justice Declaration**, going beyond previous sexual health and rights frameworks.

The steering committee, including Amaranta Gómez Regalado, Sharful Islam Khan, Richard Parker, Lebogang Ramofoko and Zahra Stardust, represents different communities globally, including women and girls, people living with HIV-Aids and marginalized groups like indigenous communities, transgender and gender diverse individuals, sex workers, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

The SJI has conducted extensive literature reviews on sexual justice, engaged in data collection and research, developed a multilingual questionnaire for diverse perspectives and actively participated in conferences, to elaborate and refine the Sexual Justice Declaration.

This initiative aims to redefine sexual justice, moving from a reproductive focus to a broader sexual health context. It targets individuals and communities suffering from social exclusion and marginalized populations, addressing discrimination in sexual health and rights.



Initiated during the WAS 2021 Congress preparation, the process includes extensive research, discussion, and conceptualization by the steering committee and other partners.

The Sexual Justice Questionnaire (SJQ) is a key tool in **gathering diverse insights on sexual justice.**

The SJI intends to produce supporting documents, draft a technical document on Sexual Justice Organizations, publish in a journal and create a resource website.

The WAS Congress Sexual Justice Declaration

was proclaimed in Antalya (Türkiye) on November 5th 2023.

Funding:

Anonymous Donor-Advised Funds

Committee:

Sexual Justice Initiative Ad Hoc Committee

“The goal is to promote global sexual justice and advance the conversation in sexual health and rights beyond the traditional SRHR model.”

WAS Congress Declaration on Sexual Justice

The World Association for Sexual Health (WAS) proclaims that:

Sexual justice contributes to a more equal and inclusive world and is essential for the achievement of sexual health and rights for all people without discrimination, fear, shame, and stigma.

Sexual justice is a central dimension of social justice, as it relates to sexuality and sexual health and is essential for the respect, protection and fulfillment of sexual rights as human rights.

Sexual justice is fundamental for just societies and addresses the social determinants and structural conditions of inequalities and discriminations that persist globally in relation to sexual health and rights, that particularly impact oppressed, marginalized and discriminated populations.

Sexual justice requires a challenge to societal norms, power dynamics and institutions, attitudes and prejudices that perpetuate discrimination and violence in relation to sexuality and sexual health, and demands structural changes in societies.

The World Association for Sexual Health

AFFIRMS that Sexual justice encompasses the principles of human dignity, autonomy, bodily integrity, self-determination and citizenship and promotes inclusivity, non-discrimination, and social acceptance of the most underprivileged, marginalized and stigmatized populations – and individuals – in terms of social class, gender, diverse relationship structures, race/ethnicity, migration status, age, health status and disabilities among others and embraces diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and its expressions and bodily diversities.

RECOGNIZES that Sexual justice is interconnected with and cannot be achieved without Climate and Environmental justice, Racial justice, Health justice, Gender Justice and Economic justice and other facets of justice that constitute the basic pillars of a just society.

DECLARES that sexual justice addresses the social determinants of health and sexual health and is essential for the achievement of the highest attainable sexual health including the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of sexual health information and services, and the provision of comprehensive sexuality education.

RECOGNIZES that the causes of sexuality-related violence and coercion and other sexual rights violations are deeply rooted in social and power related inequalities and require access to justice, and the provision of appropriate and comprehensive remedies redress and reparation both at systemic and individual level for those whose sexual rights have been violated and denied.

AFFIRMS that sexual justice necessitates structural change in societies as a matter of accountability of State and non-State actors, and requires the development of enabling laws and policies and programs and social and professional actions. This shall be achieved within the context of transparent processes and with the leadership and meaningful participation of impacted communities.

WAS CALLS UPON all state and non-state actors including governments, parliaments, the justice sector, civil society actors, and other organizations and institutions, international organizations, religious bodies and community leaders to dismantle systemic barriers of inequality, eliminate discrimination, and systemic violence, facilitate access to the full benefits of citizenship and to create a society where sexual health can be achieved and sexual justice and sexual rights are a lived reality for all.

