

April 2020

#SheCaresCovid19



The #SheCaresCovid19 campaign is an outreach programme seeking support to assist women and contribute to the ongoing fight for gender-equality during this crisis. The heart of the programme is the collection and dissemination of critical information to those who can help and those who urgently need help.

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Message from Director



Power to Empower, An Inclusive COVID-19 Recovery Response (ICR): Gender Perspective

Amidst the spread of COVID-19, women all around the world have demonstrated their resilience and leadership against COVID-19 challenges. May it be women in the education sector, healthcare professionals, the cleaning branch, the agrarian area, politics and governance, or business and charities, they are the tried and tested frontline Shereroes. We understand that it is a crucial time to recollect dispersed and divided power in our communities to provide leadership that inspires not only hope and compassion but a perspective. Power to empower; that is the only way forward. Together, we demand generosity, justice, and equality for all rich and poor men and women in the world. We need an Inclusive COVID-19 Recovery Response (ICRR).

Sabra Bano,
Director.

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UN Secretary General Launched Humanitarian Response Plan

The United Nations launched a coordinated global humanitarian response plan to fight COVID-19 in some of the world's most vulnerable countries in a bid to protect millions of people and stop the virus from circling back around the globe. There remains an urgent need to provide funds to international women and development organisations to aid with the most vulnerable groups and avoid deepening the gender gap in the crisis response and mitigation measures taken globally. The COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan will be implemented by UN agencies, with international NGOs and NGO consortiums playing a direct role in the response.



Call for Support Minister Kaag

Gender Concerns International reached out to Minister Kaag to implore the international community to include the every-day people who are on the front line of fighting the global COVID-19 crisis. The letter highlights that while generosity on a global scale has been demonstrated through large, high-profile donations to the World Health Organisation and to vaccine development funds, which are no-doubt necessary, community outreach programmes are being side-lined and NGOs (especially women-led) are slipping through the cracks.

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Director Sabra Bano Panellist for IGC

In the Webinar Series "COVID -19 and Gender Equality: Living up to the Challenge", organised by International Gender Champions, Champions will discuss how to navigate the immense choices facing decision-makers in a gender-responsive way during COVID-19 and embed better policies and practices, both within their organisations and in their programmatic work. Ms. [Sabra Bano](#) will speak alongside Ms. [Michelle Bachelet](#).



#SheCaresCoVid19: Inclusive COVID-19 Recovery Response Women's Testimonies around the Globe



Gender Equality and Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is always a serious issue, but with the COVID-19 outbreak, domestic abuse victims are confined with even less of an escape route. "Coronavirus can lead to people being trapped in abusive relationships, not because of the virus itself but because of its economic impacts" – Allison Randall, National Network to End Domestic Violence.



Gender Equality and Education

Women are often expected to take care of the family, the sick, and the children and in times of lockdowns face higher risks of contamination. Moreover, as they do most work in the informal sector the closure of schools to control COVID-19 has a different effect on women, as it limits their economic opportunities further.



Women and Healthcare in Afghanistan

Women in Afghanistan face higher risk of getting infected by COVID-19 as health clinics in Taliban-controlled areas do not accept female patients. Instead, women are obliged to rely on men to bring them medicine. Rahila, a 31-year-old Afghani woman, attests that women in villages are not being tested for COVID-19 which undermines global prevention efforts and can easily lead to entire villages being drastically affected.



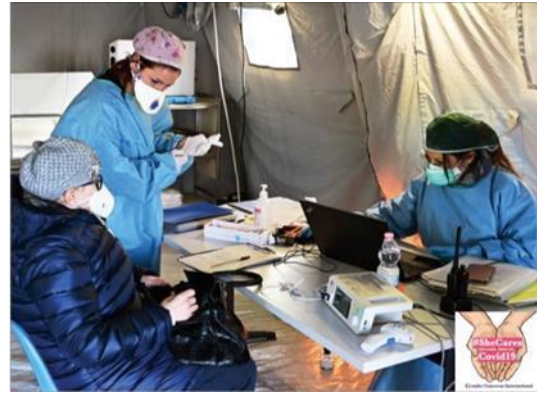
Women and Economic Security Myanmar

Ma Chit Su, a Burmese factory worker, highlights the extensive economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak on women. In Myanmar, women often make up the bulk of the workforce in factories. Now, these same factories are closing down leaving entire families unsupported and suffering to survive due to the lack of a basic income.



Women and Food Security in Pakistan

The survival of Thari women in Pakistan, their families, and community depends on accessing food and water resources daily. The threat of the COVID-19 pandemic cannot and does not stop them. The need to survive surpasses the fear of the Coronavirus.



Women Leadership during the Coronacrisis

On an international scale, women represent 70% of frontline workers in both health and social services sectors. They are an integral part of the global response to the COVID-19 virus and therefore deserve great appreciation and support.



Women and Activism in Egypt

Women activists in Egypt have faced backlash for peacefully protesting for the implementation of urgent and more preventative measures to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. While attempting to draw attention to the unsanitary conditions of detention centers and prisons, the four women were arrested and placed in detention centers. They were released only after paying high amounts of money in bail.



Women and Human Rights in Kashmir

Amid the ongoing conflict in Kashmir, the COVID-19 threat exacerbates the already vulnerable position of Kashmiri women who are subject to prolonged restraint on individual freedoms.

Women have been the biggest victims of the region's military shutdown since August 2019. The stricter lockdown deepens their fears for further suppression of their rights.

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Women, Peace, and Security



UN Calls for Global Ceasefire

Un Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, called for an immediate global ceasefire last week. He highlighted the severe impacts of the coronavirus on vulnerable groups, such as women and children, people with disabilities, the marginalised, and the displaced. He states that: "In war-ravaged countries, health systems have collapsed. Health professionals, already few in number, have often been targeted."

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International Women's Day Celebrated

On the weekend of the 8th of March 2020, millions gathered for the Global Women's March to stand in solidarity with women all over the world fighting for their rights and letting their voices be heard. However, there are still women facing serious suppression, discrimination, and exclusion.

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Tripoli Bombings Shattering Women's Safety

There is a need for greater attention and protection of women in the armed conflict zone of Libya. Women's and civil society organisations in Libya condemn the heavy shelling around Tripoli's Mitiga airport and demand greater involvement of the UN Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to reach a solution for peace.

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The Afghan Peace Deal Excludes Women and Disregards their Rights

Women's and civil society organisations all over Afghanistan have expressed their discontent with the Peace Agreement signed by the United States and the Taliban forces on the 29th of February 2020, and are calling for "an Afghan-owned, Afghan-led and Afghan-maintained" peace process. The AWN urged for a more inclusive peace process, using the hashtag #AfghanWomenDontGoBack.

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Dire Position of Women in Myanmar: 'A Silent Emergency'

Violence against women is widespread and normalised within Myanmar. The number of rape victims is rising each year alongside greater police inaction and social stigma. The situation has been described as a 'silent emergency' by the UN, but no further action has been taken.

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Our mailing address is:

info@genderconcerns.org

Newsletter editor: Tara Vissenberg