



## European Institute of Women's Health Code of Conduct

## **About the European Institute of Women's Health**

Founded in 1996, the European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that uses current evidence to advocate for an equitable, sex- and gender-sensitive approach in health policy, research, prevention, treatment and care. The Institute promotes biomedical and socio-economic research that addresses sex and gender-based differences to ensure equitable access to quality treatment and care for women across their lifespan. The EIWH highlights existing inequities and draws policymaker's attention to the health gap that socio-economic disadvantaged population groups still face, with a particular focus on the obstacles that women in minority, migrant, refugee and other vulnerable groups encounter. Our aim is to promote a more health literate public by engaging and empowering individuals and groups to play an active part in their own or their family's health management.

## **EIWH Vision for the future**

The European Institute of Women's Health vision for the future is a world where all people regardless of age, gender, socio-economic background, education, ethnicity will have access to resources to lead a healthy life and have access to gender-sensitive high quality treatment and care when needed.

## **EIWH Mission**

EIWH's mission is to provide a strong and voice to put women and their family at the centre of EU healthcare policy and programmes. We advocate for a life course approach to health in all policies. EIWH advocate for an equitable, sex- and gender-sensitive approach in health policy, research, prevention, treatment and care. The Institute promotes biomedical and socio-economic research that addresses sex and gender-based differences to ensure equitable access to quality treatment and care for women across their lifespan.

## **Members Consultation**

EIWH consults and seeks input and feedback with it's membership in relation to the organisation work plan, position papers and submissions, identifying those who have a legitimate interest in the work of our organisation (stakeholders) and making sure there is regular and effective communication with them about our organisation. The European Institute of Women's Health generates policy briefs on many issues and policies relevant to women's health. The EIWH summarise issues and makes recommendations for policy action. In keeping with the objective of the EIWH, policy briefings are developed following consultation with the institute's network and are pertinent to women's health.

Policy statements are distributed widely to stakeholders, policymakers and citizens.

## **Transparent -Accountable**

EIWH is transparent in dealings with members, stakeholders, collaborating partners government and healthcare industry organisations. The EIWH website contains information about: governance structures, activities, financial resources. The EIWH is accountable for its actions and decisions to its members and Board.

The EIWH is an independent organisation and transparent in our financial, policy and communication activities. The EIWH membership is open to individuals and organisations who have an interest in Women's Health and the promotion of gender sensitive healthcare. The EIWH encourages and enables the engagement of those who benefit from our organisation in the planning and decision-making of the organisation

## **Organisation**

The EIWH is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in Ireland. The EIWH is governed by a board of directors nominated by members. The Advisory Board, a group of experts who advises the Board on matters of policy and activities. Membership of the EIWH is open to individuals and organisations with an interest in women's and family health. The EIWH has a membership base of individuals and organisations that contribute to the ongoing work of the EIWH.

The Company Secretary and Treasurer work closely with the Secretariat to ensure sound administration.

## **Independent**

The EIWH is an independent organisation and not affiliated to any governmental, political, or corporate body. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the European Institute of Women's Health reflect the organisation's purpose mission and values..

EIWH Governance Code: The EIWH Board worked to develop and adopted a Governance Code. This code outlines how the Board of the organisation should work and direct the organisation in line with the Irish voluntary and charitable sector recommended principles:

- Principle1 : Leading the organisation
- Principle 2: Exercising control over my organisation
- Principle3 Being Transparent and Accountable
- Principle4: Working Effectively
- Principle5: Behaving with Integrity

## **Work Plan**

To ensure success in achieving its objectives, the EIWH develops an annual work plan outlining key priorities, projects and activities. This plan is developed by staff annually and supported by the Board and members of the Institute.