

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS 7th IWG World Conference On Women and Sport Determine The Future and Be Part Of The Change

Invitation

The International Working Group on Women and Sport (IWG) invites you to submit an abstract for an oral or poster presentation at the 7th IWG World Conference on Women and Sport. This Conference will be hosted in Gaborone, Botswana from **17 to 20 May 2018**.

Conference Venues:

The conference will be hosted in Gaborone at the Gaborone International Convention Center (GICC), one of the premier conference destinations in Africa. The GICC is situated adjacent to the Peermount Metcourt Hotel at The Grand Palm Hotel Casino Convention Resort, a state-of-the-art and a multifaceted convention facility. Take advantage of the IWG Conference to experience the out of this world safari, mesmerizing landscapes and a wide range of camps and lodges. Home to the Okavango Delta, Chobe National Park, and Makgadikgadi Pans. This is a great opportunity for those seeking more than the big five. See more information on Botswana tourism, visitor information, travel agents, here. Please click here for information on Botswana climate and weather conditions.

Conference Aim:

Furthering the IWG vision of sustainable sporting culture based on gender equality that enables and values the full involvement of girls and women in every aspect of sport and physical activity. The 7th World Conference seeks to bring expert researchers and practitioners together with the world's sports community to advance the mission of the IWG to serve as a catalyst, engaging governmental, inter-governmental, and non-governmental organizations and individuals for the advancement and empowerment of women and sport globally.

The Conference objectives are:

- Review the progress for women and sport since the 6th World Conference on Women and Sport in Helsinki, Finland, 2014, sharing experiences and celebrating achievements
- Build a global community supporting sport women and human rights
- Strengthen and promote the development of women and sport in the Africa Region
- Provide a vision for sustained development and progress of the global women and sport movement from 2018-2022

Program Structure:

The conference program comprises:

- Keynote presentations
- Plenary sessions
- Parallel workshops
- Poster session

Main Theme:

The main theme of the Conference is Determine the future & Be part of the change!

Subthemes:

The Conference Program has six sub-themes each consisting of several topics as follows:

1. BEING WELL to PLAY WELL:

"Ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages is essential to sustainable development." UN Sustainable Development Goals! Government and non-government organizations including sport agencies must provide access to physical activity and sports as a strategy to support girls' and women's health. We must address their training, nutritional and psychological needs. We must also commit resources and education to addressing unique barriers, such as eating disorders and sexual and reproductive health. We must open this dialogue to HIV/AIDS and chronic disease treatment, mental illness support, and related needs for girls and aging women. All of these physical and lifetime participation struggles beg attention, research and inclusion in our effort to open doors for the health benefits of sport.

2. SAFE SPACE: Protecting Women in Sport:

"Believe me, the reward is not so great without the struggle" ~ Wilma Rudolph. But the struggle should not include fighting violence against women for the right to play sports. Nor should bullying or violence on the field of play be an obstacle to participation. Sport culture should be free of abuse and harassment...safety of coaches and athletes must be a priority for real change. Without safe space to play, the human right to participate in sport is unreachable. Safe access to sporting facilities be accorded to girls and women.

3. TELL THEIR STORY: Leveraging Media to Advocate for Women's Sport:

An improved future for women's sports requires a telling of their stories - women as competitors, leaders, role models. Compelling accounts that celebrate women's sports and that demonstrate participation's positive impact on individual lives and a stronger community. Those stories can take many forms - research, promotion by sport federations, journalists as advocates for change, and the use of social media to advance attention to and support of women as athletes. The change agents in women's sports need best practices for persuading the media and public to support women's achievement and access. Our athletes need their voices to be lifted to the mainstream. They need to leverage media support and also benefit from the increasing spectator and financial support.

4. WELCOME and EMPOWER ALL through SPORT:

The welcoming inclusion of girls and women in physical activity and sports requires both an accommodating culture and leadership structure. The inclusion of girls and women in turn impacts that culture in positive and productive ways. Explicit and implicit bias against gender and gender roles, but also religion, political affiliation, economic and marital status, race, sexual orientation, immigrant status, and disability must be overcome through education, access, resources and appreciation for the positive impact of empowering girls and women through sport. Girls and women need equitable opportunities, quality coaching and safe facilities, safe and affordable access, and leadership role models at all levels of sport to realize acceptance as athletes and citizens and full inclusion and celebration of their participation.

