

A HIGH LEVEL DIGITAL SUMMIT

WOMEN IN GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

Achieving Gender-Responsive Global Health

SEPTEMBER 17TH 2020

We are writing to you on behalf of Women in Global Health, the Wagner Foundation and Foreign Policy, who are working in partnership to produce the **Women in Global Health Security Summit** which will be held during the United Nations General Assembly 2020 on a virtual platform on the 17th of September. As part of this summit we intend to start a conversation about gender-responsive leadership and global health security that will last beyond the current pandemic and build future resilience.

In light of COVID-19, we are collecting pledges that will reaffirm government's commitments towards the Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 5 - *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and supported by the 73rd World Health Assembly COVID-19 Resolution*. Gender equality has advanced in recent decades, but these gains are now under threat due to the current COVID-19 crisis. Gender equality remains a persistent challenge for countries worldwide and the lack of such equality is a major obstacle to sustainable development.

COVID-19 has caused widespread loss of life, suffering and disruption which is predicted to escalate as the virus spreads to vulnerable populations and communities without universal health coverage (UHC). Many lives will be lost because countries do not have resilient health systems based on UHC, and because fundamental gender inequities in the health workforce and wider society weaken our response to pandemic prevention and response.

SDG GOAL 5: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

To align with the Women in Global Health Security Summit objectives, we are asking governments to make values-based and approach-driven pledges and we are asking individuals and institutions to make measurable commitments towards gender-parity in global health security. We would be delighted if you would reaffirm the following points from Goal 5 within the context of global health security:

5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere - by adopting a gender-sensitive approach to health security data collection/analysis and response management.

5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation - including providing health workers, most of whom are women, with safe and decent working conditions

5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate - including recognizing the value of women's unpaid care work by including it in the formal labor market

5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life - including advocating for more women in global health security decision making structures and in public discourse.

5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

We want to take this opportunity to ask you to continue to support Sustainable Development Goal 5 and to encourage others to support it during COVID-19 and the future by signing this pledge letter on behalf of your government.

Please join us as we confront the power and privilege that undermine global health by preventing women from contributing equally to the fight against challenges like this pandemic.

NEXT STEPS

1. Review this document and decide if you could potentially make this pledge.
2. Arrange a call with our team, which includes Executive Director, Dr Roopa Dhatt and Deputy Director, Sarah Hillware, as well as the COVID 50/50 campaign team to discuss the various facets of your pledge and to answer any questions.
3. Finalize the pledge by 22nd of August 2020.
4. Receive the pledge confirmation letter.
5. Work with our team to promote the announcement, including but not limited to a feature on our website, social media and exploring your platforms.

Reminder:

Please email your commitments to Jennifer.Martin@womeningh.org by the **22nd of August 2020**, with an absolute deadline of the **7th of September 2020**. We will then issue you with a Letter of Commitment. An example of this letter is attached.

We aim to announce commitments leading up to and during the Women in Global Health Security Summit on the **17th of September**.

In the meantime, if you have any questions you can contact:

Jennifer S. Martin
Global Project Director COVID 50/50
Women in Global Health
Jennifer.Martin@womeningh.org

About Us:

[Women in Global Health](#) (WGH) is a US 501(c)(3) founded in 2015 to achieve gender equality in global health leadership. Today, WGH is a global movement with the largest network of women and allies, more than 25,000 supporters across more than 90 countries and continues to grow, with a strong presence in low- and middle-income countries. Dr. Roopa Dhatt, the Executive Director, and the global team work with a network of WGH chapters in every region to challenge power and privilege for gender equity in health by mobilizing a diverse group of emerging women health leaders, by advocating to existing global health leaders to commit to transform their own institutions, and by holding these leaders to account.

* WGH chapters have been established in Australasia, Canada, Chile, Finland, Germany, India, Ireland, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Somalia, Sweden and USA, with Cameroon, China, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, UK and Zambia under development. WGH also has regional affiliates in East and West Africa.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Women in Global Health's COVID [50/50 Campaign](#)

Women in Global Health's [5 Asks](#) for Global Health Security

PLEDGE LETTER

I understand that my role as is a significant responsibility and will make it a priority to uphold the following pledge, on behalf of , I pledge to:

*fully commit to driving a global health security agenda which is free from all gender-biases, and where I can support greater gender parity in global health security leadership for COVID-19 and for future pandemic preparedness.

*reaffirm my government's commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls - points 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6 in context of the current pandemic and all future global health security emergencies.

* agree to Women in Global Health publishing information about my pledge.

[Provide Logo]

Signed Date

Print name

Title:

Contact Email Address:



WOMEN IN GLOBAL HEALTH

Signed Date

Title:

Contact Email Address: