



Crisis Decision- Making and Vulnerability of Women Organisations During Covid-19 IWD 2021



Aims and Objectives

Aims:

- To highlight the serious impact that the pandemic has on the work of women's organisations and their resilience to be united in working together.
- Enhanced cooperation between the European Parliament and women's organisations on a gender-inclusive Covid-19 response.

Objectives:

- To engage Dutch Parliamentarians and European leadership to **respect** women's contribution, **recognize** the importance of women's organisations and use the **resource** of women led and women focused organisations within constituencies and communities alike.

Women are more vulnerable to COVID-19–related effects in these areas because of existing gender inequalities

- ***Programme Areas of Impact:***
- Crisis management
- Health sector
- Peace and security
- Governance and electoral parity
- Environmental sector



Challenges

- The pandemic has undermined the power of women organisations both on the local and international levels. The lockdown situation and mobility restrictions have created conditions conducive to strengthening the capacity and outreach of the UN and huge multi-national CSOs.
- Within the UN system, UN Women has offered less to local women and its partner in Global South than other organisations like the UNHCR, WHO and UNFPA.
- The commitment women focused organisations have given to the empowerment of women in all sectors of society should not be undermined by lack of funding during these very trying times.
- When left out of the emergency response, it is feared that the critical work that women organisations carry out is made redundant by lack of acknowledgement.
- More than 70% of health workers in the EU are women. As a result of the Covid-19 restrictions and extended lockdowns, women have been more vulnerable to the socio-economic effects of this pandemic.
- They account for over 54 % of job losses due to the health crisis despite the startling fact that they only make up 39% of the global workforce.
- Women are more likely to provide unpaid care and education at home. This has had a heavy toll on women's health, their economic situation and prospects.

An illustration of two hands, one above the other, cupping a large, detailed pink rose. The hands are rendered in a simple, cartoonish style with black outlines and light skin tones. The rose is the central focus, with many layers of petals and a green stem with leaves.

#SheCares

Covid19

#Zijmaakt het verschil

Gender Concerns International

Response

Gender Concerns International Covid-19 Report:

- Women's Organisations have always been on the forefront of responding to any crisis and serving their communities. The report presented by Gender Concerns International, "Covid-19 Recovery & The Vitality of International Women Organisations Gender-Inclusive Recovery Response: An Urgent Needs Assessment" has indicated this in March 2020.

#SheCaresCovid19:

- Gender Concerns International launched the #SheCaresCovid19 campaign on 13 March 2020.
- This campaign highlighted the impact of the virus through a gender lens, both in terms of challenges it posed and opportunities it offered to female leadership, and to the global international development community.
- In collaboration with a number of women's associations in the Netherlands, namely, **Vrouwen Van Nu, Young Feminist Ambassadors** and **Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad**, **#ZijMaakhetVerschil** was created to reach the Dutch speaking audience.
- It aimed to shed a light on the leadership of Dutch women in combating the coronavirus pandemic and to strengthen their voices. The campaign tackled questions such as, how do we increase female perspectives in decision-making? What must be done to achieve a new normal with gender equality?

Gender Concerns International Covid-19 Report:

Covid-19 Recovery & The Vitality of International Women Organisations

Gender-Inclusive Recovery Response: An Urgent Needs Assessment

16th of April 2020

Recommendations:

This pitch lists recommendations for the Dutch Parliamentarians to consider from our report. As Europe continues to battle with this virus, we urge the European Parliament to incorporate these recommendations into a gender-inclusive recovery plan.

1. Demonstration of Respect, Recognition, and Resources for Women organisations as they work hard in times of Crisis and Recovery being all time Frontline Warriors.
2. Concrete Engagement of International Changemakers who connect and strengthen the wide range of local partnerships and communities.
3. Establishment of a high-level European and International Gender Advisory Body that puts forward an action plan in times of crisis to ensure the engagement of vital women organisations.
4. To ensure continuity and sustainability, a Dedicated Non-Discriminatory Fund must urgently be launched to recognise and support the work of all women's organisations, local and international alike.
5. To facilitate more engagement between the European Parliament and women's organisations on the distribution and management of a Gender-Inclusive Covid-19 Recovery Response.
6. Dutch parliamentarians have the responsibility to promote Dutch women's contribution domestically and internationally. The needs of Dutch women must be considered throughout all stages of a Dutch Covid-19 response.

WOMEN UNITE AND LEAD IN CRISIS
SITUATIONS. WOMEN CONTINUE TO LEAD IN
THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19



We need profound change by system overhauling.

Let us come together this IWD to this overhaul. 1:1!

Dutch campaigns for Vote for Women (Stem op een Vrouw) or voting advice for a political party (Stem op Gendergelijkheid) draw attention to women's equal political participation. However, the profound change requires a system overhaul where legislative gender parity in candidacy becomes a norm.



#SheLeads