

**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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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”<sup>1</sup> and issues around race and gender which have direct impact on health and wellbeing.

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).

For further information please contact Farhang Tahzib ([farhang.tahzib@gmail.com](mailto:farhang.tahzib@gmail.com)), UK FPH, or Dineke Zeegers Paget, EUPHA Executive Director ([office@eupha.org](mailto:office@eupha.org)).



This statement received co-funding under an operating grant from the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020).

Disclaimer: The content of this statement represents the views of the author(s) only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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/](https://www.who.int/social_determinants/thecommission/finalreport/en/).

## Supporting organisations

### National Associations (Alphabetical by country)

Albania Albanian Epidemiological Association No official logo

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

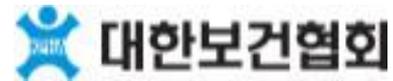


Bulgaria	Bulgarian Public Health Association	
Cuba	Sociedad cubana de salud publica (SOCUSAP) - Cuban Society of Public Health	
Cyprus	University of Nicosia Medical School - Department of Primary Care and Population Health	
Georgia	School of Health Sciences and Public Health, University of Georgia	
Germany	German Public Health Association - DGPH	
Germany	German Society for Medical Sociology	
Ghana	Ghana Public Health Association	
Israel	Israeli Association of Public Health Physicians	No official logo

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



Korea  
Korea Public Health Association



Malawi  
Malawi Public Health  
Association

No official logo

Netherlands  
Aletta Jacobs School of Public  
Health



Nigeria  
Society for Public Health  
Professionals of Nigeria



Nigeria  
Professional Association of  
public health nurses of Nigeria



Sénégal  
Association des Professionnels de  
Santé Publique du Sénégal



Slovakia  
SAVEZ - Slovak Public Health  
Association



Spain

SESPAS



United Kingdom

Faculty of public health



United Kingdom

Society for Social Medicine



Vietnam

Vietnam Public Health Association



Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe Public Health Association.

No official logo

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**

Spain Escuela Andaluza de Salud Pública (EASP)



Sweden Swedish Organization for Global Health (SOGH)



United Kingdom The Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association



Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries (COTEC)



European Federation of  
Psychology Students'  
Associations (efpsa)



European Medical Students'  
Association (EMSA)



EUPHAnxt



EUPHA Child and adolescent  
health section

Sonia Saxena, vice-president

EUPHA Children and adolescent  
health section

Lourdes Cantarero Arevalo

EUPHA Chronic diseases section

Julian Mamo, president

EUPHA Digital health section

Anna Odone, president

EUPHA Ethics in public health  
section

Peter Schroder, president

EUPHA Ethics in public health  
section

Els Maeckelberghe, vice-president

EUPHA Health technology  
assessment

Carlo Favaretti, president

EUPHA Infectious diseases  
control section

Maria Ganczak, vice-president

EUPHA Injury prevention and safety promotion section	Anne Lounamaa, president
EUPHA Public health epidemiology section	Linsay Gray
EUPHA Migrant and ethnic minority health section	Bernadette Kumar, president
EUPHA Public health genomics	Roberta Pastorino, vice-president
EUPHA Urban public health section	Evangelia Chrysikou, vice-president

**Individual support**

Stefania Boccia - Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Italy

Diana Denisova - Research Institute of Internal and Preventive Medicine of ICG SB RAS, Russia