The International Journal of Sexual Health

As the official journal of the World Association for Sexual Health, the International Journal of Sexual Health **promotes sexual health as a state of physical, emotional, mental, and social well-being** through a positive approach to sexuality and sexual rights.

The journal publishes peer-reviewed scientific papers, editorials, and reviews, using quantitative and qualitative methods, descriptive and critical analysis, instrument development, surveys, and case studies to examine the essential elements of this broad concept. Leading experts from around the world present original work that covers a variety of disciplines, including sexology, biology, medicine, psychology, sociology, anthropology, history, and religion.

Responsible Person:

Eli Coleman - Editor of the International Journal for Sexual Health

Published by:

Taylor and Francis

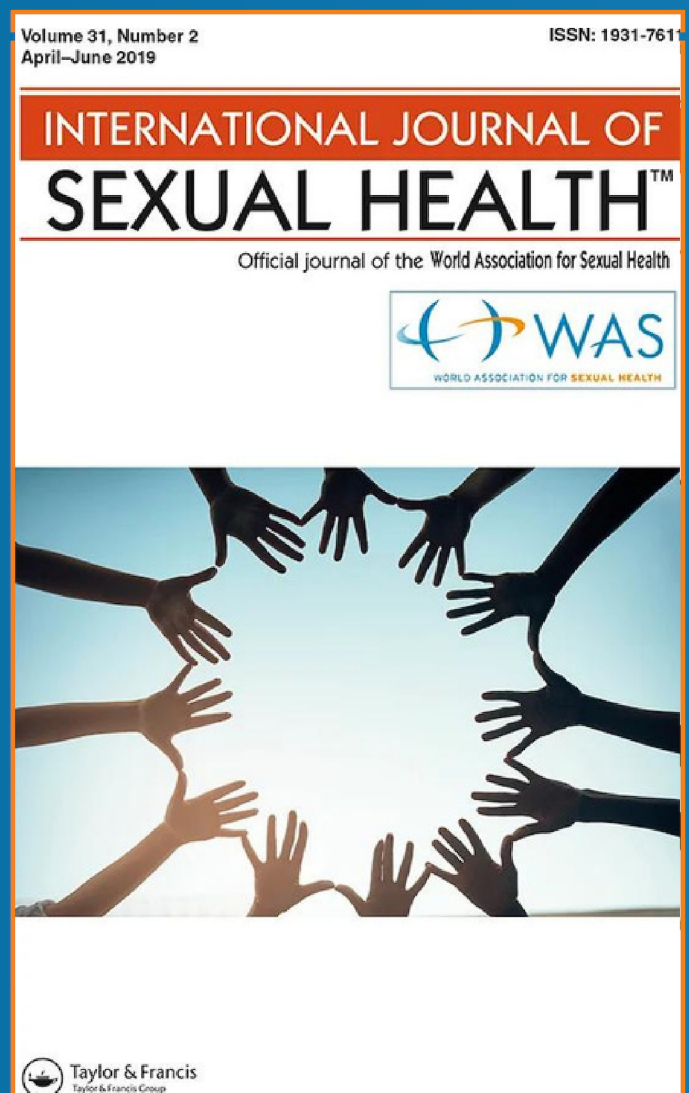
2023 Journal Statistics

102 000
Downloads
per year.

2.0
Impact
factor.

11%
Acceptance
rate.

Less than
3 months.
Submission to
publication.



Sexual Pleasure

The WAS Declaration on Sexual Pleasure, first proclaimed in 2019 and ratified in 2021 by WAS, has significantly influenced global sexual health discourse.

