

Goals of the Standing Committee on Voice and Communication

The goals of this committee concern voice, speech and communication in gender variant people. This committee aims to:

1. Create an international network of voice and communication professionals
2. Develop and promote standards of care
3. Develop and promote voice and communication services
4. Reduce discrimination against gender variant people on the basis of their voice and communication characteristics

1. Create an international network of voice and communication professionals

In order to create an international network of voice and communication professionals with expertise in the voice and communication issues experienced by gender variant people, this committee aims to:

- a. Develop and maintain an up-to-date international data base of voice and communication professionals with expertise in the voice and communication issues experienced by gender variant people
- b. Organize regular symposia and discussion forums on voice and communication in gender variant people at national and international conferences/meetings (WPATH and related conferences/meetings, conferences/meetings for gender variant communities, general conferences for voice and communication and related professionals)
- c. Facilitate and support web-based communication and data-sharing between voice and communication and related professionals world-wide

2. Develop and promote standards of care

In order to develop and promote standards of care related to voice and communication in gender variant people, this committee aims to:

- a. Promote and support high quality evidence-based research among voice and communication and related professionals at local, national and international levels
- b. Promote and support postgraduate students in voice and communication and related fields to conduct evidence-based research
- c. Facilitate interdisciplinary and collaborative evidence-based research at local, national and international level
- d. Advocate for increased avenues of financial support for small and large-scale voice and communication research
- e. Facilitate dissemination of the findings of high quality voice and communication research to voice and communication and related professionals, gender variant communities, and professional organizations world-wide
- f. Develop and disseminate evidence-based clinical guidelines to voice and communication professionals and to gender variant communities

3. Develop and promote voice and communication services

In order to develop and promote voice and communication services for gender variant people, this committee aims to:

- a. Inform voice and communication and related professionals, universities and colleges, professional associations, health and community care agencies, and government leaders concerning the importance of voice and communication to the quality of life and psychosocial well-being of gender variant people and to their capacity to contribute to the social and economic success of their communities.
- b. Advocate for an increased focus on the voice and communication needs of gender variant people, assessment and intervention methods, and evidence-based clinical guidelines in university and college training programs in speech pathology and related fields
- c. Promote and support professional development programs focusing on evidence-based voice and communication assessment and intervention for qualified voice and communication professionals
- d. Advocate for increased levels of funding to develop and implement voice and communication services for gender variant people in health and community sectors world-wide
- e. Advocate for equitable access to voice and communication services for gender variant people world-wide

4. Reduce discrimination against gender variant people on the basis of their voice and communication characteristics

In order to reduce discrimination against gender variant people on the basis of their voice and communication characteristics, this committee aims to:

- a. Encourage and support voice and communication professionals to work with employer groups in government and non-government sectors as well as community groups to increase understanding of gender variance and, in particular, the importance of the importance of voice and communication to the capacity of gender variant people to contribute to the social and economic success of their employers and communities

- b. Encourage and support voice and communication professionals to work with employer groups in government and non-government sectors to encourage them to facilitate access to voice and communication services for gender variant employees
- c. Encourage and support voice and communication professionals to regularly update organizations for gender variant people to increase their awareness of available resources, services and information
- d. Encourage and support voice and communication professionals to work with health insurance agencies to encourage them to include voice and communication services for gender variant people in their schedule of benefits