



Health for All Now!
People's Health Movement



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MOVIMIENTO PARA LA
SALUD DE LOS PUEBLOS

¡Haciendo de la “Salud
para todxs” nuestra lucha
por el “Buen Vivir”!

ARGENTINA 2024

People's Health Movement
PHA5 Mar del Plata Call to Action

The Struggle for Health is a Struggle
for Liberation and against Capitalism



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People's Health Movement's Vision (from the People's Health Charter, 2000)

The world we envisage is one in which people are liberated from colonial, economic, social cultural structures which impeded rather than create health.

Our vision is of a world in which equity between and within countries is achieved and health for all is a reality. We reaffirm that health results from social, economic, commercial and environmental justice. We visualise a world where empathy, solidarity, peace and respect for people and the environment are at the core of global, national and local communities; a world free of discrimination and oppression based on gender, race, caste, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion, occupation, citizenship; a world where human rights and the empowerment and health of all communities, together with the dignity and rights of all natural beings, are respected and promoted.

Mar del Plata 7th-11th April 2024

Our Call to Action includes the demands and commitments of the People's Health Movement following the debates and discussion leading up to and during the 5th People's Health Assembly held in Mar del Plata, Argentina. It should be read in conjunction with the PHA5 Background Paper: The Struggle for Health: Confronting the role of Capitalism and Imperialism (<https://phmovement.org/discussion-paper-for-pha5>)

Our Call to Action envisages a world where people can enjoy their lives to the fullest, with dignified work, full participation in health issues and in which the political, economic, cultural and social obstacles and limitations that impede the existence of comprehensive and quality health and education systems are eliminated. Our vision is based on Living Well -Buen Vivir - and promotion of the health of Mother Earth.

People's Health Movement history of struggle

After months of mobilisation in country circles and thematic groups around the global 627 activists (of whom 352 came from activists from 60 countries outside Argentina and 275 from Argentina) met in Mar del Plata, Argentina, six years after the 4th People's Health Assembly in Savar, Bangladesh and after PHM's struggle for equity in COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.



Our Call for Action build on our vision in the People's Charter for Health (2000), the Cuenca Declaration (2005), the Cape Town Call to Action (2012) and the Declaration of the 4th People's Health Assembly (2018).

The People's Health Assembly is the highest body of the People's Health Movement and its call to actions and declarations guide the actions of the governing structures between Assemblies.

PHM DEMANDS AND ACTION POINTS

The capitalist world is in its terminal crisis with on-going structural problems which are becoming more and more evident. It is an irreversible crisis of capitalism and imperialism and the People's Health Movement sees an opportunity to upend the political hegemony and transform the world in a way that makes health for all a reality.

Capitalism is destructive to nature including human beings, animals and plants. It turns nature in to "resources" and "commodities" and disturbs the balance of eco-and social systems. It also concentrates enormous wealth in very few hands, producing poverty and inequality. Thus it is unsustainable as it generates a level of climatic and environmental deterioration that cannot be reversed. Pandemics and the misnamed "natural disasters" result from this unsustainability.

Capitalism is infinite in its pursuit of profit and consumption, but the world we live in is absolutely finite, and its physical limits are being attacked and exceeded. Only a radical change that replaces the mode of production, consumption and life generated by capitalism can reverse this destructive trend. Imperialism brings the imposition of militarism which is backed by a powerful arms industry and the dominance of major powers. It also means an ideological domination which supresses alternative thoughts and ideas which could be transformative and enable health for all to be achieved.

We confirm our determination to achieve Health For All (HFA) human beings and planet earth. We are particularly concerned to build a sustainable future for our children and young people in which they can flourish and live in peace with buen vivir and good health We commit to building a world free of social class exploitation, ethnic, race, caste and gender discriminations and the subjugations. and of exploitation of nature. To really achieve HFA an eco-socialist, decolonial and anti-patriarchal world, based on the ideas of Buen Vivir among peoples and Mother Earth is required. Transformation of the transnational and imperialist capitalist system to a new international economic, political and social order will only happen through the joint action and solidarity of social movements, progressive political parties and nation states. Class struggle will be vital part of this action. We believe the new economic order should be based on the sovereignty and self-determination of peoples, and equality and co-operation between nations, and on solidarity and peace. People's control and ownership of the necessities of life needs to be restored. Public ownership for the public good is vital.

The Global Health endeavour has, in many respects, become a business which benefits donors like the Gates Foundation but not people at the grass roots in the South. Global health has to rediscover its roots in community and social participation and actions.

Below we list each of our actions areas and include in them a denunciation of the existing situation, our demands and the actions the People's Health Movement plans to take.

