

COVID-19 and Gender Equality: Living up to the Challenge

A webinar series powered by the International Gender Champions (IGC)



Concept

As COVID-19 continues to spread, there are immense challenges facing decision-makers: Which actions and services to prioritise? How to distribute resources? Who to collaborate with? Which questions to ask? Which voices to listen to? In both the short and long term, choices now will have long-lasting implications.

Gender equality can easily be cast as a distraction or a luxury, but we are already witnessing the critical, yet undervalued role women play in mitigating the impact of this global pandemic on our communities, and the disproportionate negative impact on them. At the front lines of the health response and community service provision, many women are without basic protective equipment and their voices are not being heard. They are also victims of a surge in domestic violence under quarantine measures, an increased care burden as schools shut, and greater financial insecurity.

Gender-blind reactions could deepen the existing crevasses of inequality and inequity, further eroding the rights and needs of women and those made vulnerable by poverty, disability, race, age, migrant and social status. They will also result in an ineffective crisis-response; we already see that social distancing and handwashing are privileges that will escape many.

We need to adapt and respond to the different needs of the diverse members of our global communities, and if we do it well, **this crisis could in fact provide a gateway to shift to more gender-equitable norms**. As COVID-19 disrupts global flows of people, our relations and interactions are already being transformed by policies and technology. How can we build on the positive aspects to gather data, collaborate, mobilise, and reshape our societies and economies for the better?

Webinar series

In this **three-part webinar series**, Champions will discuss how to navigate the immense choices facing decision-makers in a gender-responsive way and embed better policies and practices, both within our organisations and in our programmatic work.

Format: 45-minute **Panel discussions** (3 panellists, 1 moderator) which will be made available on YouTube, followed by 30-minute closed **brainstorming sessions**.

Audience: IGC network (Champions and focal points)

Sessions

Wednesday 22 April
3:00 – 4:30 p.m. (CET)

'Respond, don't react': Gender-responsive programming in times of crisis

With **Ms. Michelle Bachelet**, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

As the crisis unfolds and emergency measures are put in place, what are the human rights threats, and humanitarian and economic needs that should be forefront in our minds? How do we ensure women's meaningful participation in shaping global and national policies, while raising their voices in the media?

Wednesday 29 April
3:00 – 4:30 p.m. (CET)

'Get fit for the challenge': The need for organisations to lead by example

How can organisations balance strategic goals and the diverse needs of staff, ensure that the care burden can be shared and that working practices are inclusive and enable learning, upskilling, collaboration, innovation, and creativity?

Wednesday 6 May
3:00 – 4:30 p.m. (CET)

'Build back better': The need for organisations to lead by example

The outbreak will have seismic economic and social implications for millions of workers and their households. How do we rebuild our societies, economies and public institutions to ensure that we leave no one behind?

By registration only. More information: www.genderchampions.com/events