5. SPORT WITHOUT BORDERS: Cross-Cultural Collaboration:

Explore the possibilities of cross-cultural, trans-national and partnerships with non-sport entities to advance

positive change for women in sport. Discuss how these partnerships can open new opportunities such as non-traditional sports development, disability access, migrant and refugee participation. Incorporate technology and strategies from other industries to reduce gender role myths and barriers. Transformative change requires innovative thought, courageous leadership, and a movement that brings diverse people and approaches to the effort.

6. LET THEM LEAD: Changing the Leadership Landscape of Sports

"The leadership in international sport is an exclusive club of men" ~ Richard Lapchick, Sports Researcher and Advocate. From the Olympic to NGO and federation to local level, women are excluded from positions of leadership in dramatic fashion. Leadership and coaching opportunities need the light of research and meaningful change in representation. Key stakeholders in women's sport must value women's governance contributions and involve women in policy and resource allocation debates. Participation in sport helps women lead healthier lives and develops leadership skills that should not be left on the bench. We must create leadership avenues for women at all levels of sport to change the future of sport access for all.

Importance Conference Dates:

May 2017: Early Bird Registration Opens

31st October 2017: Deadline for the submission of abstracts & Early bird registrations opens

15th December 2017: Notice of acceptance of abstracts

Call For Abstracts And Guidelines For Presenters:

Both researchers and practitioners are invited to submit abstracts for oral and/or poster presentations under the conference themes. Each presenting author is permitted to submit a maximum of two abstracts in the capacity of main author. Abstracts must be submitted online by **31st October 2017** via the IWG website.

Abstracts must be written in English, French or Spanish and submitted in Word format using the template provided here. Abstracts not prepared according to the technical requirements will not be considered. All abstracts will be reviewed by a minimum of two reviewers. The selection of abstracts will be made on their relevance to the Conference themes and interest to a wide range of delegates. Authors may specify their preference for oral or poster presentations but the Program Committee reserves the right to refuse or accept an abstract and to designate as either an oral or poster presentation. Further details of presentation requirements will be available upon acceptance of abstract.

Guidelines For Abstracts:

The structure of the abstract is:

- Abstract title
- Author(s) and organisation(s)
- Corresponding author's email address
- Abstract (300 words maximum)
- Abstracts relating to research may include an Introduction, Methods, Results and Conclusions or relating to case studies may include an Introduction, Project Description, Outcomes and Conclusions
- Abstract should be a summary of the presentation and be no more than 300 words. Abstracts that exceed the word limit will be returned to the author for editing and risk missing the submission deadline
- The abstract is to be formatted to A4 size in 10 point Arial, single-spaced and with a clear line between paragraphs
- Abstracts are to be free of typographical and grammatical errors
- Tables, graphs, references and images are not to be included in the abstract
- Presenters must register for the conference if their abstract is accepted
- Videos of not more than 60 seconds are allowable after approval from Abstract Reviewers

Guidelines For Poster Presentations:

If an abstract is accepted as a poster presentation, the following guidelines will apply:

- Posters should be produced to a set size of 1m wide x 1.1m high
- Poster material should be large enough to be viewed from a distance of 1m
- Each poster should include a section at the top containing title of abstract, name(s) of author(s), and their affiliation(s). The size of the characters for the title should be at least 2.5cm high
- Drawings and charts should be clear and simple
- Provide clear information on problem statement, aims, research methodology, results and discussion, conclusions and recommendations
- Presenters must register for the conference if abstract is accepted as a poster presentation

Conference Language:

The official language of the conference is English. Translation services will be provided in Spanish and French according to demand.

Participants:

Delegates from around the globe are welcome to participate in the 7th IWG World Conference on Women and Sport. Past conferences have attracted a range of industry leaders and decision makers in sport including members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), National Olympic Committees, International Sport Federations, National Sport Federations, the United Nations, leading academics, government sport Ministers and officials, coaches, athletes and students.

The 7th IWG World Conference on Women and Sport is designed to attract both international and national delegates involved not only in sport but the multitude of industries relevant to women and sport including health, physical activity, education, youth, community development and human rights.

CONTACT US:

For all enquiries please contact:

International Working Group on Women and Sport (IWG)

Box 1404 Gaborone, Botswana

Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture Headquarters, floor 2 office no 222, Office number 743,CBD

info@iwg-gti.org or gamemothibi@iwg-gti.org

Tell: +267 3682681