- **Ecosystem health: food, energy, climate**
- **Diverse knowledges: Indigenous, ancestral, feminist, decolonial, anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist**
- **A world free of corporate control: Resisting corporatisation, marketisation and colonisation**
- **Peace sovereignty and right to asylum and free movement: resisting war, occupation and forced migration**
- **Gender Justice in health**
- **Towards Transformation of Health Systems**

We end this Call to Action with a statement of our **Overall commitment to the struggle against capitalism and imperialism** under four headings:

- **Continue the struggle against the the imperialist beast**
- **Converge with other social movements**
- **Stronger and more widespread country circles and advocacy capacity**
- **Inspirational communication for the Struggle for Health**

Ecosystem health: food, energy, climate

PHM denounces the continuing denial by corporations and their corporate-captured governments and cultures and cultures of the existential threat to human and other life on the planet caused by:

- catastrophic climate change and its impact on marginal human environments
- pollution of air, water and soil
- extractivism
- agro-industrialisation
- infinite growth in a finite ecosystem
- increasing investments and profit taking from food and health systems (that is financialisation)
- agricultural monoculturalism
- massive carbon footprint of rich countries
- continuing expansion of fossil fuel production and consumption

We lament the failure of institutions to acknowledge or address these threats because of:

- state capture by global corporations, financial institutions and investment funds
- increased concentration of wealth and power and the grossly widening equity gap
- rampant neo-liberal consumerist individualism
- rise of authoritarian populist, fascist, capitalist governments



We note that irrevocable changes to our environment mean that another world has come and that this environment and its ecosystems will be radically different and less congenial to health for all than in recent times. We call for global institutions to address this formidable challenge and to protect and promote the health of Mother Earth to ensure Buen Vivir for everyone with social justice and respect for different cultures ancestral wisdom.

Buen Vivir reminds us that we belong together, we belong to Mother Earth, we belong to Life itself, we are delicate threads in this giant tapestry of time and space; even though we have been born here, our pathway is guided as cosmic beings walking this earth, so father sun, mother moon and mother earth are considered family for different ancestral spirituality systems as a way of resistance to colonialism. Mother Earth is not for sale to greedy corporate business. She is to be honoured and respected. Buen Vivir's basic principles are alive inside native ancestral territories: Reciprocity is taking care of each other; Solidarity to not to leave anyone behind. Tender Care and love should be extended to all living beings. We embrace love for life as our guidance and method to resist colonial capitalist oppression. Within our communities we work together towards social justice and dignity. Eco-feminism is also a vital movement proposing an ecologically, gender sensitive, sustainable economy and way of life.

PHM Demands

We call upon the peoples of the world to support action to end imperialist control of the earth's natural resources and to create and maintain a healthy environment for all. A diverse and vibrant bio-sphere is essential to health and a crucial part of our global commons. Without acknowledging and supporting the centrality of nature to well-being, as indigenous knowledge teach us, the planet and its people wither. We demand climate justice so that those who pollute less do not suffer most.

We call for respect for who have Indigenous peoples struggled for and died to preserve Buen Vivir or Living Well over many centuries. It has deep meaning related to respect and dignity. It is antithetical to racism and against injustice all over the world. We demand the protection of Indigenous peoples on their ancestral lands such as in the Amazon rainforest where they are vital to protecting the fragile and threatened eco-systems.

We call on governments and people to incorporate Buen Vivir into health strategies. This requires a re-learning process so that its anti-imperialism, anticapitalism, decolonization and anti-patriarchal are embraced fully. It implies an a radical change in thinking, which forces us to study and unlearn internal colonization, to recognize the limitations of a western, colonial monocultural view. It requires recognition that Indigenous' ancestral wisdom remains alive despite colonial genocide because its body of knowledge is practical and deeply- rooted inside communities that preserve their own cultural identity.

We call for a worldwide campaign to ban new fossil fuel exploration and extraction. We repeat our calls for a UN Treaty on the Right to Water, ensuring that commodification and privatization of this vital common or natural good – life itself – is both reversed and prevented. Governments and international agencies should be accountable to people, not transnational corporations, and must guarantee rights relating to health and the environment through enforceable laws and regulations.

We support the leadership of the United Nations on climate change mitigation and adaptation but call on nation states to be far more ambitious in setting goals to restrict global heating to a level that will permit Planet Earth to continue to sustain the health of people and our diverse and beautiful ecosystems.

We condemn the false actions which are postulated to reduce global heating but actually make little or no difference including sale of carbon assets, certification of forests and payment for environmental services.

We condemn the expansion of mining projects justified as green energy projects which also have devastating environmental impacts – “green extractivism”.

We call for governments worldwide to take steps to stop the corporatisation and increasing financialization of food systems and implement public policies that radically transform our food systems to achieve Food Sovereignty.

PHM will:

- Develop visions for eco-socialism incorporating democratically accountable economic planning which operates within the planetary limits to growth and subordinates consumption to a culture of Buen Vivir
- Campaign globally and regionally for governments to sign and implement the provisions of the Fossil Fuel Proliferation Treaty
- Campaign for universal and equitable access to publicly owned and managed renewable energy
- Strengthen and expand the membership and work of the PHM Circle on Extractivism
- Campaign for climate justice so that climate polluters pay and survivors of climate
- catastrophes are fairly compensated
- Build alliances with organisations fighting for climate action, globally, regionally, nationally including those engaging in civil disobedience like Extinction Rebellion
- Support communities suffering health impacts of climate change including dispossession, disease, food and water insecurity
- Challenge and expose spurious energy transition policies which lack an evidence base and protect fossil fuel interests by extending polluting activities
- Prepare submissions and representations to the UN 2024 Climate Change Conference COP29 Meeting in Baku Azerbaijan
- Strengthen and expand alliances and unity of action with environmental, agroecological, food sovereignty, anti-extractivist, anti-patriarchal, decolonial, peasant, indigenous, peace movements in each country, region and the world.

