



**FACULTY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Public health for the future of humanity:
One planet, One people, One health**

When a group of health professionals from China arrived at Malpensa Airport in northern Italy on 18th March to share their experience and learning in tackling Covid 19 and some essential medical supplies, they unfurled a banner “*We are waves from the same sea, leaves from the same tree, flowers from the same garden*”. Public health professionals around the world have been united working in solidarity for the common good and betterment of humankind, leading the scientific analysis and advise to decisionmakers, and on front lines in the field practically tackling the ongoing Covid 19 global public health emergency. People have gone to their balconies and front doors to applaud and convey their admiration and thanks for their work and other health professionals in these extraordinary times.

The 16th World Congress on Public Health is due to be held from 12 to 16 October 2020 as a fully online conference. The theme of the Congress “Public health for the future of humanity: analysis, advocacy and action” is even more relevant now than ever before.

The individual, community and institutions of society are key protagonists and chief stewards for health from whose values and interactions the future emerges. When the global pandemic was declared, the World Health Organization, in collaboration with the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response (GLOPID-R), organised a Global Forum on research and innovation for Covid 19 (“Global Research Forum”). The WHO-GLOPID-R Covid 19 Global Research and Innovation Forum highlighted some key values in addressing the global pandemic, namely solidarity, equity, trust, autonomy, equal moral respect, and vulnerability. Such ethical principles were not intended for abstract philosophical arm chair debate but have significant implications for policy, research and practice at this time. There has been “a cry for ethical global leadership” to consider and address health inequity and to use the learning and experience from the global Covid 19 pandemic to build a just, healthier, and peaceful world. Public health is the work, art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organised

efforts of society. At this time, there is urgent need to reconsider the organised efforts of society and role of individuals, communities and institutions which they serve.

What this global pandemic and other public health emergencies, such as climate change, clearly demonstrate is recognition of the interdependence and interconnectedness of all people in the world and their environments, and the need for unity, not only to overcome this common threat but also for building a healthy peaceful future for all humanity. Global cooperation and coordination during a pandemic outbreak can be considered both an epidemiological imperative and a moral duty, and the way we need to live and work together in the future. Such a world will need to address the scandalous social and economic inequities, which continue “to kill people on grand scale”¹ and issues around race and gender which have direct impact on health and wellbeing and the right to health and human rights of all peoples.

There is urgent need to invest in public health and care services and work together as citizens of one planet to deliver the 2030 sustainable development goals, all of which have implications for our health and wellbeing.

Following World War 2, there was emergence of significant international and national organisations, such as the United Nations, UNICEF, World Bank, World Health Organization and other agencies calling for greater international cooperation. The science, the evidence and experience from the Covid 19 global pandemic clearly highlight our interconnectedness and our environments, the oneness of humankind and the case for a One Health approach to global health, and urgent need for evaluation and strengthening of international organisations to serve all people on our planet. The public health community throughout the world is united and stands ready and eager to support policymakers, individuals and communities in our common endeavour to build a just healthier future for humankind and the whole planet.

October 2020

This is a statement by World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), European Public Health Association (EUPHA), Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SItI), and UK faculty of public health (FPH).

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¹ Commission on Social Determinants of Health. (2008). Closing the gap in a generation : health equity through action on the social determinants of health : final report of the commission on social determinants of health. World Health Organization. Available at: https://www.who.int/social_determinants/thecommission/finalreport/en/.

Supporting organisations

National Associations (Alfabetical by country)

Albania Albanian Epidemiological Association

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Argentina La Asociación Argentina de Salud Pública



Austria Austrian Public Health Association



Bangladesh Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh

Public Health Association of Bangladesh

Belgium Belgian Association of Public Health



Brazil The Brazilian Association of Collective Health - ABRASCO



Chile Chilean Society of Public Health



Bulgaria Bulgarian Public Health Association



Cuba Sociedad cubana de salud publica (SOCUSAP) - Cuban Society of Public Health



Cyprus University of Nicosia Medical School - Department of Primary Care and Population Health



Georgia School of Health Sciences and Public Health, University of Georgia



Germany German Public Health Association - DGPH



Germany German Society for Medical Sociology



Germany Public Health Centre Fulda, Fulda University of Applied Sciences



Ghana Ghana Public Health Association



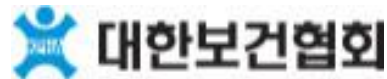
Israel Israeli Association of Public Health Physicians

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Italy Health Services Research Laboratory-Department of Public Health - University of Siena



Korea Korea Public Health Association



Malawi Malawi Public Health Association

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Netherlands Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health



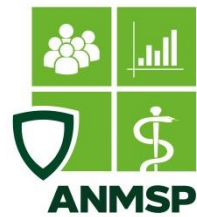
Nigeria Society for Public Health Professionals of Nigeria



Nigeria Professional Association of public health nurses of Nigeria



Portugal
Portuguese Association
of Public Health Doctors
(ANMSP, Associação
Nacional dos Médicos de
Saúde Pública)



Sénégal
Association des
Professionnels de Santé
Publique du Sénégal



Slovakia
SAVEZ - Slovak Public
Health Association



Spain
SESPAS



Sweden
Swedish Association for
Social Medicine and
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International Federation
of Medical Students'
Associations



International Federation
of Environmental Health
(IFEH)



Health Care Without
Harm



The International
Association of National
Public Health Institutes
(IANPHI)



International Community
of Health Management
(INCOHEMA)



Good Clinical Practice
Alliance - Europe (GCPA)



Strategic Initiative for
Developing Capacity in
Ethical Review (SIDCER)



Supporting organisations

Belgium The Association of Schools of
Public Health in the European
Region (ASPHER)



European Partnership for
improving Health, Equity and
Wellbeing



Germany Interdisciplinary Centre for
Health Literacy Research,
Bielefeld University



New Zealand Health Promotion Forum of
New Zealand



Spain Escuela Andaluza de Salud
Pública (EASP)



Sweden Swedish Organization for Global
Health (SOGH)



United Kingdom

The Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association



COVID-HL Network, A Global Public Health Research Network to Investigate Health Literacy in Times of COVID-19



Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries (COTEC)



European Federation of Psychology Students' Associations (efpsa)



European Medical Students' Association (EMSA)



the International Union for Health Promotion and Education

EUPHANxt



EUPHA Child and adolescent health section



EUPHA Chronic diseases section



EUPHA Digital health section



EUPHA Environment and health section



EUPHA Ethics in public health section



EUPHA Health impact assessment section



EUPHA Health promotion section



EUPHA Health technology assessment section



EUPHA Health workforce research section



EUPHA Infectious diseases control section



EUPHA Injury prevention and safety promotion section



EUPHA Public health
epidemiology section



EUPHA Migrant and ethnic
minority health section



EUPHA Public health genomics
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EUPHA Public health monitoring
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EUPHA Public mental health
section



EUPHA Urban public health
section



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