

ADVOCACY KIT

Report of the High-Level Working Group on the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents

The High Level Working Group on the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents was announced last year by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The group responds to the demand of the Sustainable Development Goals and the *Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health* to leave no one behind by rallying political support for a human rights based approach to health.

Co-chaired by former President of Finland, Tarja Halonen and leading human rights expert and member of The Elders, Hina Jilani, the Working Group also includes former heads of state, current ministers of health and development, and renowned health and human rights experts. Dr Denis Mukwege, known for his work defending the health and rights of survivors of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, serves as the group's rapporteur.

The Working Group report is the first of its kind to be presented to both the World Health Assembly and the Human Rights Council. **The launch of the report will take place on 22 May 2017, at 17:45 in Room VIII of Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.** The report will be available as of **Monday 22 May at 8:30am CET** at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WRGS/Pages/MaternalAndChildHealth.aspx>

Shortened link: goo.gl/wr6UYN

<http://www.who.int/life-course/publications/hhr-of-women-children-adolescents-report/en/>

Shortened link: goo.gl/7kcm9Q

This advocacy kit contains the following information:

- **Key messages from the report**
- **Key links**
- **Suggested social media messaging**
- **Additional resources (infographics & photo cards), also available here:**
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B8kd5FTeH6AOcy0zckg4cEY2UzQ>
- **Launch event flyer (attached)**

Key hashtags:

#Standup4HumanRights

#EWECisME

#healthrights

#humanrights

#WHA70

Working Group twitter handles:

Tarja Halonen @TarjaHalonon

Hina Jilani @TheElders

Denis Mukwege @DenisMukwege

Marie Claude Bibeau @mclaudebibeau

Cristina Lustemberg @LustembergC

Natasha Stott Despoja @NStottDespoja

Richard Horton @richardhorton1

Partner handles:

OHCHR @UNHumanRights

WHO @WHO

Flavia Bustreo @FlaviaBustreo

Ian Askew @IanAskew_HRP

Anthony Costello @globalHthtwit

Rajat Khosla @khosla_rajat

Lucinda O'Hanlon @cindareal

Anna Gruending @AnnaGruending

Every Women Every Child @UN_EWEC

The Elders @TheElders

Mukwege Foundation @MukwegeFound

The Lancet @TheLancet

Leading the Realization of Human Rights To health and Through Health Key Messages from Working Group Report

Time to **stand up** for rights to health and through health.

The international community has made promises to women, children and adolescents. It's time to deliver. The High Level Working Group (HLWG), established by the DG of WHO and the HC for Human Rights and comprised of leaders and experts from across the world, highlights that:

1. The game changers in delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are women, children and adolescents provided their rights to health and through health are protected and respected.
2. Interdependence between health and human rights is a strategic opportunity to ramp up delivery of dignity and wellbeing for women, children and adolescents, in particular.
 - The HLWG coined the term “rights to health and through health” to reinforce their central message that the right to health does not stand alone but is indivisible from human rights.
 - Human rights cannot be fully enjoyed without health. Likewise, health cannot be fully enjoyed without the dignity upheld by all other human rights.
 - The right to health was recognized in 1946 in the Constitution of the World Health Organization and again in 1948 with the adoption by world leaders of the UDHR. It has been reaffirmed in numerous international treaties and political commitments.
 - Human rights principles – in particular, *non-discrimination, participation and accountability* - are critical building blocks of sustainable and inclusive health systems.
 - Mounting evidence confirms that, in practice, health policies and programmes based on human rights deliver better health outcomes.
3. The largest gap between the promises made to human rights and sustainable development and their delivery is a leadership gap. Government and other leaders must be more vocal champions for human rights to health and through health if no one is to be left behind.
 - Committed and sustained political leadership is needed to trigger a human rights chain reaction for women, children and adolescents through health to more inclusive, sustainable development. With the largest generation of adolescents alive today the world is at a tipping point. Leaders must recognise the urgency and opportunity that this presents.
 - We know what needs doing*, why we should do it and that it also makes financial sense, yet the data reveal a gaping hole between promises and concrete action. **
 - Health workers play a vital role this effort, specifically as human rights defenders. We must support and protect them.
4. To advance rights to health and through health, the High Level Working Group calls on States to:
 - Create enabling environments by:
 - Upholding the right to health in national law
 - Adopting human rights principles when financing health
 - Addressing human rights as determinants of health
 - Removing social, gender and cultural norms that impede realisation of human rights
 - Partner with people themselves by:
 - Enabling women, children and adolescents to claim their human rights
 - Empowering and protecting human rights defenders
 - Ensuring accountability to the people by the people
 - Strengthen evidence and public accountability by:
 - Collecting data on the status human rights in and through health
 - Systematically reporting on progress