- Develop closer relationships with Via Campesina and all the organizations that are part of the Nyéleni process, FIAN, IBFAN, among others. In Latin America and the Caribbean, with the “Alianza para la Soberanía Alimentaria de América Latina y el Caribe” and with “Movimiento Agroecológico para América Latina (MAELA).
- Continue to develop and strengthen the Nutrition and Food Sovereignty global and regional circles.
- Launch a global campaign against new genetically-modified crops such as wheat, mustard, lettuce and others and genetically-edited foods, along with other organizations.
- Campaign against monocropping dependent on seed, fertiliser and pesticide monopolies
- Assert the rights of animals and plants
- Engage, have an active role and contribute to universalize the “Agroecology Month” launched nine years ago in Argentina by RENAMA and “The Continental Week of Native and Creole Seed” promoted by MAELA.
- Continue to participate at the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism (CSIPM) of the Committee of Food Security (CFS) and defend this truly-participatory global food governance forum and, at the same time, denouncing the corporate capture of global institutions, including the UN Food Summit.
- Hold a People’s Health Tribunal on financialization of food and health, along with other organizations.
- Argue for a globally enforced mechanism to stop over-fishing and sea- bed mining

Diverse knowledges essential: Indigenous, ancestral, feminist, decolonial, anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist

PHM Denunciates

PHM denounces the imperialist and capitalist ideological domination of the existing political and economic order. This situation means alternative narratives are suppressed and not heard which mean they can’t gain currency despite the fact they offer to create an alternative world order.

Black feminist knowledges, postcolonial feminist knowledge, ecological feminist knowledges are not used in a way that will transform gender relations. What feminist knowledges offer is both a theoretical perspective or way of understanding the oppression of people marginalised by their gender in political, economic, social and private contexts, and a social movement and way of responding to, and challenging gender inequalities to enact social change. PHM recognises the many other forms of knowledge that have emerged from marginalised groups including people with disability, lived experience of diseases and queer communities.

PHM demands

PHM demands that interculturality is recognised as a fundamental element to promote social equity and build a fair health system. Equity in access to health information is a fundamental human right. It is essential in the struggle for Indigenous people's health. People's knowledge should be incorporated into the development of culturally based equitable health services; culturally sensitive prevention programs; the training of health workers in intercultural skills; achieving fair conditions of work; food security; and a healthy ecosystem (this para from Cuenca Declaration). On the basis of this understanding PHM demands:

- Constitutional recognition of the First Nations of all nations
- Formal representation to National and sub-national parliaments
- Recognition, restitution and reparations of the wrongs caused by ongoing colonisation with national and corporate apologies for the processes and practices of colonisation that have greatly harmed Indigenous peoples the world over
- Defence of the rights to water and land of Indigenous peoples around the world
- Recognition and respect for Ancestral and Indigenous knowledge and processes to ensure that these inform all areas of public policy including health, education, land management.

PHM demands the acceptance of anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist knowledges which unveil the existing unfair and unjust international political and economic order which means most of the world's population do not enjoy the health they would if alternative people-centred visions of the world were able to flourish. Our demands concerning the re-radicalisation of the concept of Buen Vivir outlined above are also vital to challenging the anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist knowledges

PHM demands that Feminist knowledges, born out of struggles for gender justice which have resulted in a plurality of feminist knowledges that cut across other diverse knowledges are present in all aspects of society including education, health, environment, industry, employment, housing and social security.

PHM Will:

- Work from a diverse knowledge base that prioritise the health of all peoples globally
- Decolonise our thinking and understanding
- Adopt anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist thought -
- Ensure peoples' voices that are currently silent in debates about health are amplified and
- Work to popularise these knowledges
- Make people's participation mandatory in all institutional processes
- Continue to transform PHM from any patriarchal tendencies to fully embrace feminist knowledge and principles
- Use diversity of knowledges as the basis of all IPHUs

A world free of corporate control: Resisting corporatisation, marketisation and colonisation

PHM denounces

PHM denounces the ways in which transnational corporations (TNCs) dominate the global economy and avoid paying taxes in countries where their profits are derived. Governments are colluding with and appear subservient to the power of these entities and provide wide-ranging forms of corporate welfare including bailouts, subsidies, and reduced taxation, while neglecting the basic needs of social welfare for wider populations. On top of corporate

dominance the increased investment by big capital in all aspects of life means profit is even more dominant in the global economic system. So financialisation, privatisation and digitalisation all intensify capitalism grip on our society, This gives TNCs undemocratic and un-precedented power to influence polices in their favour and to avoid accountability. TNCs use the following and other strategies to accumulate their massive profits:

- Producing, marketing and advertising unhealth products including ultra processed foods, alcohol, tobacco
- Enforcing extreme Intellectual Property Rights and Patents
- Funding research in order to ensure findings that support their products and practices
- Marketising traditional knowledge and products
- Co-opting progressive causes
- Capture state institutions and officials
- Exploitation of workers and consumers
- Control over global value chains
- Dominance of Artificial intelligence (including those related to military functions) and digital systems

Of the world's top 200 economic entities, 170 are corporations. Through trade and investment deals, corporations demand that governments do their bidding, with citizens left largely powerless. Not paying corporate tax robs the countries of public funds for nation building, health and welfare, and for strengthening democratic processes. Corporate executives take obscene levels of payment that vastly outpaces the pay of workers. These executives are part of an international class of extremely rich people who have a major and undue influence on the make-up of the global economy. They are responsible for maintaining the fiction that capitalism benefits people through 'trickle-down' economics which, in reality, increases income inequality, distortion of economic structures and denies the benefit of direct spending on low and middle income cohorts.