Highlights					
Top Performing Articles (last 12 months)					
Top Downloaded Article	Article Title	No. of Downloads	Top Cited Article	Article Title	No. of Citations
In Pursuit of Pleasure: A Biopsychosocial Perspective on Sexual Pleasure and Gender		8073	In Pursuit of Pleasure: A Biopsychosocial Perspective on Sexual Pleasure and Gender		25
Top Altmetric Score					
	Article Title	Altmetric Score			
	Integrating Sexual Pleasure for Quality & Inclusive Comprehensive Sexuality Education	57			
Highlights					
89K 2022 Downloads	58 2022 Volume Year Publications	7 2022 Volume Year OA Publications	0.152 2021 Impact Factor	2.40 2021 Citations	
44% Acceptance Rate (%)	7 Median Days Submission 1st Decision	17 Median Days Acceptance Online Pub	52 2021 Impact Factor Best Quartile	61 2021 Citations Best Quartile	

Increased
publications on
sexual pleasure, with
ongoing
data collection for
precise statistics.

WHO's research on
pleasure-based
sex education,
indicates a shift
in educational
approaches.

Growth in
international
activities focusing
on sexual pleasure,
notably by The
Pleasure Project.

More conference
sessions dedicated
to the topic,
reflecting rising
interest and
awareness.

A paper on the
clinical application
of the WAS
Declaration under
review by the
International Journal
of Sexual Medicine.

WAS Declaration on Sexual Pleasure

The WAS Declaration on Sexual Pleasure, first proclaimed in 2019 and ratified in 2021 by the WAS General Assembly, has significantly influenced global sexual health discourse.

In recognition that sexual pleasure is a fundamental part of sexual rights, sexual health, and sexual well-being, the World Association for Sexual Health:

DECLARES that:

Sexual pleasure is the physical and/or psychological satisfaction and enjoyment derived from shared or solitary erotic experiences, including thoughts, fantasies, dreams, emotions, and feelings.

Self-determination, consent, safety, privacy, confidence and the ability to communicate and negotiate sexual relations are key enabling factors for pleasure to contribute to sexual health and well-being. Sexual pleasure should be exercised within the context of sexual rights, particularly the rights to equality and non-discrimination, autonomy and bodily integrity, the right to the highest attainable standard of health and freedom of expression. The experiences of human sexual pleasure are diverse and sexual rights ensure that pleasure is a positive experience for all concerned and not obtained by violating other people's human rights and well-being (1)

URGES that:

1. The possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences free of discrimination, coercion, and violence is a fundamental part of sexual health and well-being for all;
2. Access to sources of sexual pleasure is part of human experience and subjective well-being;
3. Sexual pleasure is a fundamental part of sexual rights as a matter of human rights;
4. Sexual pleasure includes the possibility of diverse sexual experiences;
5. Sexual pleasure shall be integrated into education, health promotion and service delivery, research and advocacy in all parts of the world;
6. The programmatic inclusion of sexual pleasure to meet individuals' needs, aspirations, and realities ultimately contributes to global health and sustainable development and it should require comprehensive, immediate and sustainable action.

URGES all governments, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, health and education authorities, the media, private sector actors, and society at large, and particularly, all member organizations of the World Association for Sexual Health to:

- A. **Promote sexual pleasure in law and policy** as a fundamental part of sexual health and well-being, grounded in the principles of sexual rights as human rights, including self-determination, non-discrimination, privacy, bodily integrity, and equality;
- B. Ensure that comprehensive sexuality education addresses sexual pleasure in an inclusive, evidence-informed and rights-based manner tailored to people's diverse capacities and needs across the life span, in order to allow experiences of informed, self-determined, respectful, and safe sexual pleasure;
- C. **Guarantee that sexual pleasure is integral to sexual health care services provision**, and that sexual health services are accessible, affordable, acceptable, and free from stigma, discrimination, and prosecution;
- D. **Enhance the development of rights-based, evidence-informed knowledge of the benefits of sexual pleasure as part of well-being**, including rights-based funding resources, research methodologies, and dissemination of knowledge to address the role of sexual pleasure in individual and public health;
- E. **Reaffirm the global, national, community, interpersonal, and individual commitments** to recognition of the diversity in sexual pleasure experiences respecting human rights of all people and supported by consistent, evidence-informed policy and practices, interpersonal behavior, and collective action.