The HLWG also calls for greater cooperation between WHO and the UN Human Rights Office and between the World Health Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

Key Links

- **Press release** – to be released on 22 May 2017 at 8:30 am CET
Available at
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21645&LangID=E>
Shortened link: goo.gl/rRkzGW
- **Lancet editorial** – to be published on 23 May 2017 –
Available at <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/onlineFirst>
- **Additional resources** (infographics, photo tiles, etc.) can be found here:
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B8kd5FTeH6AOcy0zckg4cEY2UzQ>

Suggested social media messaging for 22 May 2017

Announcing launch

- #Standup4HumanRights to health & through health! Call to action by global expert group:
goo.gl/wr6UYN #EWECISME
- Today Working Group on health & #HumanRights of women, children & adolescents launches their landmark report at #WHA70
- Working Group--led by @TarjaHalonon & Hina Jilani makes 9 recommendations to #Standup4HumanRights to & thru health goo.gl/wr6UYN + RECOMMENDATIONS INFOGRAPHIC
- Launch tonight at #WHA70 of landmark Working Group report on health & human rights of ♀, children & adolescents #EWECISME + EVENT FLYER (TAGGING SPEAKERS)

Women, children and adolescents

- The future is today aged 10 & it's a girl. Change life for her, change the world!
goo.gl/wr6UYN #Standup4HumanRights #WHA70
- We have the largest population of #adolescents in history. No future if we don't protect their rights & health goo.gl/wr6UYN
- Totally preventable & yet +300K women die of maternal causes each year. It doesn't have to be this way. #Standup4HumanRights + CHALLENGES INFOGRAPHIC
- Women & girls must be able to make decisions about their health & lives. This is what ensures sustainable development #Standup4HumanRights
- End the toxic gender norms that result in death & lifelong ill health for women and girls
goo.gl/wr6UYN #Standup4HumanRights



- Protecting the rights to health of women, children & adolescents is at heart of & path to #SDGs & leaving no one behind #WHA70 #EWECisMe
- Despite progress ♀, children & adolescents still face challenges in realizing their right to health & through health goo.gl/rRkzGW + CHALLENGES INFOGRAPHIC
- Violence & discrimination are barriers that prevent ♀, children & adolescents from realizing #health & #humanrights #EWECisME
- Resist backlash against women/adolescents' rights that's reversing health gains of past decades #Standup4HumanRights goo.gl/rRkzGW

Health, human rights and sustainable development

- Health & #humanrights go hand in hand. When one stumbles, so does the other. Govts must act on this basic fact goo.gl/rRkzGW
- "If human rights ♀ are not at the centre of what we do, the #SDGs will fail" @TarjaHalonon goo.gl/rRkzGW #EWECisME #WHA70
- "Societies continue to undervalue the health of millions...dismissing their rightful claims" -H.Jilani @TheElders goo.gl/rRkzGW
- Take a stand against the erosion of #humanrights & take action 2 improve health of all people #Standup4HumanRights goo.gl/rRkzGW
- We can't improve health if we don't uphold rights! #HumanRights based approach to programmes & policies = improved health outcomes #EWECisME

