



PHM Statement at the WHA78 – 17-29 May 2025

Agenda Item 13.9

Global Strategy for Women Children and Adolescent Health

Health is a human right, yet women, children, and adolescents continue to be denied this right through systemic neglect and injustice. Racism and poverty remain deadly determinants of health for black and indigenous women. Maternal mortality is disproportionately high in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, underscoring the need for regional support. In High and middle income countries , structural racism means black women are more likely to die during childbirth.

Gender discrimination undermines maternal health by contributing to adolescent pregnancy and violence against women. Deaths resulting from unsafe abortion and restrictive laws persist. Targeted interventions are necessary but insufficient without investment in comprehensive care that includes antenatal, reliable transport and referral services, and a well-supported health workforce. Social determinants, such as poverty, racism, displacement, climate crises, should be confronted head-on to realise health for all.
