

THE SEXTANT

RFSU's Strategic Framework

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INTRODUCTION

The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU) is a non-profit organisation working on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

This is the Sextant explained. The Sextant in its entirety is found at [RFSU.se/sextanten](https://rfsu.se/sextanten).

RFSU has three governing documents that are adopted by the Congress:

- 1 RFSU's Statues describe how the organisation is structured and how decisions are made.**
- 2 The Compass describes RFSU's fundamental values.**
- 3 The Sextant is our strategic framework, which describes RFSU's vision, strategies and goals.**

In 2033, RFSU will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

This will be an occasion to celebrate a century of hard work and important victories. Meanwhile, we need to constantly develop our efforts and challenge ourselves to continue to be a positive force for a world in which everyone is free to make decisions about their own bodies and sexuality. The Sextant will help RFSU remain relevant at 100 years of age.

Why is the policy document called the Sextant?

Well, the Sextans (or *Sextanten* in Swedish) is a constellation straddling the celestial equator, and the sextant is an instrument used in marine navigation to measure the altitude of the sun or other celestial bodies above the horizon. The name, therefore, implies finding your way to move forward. Plus, of course, the name of RFSU's policy document should include the word "sex".

The Sextant entails three major changes for RFSU:

RFSU WORKING TOGETHER FOR A COMMON VISION

One of RFSU's main strengths is its broad range of activities and working methods. To harness this strength and ensure that we are, as a whole, stronger than the sum of our parts, we need to work together as a cohesive unit. This is why we are mobilising the entire RFSU around our vision, our common goals and what we want to achieve in the world.

RFSU IS STRONGER WHEN WORKING WITH OTHERS

Increasing societal challenges, a polarised social climate and a shrinking democratic space mean that a strong civil society is becoming increasingly important. RFSU must join forces with others who share its vision. Opposition to our values is strong, but we are stronger together. This will increase our ability to drive the societal changes that we regard as necessary to strengthen SRHR, and contribute to sustainable development.



RFSU IS RELEVANT TO MORE PEOPLE

By engaging more with people, we come into contact and learn from a range of perspectives and experiences. We believe and hope that this will make us relevant to more people. RFSU recognises the consequences of inequality, meaning we need to work with greater clarity for and with those most affected. We do this by collaborating with others to achieve a common vision – one where **EVERYONE**, regardless of their power or resources, is free to make decisions about their own body and sexuality. In the future, RFSU's activities and priorities will be characterised even more by an intersectional perspective on power.

VISION

The Sextant contains RFSU's vision – the world that RFSU strives for and wants to achieve.

**A world in which everyone
is free to make decisions
about their own bodies
and sexuality**

Our vision is short and pithy and easy for everyone to remember. It focuses on everyone's right to decide about their own body and sexuality. In other words, RFSU should have a broad focus and appeal to a broad segment of society. But the word "everyone" also means that no one should be left out. So, based on an intersectional power analysis, RFSU will therefore prioritise efforts for groups that are victims or potential victims of discrimination and/or are in a situation where their sexual and reproductive rights are violated.

IMPACT GOALS

The Sextant includes five impact goals that describe what needs to happen in Sweden and across the world to achieve our vision:

-  Political, legal and financial policy decisions advance our work on SRHR and sustainable development.
-  Norms and attitudes are changing so that more people can control and enjoy their own bodies and sexuality.
-  Notwithstanding their power and resources, people enjoy improved access to qualitative and equitable sexual and reproductive care.
-  Everyone can organise and advocate for SRHR. Everyone has greater knowledge about their own body and sexuality.

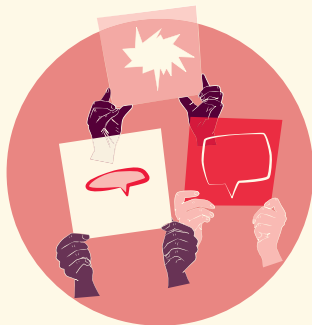
POLICY OBJECTIVES

The Sextant helps RFSU set targets for its activities. To achieve its goals, RFSU has policy objectives that show which issues it should prioritise. Our policy objectives will guide our activities until 2025. A common feature of these objectives is the realisation that RFSU needs to do more for everyone, notwithstanding their power or resources.