Health workers are human rights defenders

- Health workers who #Standup4HumanRights deserve govt protection & respect. They can be partners for a better world: goo.gl/wr6UYN
- Health workers can #StandUp4HumanRights & hold authorities to account to ensure right to health 4 all @MukwegeFound goo.gl/rRkzGW
- We call on health workers to help ensure the highest attainable standard of health for all, thru #Education + QUOTE CARD 2 + <http://ow.ly/3p4w30bO6s6>
- Health workers: #StandUp4HumanRights. Document & monitor coercive practices, unjust laws or discrimination <http://ow.ly/3p4w30bO6s6>
- See how health workers can use UN human rights mechanisms to push for changes in health policy <http://ow.ly/3p4w30bO6s6>

Recommendations

- The gap between recognition of rights & real action is huge! Working Group calls for sustained political commitment #WHA70 goo.gl/rRkzGW



- Call Govts to allocate +5% of GDP for public health, the recommended percentage for achieving #UHC goo.gl/rRkzGW #WHA70 + RECOMMENDATIONS INFOGRAPHIC
- Working Group calls on countries to establish a rights-based approach to health financing & universal health coverage #UHC. #WHA70 #EWECisME + RECOMMENDATION 2 INFOGRAPHIC
- Push leaders to deliver on health & human rights for women, children & adolescents. Time for action: #WHA70 goo.gl/wr6UYN
- Join us in asking governments to introduce laws supporting health-related rights & holding them to account: <http://ow.ly/3p4w30bO6s6>
- Working Group calls on countries to involve ♀, children & adols in decision-making & enable them to claim rights goo.gl/rRkzGW + RECOMMENDATION 5 INFOGRAPHIC
- Working Group report highlights importance for countries to collect data that can be disaggregated for age, gender & other factors + RECOMMENDATION 8 INFOGRAPHIC

Lancet editorial (as of 23 May)

- Renewed commitment to lead for health, #humanrights & dignity is urgently needed - @TarjaHalonon, Hina Jilani @FlaviaBustreo @gilmoreksure + LINK TO LANCET
- Health & #humanrights of ♀, children & adolescents forms the cornerstone of the global development agenda -- read more in the @TheLancet + LINK TO LANCET
- When the right to health is denied, this inhibits the exercise of other human rights, undermining the promise of the #SDGs @TheLancet + LINK TO LANCET
- Without upholding rights, you can't improve health. Without bold leadership, you can't uphold rights. #EWECisME @TheLancet + LINK TO LANCET

Additional Resources

Report quote cards:

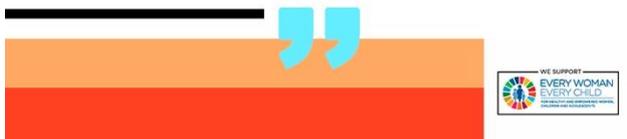


AGAINST A BACKDROP OF RISING NATIONALISM, THE MARGINALIZATION OF PEOPLE - including undocumented migrants, refugees, slum dwellers and indigenous peoples - **PROCEEDS HAND IN HAND WITH VIOLATIONS OF THEIR RIGHTS, ESCALATING INDIVIDUAL AND PUBLIC ILL-HEALTH, AND THEREBY UNDERMINING STABILITY FOR ENTIRE SOCIETIES**



HEALTH WORKERS: BE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

- Encourage professional health schools to include courses on the legal framework on the right to health.
- Advocate professional associations to offer training on human rights.





THE REALIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS - particularly sexual and reproductive health rights, including access to safe abortion - **REMAINS SERIOUSLY UNEVEN OR UNATTAINABLE AT THE COUNTRY-LEVEL, RISKING THE REVERSAL OF HARD-WON ADVANCES IN PREVENTABLE MATERNAL AND CHILD MORTALITY AND UNDERMINING THE HEALTH OF ADOLESCENTS**



Recommendations infographic

RECOMMENDATIONS

Of the High-Level Working Group on the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents

ENABLE HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS



Uphold the right to health in national law



Establish a rights-based approach to health financing and universal health coverage