The World Association for Sexual Health (WAS) is a multidisciplinary, world-wide group of scientific societies, NGOs and professionals in the field of human sexuality which promotes sexual health throughout the lifespan and through the world by developing, promoting and supporting sexual health and sexual rights for all. WAS accomplishes this by advocacy actions, networking, facilitating the exchange of information, ideas and experiences and advancing scientifically based sexuality research, sexuality education and clinical sexology, with a trans-disciplinary approach. The Declaration of Sexual Pleasure was originally proclaimed at the 24th World Congress of Sexual Health in Mexico City in 2019 and a final version was ratified by the General Assembly at the 25th World Congress of Sexual Health in Cape Town, South Africa in 2021.

(1)Adapted from: Global Advisory Board for Sexual Health and Wellbeing. (2016). Working definition of sexual pleasure. Retrieved from <https://www.gab-shw.org/our-work/working-definition-of-sexual-pleasure>

WAS Declaration on Sexual Rights

In recognition that **sexual rights are essential for the achievement of the highest attainable sexual health**, the World Association for Sexual Health:

STATES that **sexual rights are grounded in universal human rights that are already recognized** in international and regional human rights documents, in national constitutions and laws, human rights standards and principles, and in scientific knowledge related to human sexuality and sexual health.

REAFFIRMS that **sexuality is a central aspect of being human** throughout life, encompasses sex, gender identities and roles, sexual orientation, eroticism, pleasure, intimacy, and reproduction. Sexuality is experienced and expressed in thoughts, fantasies, desires, beliefs, attitudes, values, behaviors, practices, roles, and relationships. While sexuality can include all of these dimensions, not all of them are always experienced or expressed. Sexuality is influenced by the interaction of biological, psychological, social, economic, political, cultural, legal, historical, religious, and spiritual factors.

RECOGNIZES that **sexuality is a source of pleasure and wellbeing** and contributes to overall fulfilment and satisfaction.

REAFFIRMS that **sexual health is a state of physical, emotional, mental and social wellbeing** in relation to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity. Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

REAFFIRMS that **sexual health cannot be defined**, understood, or made operational **without a broad understanding of sexuality**.

REAFFIRMS that for **sexual health to be attained and maintained**, the **sexual rights** of all persons **must be respected, protected and fulfilled**.

RECOGNIZES that **sexual rights are based on the inherent freedom, dignity, and equality of all human beings** and include a commitment to protection from harm.

STATES that **equality and nondiscrimination are foundational to all human rights protection and promotion** and include the prohibition of any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, including disability, age, nationality, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, health status, place of residence, economic and social situation.

RECOGNIZES that persons' sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and bodily diversities require **human rights protection**.

RECOGNIZES that all types of violence, harassment, discrimination, exclusion, and stigmatization are **violations of human rights, and impact the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities**.

AFFIRMS that the **obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil human rights** apply to all sexual rights and freedoms.

AFFIRMS that **sexual rights protect all people's rights** to fulfil and express their sexuality and enjoy sexual health, with due regard for the rights of others.

Sexual rights are human rights pertaining to sexuality.

