

## **SEXUALITY IN AFRICA MAGAZINE GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS**

**The ARSRC welcomes submissions on aspects of sexuality, sexual health and rights in Africa for publication in its *Sexuality in Africa Magazine*. These articles or poems should be objective, analytical and reflect current issues and debates i.e. taking a broader approach to sexuality and taking the sexuality discourse beyond health to integrate the expression of sexuality without fear or guilt.**

**Priority would be given to previously unpublished articles while already published material might be considered based on the relevance of the subject area to ARSRC's objectives. Such previously published work must, however, be accompanied by details of where to seek permission for its reprint.**

**Currently, we seek submissions for the following editions:**

□ **Desire, Pleasure and Wellbeing ( Volume 6, Issue 1, 2009)**

The intersection between desire, pleasure and wellbeing has often been the source of animated discussion, debate and even acrimony in modern societies. While sex is a basic instinct and a natural feeling, with pleasure as desideratum or desired objective, the freedom to express our sexuality with any chosen sexual partner or partners of our choice either for pleasure or for reproductive purposes often comes in conflict with social definitions of wellbeing. Sexual wellbeing is frequently defined in terms of: (1) personal (physical, psychological and biological) health, (2) communal (epidemiological) health, and (3) social and cultural health, hence it is often subject to societal dictates and norms. There are arguments that the freedom to aspire to maximum sexual satisfaction must carry some reciprocal responsibilities, not only to us as individuals, but also to the society at large. In many African Societies, sexuality and socio-cultural boundaries intersect with considerable friction; hence issues like sexual orientation and diversity are beset with deep controversies on the continent. Contributors to this volume are invited to examine the intersection between desire, pleasure and sexual right on the one hand, and sexual health and socio-cultural wellbeing on the other hand. Are there, or should there be, socio cultural standards for sexual arousal or behavior? Should an individual living positively with HIV be free to explore sexual desire and pleasure? Should multiple sexual

partnerships be abolished or sanctioned? Should persons with queer sexual orientation be free to express such orientation or subject themselves to societal restrictions? Would unlimited freedom to explore sexual pleasure guarantee wellbeing for the individual and the society?

□ **Sexuality in Conflict Situations (Vol. 6, Issue 2, 2009)**

Countless international documents have addressed issues related to violence and HIV/AIDS. Sex and gender violence has for a long time been directed toward women and children, and in 1975 the UN declared 1975 International Women's Year. This issue would examine the expression of sexuality in conflict situations, with specific regard to the dynamics of sexuality as a weapon of war. The issue explores the topic from historical and contemporary perspectives, and also examines possible differences in war sexual behaviour over time across cultures.

We explore different forms of sexual violence in a war situation, for example, between intimate partners under the stress of war, between and on soldiers, within and on the community under invasion, on and amongst child soldiers, and so forth. We are also concerned with issues relating to sexual orientation and "re-orientation" in times of war. How do the interactants negotiate masculinities, when men are victims? Other interesting dimensions include: what constitutes "good sex" in conflict situations? What constitutes "consent" and "dignity?" How do combatants and victims deal with the issue of "safe sex?" Is all [sex] fair in war? What "relief materials" are relevant to sex and sexuality during conflicts and what relevant access to "information" and "services" are available?

This issue is also concerned with the problem of "conjugal rights" during long separations occasioned by warfare, conflict disasters, forced migrations and sundry uncertainties. What happens to the spouses during these difficult periods? What is the role of friends, relations, social agencies and the relevant governments? What is the stance of the society?

□ **Communicating Sexuality in Africa (Vol. 7, Issues 1 and 2, 2010)**

Communication is often an index of diversity, hence the concept of a “speech community,” which, in sociolinguistic theory, is bound together by a shared body of verbal signals and distinguished from other speech communities by significant differences in language use. On the other hand, sex is also supposed to be a “universal language.” This apparent contradiction leads to the explorations in this volume. We want to ask: In what peculiar ways, if any, do different African communities and ethnicities communicate sexuality, either as communities, as groups, or as individuals? What are the verbal and non-verbal signs (including dressing codes and sundry kinesics)? What are the underlying communication principles (is it to communicate “it” or not to communicate “it”), and what are the special challenges? For example, is the so called theory of African silence a myth or a reality? Do certain languages inhibit or promote sexual communication and the communication of sexuality. Are some sexual terms truly non-existent in some languages? Etc.

Contributions are encouraged to distinguish between potentially confusing discursive binaries, for example between the communication of sexuality (where sexual orientation – i.e. heteronormative and queer sexualities - is a key issue), and sexual communication (where sexual orientation is already taken for granted). We also ask for specific contributions on the following, among others:

- Verbal and non-verbal sexual communication in an African community (or in African communities)
- Overt and covert sexual communications
- Public and private sex talk
- Communication of sexual consent and sexual dissent
- Communication across ethnic and social boundaries, including age and class.
- Sex talk from eye contact to coition, and beyond
- African queer sex communication
- Communication and sex education
- Sexual communication in literature and popular culture

## **Guidelines**

### **Length:**

**Feature article: 1,000 - 1, 500 words**

**Research issues: 800 - 1, 000 words**

**Opinion articles: 400 - 500 words**

### **Pictures:**

**Pictures are welcome with or without articles and appropriate credit would be given if the picture is used.**

### **Presentation:**

**An abstract with your name, contact address, phone number, email address and short personal bio as you would like it to appear on the list of contributors should also be submitted.**

### **References:**

**\*\*\* It is important to note that references should preferably be from the last five years except where older references are particularly germane.**

**\*\*\*\*\* Contributors would receive a copy of the edition/issue containing their published articles.**

All correspondence should be addressed to:

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