

June 3, 2020

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
World Health Organization Headquarters
Avenue Appia 20
1211, Geneva 27

Cc: WHO Staff Worldwide

Dear Dr. Tedros,

As U.S.-based public health research, academic, and advocacy organizations, representing millions of people across the country, we write to express our solidarity with the World Health Organization (WHO) and your individual staff and teams around the world. We thank you for the WHO's efforts to rapidly and effectively prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We are deeply disappointed by the U.S. government's decision to play politics with public health and safety by slandering the WHO's vital work in combating the global coronavirus pandemic and subsequently terminating [U.S. government funding](#) to the organization. We reject our government's decision to end U.S. contributions to the WHO, because we recognize the harms that doing so will cause to the global community's ability to both combat the coronavirus pandemic and safeguard global health and public safety in the future.

The WHO's role as an international convener of researchers, public health practitioners, scientists, and governments is more critical now than ever. We are grateful to the WHO and its leadership for prioritizing [scientific evidence and unity](#) over misinformation and conjecture, for operationalizing such priorities with campaigns like the [Solidarity Clinical Trial](#), and for continuing to center the health and rights of [women](#), [people living with HIV](#), and other marginalized groups in recommendations for mitigating the harm of the coronavirus pandemic.

Thank you again for the invaluable work undertaken by the WHO. We stand in solidarity with you, and the frontline health care workers around the world, doing everything possible to save lives during this pandemic.

Signed,

Advancing Research on Community Health Systems, Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

American Jewish World Service

American Public Health Association

American Sexual Health Association

AVAC

Bread for the World

Catholics for Choice

Center for Reproductive Rights

Center for Sexuality and Health Disparities, University of Michigan

CHANGE (Center for Health and Gender Equity)

Children's HeartLink

Council for Global Equality

Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, Stanford University

DKT International

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

Georgetown University O'Neill Institute for National & Global Health Law

The Global Health Justice Partnership (GHJP) at Yale Law School / Yale School of Public Health

Global Health Strategies

Global Health Technologies Coalition

Global Justice Center

The Global Justice Institute

Global Network of Black People Working in HIV
Global Water 2020
Global Women's Institute at George Washington University
Gruber Program for Global Justice and Women's Rights, Yale Law School
Guttmacher Institute
Gynuity Health Projects
Heartland Alliance International
Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Planning, Columbia University, Mailman
School of Public Health
HIV Medicine Association
Housing Works
Human Rights Campaign
IAVI
Ibis Reproductive Health
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
International Partnership for Microbicides
International Pediatric Association
International Planned Parenthood Federation / Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR)
International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
International Women's Health Coalition
Ipas
John Snow, Inc. (JSI)
Management Sciences for Health
Medical IMPACT
MPact Global Action for Gay Men's Health and Rights
NARAL Pro-Choice America
NASTAD

National Birth Equity Collaborative
OutRight Action International
PAI
Pathfinder International
Planned Parenthood Global
Population Council
Population Institute
Promundo-US
PSI
Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University
The Sabin Vaccine Institute
Seed Global Health
TB Alliance
Treatment Action Group
US People Living with HIV Caucus
White Ribbon Alliance
Women Deliver
Women's Refugee Commission
Woodhull Freedom Foundation