

Terms of Reference – online focus group discussion workshop

Background

The RCOG Centre for women's global health is running a three year project – Making Abortion Safe (MAS) – working with healthcare professionals and non-clinical advocates, in a voluntary capacity to act as Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Champions to advocate for improved access to quality and safe abortion care across five countries in Africa.

Within this project, the group of SRHR Champions in Rwanda are planning to conduct a small number of focus group discussions with healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses/midwives, psychologists and social workers) providing abortion or post-abortion care. This work is an extension to the MAS programme "Abortion Provider Stigma Study", a two-phased mixed methods research project exploring the impact of abortion stigma on healthcare professionals.

Scope of work

We are seeking a suitably qualified social researcher, ideally with a health background, and experience in training others, to run a virtual workshop session on focus group discussion methodology for the Champions. The exact content of the workshop is to be agreed with the RCOG team, however it is intended that by the end participants will:

1. Identify when focus group discussions are a useful and appropriate research methodology
2. Understand best practice in designing and delivering focus group discussions
3. Understand and implement special considerations for running FGDs on sensitive or stigmatised topics
4. Have designed and developed the necessary tools to be able to deliver a focus group discussion on abortion-stigma with healthcare professionals

It is anticipated that this workshop be held virtually, using Microsoft Teams and be conducted over the course of 2-3, 2-hour sessions. We expect a maximum of 10 participants, from a range of professional backgrounds. Ideally, this session will be scheduled to take place in October.

Application

If you are interested in this work please send a brief outline of your proposed session and associated costings to cwgh@rcog.org.uk. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis with a final deadline of 30th September 2022.