Bioethics Network on Women’s Issues in the Arab Region

8 February 2014
Beirut

Orio Ikebe
UNESCO Cairo Office
Welcome
Posted on May 15, 2011 by Moderator

The Bioethics Network on Women's Issues in the Arab region is initiated by UNESCO Cairo Office and experts in the region in view of opening a dialogue on ethical issues surrounding women's health and welfare in the Arab region and to establish a network among experts and institutions working on these issues in the region and outside the region. Urgent issues to be addressed will be recognized and the activities to promote bioethics in women's healthcare should be encouraged in the region.

You will find on this blog, articles from different authors, as well as comments and discussion about bioethical issues. You can also find precise information about the network and its contributors in the network page and about the role of UNESCO. Every article posted on this blog is classified by topics, to facilitate browsing. You will find the main article feed on this page, under this post.
What is "Bioethics Network on Women's Issues in the Arab Region"?

- Network of individuals and institutions (NGOs, academic institutions, governmental organizations, international and regional organizations)
- Working on ethical issues related to women's health care and research in the Arab Region.
- Established in 2011 by experts in the region, UNESCO and the Regional Information and Documentation Center of Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology in Egypt.
What is the purpose of this network?

Members of the network voluntarily provide their expertise, share information and experiences to plan activities to enhance the wellbeing of women in the Arab world. The network seeks solutions from ethical perspectives for the problems that women are facing related to health care and research in the Arab region.
Structure of the Network

Advisory board (country focal points)

- Algeria
- Tunisia
- Morocco
- Libya
- Egypt
- Syria
- Sudan
- Yemen
- Saudi Arabia
- Qatar
- U.A.E.
- Oman
- Bahrain
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Jordan
- Palestine
- Yemen

Decision making body

Ad Hoc Committees (e.g. guideline drafting committee)

General members

Secretariat
Topics addressed in this network

Women’s health related issues

• Reproductive technology and health
• Health care access and gender
• Quality of health care
• Child protection
• Organ donation
• Female genital mutilation
• Abortion
• Contraception

Social, cultural and economical impact on women and health

• Literacy and health
• Poverty Issues
• Pre-Marital Genetic Test
Research involving women’s participation

Health care professionals and health care system

Application of bioethical principles in the region

- Research ethics
- Stem cell research

- Doctor-patient relationship
- Nursing ethics
- Social workers

- Informed consent
- Confidentiality
- Counseling
- Right of women
- Right to know and not to know
Possible activities of the network

• Share the useful information and experiences to address ethical issues related to women's health care and research through the blog of the network and other means.
  (http://bioethicsnetwork.wordpress.com),
• Organize workshops, trainings and conferences to enhance the capacity of healthcare professionals,
• Promote cooperation and coordination among individuals and institutions working on the same issues in the region,
• Produce opinions and policy recommendations on emerging issues in the field of bioethics.
Who can join the network?

• Open to any body and institutions wishes to contribute to achieve the objectives of the network

• Currently about 100 individual experts and institutional members from the region and outside the region
How to Join the Network

• Basic information (name, contact info, affiliation, field of expertise, etc.) should be sent to the secretariat.
• Online registration http://www.tfaforms.com/313310
  or
• Fill in the paper form and hand it to the conference secretariat
  or
• Request and send a word document form to o.ikebe@unesco.org
• There is no fee to be a member of the network.
Activities of the Network in 2014

• Work plan will be discussed and adopted by the advisory board of the network
  – Research, workshops, conference, publication, issuing opinion of the network

• Any member of the network can propose an activity of the network
  – A proposal should be submitted and approved by the advisory board
  – At least 2 members of the network should be involved in the proposed activity
Blog of Bioethics Network on Women’s Issues
http://bioethicsnetwork.wordpress.com/
facebook group “Bioethics Network on Women’s Issues in the Arab Region”
o.ikehbe@unesco.org
(There are English page and Arabic page. If possible in the future in French as well)