- **The right to equality and nondiscrimination:** Everyone is entitled to enjoy all sexual rights set forth in this Declaration without distinction of any kind such as race, ethnicity, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, place of residence, property, birth, disability, age, nationality, marital and family status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, health status, economic and social situation and other status.
- **The right to life, liberty, and security of the person:** Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security that cannot be arbitrarily threatened, limited, or taken away for reasons related to sexuality. These include: sexual orientation, consensual sexual behavior and practices, gender identity and expression, or because of accessing or providing services related to sexual and reproductive health.
- **The right to autonomy and bodily integrity:** Everyone has the right to control and decide freely on matters related to their sexuality and their body. This includes the choice of sexual behaviors, practices, partners and relationships with due regard to the rights of others. Free and informed decision making requires free and informed consent prior to any sexually-related testing, interventions, therapies, surgeries, or research.
- **The right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment:** Everyone shall be free from torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment related to sexuality, including: harmful traditional practices; forced sterilization, contraception, or abortion; and other forms of torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment perpetrated for reasons related to someone's sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and bodily diversity.
- **The right to be free from all forms of violence and coercion:** Everyone shall be free from sexuality related violence and coercion, including: rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, bullying, sexual exploitation and slavery, trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation, virginity testing, and violence committed because of real or perceived sexual practices, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and bodily diversity.
- **The right to privacy:** Everyone has the right to privacy related to sexuality, sexual life, and choices regarding their own body and consensual sexual relations and practices without arbitrary interference and intrusion. This includes the right to control the disclosure of sexuality-related personal information to others.
- **The right to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual health, with the possibility of pleasurable, satisfying, and safe sexual experiences:** Everyone has the right to the highest attainable level of health and wellbeing in relation to sexuality, including the possibility of pleasurable, satisfying, and safe sexual experiences. This requires the availability, accessibility, acceptability of quality health services and access to the conditions that influence and determine health including sexual health.
- **The right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application:** Everyone has the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications in relation to sexuality and sexual health.
- **The right to information:** Everyone shall have access to scientifically accurate and understandable information related to sexuality, sexual health, and sexual rights through diverse sources. Such information should not be arbitrarily censored, withheld, or intentionally misrepresented.
- **The right to education and the right to comprehensive sexuality education:** Everyone has the right to education and comprehensive sexuality education. Comprehensive sexuality education must be age appropriate, scientifically accurate, culturally competent, and grounded in human rights, gender equality, and a positive approach to sexuality and pleasure.
- **The right to enter, form, and dissolve marriage and other similar types of relationships based on equality and full and free consent:** Everyone has the right to choose whether or not to marry and to enter freely and with full and free consent into marriage, partnership or other similar relationships. All persons are entitled to equal rights entering into, during, and at dissolution of marriage, partnership and other similar relationships, without discrimination and exclusion of any kind. This right includes equal entitlements to social welfare and other benefits regardless of the form of such relationships.
- **The right to decide whether to have children, the number and spacing of children, and to have the information and the means to do so:** Everyone has the right to decide whether to have children and the number and spacing of children. To exercise this right requires access to the conditions that influence and determine health and wellbeing, including sexual and reproductive health services related to pregnancy, contraception, fertility, pregnancy termination, and adoption.
- **The right to freedom of thought, opinion, and expression:** Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, opinion, and expression regarding sexuality and has the right to express their own sexuality through, for example, appearance, communication, and behavior, with due respect to the rights of others.
- **The right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly:** Everyone has the right to peacefully organize, associate, assemble, demonstrate, and advocate including about sexuality, sexual health, and sexual rights.
- **The right to participation in public and political life:** Everyone is entitled to an environment that enables active, free, and meaningful participation in and contribution to the civil, economic, social, cultural, political, and other aspects of human life at local, national, regional, and international levels. In particular, all persons are entitled to participate in the development and implementation of policies that determine their welfare, including their sexuality and sexual health.
- **The right to access to justice, remedies, and redress:** Everyone has the right to access to justice, remedies, and redress for violations of their sexual rights. This requires effective, adequate, accessible, and appropriate educative, legislative, judicial, and other measures. Remedies include redress through restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantee of nonrepetition.

