



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Esteemed colleagues:

The National Center for Sexual Education (CENESEX), the National Unit for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and the Cuban Multidisciplinary Society for Sexuality Studies (SOCUMES) convene the 7th Cuban Congress on Sexual Education, Orientation and Therapy to be held in Havana on September 15-18, 2015 at the Havana Convention Center, under the slogan "FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND INCLUSIVE SEXUAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH."

The main objective of this Congress is to hold the trans-disciplinary and intersectorial debate so much required by the comprehensive education on sexuality and sexual health—in keeping with its holistic complexity and reality nature—so as to achieve a comprehensive and integrating approach in the reflections and proposals for its development.

Human sexuality demands a closer social view to humanize it. It is imperative to reconstruct the ideological assumptions which have used it as a social control and oppression mechanism at the service of the prevailing economic, political, legal, cultural and spiritual interests. The Comprehensive Education on Sexuality stems out as a liberating education from the colonial and neocolonial systems imposed on our countries in which sexuality and gender were used as social control mechanisms.

At the same time, the Congress will include several scientific activities to contribute to diversify and strengthen the analysis and recommendations associated with sexual education, orientation and therapy, namely:

- First Ibero-American Meeting on the Comprehensive Education on Sexuality
- Second Meeting of Experts on Programs and Strategies for the Comprehensive Education on Sexuality in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Fifth International Colloquium on Trans-identities, Gender and Culture
- Second Workshop of the National Program of Sexual Education and Health (PRONESS) of Cuba

Such exchanges are aimed at promoting a dialogue among experts, decision-makers and activists in order to identify the new practices and theoretical and methodological advances,

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the creation of new alliances between countries and regions, with the participation of governments and civil societies to design and implement policies and services aimed at developing a healthy, pleasant and responsible sexuality.

We look forward to your valuable participation.

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