Global intellectual property regimes, enforced through TRIPS Agreements, prevent technology transfer to the South as was seen in the case of vaccines and treatment technologies during COVID-19.

Extractivist corporations are responsible for exploitation, land degradation and pollution, and the impoverishment of Indigenous peoples worldwide by extracting obscene profits. Big Food and Big Soda corporations market unhealthy food which creates chronic health problems including diabetes and obesity, which governments need to solve, while these costs are externalised by corporations to the public.

The so-called 'War on Drugs', with its roots in US imperialism, has created what is effectively a global sector of illicit corporations in the form of powerful Organised Crime Groups (OCGs). These exhibit much the same characteristics as corporations in the mainstream economy – state capture, denial of rights, human and planetary exploitation – but even more extreme (e.g. femocide) because the policy of prohibition means they are unfettered by any kind of taxation or legal regulation. Meanwhile public health interventions such as harm reduction are severely restricted, and punitive law-enforcement measures serve as tools for racial and gender injustice.

All corporations oppose regulation that would make their activities less damaging and invest massive amounts of money into lobbying, and influencing government agendas. They exert influence through corporate philanthropy, corporate social responsibility strategies which can

deflect attention from their negative health and social impacts, and from ideological domination and accumulating economic power.

The work of the big global consulting and management firms (including Deloitte, EY, Boston Consulting Company) facilitate the power, profits and hegemony of TNCs, and have been prominent actors in establishing the post-1970s neoliberal hegemony. They have benefitted from the financialization of the economy. World Bank governments are advised to pursue neo-liberal public policies which do not promote the health of the people. The resulting global economy does not meet the needs of nature and people.

PHM Demands

- Progressive taxation of income, wealth, inheritance and corporations imposed globally with all loop-holes closed
- Until there is a new economic order we demand regulation of the size and influence of global corporations and the introduction of anti-trust legislation to break up their monopoly power.
- Eliminate intellectual property barriers that limit access to health technologies as public goods, removing them from TRIPS; make full, expeditious and broad use of the public health safeguards contained in international regulations; transform the health technology R&D model into one guided by public health needs, the exercise of health sovereignty and access by the population (in line with the Mar del Plata Declaration of the Latin American Network for Access to Medicines - RedLAM <https://www.redlam.org/>).
- Replacing voluntary codes of conduct for corporations with binding regulations.
- Breaking up the big global consulting and management firms to resolve conflicts of interest between TNCs, auditors, accountants, consultants and governments globally.
- Governments cease using global consulting companies to advise on and write policies
- Ending the 'War on Drugs' and replacing it with a public health approach that includes legal regulation to ensure social justice, fair taxation, workers' rights and planetary health.
- Businesses that are owned and controlled by their workers and creation of co-operative businesses
- Regulation and legislation of unsafe employment practices and the promotion of employment that brings satisfaction and wellbeing
- A ban on new fossil fuel exploration and extraction projects
- A UN Treaty on the Right to Water
- Ratification of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- Full support for the UN declaration on rights peasants and rural workers

PHM will

- Establish a Thematic group on Corporatisation, Privatisation and Health
- Produce popular material on the corporate determination of health
- Expose global and national and local examples of corporate misbehaviour

- Continue to expose the harms of Intellectual Property Rights and advocate for free access to technologies vital to realise health for all
- Continue to expose the inequities of the global system of trade and argue for fair trade
- Join and build movements to replace the “War on Drugs” with a human and planetary health approach including legal regulation.
- Lead and reinforce mass movements urging governments to enforce taxation rules and take moves to stop tax evasion by TNCs and global consultancy firms so that health welfare and education systems can be adequately funded
- Join and build coalitions urging governments to stop using global consulting firms to advise on and write policies.
- Join in social actions to highlight and expose the pathogenic role of extractivist corporations
- Join international social movements in the struggle against corporate rule globally, nationally and locally
- Continue to expose corporate wrong doing in the Global Health Watch
- Include analysis of the corporate determination of health in all IPHUs

Peace sovereignty and right to asylum and free movement : resisting war, occupation and forced migration

PHM Denounces:

PHM denounces the way military violence, occupation and oppression are used on a large scale to maintain unjust global power relations that allow a few to exploit the vast majority of the world’s population, especially in the South. This structural violence has its roots in colonial history and is perpetuating age-old imperialist exploitation and repression to this day.

