

# 12<sup>th</sup> International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development



## Comprehensive Sexuality Education What is the problem?

**Programme  
November 5, 2014, 18:00 - 20:00**

Federal Ministry for Economic  
Cooperation and Development  
Stresemannstraße 92  
10963 Berlin

## BACKGROUND

Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) is a controversial issue, both at national and international level. Some see CSE as a way to improve young people's knowledge on health, body development, reproduction, sexuality, gender relations, tolerance, respect and human rights, leading to informed choices, more responsible sexual behaviour and increased interpersonal competences. Others see it as a means to sexualize young people, promote early sexual activity and non-heterosexual behaviour, which undermines the rights of parents and poses a threat to traditional concepts of marriage and family.

Although CSE might seem to be a marginal issue, it has the potential to become a crystallization point for broader debates on the role of religion, values, families, and the human rights of adolescents, including their sexual rights.

The lack of consensus on these issues can thus become a major obstacle in international negotiations, e.g. at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) and also at the ongoing negotiations of the post-2015 agenda.

It can also become an obstacle in bilateral development cooperation in the field of education and health. While German development cooperation has successfully supported a process of regional cooperation on CSE in Latin America, creating a similar alliance in East and Southern Africa, the ESA Initiative which was launched in December 2013, has proven more complicated.

Debates on CSE also occur at national level, as a recent German example shows: The publication of a draft education plan by the Ministry of Education of Baden-Württemberg in 2013, which includes the mainstreaming of acceptance for sexual diversity through the curricula was met with resistance by parts of the population and led to an online petition against the education plan. The petition, signed by more than 192,000 people all over Germany, led to an extensive public debate on CSE.

The panel discussion aims at taking a closer look at the concept of CSE, the arguments that speak for and against it. It hopes to increase understanding of CSE and the reasons behind the differing perceptions of it. This dialogue and increased understanding can hopefully lead to a demystification of CSE.

## OUR GUESTS ARE

### Welcome

**Thomas Silberhorn**, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

### Keynote

**Renate Baehr**, Executive Director, DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung), Germany

### Panel discussion

#### Speakers

**Michiel Andeweg**, General Board Member at CHOICE for youth and sexuality, Netherlands

**Yvette Kathurima**, Head of Advocacy, FEMNET, Kenya

**Christoph Lehmann**, Vice-President of the Association of Catholic Parents in Germany (Katholische Elternschaft Deutschlands)

**Jon O'Brien**, President, Catholics for Choice, USA

**Wilson Sossion**, Secretary General, Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT), Kenya

Moderator: **Ali Aslan**, Deutsche Welle TV

### Closing remarks

**Matthew Lindley**, Senior Adviser, Resource Mobilization, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), UK

Following the discussion, there will be a reception hosted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



The International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development underlines the interdisciplinary importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and population dynamics as key factors in achieving international development goals such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The conference series is designed to facilitate the networking of national and international players and encourage the exchange of information and experience.

The International Dialogue is an annual, two-day conference taking place in Berlin, jointly organized by DSW (Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and KfW Development Bank, in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals.



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