

## PHM Global Thematic Group on Gender, Justice and Health

***"We strongly condemn the systemic racism, which led to the brutal murder of George Floyd. Our solidarity particularly with our friends and peers in the US in this struggle and resistance against injustice"***

Dear Friends,

We hope this email finds you safe and well in the midst of your resilient efforts in the current crisis. With each passing day of this health and humanitarian crisis, we bear witness to aggravation of existing inequalities and injustices. The resolve and strength of people's movements and resistance feel more pertinent today than ever before.

The ongoing protests and solidarity in the US against the assassination of George Floyd and racial injustice has been another such moment. We strongly condemn the systemic racism, which led to the brutal murder of George Floyd. Our solidarity particularly with our friends and peers in the US in this struggle and resistance against injustice.

Police brutality, state callousness, and targeted violence against marginalized people and communities deeply resonates with the killings, mob lynching in India, for e.g. of Dalits and Muslims.

In the COVID19 "lockdown" context in India, it has had a hugely gendered impact in terms of burden of unpaid and care work and economic opportunities, access to health facilities, nutrition and violence, and stigma associated with COVID 19. Frontline health workers, a majority of whom are women, have been experiencing unsafe working conditions, including vigilantism and violence, shortage of protective equipment and absence of or limited remuneration. We are also in a gigantic humanitarian crisis as an unprecedented number of migrant workers - women, including pregnant women, with newborn; children and men, young and old have been trying to return home. Several of them were forced to walk hundreds of miles across states, in the absence of transport.

Gender and other intersectional inequalities intensified necessitating equal attention during the 'lockdown' period. PHM India tried to incorporate issues related to SRHR and GBV along with livelihoods in public advocacy resources, policy briefs and statements. (Please check PHM & PHM India <http://phmindia.org/> Websites).

We request you to share any relevant updates/material/experiences from your region with us [sarojini@phmovement.org](mailto:sarojini@phmovement.org). Also identify women's organisations or organisations working on gender and health as a part of their work in your regions,

so that we can reach out to them. For example in India, to complement the activities of PHM India/JSA, we, at Sama as a part of PHM/JSA, had started a dedicated webpage on this for specific exchange of information, building voices on varied issues- [COVID Canvases: Connecting Gender, Health and Justice](#). We had initiated a public interest litigation in the High Court of Delhi to raise the issue of denial of maternal health services to women during lockdown. There are many activists, organisations apart from JSA, raising significant issues about the gender implications of COVID 19 through their writing, advocacy and other action.

We are also taking this opportunity to invite you all to contribute case studies for our forthcoming edition of Global Health Watch (GHW). GHW is a collaboration of multiple activists, academics and social movements, defining itself as an alternative world health report that incorporates the voices of marginalized people and civil society into discussions around social justice and global health. It is designed to question present policies on health and to propose alternatives through new analysis. For more information please visit PHM/GHW home page at: <https://www.ghwatch.org/>. We would welcome country case studies on Gendered impact of COVID-19 and State responses to the pandemic. This can include short case studies on the impact on women, LGBTQ, people with disabilities; Women Migrant workers/, Sex workers, Stateless,/refugee, women in conflict situations; Communalisation and racialization the public health pandemic.

We really feel that sharing experiences of our resistance will give us more strength and inspiration to learn from each other and stay connected as a group within larger PHM.

In Solidarity

Sarojini with Sama Team

(On behalf of PHM Global thematic group on Gender, Justice and Health)