



LAUNCH OF THE INFORMATION SERIES ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Side Event at the 29th Session of the Human Rights Council
Organised by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Wednesday, 1 July 2015, 13:00 – 14:30, Room XXII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

OPENING STATEMENT

Flavia Pansieri, *United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights*

MODERATOR

Lambert Grijns, *Ambassador for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and HIV/AIDS, Netherlands*

PANEL SPEAKERS

Pramila Patten - *Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*
Oumou Toure - *President of Coordination des Organisations Féminines du Mali (CAFO)*
Sara Beatriz García Gross - *Activist on sexual and reproductive health and rights from El Salvador*

Women's sexual and reproductive health is related to multiple human rights, including the right to life, the right to be free from torture, the right to health, the right to privacy, the right to education, and the prohibition of discrimination. Yet, violations of these rights are frequent and take many forms including denial of access to services that only women require, or poor quality services, subjecting women's access to services to third party authorization, and performance of procedures related to women's reproductive and sexual health without the woman's consent, including forced sterilization. There is therefore a pressing need to make clear that sexual and reproductive health is a matter of human rights.

The purpose of the information series is to provide detailed guidance for lawmakers, policymakers, judiciaries, health service providers, civil society and other stakeholders, to support the adoption and effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes to respect, protect and fulfil women's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). This panel will focus on discussing the legal standards underpinning sexual and reproductive health and rights, good practices from across regions in securing women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, and identify opportunities to advance work and continued advocacy and engagement on this issue.

Copies of the information series will be available at the event.

For further information, please contact: Lucinda O'Hanlon (lohanlon@ohchr.org) or Ruben Brouwer (rbrouwer@ohchr.org)

There will be simultaneous translation into English, French and Spanish.

