



## About us

ASPIRE is a non-governmental, non-profit advocacy group that has lobbied for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights particularly in the area of Abortion since February 2000.

In the year of our inception we conducted landmark research which confirmed that abortion is a pressing public health issue in Trinidad and Tobago. Abortion is legal to preserve the health and life of the woman and ASPIRE continues to call for clarification of the application of the law, through the provision of policy, protocols and guidelines.

### ASPIRE VISION

ASPIRE will be the premier organisation for the advancement of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Trinidad and Tobago.

### ASPIRE MISSION

To become the primary organisation for the provision of innovative SRHR awareness and support services in the national community, for the benefit of all our stakeholders.

### ASPIRE VALUES

- Diversity
- Commitment to, belief in and respect for choice
- Commitment to social justice
- Respect for individual rights
- SRHR equity

### Public Opinion

•To enhance the respect and recognition by society of the woman's ability to make choices with respect to her sexual and reproductive health.

### Reproductive Health

- To reduce the number of unsafe abortions by 50% in 10 years time
- To reduce the morbidity and deaths from unsafe abortions by 90% in 10 years time
- To reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies and abortions health care
- To promote quality sexual and reproductive health services and care
- To reduce the number of slip and slide wards' admissions
- Changes in Sexual Behaviour
- To advocate greater responsibility towards making decisions regarding sexuality

### Education

- To promote education programmes in schools dealing specifically with sexual and reproductive health in a comprehensive and non-biased manner

### We Educate

ASPIRE produces and distributes a wide range of educational material, hosts workshops, learning sessions, public talks on related sexual and reproductive health care and rights (SRHR) issues. Some of which include emergency contraception, safe sex practices, contraceptive use and the medical and legal elements of abortion issue. Our extensive library is open to members and other organisations.

### We Advocate

ASPIRE also presses for age-appropriate and comprehensive sexuality education in all schools and call for the provision of improved education and family planning services to the general population. One of our main initiative takes place during the Carnival season when we stage a campaign on responsible sexual activity along with a massive condom distribution drive.



### **We Research**

ASPIRE researches issues related primarily to unsafe abortions and women's sexual and reproductive health. This is critical work. Our research fills a vacuum with respect to data on maternal health in Trinidad and Tobago. Our most recent survey showed that 69 percent of the population support abortion law reform.

In 2000 we conducted landmark research which confirmed that abortion is indeed a pressing public health issue in Trinidad and Tobago. At that time between 3,000 and 4,000 women were admitted to public hospitals every year due to complications arising from unsafe abortion costing taxpayers more than \$12 million per year.

### **We Reach Out**

Many people contact ASPIRE with a variety of concerns.

Where we are not able to meet their needs, we direct them to another agency that can assist.

To that end we collaborate with organisations such as the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT), The Rape Crisis Society, Women Working for Social Progress, the Network of NGOs and CAFRA T&T.

We are currently seeking funding to provide counselling services to those who need it.