

COVID-19 and Human Rights

We are all in
this together

They put people at the centre and produce better outcomes



We have an obligation to ensure everyone is protected and included in the response to this crisis.

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The aim is threefold: to strengthen the effectiveness of the response to the immediate global health threat; mitigate the broader impact of the crisis on people's lives; and avoid creating new or exacerbating existing problems. All three elements will position us to build back better for everyone.

This is not a time to neglect human rights; it is a time when, more than ever, human rights are needed to navigate this crisis in a way that will allow us, as soon as possible, to focus again on achieving equitable sustainable development and sustaining peace.

our shared human condition and values must be a source of unity, not division. We must give people hope and a vision of what the future can hold. The human

**SPOTLIGHT: HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE
FRONTLINE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19**

Right to life and duty to protect life

all States have a duty to protect human life, including by addressing the general conditions in society that give rise to direct threats to life.

The right to health and access to health care

Every human being is entitled to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health conducive to living a life in dignity. Everyone, regardless of their social or economic status, should have access to the health care they need.

_____ (UHC) must become an imperative.

The central challenge to freedom of movement

restrictions on free movement should be strictly necessary for that purpose, proportionate and non-discriminatory. The availability of effective and generalised testing and tracing, and targeted quarantine measures, can mitigate the need for more indiscriminate restrictions.

COVID-19 is affecting human rights and protection in all continents

LIFE



EDUCATION

II. The virus does not discriminate; but its impacts do

Inclusive responses to a global threat to ensure no one is left behind

We are all in this together. Responses need to be inclusive, equitable and universal -- otherwise they will not beat a virus that affects everyone regardless of status. If the virus persists in one community, it remains a threat to all communities, so discriminatory practices place us

Emerging human rights challenges relating to inequality, discrimination and exclusion³

discrimination, xenophobia, racism and attacks

Older persons

Member States have the primary responsibility to counter discrimination and _____ but all actors, including social media companies, must play their part.

Racial, ethnic and religious minorities,

health workers

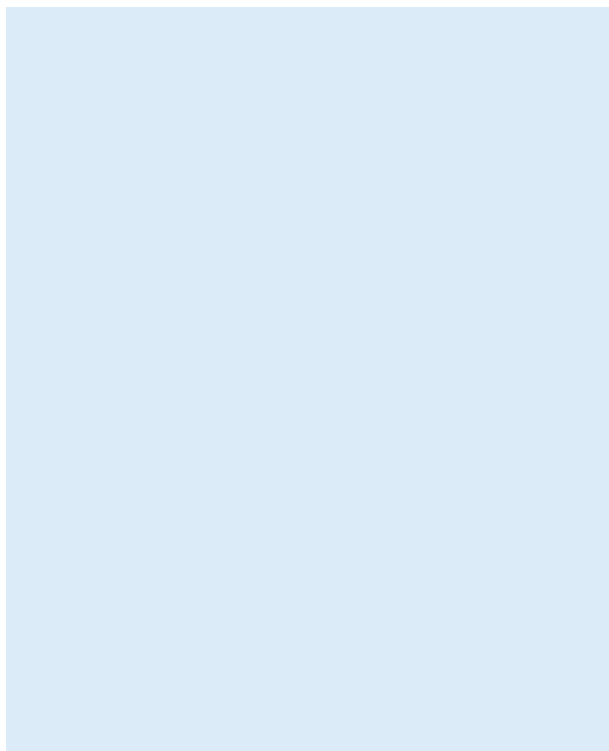
_____, refugees and IDPs

marginalized and most vulnerable

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III. Involve everyone in your response

Participation in open, transparent and accountable responses

We are all in this together. To effectively combat the pandemic, we all need to be part of the response. Effective participation in the response requires people to be informed, involved in decisions that affect them and to see that any measures taken are necessary, reasonable and proportionate to combat the virus and save lives. We all have a role to play but the most effective way to maximize participation is through evidence, persuasion and collective ownership. People need agency and voice in a crisis. This is a time when, more than ever, governments need to be open and transparent, responsive and accountable to the people they are seeking to protect. Civil society organizations (CSOs), as well as the private sector and business, have contributions to make that need to be facilitated.

Why is it important that people are involved in the COVID-19 response?

