

LoveAct

MANIFESTO MANIFESTO

MANIFESTO OF THE CYPRUS SEX-EDUCATION COUNCIL

The Cyprus Sex-Education Council is a national network committed to advancing Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) as a vital strategy for preventing gender-based violence and fostering a culture of respect and equality, formed within the project LoveAct. Our council comprises educators, health professionals, psychologists, youth representatives, activists, journalists and civil society organizations' representatives. We aim to empower communities by promoting positive, inclusive, and evidence-based approaches to sexuality education.

Our mission is rooted in the belief that Comprehensive Sexuality Education is not only an educational tool but a transformative force for creating healthier and more inclusive societies. We strongly believe that Comprehensive Sexuality Education, as an approach, is both rooted on human rights and safeguards human rights, focusing especially on Children's Rights.

VISION

The Cyprus Sex-Education Council envisions a future where:

- **CSE is integrated into school curricula** across all educational levels as a core component, empowering young people to make informed, respectful, and autonomous decisions about their bodies and relationships.
- **CSE reaches beyond schools**, becoming accessible through youth centers, community programs, universities and public campaigns tailored to the diverse needs of Cyprus's communities.
- **Educators are equipped** with the training, resources, and support needed to deliver CSE effectively and inclusively.
- **Youth are active participants** in shaping and advocating for their sexuality education, ensuring relevance and responsiveness to their lived experiences.
- **CSE fosters inclusivity**, embracing diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, cultural backgrounds, and abilities through an intersectional lens.
- **Families and communities are engaged** in the process, creating supportive environments where sexuality education is openly discussed and valued.
- **CSE is a catalyst for change**, breaking down harmful gender norms, promoting gender equality, and reducing violence and discrimination in all forms.

DECLARATION OF INTENT

The Cyprus Sex-Education Council is committed to advocating for systemic change in sexuality education. Specifically, we pledge to:

1. Promote the recognition of Comprehensive Sexuality Education as a **fundamental human right**.
2. Support the **integration of CSE into national education policies and curricula**, ensuring that it is comprehensive, mandatory, and inclusive.
3. Foster **collaboration with stakeholders**, including government bodies, schools, parents, youth organizations, and civil society, to co-create effective programs and policies.
4. Develop **culturally sensitive and evidence-based materials**, tailored to the diverse needs of Cyprus's communities.
5. Advocate for **intersectional and transfeminist approaches**, ensuring all individuals feel seen, represented, and empowered by CSE programs.
6. Monitor and evaluate the impact of CSE initiatives, continuously improving practices to align with the latest research and community needs.

We call upon all stakeholders in Cyprus to join us in this transformative journey. Together, we can ensure that every young person has access to the education they deserve, fostering a future of mutual respect, well-being, and empowerment.

This Manifesto is signed by the Cyprus Sex-Education Members, Stalo Lesta, Eleni Antoniou, Seagull Shah, Annita Tsolaki, Yiannis Constantinou, Theodora Avraam, Paula Proestou, Stalo Evangelou and LoveAct master trainer, Egli Shiakallis.

