



GLOBAL ACTION ON MEN'S HEALTH ETHICAL POLICY

Global Action on Men's Health's ethical policy governs its relationships with partner organisations, funders and other stakeholders.

INTRODUCTION

Global Action on Men's Health (GAMH) is an organisation whose mission is to create a world where all men and boys have the opportunity to achieve the best possible health and wellbeing wherever they live and whatever their backgrounds.

GAMH believes that its mission can be more effectively achieved if it works collaboratively and in partnership with a wide range of other organisations in the public, voluntary and private sectors.

It is essential, therefore, that GAMH has a strict, clear and transparent policy for collaboration and partnership. Such a policy will benefit both GAMH and other organisations by ensuring that GAMH remains independent and autonomous, that there can be no actual or perceived improper influence on its work, and that its reputation is enhanced rather than put at risk.

This policy also aims to enable GAMH's staff to operate without the need for constant reference to the Executive Committee (EC). EC members and staff are expected to adhere to this policy.

GAMH'S VALUES

GAMH seeks to promote human rights and equality with respect to age, disability, sex, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation and gender assignment. It supports the improvement of women's health and is opposed to any activity on men's health that might adversely affect women's health. GAMH has a strengths-based view of men and boys – which acknowledges men's unique contribution to all forms of social and human endeavour – and also believes that men should be held accountable for unacceptable behaviours, including gender-based violence.

GAMH aims to be bold, innovative and authoritative. It seeks to act with integrity, to be inclusive and to work co-operatively but to retain its independence at all times.

WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

GAMH:

- Believes it is vitally important to maintain and develop co-operative relationships with other organisations, including international bodies, governments, voluntary organisations, and those that develop, manufacture and market medicines and other treatments.
- Recognises that other organisations have different aims and objectives – often including the need to be profitable – and will have their own particular marketing agendas. However, GAMH will not enter into a partnership or relationship with any other organisation that would contradict or compromise one or more of its own values as listed above.
- Is committed to openness and transparency in all its dealings with other organisations (subject to any necessary legal or other constraints, e.g. relating to commercial confidentiality). GAMH's website will state which organisations have supported it financially (or in other ways) and by how much¹.
- Will enter partnerships and collaborations only if it is recognised as an equal party, irrespective of how large or powerful the other organisation might be.
- Will enter partnerships and collaborations with other organisations only when the outcome will be mutually beneficial.

- Will consider partnerships and collaborations that result in core or project funding or help-in-kind. Although GAMH's preference is for long-term relationships with other organisations, it will nevertheless consider short-term commitments positively. GAMH welcomes relationships that support any area of its activities.
- Is entitled – and usually prefers – to seek support from more than one organisation, either for core funding or for a specific project. No organisation can expect to acquire an exclusive relationship with GAMH. GAMH will not enter into relationships that are designed to give one organisation a competitive advantage over another.
- Will accept funding (or other forms of support) only when a written agreement on the specific support offered has been accepted and signed by both parties. This agreement will include details of agreed contact people on both sides, the outcomes/outputs expected, how the agreement will be monitored and enforced and when and how progress reports will be provided to funders.
- Will not work with or accept donations from organizations²:
 - Whose policies and activities are inherently detrimental to men's health (e.g. the tobacco industry)³;
 - Whose policies and activities systematically discriminate on the basis of sex, age, colour, race, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origins, disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation⁴;
 - With which a relationship would, perhaps because of the organisation's public reputation, weaken the GAMH (e.g. by alienating important stakeholders), and which may also as a result lead to an overall fall in income.
- Will not support or endorse any specific medical products, treatments or devices (including all pharmaceutical products whether available on prescription only or over-the-counter). However, in exceptional circumstances, GAMH may consider supporting specific non-medical products (e.g. foods, fitness equipment, micronutrient supplements) where the evidence that they can contribute to improved male health is unequivocal or where there are other compelling reasons to do so.
- Will consider the endorsement of patient information resources produced by the pharmaceutical industry and others but only when the information produced does not imply that GAMH supports or endorses any specific medical products, treatments or devices (including pharmaceutical products whether available on prescription only or over-the-counter).

- No partner organisation should infer that acknowledgement of its support by GAMH represents endorsement of its policies, actions or products. Any promotional use of GAMH's name (or logo) by any other organisation must have prior explicit and written consent from GAMH's Director or EC Chair. Press releases which refer to GAMH cannot be issued without its prior approval.
- Reserves the right to withdraw from any partnership or collaboration if it is not being implemented according to the agreement or develops in a way that contradicts GAMH's policies and principles.

GAMH will publish this policy in full on its website (www.gamh.org).

This policy as agreed by GAMH's EC on 25 October 2017.

Review date: October 2019.

Notes:

¹ Only payments totalling GBP 5,000.00 pa or more will be listed.

² Any organisation proscribed by this list would still be eligible to receive GAMH's eBulletin (or similar forms of communication) or to purchase GAMH resources (so long as the purchases are 'off-the-shelf' and not produced to a meet the organisation's specific requirements).

³ There may be circumstances where a distinction should be made between an organisation and its workforce. For example, while GAMH would not accept sponsorship or a donation from a tobacco company, it might still consider participating in health improvement activities commissioned from it by the company for its workforce. If we were to provide a service of this kind, it would be necessary to agree with the company any public reference that might be made about its relationship with GAMH.

⁴ This clause is not intended to preclude working with, for example, faith organisations which might be hostile to homosexuality in order to reach groups of men who may have particular health problems.