

FSRH International Strategy (2020 – 2025)

Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is a human right. The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) is the largest UK professional membership organisation working at the heart of SRH.

Our vision

Our vision is of high-quality sexual and reproductive health at every stage of our lives.

Our mission

To achieve our vision of high-quality sexual and reproductive health at every stage of our lives, by:

- ▶ Producing high-quality clinical standards and guidelines for healthcare professionals
- ▶ Providing high-quality training and educational materials for healthcare professionals
- ▶ Influencing policy and practice through evidence-based advocacy
- ▶ Supporting and growing the SRH professional community
- ▶ Raising awareness of SRH among the public.

International Work

While we are a UK-based organisation, we recognise that there is an unmet need and a potentially large audience of healthcare professionals internationally who could benefit from our educational offer, and no equivalent organisation providing the same offer in any other country. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has presented both challenges and opportunities in the way we work, with an increase in remote training opportunities and a chance to interact more easily via webinars with global organisations. We will therefore seek to strategically influence and educate at the international level, based on this strategy.

Our aims are to

- ▶ develop a sustainable international education portfolio.
- ▶ develop our influencing at the international level through advocacy.
- ▶ develop our membership offer for an international audience.

Our objectives are to

- ▶ Add new international products to the portfolio
- ▶ Increase access/usage of FSRH products outside the UK

- ▶ Use our influence and expertise to support and advocate for access to SRH care globally

The unmet need

There are significant needs globally for better SRH care, particularly in low-income countries. The [Guttmacher report](#) in 2019, estimated the unmet need for contraception among women of childbearing age who wanted to avoid pregnancy, as 218m. The [WHO reproductive health strategy progress report](#) noted that whilst a range of regulations and strategies to strengthen sexual and reproductive health and rights have been implemented, certain areas require further attention including unmet need for contraception, comprehensive SRH services for adolescents and young people, as well as the prevention and management of unsafe abortion. These challenges disproportionately affect women, girls and minority groups, including LGBTQ+, and are often aggravated by stigma.

Factors influencing access to these services include cultural, religious, political, economic and geographical causes. A lack of standardised, high-quality education and training for healthcare professionals can compound these problems and the FSRH is well-placed to add value to existing efforts to improve SRH care outside the UK.

Why us?

The FSRH is one of the few professional bodies in the world explicitly dedicated to providing high-quality education and training in SRH. We are multidisciplinary which means we have experience of supporting and training doctors as well as nurses and midwives.

Our guidelines are NICE accredited and accessible, our materials are high-quality and we enjoy a good reputation in our own right as well as in connection with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

We are well placed, as an organisation, to make our materials accessible to healthcare professionals and communities across the world, not just in the UK.

There are opportunities for doing so in a strategic manner, as there is a growing recognition of the importance of SRH globally, and improved access to SRH and rights are prominent in [the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#), especially goals 3,4 and 5.

Guiding principles

Any internationally focused work carried out by the FSRH should:

- ▶ address a clear unmet need, based on the best available evidence
- ▶ align with the overarching FSRH Strategic Plan 2020-2025

- ▶ have a clearly described outcomes
- ▶ be fully funded and/or provide a return on investment for the FSRH
- ▶ be based on our 'added value' as a provider of high-quality education and training in SRH.
- ▶ Include a rights based approach to SRH
- ▶ Include advocacy as a tool to champion SRH and rights globally
- ▶ Based on recognised best practice and be culturally appropriate and specific.
- ▶ Be sustainable, scalable and replicable to support long-term impact and widespread adoption
- ▶ Where possible be based on collaboration with international partner organisations.

Goals

1. Knowledge exchange

This is our core goal for our international work. As well as offering training and education materials to HCPs internationally, we will welcome and invite opportunities to learn from other countries, thereby improving our own evidence base and our knowledge of best practice of SRH care in different contexts. This goal is therefore divided into two parts:

1.a. Train and, educate to improve knowledge, skills and attitudes around SRH provision.

1.b. Learn

2. System change

We will facilitate HCPs to improve SRH and rights in their localities through a global network of information-sharing and advocacy.

2.a. Support partnerships for local delivery

2.b. Develop an online community for international HCP

2.c. Engage with global networks of SRH HCPs and organisations and offer our expertise/learn from these

3. Sustainability

International work needs to be both sustainable and have a clear return on investment. The FSRH is a relatively small organisation funded predominantly by the membership fees of UK based HCPs. International work will need to be carefully budgeted for and will either need to be self-funding (eg a new membership category or fees for training) or attract charitable or business funding to fully cover costs. In addition, the long-term sustainability of any initiative will be a major consideration in this respect.

3.a. Grow our international membership

3.b. Secure external sources of funding for projects that meet the criteria stated above.

3.c Offer any relevant training, education and guidelines to HCPs based outside the UK

Key Elements of FSRH International Work (By Goal)

1. Knowledge exchange	2. System change	3. Sustainability
<p>1.a. Train and, educate to improve knowledge, skills and attitudes around SRH provision.</p>	<p>2.a. Support partnerships for local delivery</p>	<p>3.a. Growing our international membership</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure our education and training offer for an international audience is fit for purpose, accessible, and adds value. Equipping health care professionals with knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for comprehensive SRH delivery. 2. Explore where our education and training products could be included in the work of other organisations. 3. Explore opportunities for delivering education and training in partnership with others. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build partnerships with relevant national and international /global organisations. 2. Explore how we could add value to work being done to support HCPs. 3. Advocate for improved local and global access to SRH using a rights-based approach. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High-income v low-income countries. 2. Explore a tailored offer for an international audience, eg a (tiered) International Membership which is affordable and of value.

1. Knowledge exchange	2. System change	3. Sustainability
1.b. Learn	2.b. Develop an online community for international HCP	3.b. Secure sources of funding
<p>Create the space for knowledge exchange</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a presence at international events to enhance skills or understanding in SRH care – online where possible 2. Be involved in online knowledge networks, including webinars and discussions 3. Form links with academic institutes involved in research around delivering of SRH and E&T globally. 	<p>Ensure all those who engage with us are plugged into / have the opportunity to join a digital network. (linked to 1.b.)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partner with universities or other academic bodies 2. Investigate developing a form of international organisational membership of FSRH 3. Investigate the possibility of grant funding 4. Donations (including legacy) from members / former members.
	2.c. Engage with global networks of SRH HCPs and organisations and offer our expertise/learn from these	3.c. Offer any relevant training, education and guidelines to HCPs based outside the UK
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research which networks exist and best fit with our strategy. 	<p>Linked to 1.a and 1.b any products suitable for HCPs based outside the UK must be</p>

	2. Approach organisations to explore ways of supporting each other's work.	sustainable, which in turn will support us to carry out further international work.
--	--	---

Geographic spread

Our focus will be on countries where there is an identified need to support and train HCPs and where we can be most effective. Membership, however, should be broader and open to anyone.

Operational plan

Once approved by Council and Trustees, this strategy will be used to create an annual operational plan and budget.