PHM denounces the manner in which the US seeks to maintain its global hegemony despite the emergence of a multi-polar world. PHM denounces how US-led western imperialism is responding to the South’s emerging trend towards a multipolar world. The US is maintaining a military presence in all corners of the world in a string of military bases as well as through its navy fleet. As the centers of capitalism are feeling threatened by the rise of China and the growing assertiveness of some other large countries including South Africa and Brazil, they are reacting aggressively and threaten with more conflicts in potential flashpoints such as the Taiwan Strait, the South China Sea etc. These threats are fomenting a new cold war that might launch a new arms race that is not only a waste of resources, but also a danger to the whole world.

PHM denounces the continued occupation and colonisation of Palestine and the Israel Defence Forces’ merciless attack on Gaza which has caused the death of more children, more journalists and more health workers than any other armed conflict in recent history. Tellingly, this genocide has been ongoing for months supported by the United States and its allies through the provision of arms, supplies, financial support, preferential trade agreements and diplomatic privileges.

PHM denounces the ongoing war in Ukraine and especially the way two power blocks have been continuously escalating the military tension. Similarly, global power struggles have fomented, fanned or perpetuated local military conflicts, including the war in Yemen, Tigray, Sudan, Myanmar, Eastern Congo among others. PHM likewise denounces how they or their proxies are occupying territories in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon etc.

PHM denounces the impact of war and occupation on people's health. It is not only that war impacts health directly, but often health services and health care providers are consciously targeted by the military in order to terrorise a civilian population.

PHM denounces the military industrial complex that is now a booming economic sectors. Today, global capitalism cannot survive without violence and militarism and therefore war and militarism has become big business itself and is also a source of super profits. This explains why business interests push for increases in government military expenditures.

PHM denounces the violence of colonialism which has meant ineffective states have collapsed creating the space for criminal gangs to wage wars and oppress people as in Haiti

PHM denounces the disturbing and widespread use of sexual violence as a weapon of war as its impacts on peoples' physical and mental. PHM likewise denounces other /strategies of war that have a huge impact on people's health including the withholding of health services and food and the use of starvation and famine as weapons of war.

PHM demands:

- An immediate and unconditional ceasefire to put an end to the genocide in Palestine. Justice has to be served by the competent international courts and victims should be compensated. Reconstruction should be undertaken within the context of a Palestine that is free of apartheid and occupation.
- Embargo of import and export to and from Israel,
- Establishment of a Palestinian state as the only route to peace in the Middle East
- Global demilitarisation. Military alliances like NATO, AUKUS, Quad etc should be replaced by regional security alliances that are set up to resolve intergovernmental conflicts and contradictions through negotiations and peace processes.
- Continued dialogue and negotiations at potential flashpoints: including between mainland China and Taiwan, on the Korean peninsula, in the South China Sea
- Establishment of nuclear free zones and meaningful denuclearisation
- Military budgets should be reduced and the military industry's political influence curtailed. The United Nations security council should be enlarged

and democratised to make it more representative and capable of resolving global conflicts.

- Adequate support must be given to victims of war and occupation. Perpetrators of human rights violations should be held to account and victims be given justice.
- The fair and humane treatment of refugees and deplore the militarisation of responses to people seeking asylum when they attempt entry to recipient countries and are illegally imprisoned and denied their health and other human rights
- Demand police forces support human rights and the preservation of life
- Displaced people and refugees should be given the option to return where possible and be given adequate support to do so.

PHM will

- We will redouble our solidarity efforts with the victims of unjust wars, military occupations and forced migrations, especially with the Palestinian people until Palestine is free from occupation. The liberation of Palestine will always remain one of our primary concerns as it is one of the most blatant cases of imperialist oppression and settler colonialism.
- PHM will be at the forefront of the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel and call on all its members and allied organisations to boycott, divest from and sanction all companies, organisations and authorities that are in alliance with the Israeli occupation and will join existing BDS campaigns
- PHM will seek alliances with other networks and campaign alliances against war and occupation. We are thinking particularly about the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) as effective global campaign initiatives we should support. We will also encourage our local circles to support national and regional initiatives for peace and disarmament.
- PHM national circles will mobilise for neutrality and meaningful denuclearisation
- PHM will continue the campaign to honour and demand justice for health workers and activists that have fallen victim to violent repression and war.

Gender justice in health

PHM denounces:

PHM denounces the fact that despite decades of activism the global femicide epidemic continues.

In a context of enduring classism and imperialism women, girls and gender non-conforming people continue to be marginalised and face violence within households, in public life, health systems and within organisations – including social movements fighting for change. The feminist struggle, is a class struggle. During the Covid-19 pandemic, PHM again saw how governments relied on the free, invisible social reproductive work girls and women of all ages do within their households and communities. This is the work that is increasingly called on to sustain life and mitigate the negative economic and health effects of pandemics like Covid-19, but also of wars, occupation, the ecological crisis, and of the economic fallout of neoliberal capitalism. Now, this is being intensified in the context of the post-pandemic austerity budgets that many governments have implemented.

PHM notes that intersectionality- is vital to achieving gender justice. Intersectionality describes how gender and other systems of oppression (race, caste, class, disability, sexuality, Indigeneity) interact and compound oppression of people in different ways. For example, during the Covid-19 pandemic women, poor women, and sexually and gender diverse people's access to health care, especially reproductive, obstetric and sexual health care was increasingly restricted and harmful in many countries.

