



# 2017 EURONGOS CONFERENCE

## 'RE:FRAME. PROMOTING SRHR IN A TIME OF GROWING POPULISM'

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### THE EURONGOS ANNUAL CONFERENCES - WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

EuroNGOs - The European NGOs for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development is a regional network of Europe-based NGOs that promotes sexual and reproductive health and rights in development cooperation and global policy. Every year for over a decade, EuroNGOs has organized an **annual conference** hosted by one of its member organizations in different European countries. These gatherings are known for being leading fora, bringing together bright minds and leaders working on sexual and reproductive health and rights to discuss a wide range of subjects and provoke conversations that matter.

The **overall aim of the EuroNGOs conferences** is to:

- 1) Provide a dedicated **space** for the sexual and reproductive health and rights community to spread **learning and broaden understanding** of key issues related to development cooperation or global policies;
- 2) Foster **collective thinking** on how to move forward on common challenges and promote **alliance-building** and international coordination;
- 3) **Mobilize** organizations and individuals **for actions** that contribute to the advancement of sexual and reproductive health and rights worldwide.

#### BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

Rising support for **populist movements**, echoed through examples such as Brexit in the UK, the rhetoric of Orban in Hungary and Kaczynski in Poland, the success of far-right parties from Germany to Greece, and Trump in the USA, is **reshaping the politics** of many Western societies. Europe's populist movements can bring far-right, nationalist and Eurosceptic parties into power across the continent in a series of upcoming elections in Europe. For the SRHR community this global political shift is particularly worrying as populism favours traditional over progressive values, national self-interest over international cooperation and development aid, and often also

**WHEN: 27 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**WHERE: ATELIERS DES TANNEURS, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**



# 2017 EURONGOS CONFERENCE

## 'RE:FRAME. PROMOTING SRHR IN A TIME OF GROWING POPULISM'

### CONCEPT NOTE

traditional sex roles for women and men over more fluid gender identities and roles. This will further boost anti-choice, anti-human rights and anti-gender groups. These changes can have serious implications in terms of political support and financial investment in SRHR and development issues, but also threatens civil society space. Further, this might cause Europe, once a strong defender of SRHR and human rights in global processes, taking a step back from that position.

There is also the risk that this growth in populism will undermine the **achievement of SDGs**, influence decisions taken at UN level and impact future funding of several UN agencies. At UN level, 2017 will be a crucial year for our gender and SRHR community. SDG 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) will be reviewed in depth by the High Level Political Forum, and in Voluntary National Reports by 44 countries. This will provide important information and insights about the state-of-play of SRHR as part of achieving Agenda 2030.

The consequences of the new USA government have become evident, with the reinstatement of the Global Gag Rule and other detrimental decisions affecting USA funding for international development, the United Nations, and SRHR specifically. A number of European governments launched the She Decides global initiative to counteract the Global gag rule and increase support for SRHR and family planning. At a conference in March in Belgium they raised an initial 181 million from governments, foundations and other stakeholders, but it is still unclear what will happen next and how donors will be held accountable for their pledges. By the time of the conference, key elections will have taken place in France (April and May) and Germany (September), but also in Turkey (constitutional referendum in April), and thus at the time of the EuroNGOs conference, we will have a greater understanding of the new European political landscape. In this time of unprecedented change, the 2017 conference will provide a high-level platform to **highlight and explore how we can promote and protect SRHR in future years**, both within and beyond UN processes.

**WHEN: 27 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**WHERE: ATELIERS DES TANNEURS, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**



# 2017 EURONGOS CONFERENCE

## 'RE:FRAME. PROMOTING SRHR IN A TIME OF GROWING POPULISM' CONCEPT NOTE

### THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE: OBJECTIVES

With the above in mind, this two-day conference will challenge thinking and stimulate debate around the **rise of populism and the impact this has on SRHR**, both domestically as in the context of global development. The **objectives** of the conference are twofold:

- 1) Provide a platform for the SRHR community to **unravel political and financial implications** and put in place **new narratives** in the current political landscape and rise of populism. Share and collect best practices, techniques and approaches to respond to this changing context - at the global, regional and grassroots level.
- 2) Taking into account the shifting political landscape, come up with concrete strategies to use the global framework of the **Sustainable Development Goals** to mitigate this backlash and to **put gender, human and sexual and reproductive rights firmly on the agenda** of the implementation, follow-up and review of the SDGs. **Analyse evidence and progress** after the second High-Level Political Forum and Voluntary National Reports, and collaboratively agree on ways to **use SDG monitoring and accountability mechanisms** to highlight the importance of development cooperation and SRHR.