Norms

It should be easier for people to feel desire and pleasure, without being restricted by racism or discrimination. This objective focuses on broadening norms and countering oppressive structures, showing that we cannot understand sexuality without understanding how it is affected by racism and other power structures.



SRHR and AGENDA 2030

The link between SRHR and sustainable development should be evident in our efforts to fulfil the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This objective is to create a more explicit link between global sustainability issues and SRHR. The Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved unless SRHR are protected, respected and fulfilled. It is also true that the climate crisis and other sustainability issues affect SRHR.

Democratic space and civil society participation

Civil society organisations should cooperate more closely. This would strengthen both democracy and people's commitment to SRHR. Allowing people to make their voices heard requires freedom of expression, the legal right to associate, freedom of assembly and a free and independent media. There is now a real threat to civil society and activists, whose rights and safety may face further restrictions in the future. This is sometimes referred to as the shrinking democratic space.





Family policy

More people should be able to live together and start a family without being hindered by discrimination based on gender, gender identity, sexuality, etc. This objective deliberately prioritises highlighting discriminatory legislation on gender, sexuality and gender identity. It focuses on legislation, rather than social norms, around LGBTQI+. This work includes legislation that is based on the monogamy norm.

Health and medical care

Everyone should have access to high-quality health and medical care, especially people affected by racism. Accessible healthcare and medical services are essential for people to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights. RFSU focuses its work on particularly vulnerable groups, whose access to sexual and reproductive healthcare needs to be improved, such as people exposed to racism.



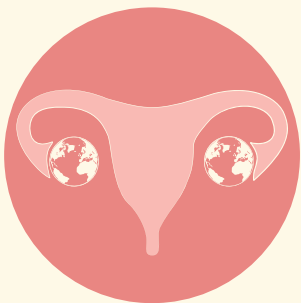


Children and young people

All children and young people should receive high-quality sex education that provides them with knowledge about sexuality, their bodies and relationships. This objective emphasises the importance of enabling children and young people in general to make decisions about their sexuality, bodies and relationships. We use the words “everyone” and “equal” to make it clear that it is particularly important to reach those children who are at risk of not receiving the knowledge to which they are entitled.

Abortion

Everyone should have access to legal and safe abortion. Having an abortion is no longer shameful or taboo. With this formulation, RFSU demonstrates the importance of working to combat abortion stigma. It also highlights the importance of access to abortion regardless of power or resources, because we know that resources are crucial to someone's ability to obtain a safe abortion in most countries. We emphasise access rather than the right to legal abortion. Progress on abortion rights in Sweden must continue to be protected.





Contraception

Everyone should have access to contraception.

The importance of more people having access to contraceptives that suit them, regardless of their age or resources, is still a relevant issue to RFSU. In Sweden, RFSU AB clearly contributes to this objective.

Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence and honour-based violence and oppression must no longer restrict the health and rights of women, children and LGBTQI+ people. Just as RFSU works to promote desire, we recognise that violations of SRHR are often used as an exercise of power to limit people's ability to live, make choices or enjoy themselves in Sweden and across the world. RFSU, together with other advocacy organisations, will contribute to the prevention of violations of the SRHR rights of women, girls and LGBTQI+ people, particularly in the form of gender-based violence, such as harmful practices that include honour-based violence and oppression.





MISSION

RFSU's mission describes what everyone in RFSU should do to make our vision a reality. RFSU's mission is also set out in its Statutes:

“Through knowledge, engagement and advocacy, RFSU contributes to a world in which everyone is free to enjoy and make decisions about their own bodies and sexuality.”

STRATEGIES

The Sextant strategies describe how RFSU will act to contribute to overall change.