PHM denounces the fact that historical victories of the global feminist movement are being eroded. The principles of bodily integrity, recognising gender diversity, and ensuring public policies are anti-patriarchal have experienced pushback from constituencies in the global north and south. Within global governance institutions, including the WHO, the notion of gender responsiveness and the full recognition of the sexual and reproductive health rights of women, girls and trans-people are increasingly being questioned.

PHM notes that gender inequity manifests differently in different contexts, and has roots in historical and current legacies of colonisation, racism, patriarchy, capitalism, ableism, casteism, resource extractivism and heteronormativity. These oppressive systems create barriers to health and wellbeing promoting resources in the everyday lives of women and hamper gender equity.

PHM demands

PHM in solidarity with other social movements and groups demands action on the following issues:

Gender based violence (GBV) against women, girls, trans and gender non-binary persons continues to be one of the most pervasive forms of human rights violation and a public health crisis globally but remains a marginalized issue in government, governance and public health spaces. Classism and racism ensure some groups of women experience higher rates of GBV including Indigenous, women with a disability, incarcerated women, migrant and refugee women, and women of colour.

GBV and oppression during conflict, disasters, displacement and crisis: current conflicts in Palestine, Iran, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Sudan, Ukraine and elsewhere demonstrate how GBV is systematically used against women in conflict and disaster zones. In conflict and crisis situations suppression of women's rights, and rights of the marginalised

groups included restricted access to health care, education, income and public and political life, critically impacts gender justice and health.

Reproductive, justice: Access to safe and free abortion, contraception, sexual health and reproductive care remain a critical global issue and is integral for women to participate in social, political and economic life. Marginalised women and people are deprived access to abortion, reproductive and sexual health care due to their positions within classed, patriarchal and racist structures. Access is experienced unequally within and between countries and therefore we centre the access for marginalised groups to safe and quality healthcare. In doing so PHM should monitor and resist global agendas that diminish sexual and reproductive health rights, for example the global gag rule.

Dignity in health care: the power imbalances within patriarchal and racist health and medical systems result in health services being sites of violence, exclusion and discrimination for women, girls, trans and gender diverse people. More so for poorer women, women with disabilities, Indigenous, and women of colour. This is epitomised in obstetric violence, in which pregnant women and people are particularly vulnerable to medical violence and loss of bodily autonomy. PHM demands that social and health systems dismantle institutionalised sexism and racism.

Economic justice: PHM critically examines the gendered implications of economic policies and the current developmental paradigm, that together with domestic policies and laws are discriminatory and unjust and continue to impede the realisation of health for all. In the current context of increasing economic inequities and instability, economic inequalities are worsening for women, girls and gender diverse people. The impacts have been felt in a number of areas: gendered work, including care and domestic work, community health work, Indigenous health work, which is often precarious, undocumented, underpaid and unpaid, unsafe and extractive work. Such gendered work supports the accumulation of capital of richer people, populations and countries. Secondly, economic injustice includes restrictions on access to social services, including social security, welfare to support unpaid care and domestic work, unemployment, disability, and policies that aim to collectivize social reproduction work so that it does not by default remain the “private” responsibility of women.

Decriminalisation of all sexually and gender diverse people so that their human and health rights are respected.

PHM will:

- PHM recognizes that our activism must be intersectional in addressing the injustices outlined above.
- Ensure gender justice is a cross-cutting issue that will inform the work of all the PHM thematic circles and regional circles.
- Building on the principle of “nothing about us without us”, and acknowledging that all knowledge is situated in specific embodied, social, and historical experiences, we will strive to create economies, political systems and health systems that celebrate life in all its pluriversity. Recognise that gender cannot be reduced to the male/female binary, and that any interventions that ignore this risk further marginalising already-marginalised groups, stand in solidarity with LGBTQI+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex) communities and integrate a non-binary gendered analysis into our work.

- Continue to build processes and practices aimed at promoting gender justice and dismantling patriarchy within our movement.
- Consolidate evidence through research, testimonies, case studies and experiences from different regions for global advocacy and action on gender-just health policies and accountability.
- Forge and strengthen linkages and solidarity with women's groups, LGBTIQ+ groups, health groups, coalitions, networks, people's movements, campaigns and interest groups, on identified gender justice and health challenges and concerns.
- Mobilise and build understanding and capacities, especially of the youth, on gender justice and health through the International People's Health University (IPHU) and other processes.
- Promote health services and reproductive and sexual health care with special emphasis for women, girls and LGBTQI, those belonging to racial, class, Indigenous people and caste minorities and people with disability. This includes challenging oppressive and discriminatory health systems.
- Promote and sustain action against gender unequal and gender unjust social, economic and political systems that impact health and human rights at the local, regional as well as global levels.
- Promote inclusion and representation of LGBTQI+ people's and in particular trans people in PHM.

Towards transformation of health systems

PHM denounces:

PHM denounces the global trend towards privatisation of health care, especially in recent decades and the push for the implementation of market-oriented publicly financed insurance schemes (especially in Asia and Africa). These are being implemented in the name of achieving universal health coverage instead of strengthening public services for ensuring universal access to health care and basing health systems on comprehensive primary health care. This current crop of insurance schemes reinforce privatisation and commercialisation of health, without increasing coverage or financial protection.