Address human rights as determinants of health



Remove social, gender and cultural norms that prevent the realization of rights

PARTNER WITH PEOPLE



Enable people to claim their rights



Empower and protect those who advocate for rights



Ensure accountability to the people for the people

STRENGTHEN EVIDENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY



Collect rights-sensitive data



Report systematically on health and human rights



Challenges infographic

KEY CHALLENGES TO HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

CHILDREN

-  An estimated 5.9 million children under age 5 died in 2015 of which almost half were newborns
-  There were an estimated 2.6 million stillbirths in 2015
-  Almost half of deaths before age 5 are linked to undernutrition
-  250 million children are at risk of not reaching their full potential due to poverty and stunting
-  The best interest of the child is often overlooked

ADOLESCENTS

-  An estimated 1.2 million adolescents died in 2015
-  Self-harm was the third ranked cause of death for adolescents in 2015
-  AIDS-related deaths are increasing among adolescents while decreasing in all other age groups
-  15 million girls under the age of 18 are married each year
-  Laws imposing third-party consent hinder access to health services

WOMEN

-  An estimated 303 000 women died in pregnancy and childbirth in 2015
-  An estimated 225 million women have an unmet need for contraception
-  An estimated 22 million unsafe abortions take place worldwide each year
-  1 in 3 women experience violence in their lifetime
-  Discriminatory laws and policies perpetuate gender inequality

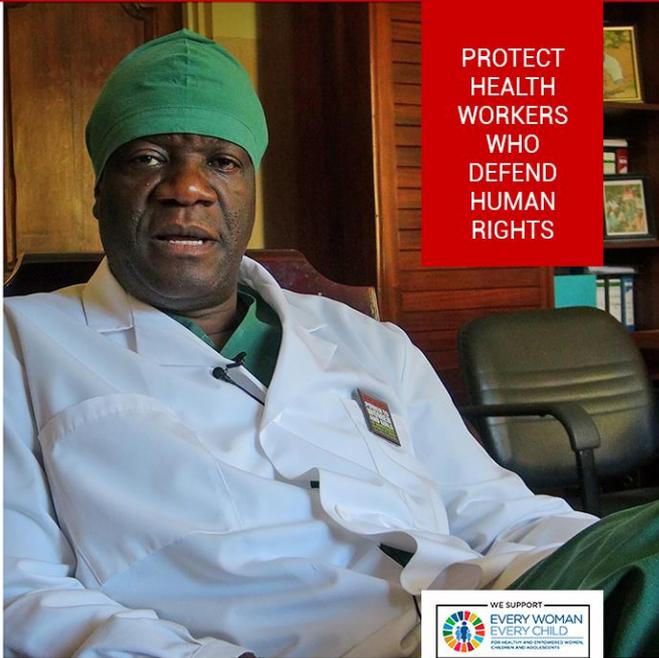
IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE THIS WAY

UPHOLD RIGHTS – IMPROVE HEALTH

WE SUPPORT
**EVERY WOMAN
 EVERY CHILD**
 FOR HEALTHY AND EMPOWERED WOMEN,
 CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

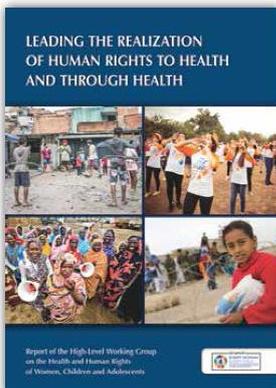
Photo tiles





- DR. DENIS MUKWEGE

Report launch flyer



On the occasion of the 70th World Health Assembly, join us for the launch of the landmark report by the High-Level Working Group on the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents

Monday 22 May, 17:45-19:15

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Salle VIII

Speakers:

- H. E. Tarja Halonen, Former President of Finland, co-chair of the Working Group
- Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General, World Health Organization
- Mr Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Ms Natasha Stott Despoja, former Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, Working Group member
- Ministers of Health from Chile, Colombia, Fiji, Ghana, Sweden, Uruguay
- Ms Maryam Ahmed, White Ribbon Alliance, Nigeria
- Dr Carmen Barroso, Independent Accountability Panel

There will be simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish



For any queries contact Rajat Khosla, Head of the Secretariat, Health and Human Rights Working Group. khoslar@who.int