



# IFMSA

International Federation of  
Medical Students' Associations

## Statement of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) 71st World Health Assembly

### ***Agenda Item 12.3 Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030): sexual and reproductive health, interpersonal violence, and early childhood development***

Honourable chair,  
Distinguished delegates,

Experiencing stigma and discrimination does not only have a severe impact on a person's social well-being, it also leads to poorer health outcomes, mostly for those who are already underserved and underrepresented.

Young women have double the likelihood to acquire HIV than young men within the same age range. Certain vulnerabilities fueled by social, cultural and economic inequity contribute to this disadvantageous situation. Unfortunately, healthcare settings are still one of the most common spaces in which discrimination, stigma, and violence take place, often affecting women, people living with HIV and key populations the most. Examples of discrimination in health-care settings also include misinformation, requiring third-party authorizations for the provision of services, lack of privacy and breaches of confidentiality.

Moreover, in many settings, key populations including adolescents and young girls continue to face prohibition to access sexual and reproductive health services, including HIV testing, due to harmful legal and policy barriers related to age of consent.

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations acknowledges the enabling framework of the Global Strategy and welcomes all parties investing their time and efforts to advocate for better and more inclusive sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls. However, much remains to be done and therefore we urge member States to:

- Commit and enforce enabling laws and policies that protect, promote and fulfil human rights and young people's autonomy and eliminate discrimination in healthcare or in any other setting.
- Further tackle the barriers that prevent women and other underserved populations from accessing inclusive and friendly services as well as proper sexual and reproductive health care. Lack of access to these services leads to severe negative consequences and in general, less informed and self-determined choices.

Thank you.