



Rinti Rome Consultation Speech

Hello everyone, my name is Tasfia Hossain, I am a part of the Comhairle na nÓg, Ireland's Youth Council. As Loris has outlined everything perfectly, and so I'd like to expand further in terms of looking forward into the future, the standards we believe are crucial in the development of a truly comprehensive sexuality education.

Age Appropriate Sexuality Education is a tool that enables children and young people to make informed decisions about their sexual health, sexuality, and well-being. It has been strongly agreed upon that CSE should be included in every child's education, regardless of religious background. It must be mandatory because Sexuality Education is essential to ensuring that we meet a range of Child Rights, including the right to education, health, and even the right to life.

The implementation of CSE in both formal and informal educational settings is significant. As mentioned previously, family plays a crucial role in providing their children with appropriate information which establishes healthy relationships and a sense of self autonomy and so accessible resources must be available for all households.

Sexuality Education must be given in person, young people must be able to debate, discuss and ask questions in a judgement free, inclusive environment facilitated by those who have the applicable qualifications, including specialised non governmental organisations. schools and other formal organisations must have access to suitable training in order to provide relevant information.

It is essential that sexuality education is age-appropriate and progresses as the child grows up. At the PACE consultation between Irish and Italian young people, half believed CSE should start in kindergarten, and the rest felt starting Sexuality Education in lower secondary school would be more appropriate.

A collaborative approach was emphasised with 6 groups of educators being highlighted to play a supporting role in the implementation of CSE. All of whom hold various strengths;

- Experts of sexuality education can structure young people's learning of the topic, allowing effective communication and concise lessons within a trusted setting.
- Teachers allow for implementation of such education within a formal curriculum, though they will require a standardised syllabus and training to ensure inclusivity and cultural sensitivity.
- Parents, who hold a strong emotional connection and have continuous access to their children, can provide personalised guidance and answer questions they may have.
- NGOs such as Save the Children excel in advocacy without profit-driven motives, building trust and prioritising children's involvement.

- Sports Clubs can promote self awareness and self autonomy, with the use of sports to address body image and physical boundaries.
- Online groups are both accessible and cost effective, enabling connection with international experts and allowing flexible learning through virtual tools such as zoom or teams.

Within Comprehensive Sexuality Education it is important to include a large variety of information. We believe it is necessary for the curriculum to contain subject matters such as self autonomy which includes knowledge of one's body. Which ensures education of body developments such as during adolescence or pregnancy, and education of bodily health, which includes prevention, protection, knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases, or abortions through scientific evidence. informed consent, allowing children to be comfortable with saying no when they believe their boundaries are not being respected, as well as deeper awareness of their body. Knowledge regarding affectivity, emotional development, and healthy relationship building. This information must be inclusive to all sexualities, gender orientations and disabilities. It is crucial that we understand this is a part of our human rights.

To conclude this presentation, our ask is that children and young people are more involved in the development of CSE at both the local, national and international level, through :

- attending further consultations in their schools, at regional, national and international levels;
- participation in regular activities aiming at reviewing the content of CSE; it is subject to change over the years, especially due to influences such as Artificial Intelligence and increasing presence online;
- participation of young people in government bodies' meetings such as PACE and holding a seat at decision-making discussions;
- online events specifically for young people.
- lectures with interventions and debates;
- online consultations where children can provide their input based on the knowledge they have gained.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education is a human right that every one of us are entitled to. It is a fundamental part of our life, our mental, emotional and physical wellbeing. I would like to thank you all for listening to this presentation, and I hope to see the further development of sexuality education.