VACANCY NOTICE

Consultant for Maternal and Perinatal Health and Preventing Unsafe Abortion Team

The vision of Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of sexual and reproductive health (SRH). It strives for a world where all women’s and men’s rights to enjoy sexual and reproductive health are promoted and protected, and all women and men, including adolescents and those who are underserved or marginalized, have access to sexual and reproductive health information and services.

WHO/RHR’s work is premised on the need to achieve access to and quality of sexual and reproductive health, in order to meet the needs of diverse populations, particularly the most vulnerable. It is shaped around the five components of WHO’s Global reproductive health strategy:

- improving antenatal, perinatal, postpartum and newborn care;
- providing high-quality services for family planning, including infertility services;
- eliminating unsafe abortion;
- combating sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, reproductive tract infections, cervical cancer and other sexual and reproductive health morbidities; and
- promoting sexual health.

HRP is the main instrument within the United Nations system for identifying research priorities on sexual and reproductive health and rights; for promoting, conducting, evaluating and coordinating related interdisciplinary research; for collaborating with countries to build national capacity to conduct research; and for promoting the use of research results in policy making and sexual and reproductive health programmes. The Department draws on research and global expertise to set norms and standards and develop global guidelines on sexual and reproductive health and rights. The team of Maternal/Perinatal Health and Preventing Unsafe Abortion in the Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR/MPA) is currently working on updating the Safe Abortion: Technical and Policy guidance (2nd edition issued in 2012, evidence assessed until 2010). The scope of the proposed guidelines includes updating the law and policy chapter. The guidelines are intended to assist providers, and non-governmental and other organizations and professional societies involved in the planning, management and provision of medical services for abortion / post abortion care. Additionally, these guidelines will assist national and sub national policy makers, and implementers and managers of national and sub national reproductive health programs.

To support the next phase of the update, the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research seeks one or more individuals from an experienced academic groups working in the area of global abortion law and policy to support the Maternal and Perinatal Health and Preventing Unsafe Abortion Team (MPA) to systematically review the literature related to six abortion related domains: third party authorization, criminalization, conscientious objection, gestational limits, provider restrictions, and waiting periods. The appointee(s) will report to a member of the MPA, Preventing Unsafe Abortion Team.

The candidate(s) will have extensive experience in conducting systematic reviews of the literature related to global abortion laws and policies and a sound understanding of international and regional human rights mechanisms. The position(s) also requires excellent writing skills in English and the ability to work independently. Comprehension of other UN languages would be an asset. The appointee(s) will work as a part of a team of experienced staff dedicated to improvement of global sexual and reproductive health including strengthening transparency and accountability related to access to legal abortion. The position requires a high level of judgement, integrity, attention to detail and accuracy.
The targeted start date is 30 June 2019. The supplier should have demonstrated experience at conducting systematic searches of the literature, including formal systematic reviews, related to laws and policies.

Please submit (i) a letter of motivation, and (ii) your curriculum vitae to Antonella Lavelanet at lavelaneta@who.int indicating “Safe Abortion Update – Law and Policy SR APW contract” in the subject line.

Closing date for applications is **31 May 2019**.

## Terms of reference

### Organizational Background

The Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) works to enable people to protect their own health as it relates to sexuality and reproduction and to receive quality health care in matters related to sexual and reproductive health. To achieve this, the Department advocates and promotes sound public health strategies, sets norms and standards, engages in technical cooperation activities, and supports research. RHR’s overall strategic framework is provided by the WHO Global Reproductive Health Strategy approved by the 57th World Health Assembly in 2004. More information about RHR can be found at [http://www.who.int/reproductive-health](http://www.who.int/reproductive-health).

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).

## Summary of duties:

Under the guidance of a member of the MPA, Preventing Unsafe Abortion Team, the appointee(s) will perform the required and necessary tasks to develop a systematic review related to 6 abortion related domains: third party authorization, criminalization, conscientious objection, gestational limits, provider restrictions, and waiting periods.

Specifically, the supplier will work together with RHR team to:

1. Complete search strategy and identify studies to be included using information provided by the MPA team related to 6 abortion related domains: third party authorization, criminalization, conscientious objection, gestational limits, provider restrictions, and waiting periods;
2. Data extraction (by two independent researchers) and resolution;
3. Meta-analysis, where appropriate;
4. Write-up and presentation of results in the form of an article;
5. Provide written responses to comments from the Guideline Development Group or from peer reviewers on the systematic review; and
6. Develop peer-reviewed journal articles.

## WHO Competencies

1. Producing results
2. Communications
3. Building and promoting partnerships across the organization and beyond.

**Essential knowledge and skill**

1. Fluency in spoken and written English is essential. Good comprehension of one or more other UN languages is an additional asset.
2. A demonstrated ability to understand complex legal and policy matters related to sexual and reproductive health in general and abortion in particular.
3. Exceptional analytical skills.
4. Strong planning and organizational skills, demonstrated ability to manage converging priorities and deliver high-quality products under tight deadlines.
5. Ability to establish and maintain good working relations with colleagues, with senior WHO staff, and with the international constituency with which the project relates.
6. Tact and sensitivity in dealing with sensitive topics.

**Essential educational qualifications**

Advanced degree in law with a focus on gender and human rights issues related to sexual and reproductive health.

**Desirable educational qualifications**

Public health degree, and/or social science degree, and/or medical degree with a specialty in gynaecology.

**Essential relevant experience**

At least 7 years of experience combining:

1. Proven competencies in conducting complex legal, health and human rights studies;
2. Proven communications skills and publications;
3. Experience working in sexual and reproductive health, particularly abortion.

**Language Skills**

Essential: Excellent comprehension of spoken and written English. Desirable: Comprehension of other UN languages.

**Other Skills**

Skills required to use of e-mail, PowerPoint, Excel, and word processing software, independently and efficiently.