

We request the President of Romania to send for review the Law by which sex education is exclusively replaced with health education!

The National School Students Council (CNE), the National Alliance of Student Organizations in Romania (ANOSR) and the Youth Council of Romania (CTR) express their disappointment regarding the Constitutional Court of Romania's decision, stipulating that the law amending Law no. 272/2004, which says that sexual education is to be replaced exclusively with health education, (taught solely with the consent of the parent) falls within the limits of constitutionality.

In May, with the adoption of this law, civil society drew attention to the need to introduce sex education in schools in the truesense of the term. The attempt by the decision-makers to limit pupils' access to sex education is an irresponsible act, given that Romania is at the bottom of the ranking in regard to the sexual health of young people and the number of teenage mothers.

According to the National Institute of Statistics' (INS) data, in 2018, 727 teenage girls under the age of 15 and 18,753 between 15 and 19 years became mothers in Romania. Of teenage mothers under 15, 19 are at their second birth and one at third. As for teenage mothers aged 15-19, 3,929 are in second, 731 at third, 72 at fourth, 8 in fifth and one in sixth birth. At the same time, 7.5% of all cervical cancer cases diagnosed annually in Europe come from Romania, an incidence three times higher than the European Union average. Romania also ranks first in the European Union countries in terms of cervical cancer mortality (14.2 per 100,000 women).

According to the Policies for Sexuality Education in the European Union, good practice in sex education includes the intervention of professionals in the field, based on a holistic approach. This implies that sex education should deliver comprehensive, varied and honest knowledge, bringing together both physiological and relational information. According to the same concept note, quality sex education depends on its inclusion in the compulsory curriculum. The

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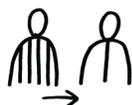
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stakeholders in this context are the relevant ministries (health and education), NGOs, teachers, parents and professionals, as they are the ones who deliver this information to young people.

In many families in Romania, reproductive health is not a subject of free discussion, and several students do not have wparents who are able to explain information related to sex education, therefore it is the role of the specialist in the field to deliver this. Unfortunately, schools offer the only opportunity to understand basic issues related to sex education, such as contraception, family planning, and so on.

For these reasons, we ask the President of Romania to return to the Romanian Parliament, for review, the amendment to the Law.

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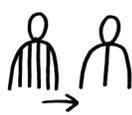
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