

*Welcome to a webinar about*

## **Collaboration between faith-based and secular actors in the field of SRHR**

the 8th of december 14.00-15.30, participation via Zoom. The webinar targets academia, civil society organisations and government officials working with global SRHR issues in a Swedish context.

The webinar is organized by the Working Group on Religious and Social Norms, part of the Swedish Platform for SRHR issues. The Swedish Platform for SRHR was founded in December 2019. The overall goal is to build a more coordinated and effective cross-sectorial (research, policy, practitioners, programming) Swedish response to improve SRHR globally.

### **Background**

Religion shapes norms and values and can be both a driving force and a hindrance for SRHR. Religious actors are in some contexts the sole provider of SRH services and religious actors can be powerful advocates for sexual and reproductive rights. At the same time, opposition to SRHR is often religiously motivated. A better understanding of the impact of religious and cultural norms is crucial if we are to ensure access to SRHR for all.

Strategic partnerships between secular and religious actors are pivotal to achieve such an understanding. Norms and values linked to SRHR are complex, and in order to find common ground, to identify entry points and to build alliances, collaboration between a diverse range of actors is key. How such partnerships are created and maintained will be explored in this session, as well as barriers to such partnerships.

**Target group:** Academia, civil society organisations and government officials working with SRHR in the Swedish context.

**Goal of the webinar:** To deepen the knowledge among members of the SRHR platform around opportunities and challenges in the collaboration between faith-based and secular actors in the field off SRHR

### **Sub-goals**

- Identify main entry points and strategies for collaboration
- Discuss how to create trust between organisations with different identities
- Discuss the (over all) role of Swedish SRHR actors in moving the work Forward and present recommendations for the future work of the platform

**Target group:** Academia, civil society organisations and government officials working with SRHR in the Swedish context.

## Session Format

Date and time: 8 december 14.00-15.30

Participate via Zoom. Please confirm your participation to: [kristin.elmquist@pmu.se](mailto:kristin.elmquist@pmu.se)

- **Welcome and introductions**
- **Setting the scene**
- **Reflections from Per Olsson Fridh, Minister for International Development Cooperation.**
- **Ways to work together for SRHR: presentations from different perspectives**
  - 1) ***Orientation as a secular SRHR-organization in a religious landscape:***  
RFSU consultant presents findings from the RFSU commissioned report on challenges and opportunities when working with religious actors
  - 2) ***Orientation as a faith-based actor in the SRHR-context: collaborations, challenges and lessons learnt.*** ACT & PMU share perspectives from a faith-based perspective
  - 3) ***A feminist organisation working on SRHR with religious leaders: The experience of Diakonia's partner Katswe sistahood in Zimbabwe***
  - 4) ***Donor engagement of faith-based actors:*** Current research perspectives by Sibylle Herzig Van Wees, researcher at *Karolinska Institutet*.
- **Summarize key recommendations from speakers**
- **Group discussion**
- **Wrap up**