The trend to privatisation has created multi-tiered health systems where the rich can afford the best privatised health care and people in poverty have little access and minimal services.

PHM denounces the dramatic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic both in loss of human lives and in worsening socioeconomic conditions for the majority of the human population, especially as all these trends are still present and becoming even worse. This pandemic was correctly named a syndemic, due to the coincidence of several factors that aggravated its impact. The continuous emergence of viruses with epidemic potential, is a result of the disruption of natural ecosystems due to intensified production of profit hungry agro-food industry.

PHM denounces the pre-existing socioeconomic inequalities which determined the inequality of exposure to COVID-19 (for example amongst "essential" occupations, care, food industry

and provision, delivery, etc) followed by a social class gradient in the severity of the disease, in mortality and the socio-economic consequences (higher frailty in lower classes)

PHM denounces the incapacity to mitigate the pandemic and the real absence of any emergency preparedness on a global scale. This was a direct consequence of the dismantlement of public health services due to under-financing, privatisation and fragmentation.

PHM denounces the imposed and longstanding austerity and structural adjustment policies. These led to the dismantlement of public health care services including primary health care and made it impossible to cover effectively the emerging and growing care needs during the epidemic.

PHM Demands

PHM demands, based on the experience from COVID-19 syndemic, that private initiatives in health are halted in favour of public financing and provision. This demand is dramatically supported by the evidence that market-driven health care, Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)

and commercial provider behaviour results in inefficiency, widened inequalities in access to care, the erosion of trust and an inappropriate tilt in the balance toward inappropriate and unnecessary reliance on medical technology and away from community-based initiatives. A system based on private provision also undermines solidarity and widens inequities.

PHM demands that the failures of existing institutional pathways to global health vaccine equity (e.g. COVAX) are acknowledged. We call for a parallel track which prioritises local manufacture of pandemic vaccines and treatments building on initiatives such as the BRICS Vaccine Research and development Centre.

PHM demands the full implementation of comprehensive primary health care (PHC) as the key strategy in the pursuit of health and well-being for all, aiming at achieving equity in health outcomes. Access to, and the quality of health services, within and between countries is inequitable. In many regions of the world, poorly designed, under-resourced, and poor quality health systems are causing unacceptable rates of morbidity and mortality. PHM demands a move away from health systems that are hospital centred and dominated by the priorities of the biotechnology corporations. Health Systems can also include institutions that are deeply gendered, caste-ist and racist reinforcing inequalities, with discriminatory policies and practices being huge barriers to access to health information and care globally. Indigenous peoples worldwide suffer high mortality and rates of disease and require health services they control. Women also can suffer health system violence especially in obstetric care.

Health sectors need to encourage and mobilise multi-sectoral action of health. This is especially important in light of the global health crisis that is characterised by rising inequities related to the social, economic, commercial, environmental and political determinations of health.

PHM demands that health systems are:

- Developed under national sovereignty and based on genuine needs rather than packaged proposals from multilateral agencies.

- Universal and comprehensive; publicly funded and publicly administered and providing access to all the population's needs for care- including all preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care as required.
- Funded through universal taxation, free at point of need to service users and accessed without financial hardship through for example loss of income.
- Based on accessible, effective, equitable gender-sensitive, youth-friendly and free comprehensive primary health care, accountable and appropriate to people's health needs, supported by fully functional referral systems governed by need for care
- Built around an integrated network of public facilities responsible for providing comprehensive care, rehabilitation, prevention and promotion based on the principles of universality and equity and based on comprehensive primary health care as defined in the Alma Ata Declaration free at the point of use and financed through taxation,
- Accessible to all, means no discrimination on the basis of social class and economic status, gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual identity, disability, cultural knowledge, language or any other basis
- Able to respond equitably to pandemics and ensure all people have access to vaccines and treatment technologies
- Participatory and responsive to peoples' needs by incorporating inclusive mechanisms for social participation in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and accountability to the population
- Capable of advocating for and taking appropriate action on the social and commercial determination of health including effective climate action in the health system to reduce global heating and building a system which is ecologically sustainable
- Supported by a guarantee of the right to health and health care in national constitutions and legal frameworks
- Supportive of and willing to fund community-controlled health services
- Welcoming of alternate cultural understandings of health and systems of healing, and not only based on biomedical concepts of health and illness
- Able to retain local health workers within national health systems rather than losing them, their skills and public investment in their training to international migration
- Do justice to the rights of health workforce to fair terms of employment and social security.
- PHM denounces the marketisation of health workers and the consequent drain of health workers from south to north, poorer to wealthier nations - leaving a gap in local skills and capacity. Health workers need to be protected from violence and have working conditions which mean that they don't feel the pressure to migrate and so add to the health workers brain drain.

PHM will:

Work for better health care by

- Advocating strongly for comprehensive primary health care and health equity and collate positive experiences of comprehensive primary health care and examples of community-controlled primary health care services.

