

Statement submitted by Campaign Life Coalition

Campaign Life Coalition is a national, non-profit organization involved in political action and advocacy for legal and cultural change in Canada with respect to protecting human life and the natural family. It works in identifying and assisting pro-life and pro-family candidates to run for public office at all levels of government, promotes civic engagement at the grassroots level, and encourages voting based on principles, not party.

In assessing the theme of this year's fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development, "Status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development", we urge members states to strongly oppose the inclusion and expansion of controversial language that includes "sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)" and "comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)", in any outcome documents of the Commission on Population and Development.

In the report on the fifty-sixth session, it reads "the Deputy Director General highlighted the urgent need [...] to provide good quality education on a range of issues, including on puberty and sexual and reproductive health", the report continues to urge Governments to ensure the access of adolescents to "sexual and reproductive health and rights" and "comprehensive sexuality education". We are fundamentally opposed to the implementation of such language in any agreed conclusions or outcome documents, on the principle that these undefined terms are often used by pro-abortion actors to promote abortion as a universal human right, an often-repeated falsehood which continues to be rejected by many member states and has never received consensus.

The ongoing repetition of the claim that abortion is a "human right" by sexual rights activists does not dismiss the reality that abortion is a violent procedure that kills an innocent human life and therefore should have no place in a civilized society that intends to uphold the innate dignity of every human being and their right to life. There is a reason why the majority of member states have legal protection for children in the womb in their constitutions and/or national laws. In countries where abortion is legal, it remains restricted.

The report also mentioned that a large majority of NGO delegates highlighted the positive role of comprehensive education on human sexuality as an effective way to "improve health and well-being", in areas of "unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions." The term "unsafe abortion" is an oxymoron, abortion is certainly never "safe" for the fetus who is being violently dismembered in the womb of his or her mother, nor is abortion "safe" for the mother, either.

In addition to ending the life of a young human being inside the womb, abortion imposes severe negative physical and mental health effects on women, including the risk of the tearing of uterine artery and/or cervix, scarring of the uterine wall with the curette instrument, perforation of the uterus, hemorrhaging or embolisms, increased risk of subsequent tubal pregnancies or miscarriage, sexual dysfunction, suicidal ideation, depression, social anxiety and many more. It is essential that we recognize that whether this procedure is legal or illegal, surgical or chemical, abortion poses a major threat to the health and lives of women.

Similarly, the report on the fifty-sixth session highlighted that sustainable development "requires universal access to quality education, including comprehensive sexuality education". Once again, we join many member states and other members of civil society in rejecting any attempts to include language related to "comprehensive sexuality education", in any agreed conclusions or outcome documents, due to the irreparable damage and harm it imposes on children and society, as a whole. "Comprehensive sexuality

education” as proposed by sexual rights activists includes content that is age-inappropriate, sexually graphic, and is often in contradiction with the local values and religious beliefs of the students.

At its core, “comprehensive sexuality education” undermines the role of parents as the primary educators of children. Notably, such school-based programs that were implemented outside of the United States were more likely to negatively impact students than produce positive outcomes. These negative outcomes included an increase in teen pregnancies, an increase in teen sexual activity and risky behaviors, and an increase in sexually transmitted infections. The failure rate for school based “comprehensive sexuality education” programs in the U.S. is 85 per cent, appearing substantially higher than the rate of abstinence education, which had a 53 per cent failure rate. According to 120 of the strongest and most recent outcome studies of sexual education, worldwide, school based CSE programs have been proven vastly ineffective in preventing negative outcomes associated with sexual activity.

We seek to ensure that young people are afforded access to education that proves to be age-appropriate, factually accurate, and effective in preventing negative outcomes. Imposing controversial CSE school-based programs, that are proven to have a significant failure rate, serves as a blatant form of ideological indoctrination and colonization through the imposition of progressive western ideas on the rest of the world, especially in communities that uphold traditional values and beliefs in relation to sexuality, traditional marriage as between one man and one woman, and the traditional family.

Call to action

We call upon member states to oppose abortion, to uphold the dignity and integrity of every human person from the moment of conception, and to promote education that is age-appropriate and abstinence-centered as a means of securing the best outcomes for children and adolescents.