



# MEMBERS' CHARTER

# SRHR Partnership Charter

The Charter states the common vision, purpose, values and principles of the SRHR Partnership. It outlines our position of unity and our agreed ways of working together. The Charter is based on the EuroNGOs Charter and was approved at the EuroNGOs Annual General Meeting on 26 September 2017 in Brussels.

## SECTION I: OUR BASIS OF UNITY

The SRHR Partnership is an alliance of entities that work on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues at international and domestic levels. We believe that SRHR is both a fundamental human right and a key factor in well-being, poverty reduction, economic growth, environmental sustainability, gender equality, women's empowerment and sustainable development, and we are united by our ambition to promote the achievement of universal access to SRHR.

### OUR VISION

We strive for a sustainable world without poverty where all individuals enjoy good sexual and reproductive health and well-being and are empowered to exercise their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

### OUR VALUES

We believe:

- that sexual and reproductive health and rights are fundamental human rights;
- in equity and equality of all people, and we are committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination and violation of human rights;
- in freedom of choice in matters of sexuality and reproduction;
- that sexual and reproductive health and rights are key factors in well-being, poverty reduction, economic growth, environmental sustainability, gender equality, women's empowerment and sustainable development;
- in a global partnership and solidarity.

### OVERARCHING GOAL

We collectively promote, as European stakeholders, comprehensive and progressive sexual and reproductive health and rights, the principles of

which are enshrined in the ICPD Programme of Action, at domestic, European and global level.

## SECTION II: OUR AGREED WAYS OF WORKING WITH EACH OTHER

As members of the SRHR Partnership, we value the strength we have together, we each value the contributions that others make to our collective advocacy, and we value the strength we gain from learning from each other's successes and challenges. As members we are therefore committed to playing our own part in the SRHR Partnership to further its vision and goals. Each of us has a crucial role to play: in our national arena, working with others to influence national and regional policy and practice; and through our engagement in the SRHR Partnership's collective international advocacy. As SRHR Partnership members, we recognise that to have the impact we want on the promotion of universal access to SRHR, we must work closely and effectively together. This Charter defines our expectations of ourselves, and of each other, to make this possible.

### GOVERNING AND MANAGING THE NETWORK

The SRHR Partnership is made up of all of its members. The SRHR Partnership is its members; it is not an organisation on its own. We acknowledge that we need to work together to ensure that it works well.

*We are committed to:*

- Playing our part in enabling the SRHR Partnership to achieve its goal and objectives effectively; and
- Participating fully in forums and elections through which SRHR Partnership policy, practice and modes of operation are decided.

*We expect others in the SRHR Partnership to:*

- Participate fully themselves according to their capacity to do so

*We expect the Steering Committee and Secretariat to:*

- Work, and be managed, in a way that respects and develops the member-led nature of the SRHR Partnership;
- Work, and be managed, in a way that ensures the views and priorities of members are reflected in their work;
- Be efficient and cost-effective;
- Ensure transparency for members on how they manage, govern and are financed; and

- Provide appropriate opportunities for members' participation in the SRHR Partnership's oversight and strategic direction.

## SHARING INFORMATION, INTELLIGENCE AND EXPERTISE

We are strong as a SRHR Partnership because we share intelligence, information and lessons about what works and the challenges we face. We all have a role to play in this.

*We are committed to:*

- Informing others about the situation in our arena; our successes and challenges; and the lessons we learn about what works
- Supporting other members, particularly the newer and smaller members, to be as effective as they can be, by sharing expertise, guidance and advice

*We expect others in the SRHR Partnership to:*

- Share similar information with us, so that we understand better the reality of our situation and can realise the potential of our work
- Support us, when we ask for it, with their expertise, guidance and advice

*We expect the Steering Committee and Secretariat to:*

- Set up and maintain mechanisms for the effective sharing and exchange of information
- Enable us to improve the quality of the work of all SRHR Partnership members, by enabling us to learn from each other

## PARTICIPATING IN COLLECTIVE STRATEGISING, PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The SRHR Partnership can only be strong if we, as members, play a full part in shaping its agenda and take action on its priorities.

*We are committed to:*

- Participate in forums, both face to face and online, that set priorities and policy positions
- Playing our part to influence national policy positions that affect the global and domestic SRHR agenda.
- Contribute our expertise by participating in working groups and other forums appropriate to our mandate and the issues on which we focus
- Participate in the consultative processes of SRHR Partnership
- Respect, support and reflect in our own statements and work the priorities, policy positions, strategies, and the joint agenda adopted by the SRHR Partnership

*We expect others in the SRHR Partnership to:*

- Participate in the same ways, alongside us

*We expect the Steering Committee and Secretariat to:*

- Keep us informed of opportunities to participate
- Listen to, and take into consideration, our views and perspectives, and ensure strong consultative and collective decision-making processes

*Taking action in our own arena, and supporting others in theirs*

Our SRHR Partnership goal will be achieved if we all play our own part, in the arena appropriate to our organisation.

*We are committed to:*

- Taking action on SRHR issues in the national or global arena appropriate to our own organisation's mandate and capabilities
- Respecting and valuing the contributions, actions and capabilities of others in the SRHR Partnership
- Taking solidarity actions for others in the SRHR Partnership when requested and where possible

*We expect others in the SRHR Partnership to:*

- Respect us and our actions in our own arena, and support them through solidarity actions if we ask them to do so
- Help us strengthen ourselves through guidance and the provision of information relevant to our situation

*We expect the Steering Committee and Secretariat to:*

- Help us to understand the wider context for the issues in our arena
- Create and maintain platforms enabling us to support each other in our advocacy work

*Keeping ourselves knowledgeable and informed*

We can take effective action, and engage in the SRHR Partnership's debates, only if we know our subject well.

*We are committed to:*

- Knowing the policy/practice situation on SRHR, particularly as it affects global policy processes, in our own arena
- Respecting the knowledge and expertise of other members

*We expect others in the SRHR Partnership to:*

- Know the situation in their own arenas
- Respect our knowledge and expertise

*We expect the Steering Committee and Secretariat to:*

- Respect our knowledge and expertise
- Inform us of any intelligence on forthcoming changes to the policy/practice situation in our arena
- Create opportunities for sharing experience and joint learning

Speaking for the SRHR Partnership and ensuring it is respected

We can be effective in our advocacy only if we are seen to have a united voice. We will have the debates we need, but we will do this internally and respect collective decisions. To the outside world, we will have a consistent, united presence.

*We are committed to:*

- Respecting decisions taken on policy positions in legitimate forums of the SRHR Partnership
- Reflecting those policy positions when representing or referring to the SRHR Partnership to governments, inter-governmental bodies, the media and other external audiences
- Behaving in ways that enhance, and do not undermine, the SRHR Partnership's reputation

*We expect others in the SRHR Partnership to:*

- Similarly respect and reflect collective policy positions
- Behave in ways that enhance, and do not undermine, the SRHR Partnership's reputation

*We expect the Steering Committee and Secretariat to:*

- Ensure that decision-making on policy positions is responsibly and legitimately undertaken, with full consultation with members when feasible and necessary
- Ensure that those decisions are reflected in the positions taken by all spokespersons and communications that represent the network

Operating in overlapping arenas

We are at our strongest when we collaborate, and we weaken our cause when we compete.

*We are committed to:*

- Collaboration

*We expect the Steering Committee and Secretariat to:*

- Create safe spaces which enable us to seek collaboration with each other
- Ensure there is fair treatment of and equal opportunity for members