

**IPPF EN statement for the UNECE Regional Conference on ICPD+25 on thematic session:
Inequalities, Social Inclusion and Rights**

30 years ago, ICPD adopted a groundbreaking, human-centered, rights-based approach to population and development, which remains more relevant than ever. The International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network welcomes ICPD+30 as a key moment to celebrate progress and address challenges.

Social inequalities are rising in the region, and were exacerbated by recent crises. Women, and those facing intersecting discrimination, are amongst the most affected. Their sexual and reproductive health and rights were insufficiently protected, as governments fail to recognise them as essential health services and include them in Universal Health Coverage.

Governments must pay particular attention to the specific needs of marginalised communities, and guarantee their sexual and reproductive health and rights; particularly for young people, ethnic minorities including Roma, migrants and refugees, socio-economically disadvantaged people, persons living with disabilities, and HIV, sex workers, and LGBTI+ people.

Sexual and reproductive justice is essential to advancing gender equality. Yet, many women in the region are still deprived from their bodily and reproductive autonomy. Some countries are even regressing. We call on governments to remove all barriers to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and to implement the latest WHO Guideline on abortion. Violations of sexual and reproductive rights, including the denial of abortion, are institutional forms of gender-based violence, that may amount to torture and even femicide.

Sexual and gender-based violence remains shockingly prevalent in the region. To prevent it, mandatory comprehensive sexuality education, which challenges harmful gender norms, toxic masculinity, and educates on consent, is crucial. To combat sexual violence, all Member States must also adopt consent-based laws.

Finally, in the face of growing anti-gender and anti-choice pushback, we call on UN agencies and governments to unite to counter these stances, and renew their political and financial commitment to the whole ICPD Agenda. Civil society actors who fight for SRHR face repression for their work, including from their own governments. Member States must provide them protection, political and financial support.

Thank you