

# **International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE INSTITUTIONAL WEBSITE EVALUATION AND UPDATE CONSULTANCY**

### **1. Background**

#### **1.1. International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society (IASSCS)**

The International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society (IASSCS) was established in July 1997 in Amsterdam, with the commitment to build equity in research capacity worldwide and to develop a broad range of multidisciplinary research activities in the field of sexuality. IASSCS seeks to promote the study of sexual identity, desire and experience in specific social and cultural contexts, including the development of research capacity, and gives priority to the crucial diversity of this area of enquiry. Its mission is informed by the principles of social justice and human rights, with a focus on sexual rights and gender equality, as expressed in documents such as the Cairo Programme of Action, CEDAW and the UNGASS Declaration on AIDS.

This gathering was broadly concerned with the social and cultural study of sexuality, and drew together scholars from the disciplines of anthropology, history, sociology, health policy and cultural and gender studies. The impetus behind the creation of IASSCS was the perceived need to address the fragmentation of studies in sexuality and to provide a forum for expanding and developing sexuality as a legitimate area of scholarship.

Since the Amsterdam (1997) conference, equally successful conferences have been held in Manchester (1999), Melbourne (2001), Johannesburg (2003), San Francisco (2005), Lima (2007) and Hanoi (2009). IASSCS next biannual conference will be in Madrid (2011).

IASSCS views sexuality as a site of power, embedded in other power relations mediated by religion, legal structures, politics and economics. Through its conferences and publications, the association tries in particular to promote high quality sexuality research in countries in the South, both by stimulating young researchers and by building research capacity in specific universities or research centres.

In order to broaden research and advocacy initiatives, IASSCS global membership includes researchers, activists, advocates and artists from diverse backgrounds. IASSCS offers its resources as a global platform for activities that are taking place at the local level, and as a home for sexual movements without access to resources. It also serves as a facilitator for training initiatives, and as a co-convenor of satellite meetings around its biennial international conferences.

A major focus lies in encouraging cooperation between researchers, policy makers and advocacy groups, particularly in the area of sexuality and sexual empowerment.

## **1.2. IASSCS Aims**

IASSCS seeks:

- ▶ To strengthen research and research capacity in socio-cultural dimensions of sexuality globally, with special attention to countries where this research is not well-developed.
- ▶ To support expanded dissemination of research findings in the field of socio-cultural sexuality.
- ▶ To inform policies and programs regarding sexuality from a global to a national level in support of IASSCS's guiding principles.

## **2. CONSULTANCY OBJECTIVE**

A team of professionals in communication and advocacy will be contracted to update and expand IASSCS' website services, based on institutional and members' needs and expectations, in order to become a global reference point for researchers and activists in the sexuality field globally.

The team should include 2 - 3 professionals with experience in communication for social change, website development tools, and some knowledge of the field of sexuality research.

### **2.1. General Objective**

Identify the content and technological components that the association's website will require in order to become a source of expertise in related policy debates and to support research dissemination (mainly through its conferences) and various activist campaigns consistent with IASSCS's goals and guiding principles.

### **2.2. Specific Objectives**

- 2.2.1. Review of the current websites (both of the institution and of the conference) given the mission and goals of the organization, with input from key stakeholders;
- 2.2.2. Conduct survey and interviews with IASSCS full and associate members, and key stakeholders on website content and components
- 2.2.3. Identify advantages and disadvantages of different options for institutional interactive websites;
- 2.2.4. Produce a report with findings, including preliminary recommendations for consideration by the Board and Communication and Dissemination Committee.
- 2.2.5. Produce and supervise the implementation of the site map, incorporating the recommendations approved by IASSCS.
- 2.2.6. Present the updated website and produce a final report.

### **3. SCOPE OF WORK**

- ▶ Review the Association website, objective and aims.
- ▶ Consider and analyse the best way to improve the current structure of the website in order to carry out the association's mission, objective and aims; appropriately consulting with board members and taking into consideration relevant literature and resources on similar institutional websites.
- ▶ Present a Report and an Implementation Plan to the Secretariat of IASSCS and the Dissemination and Communication Committee to obtain feedback from the Board.
- ▶ Incorporate comments from the board into the report and implement the plan.
- ▶ Present a website evaluation instrument to allow periodic reviews and identify updates needed.

### **4. DELIVERABLES**

The consultancy should present the following deliverables:

- ▶ Consultancy Work Plan and Timetable (to be one week after contract)
- ▶ First Report and Implementation Plan (August 2010)
- ▶ Website Launch (September 10, 2010)
- ▶ Final Report and Evaluation Instruments (September 24, 2010).

### **5. TIMETABLE AND BUDGET**

Consultancy should be completed in a 3 month period.

Based on proposal and team qualifications budget will range from US\$ 5,000 – 7,000

### **6. INSTITUTIONAL CONTACT**

The consultant should report periodically concerning the work done and maintain contact with Fernando Olivos and Ruth Iguñiz.

Send proposal, timetable, budget and CV of team members to [iasscs.secretariat@iasscs.org](mailto:iasscs.secretariat@iasscs.org) by **July 5th 2010**