

Geneva 20.04.2021

Open Letter To:

Hon. Mario Draghi  
Prime Minister of Italy  
President of the 2021 G20 Summit

### **Together We Can Overcome the COVID-19 Pandemic: Global Health, Primary Care and Social Work Professionals Call for Representation at the G20**

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global public health issue requiring a global solution with regional, national and local applicability. The extreme COVID-19 fatigue and uncertainty experienced by populations worldwide urgently requires both short-term and long-term practical solutions. The Coalition of Global Health, Primary Care and Social Work Professionals, created under the auspices of the World Federation of Public Health Associations, is representing over 160 million professionals worldwide, the expertise and knowledge, the experience and the networks to make the difference.

In countries that have been more successful in containing COVID-19, health and social professionals have been in leading roles formulating evidence-informed recommendations on the basis of best practice, and supporting societal engagement. The role of frontline professionals is key to the effective control of the pandemic and can also contribute towards a unified approach to avoid political polarization and division. We therefore call on the G20 summit to engage with the representatives of the Coalition to work directly on the co-design and co-production of local, national, regional and international strategies to effectively combat the COVID-19 global pandemic.

We are aware that where countries have struggled to implement effective COVID-19 disease control, the political leadership has dominated, and at times compromised, the critical role of skilled frontline professionals. Greatest success in controlling the pandemic has been achieved where we have witnessed a high-level of mutual trust between the government, the professionals and the communities, working towards the same goal.

The 24 global professional bodies in the Coalition call on the G20 summit leaders to work in partnership with us to co-design and co-produce a global solution to the COVID-19 pandemic. Together we can:

- Create global solutions to this global problem with concrete, healthy, socially equitable, and environmentally sustainable solutions for both the short and long term;
- Support the discovery, development, production, equitable distribution and allocation of safe and effective vaccines and treatments;

- Enable politicians, professionals and communities to work beyond national and regional borders, and foster cross-sectoral dialogue and action;
- Work with local communities to reach vulnerable and marginalized populations and individuals;

And in the longer-term:

- We need to address health and economic disparities, nationally, regionally and internationally. This will require the co-design and co-production of effective health and social protection systems. Working with individuals and communities to increase the collective resilience and the preparedness of our systems to respond to potential future pandemics.

Each of the organizations signing this letter call for a global commitment for concrete action. We, hereby commit ourselves, individually and collectively, to fully utilize the skills, networks and competencies of the collective public health workforce in supporting the G20 to help advance this solution.

The Coalition of Global Health, Primary Care and Social Work Professionals comprises a wide range of health and social work professions.

To contact the Coalition Representatives:



Dr. Marta Lomazzi, PhD, PD  
Executive Manager  
World Federation of Public Health Associations  
+41 764287631  
[Marta.Lomazzi@wfpha.org](mailto:Marta.Lomazzi@wfpha.org)



Dr. Rory Truell  
Secretary-General  
International Federation of Social Workers  
+49 176 32333127  
[rory.truell@ifsw.org](mailto:rory.truell@ifsw.org)

The Coalition of Global Health, Primary Care and Social Work Professionals founding Press Release is [available here](#).

Signed by:

Academy of Dentistry International

Alliance of Patients' Organizations

Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region

Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work

European Student Think Tank

Healthcare Without Harm

International Federation of Environmental Health

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations

International Federation of Social Workers

International Federation on Ageing

International Hospital Federation

International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

International Veterinary Students' Association

Students\_Against\_COVID

The European Forum for Primary Care

The Global Ageing Network

Union for International Cancer Control

WHO Collaborating Centre on Family Medicine and Primary Health Care - Ghent University

World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine

World Federation of Public Health Associations

World Heart Federation

World Organization of Family Doctors

World Patients Alliance