

A close-up photograph of a person's face, focusing on the eyes and nose. The image is heavily overlaid with a semi-transparent purple color. The text 'Loveæct' is at the top, 'MANIFESTO' is arched over the eyes, and the full title is at the bottom.

Loveæct

MANIFESTO

**MANIFESTO TO
ADVANCE
COMPREHENSIVE
SEXUALITY
EDUCATION**

PREAMBLE

Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) is a fundamental human right that fosters inclusivity, empowerment, and a holistic understanding of human sexuality. This manifesto, developed through collective dialogue and collaboration among different individuals, representatives of organisations and experts, presents key principles to guide the implementation of CSE within Europe. It is rooted in evidence-based methodologies, human rights, and an intersectional approach that ensures accessibility, equity, and respect for all individuals, regardless of their gender, sexual affective orientation, age, socioeconomic status, cultural background, ethnicity, disability, or any other characteristic.

We understand CSE as a fundamental tool to **prevent Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and discrimination** and to **promote sexual and reproductive health and rights**, especially among young people.

At the heart of our advocacy approach is the conviction that GBV is not an isolated phenomenon, but rather the result of a deeply rooted patriarchal social structure. This system is structured around dominant social norms, the normalisation of heterosexuality and cisgender identities, and a rigid, binary understanding of gender.

CORE PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENTS

1. Inclusivity and Intersectionality

- ▶ CSE must be accessible to everyone, transcending gender, age, disability, identity, sexual affective orientation, socioeconomic status, cultural background and any other characteristics, recognising the multiple levels of oppression an individual may experience.
- ▶ All stakeholders, including policymakers, educators, teachers, healthcare professionals, civil society, families, and youth, must be actively engaged in the design and implementation of CSE, with a particular emphasis on ensuring that young people are directly involved in shaping both the content and delivery.

2. Empowerment and Well-being

- ▶ CSE should empower individuals with knowledge, confidence, and the ability to make informed decisions about their bodies, relationships, and sexual health.
- ▶ It must support individuals in navigating emotional, psychological, and social aspects of sexuality, fostering empathy, active listening, and mutual understanding.
- ▶ Educators, teachers and parents must be trained and equipped with the necessary knowledge, tools and resources to create safe, supportive learning environments.

3. Holistic and Sex Positive Approach

- ▶ CSE must extend beyond reproductive health to include pleasure, desire, emotional well-being, and positive masculinity.
- ▶ CSE should challenge taboos and stigma by embracing a sex positive perspective that promotes a healthy and joyful understanding of sexuality and respect for one's own and others' sexuality, preferences, and consensual practices, free from judgment, shame, or discrimination.
- ▶ CSE should address and counteract GBV through education on consent, desire, bodily autonomy, and respectful relationships.
- ▶ CSE should be systematic, applied uniformly in all educational institutions, and integrated across the curriculum.
- ▶ Parallel programmes should be developed for parents and other adults to foster intergenerational dialogue and understanding.
- ▶ CSE must be recognised as a lifelong learning process, integrating diverse learning methodologies and adapting to local contexts.

4. Evidence-Based and Expert-Led Education

- ▶ CSE must be based on scientific research and best practices to ensure accurate and relevant information, in line with UNESCO's international standards.
- ▶ CSE should be tailored to different age groups, ensuring age-appropriate and developmentally suitable content.
- ▶ CSE should be conducted by experienced and properly trained professionals such as doctors, nurses, educators, teachers, psychologists, or professionals in these fields

5. Funding and Institutional Support

- ▶ Governments and institutions must allocate sufficient funding to ensure the effective implementation of CSE.
- ▶ Investment should be made in training educators and teachers, developing inclusive curricula, and providing targeted support for high-complexity schools, challenging environments, and hard-to-reach and marginalised populations.

6. Cultural Humility and Local Adaptability

- ▶ CSE should be adaptable to different cultural and societal contexts while upholding universal human rights.
- ▶ Educational strategies should reflect diverse needs, utilising inclusive language, multicultural approaches and methodologies.
- ▶ Narratives around sexuality must evolve to promote diversity and mutual respect.

Call to Action

We call on policymakers, educators, teachers, healthcare professionals, civil society, parents, youth, and all stakeholders to uphold these principles and advocate for universal access to quality CSE.

We urge EU and national governments, policymakers, educational institutions, and international organisations to commit to the universal implementation of CSE. This requires:

- ♥ Legislation to make CSE compulsory and well-funded.
- ♥ Collaborative efforts to educate and train educators and teachers, healthcare professionals, and families.
- ♥ The continuous adaptation and improvement of CSE programmes based on scientific evidence, positive narratives and societal needs.
- ♥ A commitment to breaking taboos, fostering open discussions, and ensuring that CSE is a life-enhancing and empowering experience for all.

By endorsing this manifesto, we affirm our collective responsibility to advocate for and implement CSE across Europe, ensuring that every individual has the knowledge, resources, tools, and support to lead a fulfilling, informed and free from GBV life in all aspects of their relationships and sexuality.



This Manifesto is a collaborative effort developed during the The Gender Talk: Symposium on Advancing Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Gender-Based Violence Prevention in Europe that was held on the 6th of February 2025 in Brussels and attended by 72 people from different European countries, as a part of the Love Act – Living positive and intersectional sexuality education for gender-based violence prevention - project funded by the European Union.

Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



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