The best way to maintain public support for the measures is for governments to be open and transparent and involve people in making the decisions that affect them. It is important to be honest about the extent of the threat posed by the virus, demonstrate that measures are reasonable, likely to be effective and will not last longer than needed. Securing compliance depends on building trust, and trust depends on transparency and participation.

Authorities need to be open and transparent in their decision-making and willing to listen to and respond to criticism.

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Governments need to be accountable to the people they are seeking to protect.

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Emergency and security measures, if needed, must be temporary, proportional and aimed at protecting people

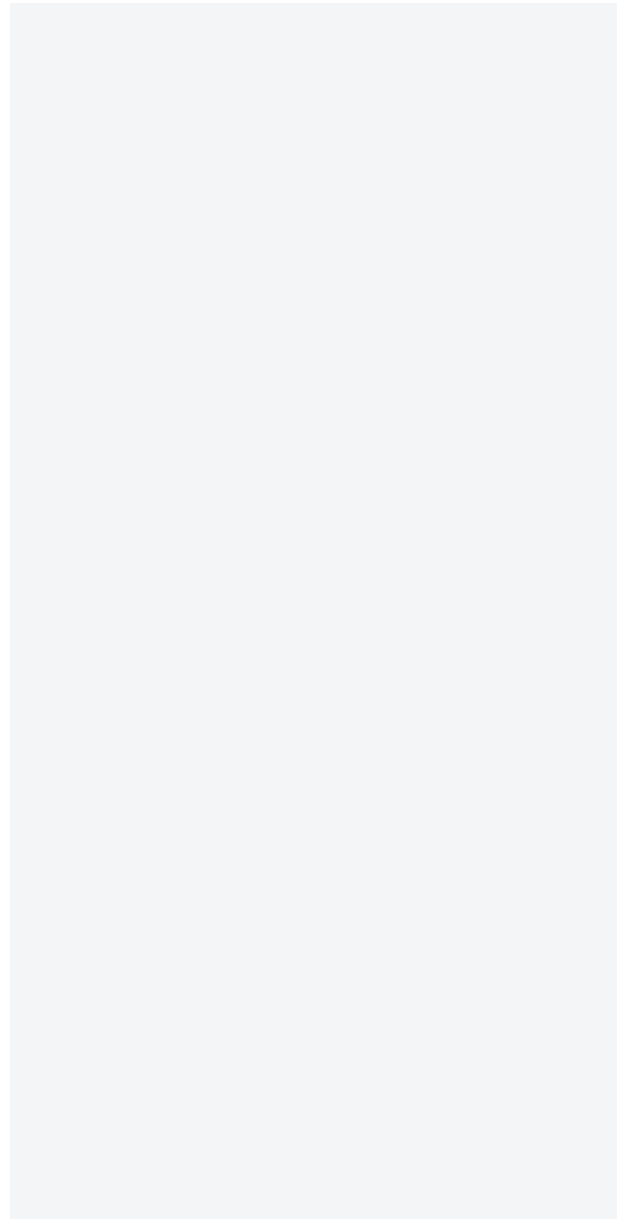
We are all in this together. The pandemic poses a serious public health threat with wide-ranging implications for peace and security. Law enforcement has a role to support the fight against the disease and protect people. Emergency powers may be needed but broad executive powers, swiftly granted with minimal oversight, carry risks. Heavy-handed security responses undermine the health response and can exacerbate existing threats to peace and security or create new ones. The best response is one that aims to respond proportionately to immediate threats whilst protecting human rights under the rule of law. This is a time for peace, to focus on beating the virus.

Why justice, restraint and respect

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All measures must incorporate mean-
ingful data protection safeguards, be lawful-11.240



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V. No country can beat this alone

Global threats require global responses

We are all in this together. International solidarity is essential in the global response – no one country can beat this alone and some countries are better equipped to respond than others. Just as no country can afford for individuals to be left behind, the world cannot afford for one country to be left behind if the virus is to be beaten.

Why is global solidarity essential for the COVID-19 response?

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we need to ensure that all countries are equally effective in their responses.

How we respond today, therefore, presents a unique opportunity to course-correct and begin to tackle long-standing public policies and practices that have been harmful for people and their human rights.

When this crisis is over and the coronavirus has been tamed, the international community

- > Encourage political leaders and other actors, including religious leaders, to speak out and take action against discrimination, hate speech, ageism, xenophobia, racism or violence arising from this pandemic, and promote inclusion and unity.

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