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Date: 12 April 2019

Mr. Adam Bodmar  
Commissioner for Human Right  
Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the  
Republic of Poland  
Al. Solidarnosci 77  
00-0090 Warsaw

Our reference: Your reference: Ref no XI.800.5.2019.MA

Dear Mr. Bodmar,

Thank for your letter to the World Health Organization (WHO) requesting information on our materials published on the topic sexual education. In this regard, I am happy to provide you the references below. There are numerous publications on this topic, but here I have selected for you the ones that are more relevant to your questions.

**1. “Which document should be considered the one that determines the World Health Organization’s current standards and guidelines on sexuality education?”**

I am referring you to our most recent document, an international technical guidance on sexuality education published by UNESCO in collaboration with WHO: *International technical guidance on sexuality education, An evidence-informed approach*. Available at <https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/technical-guidance-sexuality-education/en/>. This document provides a review of the current evidence and best practices from various regions and reaffirms that sexuality education has positive effects on young people with regard to their sexual and reproductive health.

This document is more recent than publication *Standard in Sexual Education* <https://www.bzga-whocc.de/en/publications/standards-in-sexuality-education/> published by the Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA), which is a WHO Collaborating Center<sup>1</sup> (WHO CC) for Sexual and Reproductive Health since 2003. Link to the Polish version [https://www.bzga-whocc.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Dokumente/WHO\\_BzGA\\_Standards\\_polnisch.pdf](https://www.bzga-whocc.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/WHO_BzGA_Standards_polnisch.pdf)

Both documents are technically aligned.

In addition, I am enclosing several policy briefs on sexuality education which outlines the latest position on sexual education. Policy Brief 2 is very useful for giving examples of sexuality education impact on health of adolescents and provide strong evidence from countries such as Estonia, Finland, Germany. Policy Brief 3 cover the process of introducing sexual education programs. We want to emphasize that

<sup>1</sup> WHO Collaborating Center: WHO collaborating centers are institutions such as research institutes, parts of universities or academies, which are designated by the Director-General to carry out activities in support of the Organization's programs. Currently there are over 800 WHO collaborating centers in over 80 Member States working with WHO on areas such as nursing, occupational health, communicable diseases, nutrition, mental health, chronic diseases and health technologies. Over 800 institutions in over 80 countries supporting WHO programs, <https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/structure/collaborating-centres>

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both publications from WHO CC and UNESCO recognize the need to adapt sexuality education to the diverse of contexts in which is taught.

2. **“Is there an openly available publication of those standards and guidelines? I would be grateful for the precise indication of a specific document, as well as its authors and experts that took part in the development.”**

Here is the link to the website of our WHO CC Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA), <https://www.bzga-whooc.de/en/publications/standards-in-sexuality-education/>.

In addition, both publications mentioned above list the experts participating in the development of the guidelines on the acknowledgement section.

3. **“Does the World Health Organization have any information on the process of implementation of those standards and guidelines in individual countries? If so, I would be grateful for indicating examples of good practices in this area along with the data sources.”**

I am referring you to the study report **“Sexuality Education in Europe and Central Asia: State of the Art and Recent Developments. An Overview of 25 Countries”** published by BZgA/IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation) in May 2018. Authored by: Ketting, Evert and Ivanova, Olena. Cologne: BZgA (2018). This report is available at: [https://www.bzga-whooc.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Dokumente/BZgA\\_Comprehensive%20Country%20Report\\_online\\_EN.pdf](https://www.bzga-whooc.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/BZgA_Comprehensive%20Country%20Report_online_EN.pdf)

Simultaneously with this overall report, a series of 25 “Country Factsheets” was published. These factsheets present summaries of the study results for each participating country. The factsheets can be downloaded from: <https://www.bzga-whooc.de/en/publications/report-on-sexuality-education-in-europe-and-central-asia-new/>

In September 2018, an immediately related **Editorial** was published in the *European Journal of Contraception & Reproductive Health Care*: Evert Ketting: “Sexuality education: the silent revolution in Europe”. Published online: 24 September 2018. It is available online at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13625187.2018.1506573>

In October 2018, an extensive overview of sexuality education in Europe, based on the same study, was published in the book: *“Sex Education: Global Perspectives, Effective Programs and Socio-Cultural Challenges (editor: Raquel A. Benavides-Torres). Chapter 4: Ketting, Evert; Brockschmidt, Laura; Renner, Ilona; Luyckfasseel, Lena and Ivanova, Olena (2018). Sexuality Education in Europe and Central Asia: recent developments and current status; pp 75-120. Nova Science Publishers, Inc., New York. It is available at: [https://novapublishers.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/978-1-53613-127-7\\_ch4.pdf](https://novapublishers.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/978-1-53613-127-7_ch4.pdf). [Several original analyses of the data collected for the full study report, that had not yet been published, have been included in this paper.](#)*

I sincerely hope that this information will be interesting and useful for you and respond to your request. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me again [cuchip@who.int](mailto:cuchip@who.int) +48880100659. I will be happy to provide further information.

Best regards



Dr Paloma Cuchí  
Head, WHO Country Office - Poland