



WHEC  
Helping Women World-Wide

## Access to Information Policy

### WHEC Policy on Access to Information

The Women's Health and Education Center's (WHEC's) Policy on Access to Information has enabled the organization to become global leader in transparency and has made a groundbreaking change in how the WHEC makes information available to the public. Now the **WHEC Global Health Line (WGHL)** and its media channels (*see the links below for the details*) are available in 227 countries and territories. It has provided the public access to more information than ever before – information about research and best practices in maternal and child health, projects under preparation, projects under implementation, analytic and advisory activities, and its administrative activities.

Underlying policy is the principle, that WHEC will disclose any information in its possession, that is not on its list of exceptions. The policy also outlines a clear process for making information publicly available and provides a right to appeal if information-seekers believe they were improperly or unreasonably denied access to information or there is a public interest case to override an exception that restricts access to certain information.

### List of Exceptions

In accordance to Access to Information Policy (AIP), the WHEC **does not** provide access to documents that contain or refer to the information listed below:

1. Personal Information;
2. Communication of Governors and/or Executive Directors' Offices;
3. Ethics Committee;
4. Attorney-Client Privilege;
5. Security and Safety;
6. Information Restricted Under Separate Disclosure Regimes and Other Investigative Information;
7. Information Provided by Member Countries or Third Parties in Confidence;
8. Corporate Administrative Matters;
9. Deliberative Information;
10. Financial Information (Forecasts, Analysis, Transactions, Banking and Billing).

The Access to Information Policy (AIP) applies to **WGHL**. This policy is based on five principles:

1. Maximizing access to information;
2. Setting out a clear list of exceptions;
3. Safeguarding the deliberative process;
4. Providing clear procedures for making information available; and
5. Recognizing requesters' right to an appeal process.

Please review details of *WGHL* and its *LINK* (Learning, Innovation Network for Knowledge) *Access Project*, available @ [http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/WHEC\\_Global\\_Health\\_Line.pdf](http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/cme/WHEC_Global_Health_Line.pdf)

## **Electronic Mail**

E-mail, which has become the WHEC's predominant medium of communication, and it is treated as follows:

- E-mails that contain or convey decisions or outcomes and that are filed in the WHEC's records management system and classified as *Public* are publicly available.
- E-mails that are filed in the WHEC's records management system but classified as *Official Use Only*, *Confidential*, or *Strictly Confidential* are not publicly available unless the information content of e-mail becomes eligible for declassification and disclosure over time.
- The WHEC does not provide access to e-mail that resides outside its records management system (including e-mail that does not pertain to official matters and e-mail containing personal information or communication of WHEC staff and other officials).

The Policy also outlines a clear process for making information publicly available and provides a right to appeal, if information-seekers believe they were improperly or unreasonably denied access to information, or there is a public interest case to override an exception, that restricts access to certain information.

Over the last 18 years, the WHEC's policy on disclosing information has gradually evolved. Before the adoption of the Policy on Access to Information, the WHEC's approach had been to spell out what documents the WHEC discloses.

The WHEC's Policy on Access to Information, which became effective on 12 April 2019, was a pivotal shift in the WHEC's approach to making information available to the public. For more information see the Milestones Page, available @ <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whc/milestones.php3>

## **Waiver**

1. Provisions of this Policy may be waived by The Board.

## **Effective Date**

This Policy is effective as of 12 April 2019.

## **Related Links**

United Nations

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/Reference-3310-UN-Document.pdf>

**Copyright © WHEC**

[www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/copyright.php3](http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/copyright.php3)

**Privacy Notice**

[www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/Privacy\\_Notice.pdf](http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/Privacy_Notice.pdf)

**WHEC Data Protection Policy**

[http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/WHEC\\_Data\\_Protection\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/WHEC_Data_Protection_Policy.pdf)

**What we do? Who we are? Why gender and health?**

<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whec/whoweare.php3>

<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com> is a global, Web-enabled platform for multiple forms of collaboration. This platform enables individuals, groups, companies, and universities anywhere in the world to collaborate – for the purposes of innovation, education, research and to advance the causes peace, health and development. We invite you to tap into this platform, and finally, the governance to get the best out of this platform.



*Dedicated to Women's and Children's Well-being and Health Care Worldwide*

---