

**Committee on Women's Rights 2023 Report on Committee Activity for
APHA Governing Council (December 2022 through October 2023)**

Members: Hanna Dantata, Chair; Shannon Klisch, Program Chair
Anna LaManna, Heather Tillewein, Mary E. Fleming, Alexandra Bhatti
APHA Liaison: Vina HuLamm

History/Mission/Values/Vision

The Committee on Women's Rights was created by the APHA Governing Council as a Standing Committee in 1971. Standing Committees are defined in APHA's Bylaws, Article VIII, as "...those Committees which are necessary for the continuing effective operations of the Association and which are charged with responsibilities for internal organizational, structural, and/or administrative affairs of the Association."

The Committee on Women's Rights 's mission is broadly defined in the Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 4: " The Committee on Women's Rights identifies the concerns of the entire APHA membership and interfaces will all APHA units, Affiliates and Caucuses relating to the problems associated with women in society, especially as these roles intersect with health policy, healthcare services, public health leadership, and career opportunity."

The Committee on Women's Rights also works to improve the health status of women through addressing social, cultural, economic, educational, environmental, and political conditions that impact families.

The core values of the APHA Committee on Women's Rights for individuals and communities throughout the world are health; equity; diversity; integrity; dignity; self-determination; respect; ethical practice; and knowledge.

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The APHA Committee on Women's Rights promotes and protects the health and well-being of all women.

Goals

- To improve the quality of life for all women
- To ensure access to health care and appropriate health care services
- To improve services that focus on health promotion and injury/illness prevention for women
- To promote and protect the physical and social environment
- To preserve and protect the rights of all women
- To promote equal rights and opportunities for women in health careers

Description of Issue

The mission of the Committee on Women's Rights relates the concerns of the entire APHA membership and all its organizational components to the problems associated with women in society which involve considerations of health, health services, and health career opportunities.

Strategies in support of the Goals for 2023 (BOLDED)

1. Recruit subject matter experts to moderate and present on all invited panels:

This year the Committee on Women's Right has organized five(5) oral sessions where high level speakers with subject matter expertise were invited as speakers and moderators. All invited session featured high-level panelist with subject matter expertise. The sessions are namely;

2. Develop sessions that aim to address overcoming the social and ethical challenges faced in public health while contributing towards the creation of the healthiest nation.

The Committee on Women's Right organized five(5) oral session and two(2) themed poster sessions all geared to highlight social and ethical challenges while promoting the health and wellbeing of women.

3. Improve on our inclusion of populations/and related topics that have not been addressed.

In alignment with the theme for the year, for all sessions, The Committee on Women's Rights promoted session that are inclusive and diverse in topic choices.

4. Encourage collaborations with other sections and caucuses, especially groups that represent topics that directly/indirectly affect women's health and rights.

In planning for the 2023 Annual conference, The Committee on Women's Rights has reached out to groups and caucuses for session collaboration. The Committee on Women's Rights recognizes the need for early discussion, strategy and planning that can result in collaborative sessions.

5. Bring a women's rights lens to policies/procedures

The committee on women's right actively participated in reviewing policies, especially policies that affect women's health, right or related.

6. Strengthen our marketing/social media presence

The Committee on Women's Rights has designed flyers to promote all sessions organized. These flyers and messages have been shared with APHA through The Committee on Women's Rights Liaison to promote session participation in the APHA community and beyond. The Committee on Women's Rights Members are also using social media to spread the word.

Key 2023 Achievement by Committee on Women's Right:

- 1. Efficient planning and coordination; organize and implement quarterly planning and ad-hoc meetings.**
 - Committee on Women's Right member onboarding; 3 new members. Held multiple ad-hoc meeting to support new members in topic selection, abstract review and panel selection.
 - Conduct quarterly meetings to guide and plan for APHA 2023 conference.
- 2. Promote Call for Abstracts and review submitted abstracts to be considered for oral and poster sessions.** - Committee on Women's Right received over 35 abstracts through the call and invited speakers. Committee on Women's Right is hosting 5 invited sessions and 2 themed poster sessions.
- 3. Promote APHA intersectional engagement, joint collaborations and partnerships:** Additionally, this year The Committee on Women's Rights held multiple collaborative meetings with Law Group APHA, International Abortion Working Group under International Health, also linked up with the LGBTQ Caucus for more opportunities and strategies on collaboration and joint presentations.
- 4. Review of policies statements & procedures:** The Committee on Women's Rights members actively participated in policy reviews. The members of the Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the APHA Policy statements A1, A2, A3, A4, B2, C1, C3, and C4.

COMPLETE LIST OF SESSIONS THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZED for 2023:

POSTER SESSIONS:

- 3061.0 - Factors That Underlie and Impact Health Outcomes Among Racial/Ethnic Minorities, Economically Disadvantaged, and Women in Workspaces.
- 3062.0 - Menstrual Health and Reproductive Rights

ORAL SESSIONS:

- 2048.0 - The Economic and Social Impact of Abortion Restriction in the United States and the Effect on Maternal Health Outcomes and Mortality.
- 3237.0 - Violence and Trauma Among Women: Where Are We Now? What Next?
- 4008.0 - Women, Gender, and Race in the Nursing Industry: Challenges and Opportunities
- 4275.0 - Public Health, War, and Conflict: Impact on Women's Health
- 5065.1 - Illegal Drug and Substance Use during Pregnancy: The Impact of Drug Policy Reform on Pregnant People.

Duly submitted,

Hanna Dantata

Chair, Committee on Women's Right, APHA.