

IPPF Identity Initiative: Regional Youth Consultation Webinars (SARO, ARO, EN, ACRO) Report

Zoom, 27 September and 17 October 2023

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Acronyms

IPPF International Planned Parenthood Federation

LGBTQIA+ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and more

Introduction

The Identity Initiative team convened three virtual consultations on the Charter of Values with youth representatives from South Asia, Africa, Europe, the Americas, and the Caribbean. The aim of the consultations was to create a space for youth to familiarise themselves with the proposed values and to explore the definition of concepts and actions related to the values.

Two consultations were conducted on Zoom on Wednesday 27 September 2023, and one was conducted on Tuesday 17 October 2023. The first two consultations were held for approximately two hours each, while the last consultation was conducted for 45 minutes. Interpretation was provided in French, English, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

The objectives of the consultations with respect to the Charter of Values were to:

- Gather feedback from youth on the six proposed values, to identify which ones resonated with them and which ones were not seen as relevant to IPPF.
- Gather descriptions, risks and actions associated with the values to enhance or replace those formulated by the Identity Initiative team.

The input gathered will be used to prioritise and refine the list of values, improve the definitions of the values, and inform the overall direction of the first draft of the Charter of Values. The six values consulted across all the consultations were:

- 1.** Courage
- 2.** Passion
- 3.** Justice/inclusion
- 4.** Transformative
- 5.** Integrity
- 6.** Solidarity

Perceptions of Youth Power

The consultations started with an exploration of how young people in IPPF perceived their power, and what recommendations they had to increase their power within the Federation. Participants were asked to respond to three questions, the first was 'when do you feel most powerful?', the second was 'when do you feel least powerful?', and the third was 'what can IPPF do to help enable/increase your power?'. The questions were crafted to help participants ease into the conversation and to locate themselves within the work of the IPPF and its power dynamics.

When do you feel most powerful?

One participant said that they felt most powerful when they woke up in the morning and had a new beginning. One participant noted that they felt powerful when they could make decisions concerning their work whilst another noted that it depended on where they were and what they were doing. Another participant stated that they felt most powerful when they were together with others.

When do you feel least powerful?

One participant cited that they felt least powerful as a young person when they lacked presence in an area. Another participant highlighted that they felt least powerful when they felt lost in the world.

What can IPPF do to help enable/increase your power?

Participants recommended that the Federation increase the power of youth through providing leadership opportunities, building their capacity, and facilitating networking through connecting youth with each other.

Reflections on the Values

Participants in the first two consultations were invited to vote and share their thoughts on the suitability of the 6 shortlisted values as core values of IPPF. Voting was done

through the Mentimeter platform. The results of the votes for each value are summarised below:

Figure 1: Mentimeter Vote Results

Value	Voter sentiment
Passion	All voters supported the inclusion of the value with 60% expressing excitement with its inclusion.
Bravery/ courage	Most voters (75%) voted in support of the inclusion of the value while 25% had mixed feelings about its inclusion.
Belonging/ respect	Most voters (75%) voted in support of the inclusion of the value while 25% disagreed with its inclusion
Solidarity	All voters supported the inclusion of the value with 60% expressing strong feelings of support towards its inclusion.
Integrity	All voters supported the inclusion of the value with 60% expressing strong feelings of support towards its inclusion.
Transformational	All voters supported the inclusion of the value with 50% expressing strong feelings of support towards its inclusion.

Following the voting, participants were invited to share their thoughts on the different values.

Belonging/ respect had the most conversation associated with it. Some participants felt that the words 'belonging', and 'respect' didn't represent the entire cluster of values both individually and when combined. Respect was criticised for being a word used to undermine the agency of youth, as youth are often told to not speak out in 'respect' of their elders. Belonging was said to be more connected with the concept of compassion and lacking in strength to stand as an organisational value. Participants acknowledged that it would be difficult to find one word to represent the entire cluster (diversity, equality, equity, inclusion, justice, respect). Despite this, some made recommendations for the use of words such as equality, diversity, tolerance, inclusion and solicitude as possible alternatives. Participants also noted that it would be

important for the Charter of Values document to provide enough contextual detail and accurate definitions to help Federation members understand why certain words were selected over others.

Passion had some engagement from participants, with one participant reiterating the need for the definition of the value of passion to express the importance of love and volunteerism in the work of IPPF. Another participant recommended the merging of the value of bravery/ courage with passion, as they believed bravery and courage were expressions of passion and not standalone values.

On solidarity, participants recommended the inclusion of terminology on community within the value. One participant highlighted that the word solidarity did not fully represent IPPF's collaborative nature.

On bravery/ courage, one participant recommended the use of the word courage as opposed to bravery. In their remarks they characterised courage as the ability to control fear, and bravery as not having the fear. They believed courage was more realistic as it acknowledged that people have fears and that they take steps to overcome them. Courage, they said, embodied more of what the Federation stood for.

Some participants had overarching comments on the entire list of values. One participant noted that some of the values felt repetitive and questioned why the team had selected six values only and not more. Another participant questioned the rationale for the selection of a single word to represent entire clusters of values, especially for integrity and solidarity, given how different some of the concepts in the clusters were.

Definitions of Values and Values in Action

Participants were taken through the proposed definitions of the six values and invited to share their comments on the text of the definitions as well as further reflect on the suitability of the representative word for the cluster of values. Their reflections are summarised in the table below:

Figure 2: Reflections on Values Definitions

Value	Comments
Passion	Participants agreed with the definition of passion and the inclusion of volunteerism in the definition.
Bravery/ courage	Participants recommended that the representative word be courage as opposed to bravery. They made no comments on the definition.
Belonging/ respect	Participants had mixed thoughts on the definition and the representative value. They agreed on the removal of the word 'respect' but were not in agreement on the retention of the word 'belonging'. One participant recommended including the word equity after equality within the definition where it refers to the different status of people.
Solidarity	Participants agreed with the definition but recommended the inclusion of references of actions in support of the LGBTQIA+ community.
Integrity	Participants agreed with the definition and recommended the inclusion of references to safeguarding.
Transformational	Participants agreed with the definition and recommended the inclusion of references to design thinking in problem solving and promoting research.

Participants made general comments on some of the definitions and the approach towards the values. Most participants identified with the values and saw them as good for the Federation moving forward. Specific questions were raised on the meaning of transformational as some participants felt it was too ambiguous a concept to have as a value. One participant noted that the values of passion and bravery were more of ways of working as opposed to organisational values. They were noted as being like empathy and compassion, which had been excluded from the short-list for this reason. Another participant questioned why volunteerism was excluded as a value, especially as IPPF was built on the concept of volunteerism.

Closing Thoughts

In closing, participants shared their takeaways from the consultations and recommendations for the Identity Initiative moving forward. Participants appreciated the opportunity provided for them to give inputs to the Charter development process. They acknowledged the efforts of the Identity Initiative team in ensuring the participation of youth at different points of the consultative process.