Vacancy notice

Consultancy Assignment

The WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) seeks a consultant to assist with its work on sexual and reproductive health and human rights.

Organizational Background

The Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) works towards improving sexual and reproductive health by developing guidance and tools on specific health topics, by supporting countries to implement these tools, and generating evidence on specific health topics. The Department addresses thematic areas related to vulnerability to sexual and reproductive health problems, in order to promote equitable access to services and sexual and reproductive health rights for all. These activities are in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, which seeks to ensure health and well-being for all and SDG Goal 5, which promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

RHR includes the UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP). HRP is the main instrument within the United Nations system for promoting, conducting, evaluating and coordinating interdisciplinary research on sexual and reproductive health; for collaborating with countries in enhancing national capacities to conduct this research; for promoting and facilitating the use of research results in policy-making and planning for sexual and reproductive health care; and for the setting of standards and guidelines, including technical and ethical guidelines, in the field of sexual and reproductive health research.

More information about HRP can be found at [http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/hrp](http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/hrp).

An individual’s ability to manifest their sexual and reproductive health is closely linked to the extent to their ability to realise their human rights – such as the rights to non-discrimination, to privacy and confidentiality, to be free from violence and coercion, as well as the rights to education, information and access to health services – are respected, protected and fulfilled.

A series of recent reviews have discussed how contextual conditions are shaping the institutional structures, incentives and social norms that frame the capacity and willingness of duty bearers to meet their legal obligations as well as circumscribe individuals ability to express voice and claim rights.

Increasingly evidence is pointing towards the benefits of power as a lens on understanding human rights in relation to sex, sexuality, and SRHR. Power, implicit and explicit, is in all actors interfaces at all level from seeking care, consultation, resource distribution, and global policy dialogues and shape what they do, how they do it and what are the outcomes. Seriously engaging with power can help us better understand the relationship between HR and sex, sexuality and SRHR. Engage with people social positions (intersectionality) of the powerful and powerless.
The work on operationalisation of accountability and power and inequalities will be conducted in the context of the Department’s work on human rights and gender equality. The overall objectives are to systematically expand the knowledge base and fill some of the evidence gaps in the area of SRHR. An assessment will be conducted at the end of the consultancy period of 6 months to determine the next phase. Any travel related to this work will be covered by WHO directly.

**Summary of duties:**

The consultancy requires prior experience with methods for conducting systematic reviews along with a high level of analytical and communication skills.

Under the guidance of the department’s focal point on human rights the consultant will:

1. Conduct a review of on power and its relation to sexual and reproductive health decision making and identify priorities for research for the Department.
2. Develop a methodology for a multi-country study to undertake research on power and inequalities in relation to SRHR
3. Develop three country case-studies on operationalisation of accountability in SRHR in different contexts
4. Undertake a literature review on legal accountability approaches in relation to sexual and reproductive health

**Essential knowledge and skills**

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1. Knowledge and expertise in conducting reviews and familiarity with methods for conducting literature reviews.
3. Excellent written English
4. Strong analytical skills
5. Demonstrated planning and organizational skills
6. Demonstrated ability to deliver high-quality products under tight deadlines
7. Ability to communicate effectively with different audiences
8. Sensitivity in dealing with sensitive topics

**Essential educational qualifications**

Advanced degree in human rights, gender equality or in a related discipline

Desirable: a degree with a focus on sexual and reproductive health. Advanced degree in Public Health

**Essential relevant experience**

At least 10 years of experience combining:

1. Proven competencies in human rights and gender equality
2. Proven communications skills and publications
3. Experience working in sexual and reproductive health and power.
4. Experience in carrying out research and analytical work in human rights, as evidenced by a track record of publication in peer-reviewed journals.
Desirable experience
Experience conducting research in low-income settings on sensitive topics; experience working for an international organization

Language Skills
Essential: Excellent knowledge of English;

Other Skills
Excel, PowerPoint, and word processing software.

Application process
Interested candidates should send a CV along with a letter of motivation to reproductivehealth@who.int, indicating “Research consultancy on sexual and reproductive health and rights” in the subject line. Closing date for applications is 22 November 2019. Short-listed candidates will be expected to provide copies of diplomas.

Duration of assignment: This is a 6 month assignment.