With a greater focus on impact, evidence and best practices participants will be inspired to take new approaches in their work to make a real difference while tackling the challenges facing the SRHR sector.

### PROGRAMME

The conference will be designed as a **two-day** dialogue, with parallel tracks between which participants can navigate and choose according to interest and priorities.

**WHEN: 27 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**WHERE: ATELIERS DES TANNEURS, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**



# 2017 EURONGOS CONFERENCE

## 'RE:FRAME. PROMOTING SRHR IN A TIME OF GROWING POPULISM'

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### THEMATIC TRACKS:

##### POLITICAL TRACK – KEY TOPICS AND QUESTIONS:

**RE POLITICISE:** What is the *political* impact of the rise of populism on our democratic space and SRHR issues, domestically and internationally, also looking at the political effects of the Global Gag Rule in the 'Global North' and 'South'? How do we re-politicise SRHR, within and beyond UN processes, and how can we re-frame our messages in this new political landscape? How to use She Decides and further push our European governments and institutions to counteract the actions of an ultra-conservative administration both in America and elsewhere? Sessions will focus on ways to address this in our *messaging, tactics and strategies*, and innovative alliances and techniques out there to do that.

**RE GENERATE:** What are the implications of this new political context on *ODA and funding for SRHR*, and what is the impact of the Global Gag Rule, in particular in the Global South? Where do we now take the She Decides initiative and how can we hold donors to account on their pledges? How do we mobilize donors further and also leverage resources nationally to fill the funding gap, and what can we learn from examples and best-practices in *mobilizing and generating funding* from different sources - including governments, the private sector and foundations, as well as campaigns with the general public?

**RE CONNECT:** How do we reconnect with the grassroots and our *citizen base*? What can we learn from the rising populist movements, rhetoric and their voters, and the growing Euroscepticism? How do we strengthen the capacity of our SRHR community to *publicly mobilise* around our issues, become more capable to move beyond facts to emotions, and put pressure on decision-makers?

##### SDG'S TRACK – KEY TOPICS AND QUESTIONS:

**RE VIEW:** Taking into account the shifting political landscape, how we use Agenda 2030' follow-up and review to mitigate this back-lash and highlight the importance of SRHR? What lessons can we learn from the National Voluntary Reviews and High Level Political Forum in terms of evidence and progress on SRHR under SDGs 3 and 5, how these were reported on, and where do we go from here?

**RE PRESENT:** What we are doing as a community in promoting and implementing SRHR within the SDGs at implementation and programming level? In times of 'alternative facts', what evidence, good practices and data do we have from our work on the ground, in our own countries and from the global South, and how do we present this as part of the monitoring and reporting on the SDGs through the different channels?

**WHEN: 27 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**WHERE: ATELIERS DES TANNEURS, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**



# 2017 EURONGOS CONFERENCE

## 'RE:FRAME. PROMOTING SRHR IN A TIME OF GROWING POPULISM'

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### TYPES OF SESSIONS:

The conference programme will be build-up of different **types of sessions**, having different aims and methodologies:

**Context hubs:** In these sessions the main emphasis is on deep analysis of the context and political debates, including external experts, aimed at sharing information and intelligence to feed into our strategies and plans.

**Inspiration hubs:** These sessions will focus on showcasing experiences, success stories and best practices from in and outside the sector.

**Creation hubs:** The purpose of these sessions is to share and further develop ideas, and co-create concrete advocacy, campaigns or actions.

Certain elements of these working groups will then go back into the plenary sessions to share with the larger audience. Some sessions will be closed and for EuroNGOs members or civil society only, to provide a safe space for strategizing, other sessions will be under '*Chatham House Rule*'\* to allow for open discussion and sharing of information.

*\* When a session is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, will be revealed.*

#### PARTICIPANTS

The conference is open to **180 EuroNGOs members and partners, activists, policy makers and like-minded stakeholders** from across the world working on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Experts and leading thinkers from outside the SRHR community will be invited to provide additional stimulus and new perspectives.

**WHEN: 27 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**WHERE: ATELIERS DES TANNEURS, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**