

**UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research,  
Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP)**

**Gender and Rights Advisory Panel (GAP)  
Scientific and Technical advisory Group (STAG)  
Research Project Review Panel (RP2)  
HRP Alliance Advisory Panel**

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

The UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) is the main instrument within the United Nations system for identifying research priorities on sexual and reproductive health and rights; for promoting, conducting, evaluating and coordinating interdisciplinary research on sexual and reproductive health; for collaborating with countries to build national capacity to conduct research; and for promoting the use of research results in policy-making and sexual and reproductive health programmes. HRP is administered through the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research (SRH). More information about HRP may be found at <https://www.who.int/hrp>.

HRP organizes four advisory bodies, composed of independent experts in their respective fields, to review the work of the Special Programme and provide advice on advancing the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of sexual and reproductive health. The range of expertise represented on these advisory bodies is diverse and includes research experience in sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, contraception, maternal and perinatal health, comprehensive abortion care, sexual health, health systems and research capacity strengthening, among many other areas.

**1. Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG)**, is the principal scientific advisory body for HRP. Its role is to:

- review, from a scientific and technical standpoint, the content, scope, and dimensions of the Special Programme, including the research areas covered and approaches to be adopted
- recommend priorities within the Special Programme
- provide a continuous and independent evaluation of the scientific and technical aspects of the Special Programme
- review the plans of action and the budget of the Special Programme during each financial period

**2. Gender and Rights Advisory Panel (GAP)** advises on the integration of gender equality and human rights in all aspects of HRP's work on sexual and reproductive health. Its role is to:

- review and provide advice on all aspects of the Special Programme's work with attention to gender equality considerations and sexual and reproductive rights perspectives
- propose mechanisms by which gender equality and rights concerns can be brought to bear across the Special Programme's work
- examine key concepts in the area of sexual and reproductive health from the perspective of gender equality and human rights, and provide guidance in this area

**3. HRP Alliance Advisory Board** advises on HRP's work in research capacity strengthening (RCS). Its role is to:

- provide strategic guidance and recommendations to the HRP Alliance and the broader RCS mandate of HRP
- propose mechanisms and strategies to promote inter-regional collaboration among HRP Alliance partners and engagement with key organisations/external partners to harmonize global efforts for RCS in sexual and reproductive health and rights
- provide scientific and technical review of the implementation of the HRP Alliance's work

**4. Research Proposal Review Panel (RP2)** is HRP's institutional review board. Its role is to organize expert review of research projects supported by the Special Programme. Such projects may involve human participants, including biological material obtained from human participants, information obtained from human participants, records accessed on human participants, or may involve animals in experiments. The type of research under consideration is not restricted and includes basic sciences, clinical, epidemiological, social sciences, operations, implementation, and health systems research.

#### **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

STAG meets in-person for three days each year, in Geneva, Switzerland usually February or March. GAP meets similarly, usually January or February. The HRP Alliance Advisory Board meets remotely four times per year and through additional in-person meetings, as applicable. Most meetings of the RP2 are held virtually by teleconference.

When applicable, travel expenses are covered by WHO in accordance with its standard travel policy. Intersessional meetings of HRP advisory and governing bodies are held virtually.

#### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Members of all HRP advisory bodies participate in an individual capacity and not as representatives of their institution or country. The working language of the meetings and documentation is English. No stipend is paid to members.

The following criteria will be used to assess applications:

- professional research experience in sexual and reproductive health and/or rights.
- research track record within areas of expertise, including research publications.
- experience in RCS for the HRP Alliance Advisory Board.
- experience with or in low- and middle-income countries.

In appointing members, due consideration will be given to ensure gender balance, a broad geographical and cultural representation, and representation from low- and middle-income countries.

**Applications from any qualified candidate are welcomed.** In this year's call for expressions of interest, HRP would particularly welcome applications from candidates with demonstrated research experience in these specific areas:

- contraception
- digital health and artificial intelligence (AI)
- female genital mutilation (FGM) and/or child marriage

- gynaecology and women's health
- health systems
- humanitarian settings
- implementation research
- maternal health
- self-care for sexual and reproductive health
- sexual health and/or sexuality
- sexual orientation and gender identity/expression (SOGIE)

Selected candidates will be invited initially to participate as WHO temporary advisers. The HRP Policy and Coordination Committee will make the selection of members following advice from the secretariat.

Members of other HRP committees, principal investigators of HRP studies, and HRP grantees are not eligible for STAG membership.

## **APPLICATIONS**

One application is sufficient for consideration as member of all four advisory bodies—STAG, GAP, HRP Alliance Advisory Board and RP2—although you are welcome to express preference for a particular advisory body.

All applications will be held for consideration for a period of four years.

Candidates with a current or recent membership of another WHO advisory group are kindly requested to state this on their application.

You will need to attach three separate documents to your application (in PDF or Word format):

1. a recent research publication list
2. a one-page statement of motivation (maximum 400 words)
3. a recent CV

With these documents in hand, the application process is very quick. To apply, please click [here](#) or enter this URL into your browser (<https://extranet.who.int/dataformv3/index.php/824637?lang=en>). All applications will be acknowledged.

This call for expression of interest is also posted here: <https://www.who.int/hrp>

**The deadline for applications is 31 August 2024.**