Income and Expenditure

WAS in Numbers

REVENUE

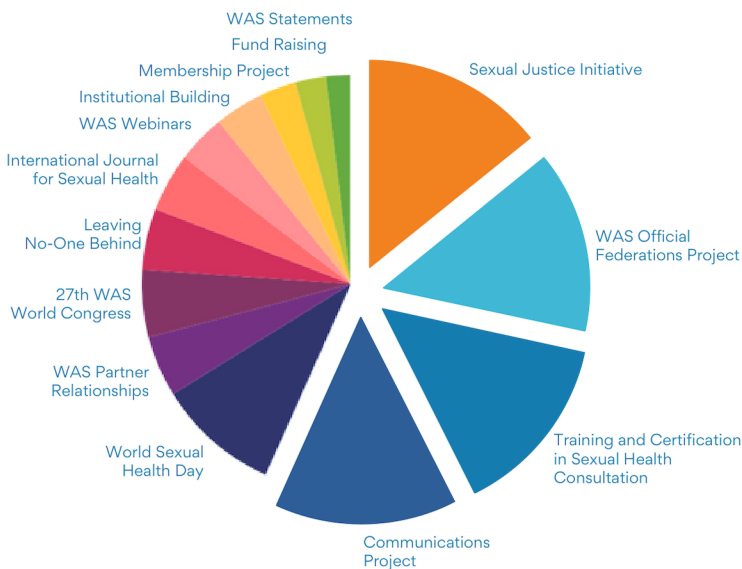
Donations:	\$159152
Membership Income:	\$14242
Total	\$163394

EXPENSES

Total	\$105871
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WAS PROJECT ALLOCATIONS:

Sexual Justice Initiative	14,15%	\$15000
WAS Official Federations Project	14,15%	\$15000
Training and Certification in Sexual Health Consultation	14,15%	\$15000
Communications Project	14,15%	\$15000
World Sexual Health Day	9,43%	\$10000
WAS Partner Relationships	4,72%	\$5000
27th WAS World Congress	5,19%	\$5500
Leaving No-One Behind	4,72%	\$5000
International Journal for Sexual Health	4,53%	\$4800
WAS Webinars	3,77%	\$4000
Institutional Building	3,77%	\$4000
Membership Project	2,83%	\$3000
Fund Raising	2,36%	\$2500
WAS Statements	1,89%	\$2000
	100%	\$105800



WAS BALANCE SHEET

Bank Balances	\$95983
Quickbooks Account	\$4912
Accounts Receivable - WAS2021	\$13265
Accrued Income	\$21100
Total Assets	\$135260

Donate

WAS is a 501(c) (3) organization in the USA. Donations are tax deductible.

To support our mission, please consider making a donation. Your contributions are invaluable in helping us continue our work.

PayPal:
www.paypal.me/worldsexualhealth

Bank Name : US BANK Roseville
Bank Address : 2690 North Snelling Avenue, Roseville, Minnesota, 55113
Account Number : 104 784 650 681
Type of Account : Checking Account
SWIFT Code : USBKUS44IMT
Routing Number : 091 0000 22

Our Donors

Our Deepest Gratitude Goes to Our Donors

In an extraordinary act of generosity and alignment with our strategic goals for 2023, an anonymous donor graciously contributed \$120,000 to the World Association for Sexual Health through a donor-advised fund.

This significant donation, guided by the strategic plan laid out for 2023, underscores the confidence and support for our mission to promote Sexual Health and Rights globally. The funds enabled the completion of various initiatives, enhanced our capacity to create impactful programs, supported research and expanded our outreach. We are profoundly grateful for this transformative contribution, which accelerated our efforts and extended our reach in 2023.



Anonymous Donor
\$120 000

WAS also wants to thank the following 2023 donors:



University of Agder
Donated time and resources
to PES Committee Project



The Case for Her
\$20,936



ASHA
\$5 000



Eli Coleman Institute for
Sexual and Gender Health
WAS 2023 Congress Support

Thank You

Nothing in WAS is Possibly without People

Service Providers • Supporters • Executive Director • Federation Boards
Members • Presenters • Partners • Advisory Committee • Attendees
Officers • Executive Committee • All Volunteer Committee Members



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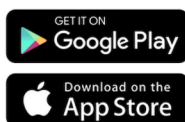
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