



# **International Conference on Gender-based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health**

**15 - 18 February 2009**

**Mumbai, India**

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health  
(Indian Council of Medical Research);  
UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research,  
Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction; and  
Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and Fertility**

## **CHIEF PATRONS**

### **Dr Anbumani Ramadoss**

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Government of India

### **Smt Panabaka Lakshmi**

Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Government of India

## **PATRONS**

### **Shri Naresh Dayal, I.A.S.**

Secretary  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Government of India

### **Dr Sujit K. Bhattacharya**

Additional Director General  
Indian Council of Medical Research

## **CONVENORS**

### **Dr Chander P. Puri**

President  
Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and Fertility  
and

### **Dr Vrinda V. Khole**

Officer-in-Charge  
National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health

## **INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME COMMITTEE**

### **Chairperson**

#### **Dr Iqbal Shah**

World Health Organization

### **Members**

Dinesh Agarwal, Halida Akhtar, Catherine d'Arcangues, Michal Avni,  
Lester Coutinho, Balaiah Donta, Nata Duvvury, Shiva Halli, Shireen Jejeebhoy,  
Ardi Kaptiningsih, Sunita Kishor, Viswanath Koliwad, Usha Krishna,  
Lakshmi Lingam, Claudia Garcia Moreno, Susan Newcomer, Diana Prieto,  
Mahesh Puri, Yasmeen Sabeeh Qazi, Anita Raj, Faujdar Ram,  
Chander Shekhar, Jay Silverman and Ravi Verma.

## **LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

### **Chairperson**

#### **Dr Smita Mahale**

National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health

### **Members**

Atmaram Bandivdekar, Anil Bandiwadekar, Srikant Betrabet, Sanjay Chauhan,  
Shanta Chitlange, Rahul Gajabhiye, Shanti Ganeshan, Anuja Gulathi, Beena Joshi,  
Ragini Kulkarni, Anurupa Maitra, Saritha Nair, Geetanjali Sachdeva,  
Niranjan Saggurti, Lalita Savardekar and Geeta Vanage.

Dear Colleagues

The National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health (Indian Council of Medical Research), UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, World Health Organization and the Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and Fertility will be organizing an International Conference on Gender-based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health. A number of national and international organizations are collaborating in organizing this conference.

Gender-based Violence (GBV) is both a human rights as well as a public health concern. The United Nations General Assembly in 1993 defined violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”. GBV is pervasive and is observed throughout the world, in both developing and developed country settings. It can be emotional, physical or sexual and is typically perpetrated by someone who is familiar to or acquainted with the victim. Victims are overwhelmingly women. The World Health Report estimates that at least one of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused. The experience of violence is associated with serious consequences for women’s physical and mental health.

Violence against women impoverishes individuals, families and communities, reducing the economic development of each nation. Reproductive health consequences for abused women are both direct and indirect. For example, violence during pregnancy has been associated with maternal mortality, pregnancy loss and pregnant related complications, sexual violence with heightened risk of acquiring STIs. At the same time, violence against women is associated with women’s inability to negotiate safe sex practices, lack of control over contraception leading to unwanted/unintended pregnancies, abortion, unwanted births, premature birth, low infant birth-weight, and infant morbidity and death of both infant as well as women.

This conference aims to expand what is known about the magnitude of GBV and its impact on the health of the individual and the society, to fill gaps in our understanding of factors underlying the experience of violence and consequences of violence for women’s, families’ and nations’ well-being and programmatic responses intended to eliminate sexual violence. More specifically the objectives of organizing this conference are to: (i) review the magnitude and determinants of GBV; (ii) explore the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) consequences of GBV; (iii) share experiences of programmes and interventions for the prevention of GBV, their impact on SRH and gaps and challenges that remain; (iv) review relevant policies, programmes and their implementation; and (v) suggest recommendations on programme strategies and policies to address GBV and SRH.

Mounting evidence of widespread prevalence of GBV and its consequences for women’s SRH calls for urgent and multi-pronged public health responses that aim to both prevent perpetration of GBV and assist the survivors of this social plague. This conference will offer an international forum for researchers, programme managers, policy-makers, women’s groups, health activists, health care providers, human rights groups and others who are concerned about GBV to come together to share experiences and evidence intended to shed light on and work towards reducing the prevalence of GBV.