- Identifying and supporting champions for comprehensive health care in countries and regions with capacity to undertake critical analysis of developments in health policy and health strategy that are pushed on LMICs by global institutions.

Resist privatisation and corporatisation by:

- Organising and documenting struggles and resistance to health privatisation and legal victories and setbacks in legislation and regulation relating to access to health care.
- Strengthening our campaign in exposing the neoliberal framework being used to justify the privatisation of health systems.

Work to improve the conditions of health workers by:

- Highlighting the key role of Indigenous health workers and traditional birth attendants community health workers in the functioning of health systems,
- Exposing and advocating against the effects of neoliberal policies on the working conditions of all health system personnel and promote decent work in health systems and for all health workers, including adequate remuneration, social protection and employment conditions.
- Highlighting the linkages between informal and irregular forms of work and quality of health services.
- Creating linkages with progressive trade unions that struggle for the rights of health workers and the right for them to organise and bargain collectively

Improve the evidence for action by:

- Demanding and producing better evidence on the failure of publicly funded market-oriented health insurance in low and middle-income countries, privatisation, public private partnerships in attaining better health outcomes and financial protection from costs of healthcare for the people
- Mobilising a corporate watch initiative on healthcare across global regions, in partnership with other networks doing similar work and document the findings

Strengthen regulation by:

- Forming stronger links with other progressive social movements in the struggle to secure better laws and regulations that guarantee the right to health and health care.

Our overall commitment to the struggle against capitalism and imperialism

Continue the struggle against the imperialist beast

To advance towards the new economic, political and social order, and towards the achievement of Health For All, the PHM will struggle against the forces, social and health economic policies, and management instruments (WTO, IMF, WB, GATS) of the associated power center of the imperialist transnational bourgeoisie and its allies globally, regionally and nationally.

Central to this struggle is our solidarity with the Palestinian people and their struggle for liberation from occupation, war and terror.

Converge with other progressive social movements

Our People's Health Movement cannot change the imperialist systems alone! The health movement is small so we need broader alliances with a range of progressive social movements, a strong narrative and a coherent political strategy to rebuild solidarity among divided communities who have suffered and become alienated under the pressures of neo-liberalism

We will rely primarily on the forces, aspirations, initiatives, creativity and autonomous struggles of social groups that have been victims of the transnational and imperialist capitalist social order, which has imposed and sustains the barriers to achieve HFA. Such are the forces of workers, peasants, indigenous peoples, women, youth, academics and intellectuals from around the world, especially from the global south who suffer most from unhealthy conditions and ill health. With these forces we will engage in dialogue, promote mobilizations and forge alliances and unity in action.

We will work for the creation of a broad front of social movements for the construction of a new economic, political and social order, and we will seek agreements with political parties and states that promote it.

We consolidate and strengthen the PHM as the global voice of the peoples in the struggle for HFA.

Stronger and more widespread country circles and advocacy capacity

We will strengthen the advocacy capacity of PHM activists from country circles and regions, in order to become actively involved in national, regional and global health policy decision-making processes which have been documented in the themes above and will make special efforts to involve children and young people.

We will promote and support national processes of economic, political and social transformation that include progressive reforms in health, education, agroecology, food, energy, labor, etc., aimed at reducing/eliminating unjust inequalities and creating an environmentally sustainable economy.

PHM country circles will work with communities to develop locally appropriate solutions to the local expression of neo-liberalism and imperialism



In the framework of the preparation of PHA5, the PHM has created new PHM country circles, strengthened its regional coordination and built new alliances with other social and health movements globally and regionally, especially in the Latin American and Caribbean regions and the countries that were unable to attend PHM5 because of visa restrictions. This process must be deepened in all other regions of the world, with emphasis on the Global South.

We will strengthen the PHM by expanding its strategic construction and fighting capacity in all countries of the Global South and among the exploited and discriminated social sectors of the Global North. We will place special emphasis on building the PHM in the People's Republic of China, Russia, Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, Iran, Uruguay, North America and in the key countries of the different regions.

We will consolidate, expand and strengthen the capacity for scientific analysis of the reality of health and its social determination in each country, region and the world

We will strengthen our capacity for political leadership of struggle for health in the existing country circles.

We will strengthen the IPHU in order to strengthen the political, ethical and scientific capacities of PHM activists

Inspirational communication for the Struggle for Health

We will modernize and fortify PHM's communication capacity, and improve its scientific and political content

We will ensure PHM's messages reach the widest public, especially by reaching out to people who have been hurt by inequality or injustice and who are being drawn towards fascism. We will do this by listening to their lived experience and working with them to link this experience to its structural economic and political causes. This will include working with youth and children to inspire them to join our movement.

We will develop new narratives to inspire people to opt for progressive rather than populist authoritarian solutions .

Dedication

This Call to Action has been inspired by People's Health Movement activists who have died since our last Assembly in Savar, Bangladesh. The memory and spirit of our comrades has guided us through the process of producing this call to Action. Their struggles for a fairer, healthier, and ecologically sustainable world free of corporate influence continue to inspire us all.

David Sanders, Zafrullah Chowdhury, Julio Monsalvo, Prem John, Amit Sen Gupta, Margarita Posada, Bala Subramaniam, Maija Kagis