



Shirin Heidari

Founder and Executive Director, GENDRO, Switzerland

Biography

Dr. Shirin Heidari is the founder and Executive Director of GENDRO, an international non-profit based in Geneva dedicated to advancing gender-sensitive research. She also serves as a Senior Researcher at the Gender Centre of the Geneva Graduate Institute and is the Principal Investigator of the Liminality Research Consortium, leading a multi-country project on the gendered experiences and sexual and reproductive health and rights of people in forced displacement. Furthermore, Dr. Heidari provides technical support to the WHO's Department of Gender, Rights, Diversity, and Equity, as well as the Department of Immunization, Vaccines, and Biologicals, ensuring the inclusion of sex and gender dimensions in the WHO's technical work and advancing women's health agenda.

Previously, Dr. Heidari served as the Executive Director of Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters and Editor-in-Chief of its peer-reviewed journal. She also held roles at the International AIDS Society, including overseeing the Research Promotion Department and serving as Executive Editor of the Journal of the International AIDS Society (JIAS).

Dr. Heidari earned her doctorate from the Karolinska Institute in 2001 and has since been actively involved in academic research, international organizations and UN agencies. She founded and co-chaired the Gender Policy Committee at the European Association of Science Editors and led the development of the Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) guidelines. Additionally, she served as an elected board member at Amnesty International, Sweden, advocating for sexual and reproductive rights and the right to health.

In her recent efforts, Dr. Heidari served as a commissioner to the Lancet Commission on Women, Power, and Cancer. Currently, she is Vice President of the Foundation Board of the Geneva International Film Festival and Forum for Human Rights (FIFDH). Dr. Heidari's contributions earned her the recognition as one of the influential figures shaping the future of International Geneva in 2022. She has delivered a TEDx talk and is author of several publications.