On behalf of the organizers of the meeting, it is our privilege to invite you to participate in the conference. We hope you will honour this timely and important event with your presence.

**Dr Iqbal Shah**

*Scientist, Team Co-ordinator*  
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**Dr Balaiah Donta**

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## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

It will include keynote address, plenary lectures, symposia sessions, panel discussions, and poster presentations. The programme will be broad based and address key areas outlined below. Sessions will be multi-disciplinary, including findings derived from operational, psycho-social and behavioural research and programmes related to GBV and SRH.

## PROVISIONAL TOPICS

- Various forms and determinants of GBV
- Gender power imbalances, violence and SRH
- GBV, sexuality and SRH
- GBV and SRH (Unwanted pregnancy, RTI/STI, HIV, higher fertility, shorter birth spacing, contraception)
- Men as perpetrators and victims of GBV
- Men as partners in prevention of GBV and promoting SRH care
- SRH implications of GBV in conflict situations
- Vulnerability to GBV (trafficked women, female sex workers, intravenous drug users, pregnant women, migrants, HIV positive individuals, ethnic minorities, physically and mentally challenged)
- Youth and GBV
- Women survivors of violence and their SRH needs and rights
- Socio-psychological dimension of GBV in SRH care
- Managing SRH consequences of GBV
- Challenges of addressing GBV within SRH programmes
- Best practices in addressing GBV within SRH clinic settings
- Community based programmes in addressing GBV
- Role of health systems and health workers in addressing GBV
- Counseling approaches
- Evaluating GBV and SRH programmes
- Law enforcement and GBV
- Laws, policies on GBV in different sectors
- Ethical issues in research and programmes on GBV and SRH
- Estimating economic costs of GBV
- Methodological issues in research on GBV and SRH

## Submission of Abstracts

The abstract (about 300 words) typed on plain paper, using Microsoft Word (12 pt. Times New Roman) should be sent by e-mail to the organizing secretary (gbv2009@yahoo.co.in, bdonta2007@yahoo.co.in). The abstracts should include: title of the paper, author(s), name of the institute and brief summary of the work in a concise paragraph (including objectives of the study, methods, results, conclusions and recommendations) without providing subtitles. **The final date to receive abstracts is 15 October 2008.**

## Language

The language of the Conference will be English. Simultaneous translation will not be available.

## Inauguration

The Conference will be inaugurated at 7.00 p.m. on 15 February 2009. All registered delegates will be invited to attend the inaugural function.

## Venue

The conference will be held at the **InterContinental The Grand Mumbai**, Sahar Airport Road, Andheri East, Mumbai 400059, India.

Phone: (+91 22) 6699 2222; Fax: (+91 22) 6668 3278; Website: [www.intercontinental.com](http://www.intercontinental.com);  
Contact person: Ms Radhika De; Mobile: +91 9987603135; E-mail: [numresv@thegrandhotels.net](mailto:numresv@thegrandhotels.net)

## Accommodation

Accommodation can be arranged in various categories of hotels of international standards and at other places to suit your budget. In the event you need any assistance for booking accommodation, please let us know. Special conference rates have been negotiated with various hotels including "**InterContinental The Grand Mumbai**".

## Exhibition

An international exhibition of scientific equipment, supplies and services will be organized at the venue of the meeting.

## Slide Presentations

LCD Projectors will be available. If any other special equipment is required, please specify at the time of submitting the abstract.

## Poster Presentations

Poster stands to accommodate a poster of 4' (height) x 3' (width) will be made available at the venue.

## VISA Requirements

All foreign delegates are requested to check with their local Indian Embassy or Consulate.

## Weather

Mumbai is usually pleasant in February, with an average temperature of 27°C and humidity 55%. The conference hall and all major hotels are air-conditioned.

## Payment Procedure

The registration fee is payable through a Bank Draft to **Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health, Mumbai**. Accommodation charges are to be paid directly to the hotel.

## Registration Fee

Status	Before 01 December 2008	After 01 December 2008
Delegates from outside India	US \$ 350	US \$ 400
Indian delegates	Rs 5,000	Rs 6,000
ISSRF members	Rs 4,000	Rs 5,000
Students (Indian)	Rs 3,000	Rs 4,000
Students (Outside India)	US \$ 200	US \$ 250
One-day registration for Indian delegates	Rs 2,500	Rs 3,000

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

**Dr Balaiah Donta**

*Organizing Secretary*

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