COVID-19 AND WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS

Presented by Denice Labertew (Women Lead Network) on behalf the Women’s Rights Working Group
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS DURING COVID-19</th>
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<tr>
<th>ACCESS TO ABORTION</th>
<th>Abortion is essential health care but opponents use COVID-19 to implement restrictions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREGNANCY</td>
<td>Pregnant Women are considered “at risk”</td>
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<td>FRONT LINE WORK</td>
<td>Women make up a disproportionate number of frontline workers and informal caregivers</td>
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<td>HEALTHCARE ACCESS</td>
<td>Women are overrepresented in jobs that lack health care benefits</td>
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<td>GENDER BASED VIOLENCE</td>
<td>COVID-19 creates circumstances that foster intimate partner violence</td>
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Recommendations

• Ensure availability of sex-disaggregated data, including on differing rates of infection, differential economic impacts, differential care burden, and incidence of domestic violence and sexual abuse

• Embed gender dimensions and gender experts within response plans and budget resources to build gender expertise into response teams

• Provide priority support to women on the frontlines of the response, for instance, by improving access to women-friendly personal protective equipment and menstrual hygiene products for healthcare workers and caregivers, and flexible working arrangements for women with a burden of care

• Ensure equal voice for women in decision making in the response and long-term impact planning
Recommendations

• Ensure that public health messages properly target women including those most marginalized
• Develop mitigation strategies that specifically target the economic impact of the outbreak on women and build women’s resilience
• Protect essential health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services and
• Prioritize services for prevention and response to gender-based violence in communities affected by COVID-19
Additional Resources

• UN Women Policy Brief on the Impact of COVID-19 on Women

• Feminist Alliance for Rights - Call for a Feminist COVID-19 Policy
  http://feministallianceforrights.org/blog/2020/03/20/action-call-for-a-feminist-covid-19-policy/

• National Women’s Law Center-Promoting Equitable Access to Health Care in Response to COVID-19

• Black Mama’s Matter-Black Maternal Health and the COVID 19 Response