

PRESS STATEMENT (19/2/14)

When the issue of Health Promotion Board's FAQs on sexuality arose in public discourse, NCCS made known to the relevant authorities its deep concerns.—We found that the FAQs give controvertible answers to key issues, and that the overall narrative comes across as normalizing homosexual and bisexual relationships.

We are heartened that the Minister of Health has, in his written reply this week to a Parliamentary question, clarified that the intention of the FAQs was not to endorse or regularize same-sex relations. We especially welcome the Minister's assurance that there has been no shift in the government's position: that the family is the basic building block of society, and that 'family' is taken to mean a man and a woman joined in marriage, and encouraged to build a stable nuclear or extended household.

NCCS acknowledges the need for the Health Promotion Board to play its part in educating the public on the risk of sexually transmitted diseases and to help all people, whatever their sexual inclination, to minimize their health risks. We note with concern the rise of STDs and HIV cases among male youth. However, we believe that great care must be taken not to conflate a health-advisory to a particular group at risk with statements about sexuality that implicitly reflect values. We are also concerned that the FAQs claim-to-serve as a resource for 'factual information' on sexuality when scientific research on the causes and consequences on homosexuality is at best inconclusive.

We therefore recommend that the said HPB's FAQs be reviewed so that the FAQs reflect accurately the state of medical research. We further recommend that the final narrative does not inadvertently confuse or mislead the general reader by running against the broader societal values reflected in the Government's position on sexuality and family.

NCCS continues to take the view that while we do not condone homosexual practice, we should not despise or discriminate against homosexuals. Homosexuals are to be regarded and treated no less as persons of worth and dignity, and of value to God. Without minimizing their struggles, the Church seeks to offer those who are confused about their sexuality, and all who experience sexual brokenness, a safe place for help and healing.