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Editorial

Welcome to this special edition of *ESR Review*, which puts the spotlight on advancing sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) in Africa. Although SRHR is fundamental to human dignity and well-being, in Africa the SRHR landscape is characterised by a complex interplay of cultural, political, and economic factors that shape access to services and information. This special edition sheds light both on issues that impact the enjoyment of SRHR and on opportunities to advance these rights.

Our first feature article delves into the right of birthing persons to respectful maternity care and the role of regional human rights mechanisms in advancing this right and eliminating obstetric violence in Africa. The second article examines period poverty in Uganda and its impact on access to education for school-going girls. It also proposes solutions as to how the government and other stakeholders could address this problem. The third article highlights barriers to realising SRHR in Cameroon, such as legal restrictions, cultural and religious resistance, corruption and other governance issues, and humanitarian crises.

This edition includes a policy review that questions the adequacy of Zimbabwe's legal and policy framework on women's access to family-planning services and information during humanitarian emergencies. Also featured is a review of *The Book of WOMB (Who Owns My Body)*, which documents the SRHR experiences and challenges of women in a rural community in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

As the continent strives for sustainable development and social justice, prioritising SRHR is not only a health issue but a vital human rights concern. Here, fostering collaboration between governments, civil society, and international organisations is essential. By prioritising SRHR, we can create a healthier, more equitable future for all Africans. Embracing this vision requires commitment, advocacy, and a willingness to challenge the status quo. We hope this special edition of *ESR Review* contributes to precisely that endeavour.

Aisosa Jennifer Omoruyi
Guest Editor