KNOWLEDGE: Build knowledge and empower people to know their body, sexuality and relationships



ENGAGEMENT: Build public opinion and mobilise people as well as civil society.



POLICY and systems and hold duty-bearers to account.

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES

RFSU's organisational objectives, which are valid until 2025, describe our priorities in this area primarily within the organisation and in collaboration with others.

Engagement and perspective

RFSU has an inclusive culture that allows everyone to become involved, both as members and in other ways. We work with many different people with a range of perspectives and experiences. RFSU is a movement with a growing membership. An inclusive culture is a prerequisite for more people to join RFSU and contribute to its vision. This should also be reflected in RFSU's partnerships because we are keen for our partners to contribute perspectives that we do not have in-house. We can build strong alliances with others. We also want to expand our membership throughout Sweden, because the members are key to RFSU achieving its goals.

Credibility

RFSU is perceived as a knowledgeable, nuanced and courageous actor. RFSU has a strong brand and this is communicated throughout all of our activities.

This objective relates to how RFSU is perceived externally. It should continue to be a knowledgeable and nuanced organisation on difficult issues. RFSU's brand is important for enhancing the impact of our work, and it is essential that we communicate the same core message, regardless of the section of RFSU where it originated.



Knowledge and method development

RFSU develops new and existing knowledge on SRHR through various activities. It also participates in and contributes to research. It is improving its advocacy and lobbying and is getting better at engaging people. RFSU has a greater understanding of intersectional feminist and anti-racist perspectives. We use this knowledge to understand why certain groups do not have access to SRHR. We also seek to understand and change how power is created within our organisation. Cutting-edge expertise in SRHR is a cornerstone of RFSU's success, and we develop this knowledge through all our activities. We must continue to do this. It is also important that we strive to develop our working methods to make a greater impact. To become an organisation that truly exposes and addresses power structures, we first need to develop a better understanding of intersectionality, power and inequality.



Resources

RFSU utilises the knowledge of its elected representatives, members and other stakeholders. You can engage with our organisation in a sustainable and long-term way, both as a volunteer and as an employee. Volunteers and employees are crucial resources for realising RFSU's vision. This is why both employees and co-workers must have a good and healthy work environment.

Financial focus

RFSU relies on several different sources of income and we are increasingly self-financing. We manage our capital on a long-term and sustainable way.

The majority of RFSU's non-profit work is currently funded by external grants, for example, from public authorities. RFSU's equity also provides income for the organisation. The company, RFSU AB, contributes to the Sextant objectives, both through its own work and by channelling its earnings towards RFSU's activities.

We seek to find funding for RFSU's activities from a wider range of sources and thereby increase our independence and be able to continue our work in the long term. Part of this work involves RFSU ensuring that it manages its capital in a responsible and sustainable way.

Coordination

Various sections of RFSU complement each other through an increased understanding of each other's roles and conditions. RFSU ensures there is effective internal communication and coordinates planning, implementation and follow-up between its different sections. To be a coherent organisation, RFSU requires coordination. Effective coordination requires strong communication, coordinated planning and follow-up.



HOW WILL THE SEXTANT BE USED?

RFSU encompasses many diverse types of activities and practices, including local associations run entirely by volunteers, a clinic working on healthcare, offices employing people and an international department with some 40 partners in different countries.

RFSU also includes RFSU AB, which sells condoms, lubricants, pregnancy tests, sex toys, intimate care products and more, and whose profits finance RFSU's activities.

Since the conditions vary among RFSU's different sections, it is neither possible nor desirable to have an overly intricate overall governance structure. As a result, the Sextant focuses on RFSU sharing a vision, strategies and common priorities that describe the changes that the organisation wants to achieve. The Sextant covers the whole of RFSU – local organisations, the secretariat, the clinic and the company, RFSU AB.

All the different sections of RFSU are necessary to realise our vision. They all have disparate roles and competences and will therefore work with the Sextant in different ways.



THE SEXTANT - RFSU strategic framework

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ISBN 978-91-8937-12-6

