



**AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**  
**MASTERS IN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS AND POLICY**  
**END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION DECEMBER 2024**

**UNIT CODE:** HSR 701

**UNIT NAME:** INTRODUCTION TO PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEIR LINKAGES TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS (SRHR)

**DATE:** THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024

**TIME:** THREE HOURS      **START:** 5.00 PM      **STOP:** 8.00PM

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. This exam is marked out of 60 marks
2. This Examination comprises TWO Sections  
**Section A:** Compulsory 15 Marks  
**Section B:** Answer THREE questions 45 Marks
3. This online exam shall take THREE Hours
4. Late submission of the answers will not be accepted
5. Ensure your web-camera is on at all times during the examination period
6. No movement is allowed during the examination
7. Idling of your machine for 5 min or more will lead to lock out from the exam
8. The Virtual Assessment System VAS has inbuilt integrity checks to detect cheating
9. Any aspect of cheating detected during and or after the exam administration will lead to will lead to disciplinary measures.
10. In case you have any questions call the unit Lecturer Com. Winnie Lichuma Tel. +254721952322 or the Head of Department on Tel +254723742370 or ICT related questions Mr. Patrick Njine on +254725835496
11. For adverse incidences please write an email to: [amiu.examinations@amref.ac.ke](mailto:amiu.examinations@amref.ac.ke)

## SECTION A: COMPULSORY (15 MARKS)

1. County **XX** in Sub-Saharan Africa has ratified the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa otherwise referred to as the Maputo Protocol, that was adopted in July 2003 and entered into force on 25/11/2005. The country entered *a reservation on Article 14 (2) (1)*, stating that the Constitution of its country prohibits abortion totally and its criminal law makes it a punishable offense for both the women procuring an abortion and the medical practitioner performing the abortion.

Under Art. 14 (2) (1) of the Maputo Protocol, States Parties are called upon to take all appropriate measures to protect the reproductive rights of women by authorizing *medical abortion in cases of sexual assault, rape, incest, and where the continued pregnancy endangers the mental and physical health of the mother or the life of the mother and foetus.*

The African Human Rights Commission which is responsible for monitoring the country's implementation process has appointed you as an *expert to investigate country XX* upon complaints received from the country that the law prohibiting abortion undermines the rights of women and that the country must be called upon to remove the reservation placed above.

Your visit to country **XX** reveals numerous human rights abuses of women and girls due to the restrictive abortion laws. You write and present your report to the Commission for action.

- a) Highlight and discuss five (5) violations of rights you note in your findings in country **XX** arising from the restrictive laws on abortion. (5 marks)
- b) State and discuss five (5) reasons why women/girls resort to unsafe abortion. (5 marks)
- c) Discuss and elaborate key human rights recommendations you would you make to your country to end unsafe termination of pregnancy, in order to meet their obligations to respect, promote and fulfill human rights. (5 marks)

**SECTION B: ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS (45 MARKS)**

2. The United Nations agencies and Governments largely are adopting *a right-based approach to replace the former 'basic needs' approach*. Under a human rights framework, governments are primary duty bearers, while citizens are rights holders. Rights holders have a right to demand accountability and implementation from duty-bearers.
- (a) State what human rights are and discuss why protection and promotion of human rights is important to meeting the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights of vulnerable people in the community. (5 Marks)
- (b) Discuss five (5) key rights issues for political advocacy on Sexual and Reproductive Health rights in Africa stating what your government could do to make the services reach all women and girls respecting intersecting factors like disability, marginalization, age among others. (5 marks)
- (c) What does the rights-based approach to Sexual Reproductive health mean for your country? Discuss providing relevant examples (5 marks)
3. All Countries are called upon to protect, promote and fulfill human rights. In promoting the right to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), experts have stated that the criteria for evaluating these rights include evaluation of **availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality**.
- a) Discuss and elaborate each of the above criteria stating three (3) aspects of how each applies to promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. (10 marks)
- b) State and explain five (5) key health actions your government may be required to put in place to meet the international and regional obligations on SRHR. (5 marks)
4. High mortality and morbidity rates are an indicator of under-development. Most of the underlying causes of high mortality and morbidity are linked to poverty and inequalities

between men and women that act as barriers to equal access to quality and adequate information and health services.

a) Discuss and analyze five (5) well-known and common determinants of maternal mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa. (5 marks)

b) Your country has appointed you as a human rights adviser to develop a human rights plan to ensure the reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity identified in (a) above. Identify five (5) key government-specific human rights obligations related to the realization of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) that must be at the center of implementation in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity, stating what the government should do under each obligation to reduce maternal mortality to the set SDGs targets. (10 marks)

5. Mary is a 17-year-old girl, in secondary school and she has been elected as the President of the School. One of her campaign agendas was to ensure that the school allows age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education. She approaches you as the newly appointed Minister of Human Rights and expert in SRHR to discuss her agenda including how to frame the issue from a human rights perspective.

a) What human rights challenges do Adolescents and young people in Africa continue to experience in accessing SRH services? (Discuss at least 5 challenges. (5 marks)

b) Discuss and elaborate five (5) key rights of adolescents and young people that continue to be violated by omission or commission by governments and recommend ways of ending such violations. (5 Marks)

c) Discuss legal and policy reforms would you suggest to ensure that adolescents access comprehensive age-appropriate sex education in Africa. (5 marks)

6. Reproductive health, as defined by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994, encompasses a broad range of aspects related to the reproductive system at all stages of life. It emphasizes the importance of access to comprehensive reproductive health services and rights.

- a) Name and elaborate five (5) sexual and reproductive health and rights services that are promoted in the ICPD Cairo 1994 platform of action. (5 marks)
- b) Discuss five (5) barriers in your country to accessing comprehensive Family Planning services and how human rights application can be used to remove the barriers. (5 marks)
- c) Discuss human rights policy issues that you would propose to make access to Family Planning a right. (5 marks)