

August 8, 2013

Dear President and the Advisory Board Members,

I hope this e-letter finds you all very well.

Hereby, I am reporting on the activities of the Middle East Sexual Health Committee (MESHC) since August 2009 where this ad-hoc Committee has officially been established.

The MESHC was established to support the development of sexology societies in the Middle Eastern countries. And, to promote the science of sexual health and sexual rights in the region.

The MESHC started with 3 core members and grew to accommodate over 15 core members, now spanning from 8 countries within the region. Most of our members are individual members of WAS, this is mainly due to lack of existence of sexological associations within the regions. However with the growth of such organizations, future efforts will be made to encourage membership from range of organizations as well.

Growing in popularity, the Committee is recognized as the overarching umbrella organization for professionals active across the field of human sexuality.

For the past celebrations of WSHD, we had participation of 7 countries within the region (one of the highest among all other regions). This is despite the political turbulence, multiple natural disasters and overlapping with the holy month of Ramadan. One could only conclude a high level of commitment and devotion from such a determined dedication.

Below is the list of activities we pursued:

- Election of the chair
- Consensus over the naming of the Committee. It initially started as the Middle-Eastern Sexual Health Liaising Committee and now the agreed name is: Middle East Sexual Health Committee
- Devised an action plan to achieve meet the mission designed by the President of the WAS
- Compiled a list of potential individuals and organizations to support the committee and WAS in the region
- Potential Colleagues within the region have been contacted and invited to join WAS
- An initial draft of a project proposal for a project for fundraising was completed was in progress once which and needs to be reopened and pursued
- Consensus over membership criteria was achieved
- Panel presentations have been pursued at the WAS conferences and across the board at related conferences including the MESSM conference.

Items for the future agenda:

Integration with the MESSM to form the Middle East Federation for Sexual Health (MEFSH).

During the past 4 years we have seen colleagues from other regions reaching out to us because they either identified as ME or did not feel other federations are encompassing of their politico-geographical boundaries (an example was Armenia). The Committee would like to propose that any colleagues or organizations that would identify with the Middle-East could join this newly established Federation.

Clearer criteria for membership and what WAS would offer to our colleagues within the region.

I look forward to discussing these further at the GA meeting and seeking the EC and AB member's thoughts on strengthening our steps moving onward.

Kind regards,
Sara

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