



July 2022

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## In the spotlight

### Launch of the Healthier Together – EU Non-Communicable Disease Initiative

The European Commission presented the initiative covering five key areas, and guidance and implementation toolkit. In her opening remarks, Commissioner Stella Kyriakides said:

"Our great ambition today is to turn some of the knowledge we have developed together over recent years into concrete, impactful actions for the benefit of our citizens and to reduce some of the terrible health inequalities we see across our Union."

EPHA President – Alice Chapman-Hatchett – also took part in the panel discussion.



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## World Health Organization



### World mental health report: Transforming mental health for all

Although most people are remarkably resilient, people who are exposed to unfavourable circumstances – including poverty, violence and inequality – are at higher risk of experiencing mental health conditions.

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## New WHO pan-European primary health care strategy

WHO/Europe has released its region-wide strategy on primary health care (PHC), setting out a vision to transform PHC over the next years based on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Scaling up capacity to identify and reach vulnerable people is one of its six strategies to strengthen PHC.

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## Mental health & climate change: Certain groups disproportionately at risk

Climate change also exacerbates many social and environmental risk factors for mental health and psychosocial problems, and can lead to emotional distress, the development of new mental health conditions and a worsening situation for people already living with these conditions.

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## WHO Policy Brief: Fiscal policies to promote healthy diets

This policy brief provides policy-makers, programme managers, health professionals and advocates with information and policy options related to the implementation of fiscal policies to promote healthy diets. Carefully designed taxes could reduce health inequities, if the tax revenue is used progressively and if in combination with subsidies.

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## WHO launched toolkit for developing multisectoral action plan for non-communicable diseases

This "how to" guide for policy-makers, planners and programme managers of countries, provinces and cities includes a module on engaging stakeholders of 'health importance', but with 'low influence'.

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## European and International Institutions

### Report: Places and Spaces: Environments and children's well-being

European Environment Agency



This briefing looks at how climate change affects vulnerable groups and how these impacts can be prevented or reduced through equitable adaptation actions. It also presents examples of equity-oriented policies and measures from across Europe.

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### How many healthy life years for EU men and women?

Eurostat

This Eurostat report analyses healthy life years at birth across European member states, comparing the gap between men and women. On average, women have 64,5 healthy life years compared to 63,5 years among men. The average life expectancy for women in the EU is 83,2 years while for men it is 77,5, denoting a gap of 5,7 years.

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## Fostering social rights: key to EU recovery from COVID-19

### EU Agency for Fundamental Rights

The pandemic triggered unprecedented EU financial support to counter the social impact of Covid-19. Many people in the EU, especially vulnerable people, faced reduced access to healthcare, childcare, education and the internet. This has led to excess mortality, poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. FRA's Fundamental Rights Report 2022 outlines the pandemic's wide-ranging impact on social rights. It also suggests how to address increasing inequalities and threats to societal cohesion.

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## Editorial: The price of war

### Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

The extent to which growth will be lower and inflation higher will depend on how the war evolves, but it is clear the poorest will be hit hardest. The price of this war is high and will need to be shared.



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## United Nations Human Rights Report 2021

### United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

This report presents the progress achieved in 2021 against the targets set out in the OHCHR Management Plan 2018-2021, which has been extended to 2023. It also shows how UN addressed the challenges highlighted and reinforced by the COVID-19 pandemic with respect to human rights, and the efforts made towards building forward better. It includes an overview of management, funding, and expenditure as well as detailed results from the field and headquarters.

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## Research Developments

## LGBT+ health inequalities persist in Scotland

British Medical Journal



LGBT+ people in Scotland continue to face major health inequalities in every measure of wellbeing, with trans and non-binary communities most affected, a major review has found.

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## Mediators of socioeconomic inequalities in preterm birth: a systematic review

BMC Public Health

Rates of preterm birth are substantial with significant inequalities. Understanding the role of risk factors on the pathway from maternal socioeconomic status (SES) to preterm birth can help inform interventions and policy.

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## Study on race and ethnicity bias and knowledge gaps in peer-review process

Nature

Study reports on positive and negative experiences in peer-review and provides data and recommendations to address bias and knowledge gaps in the peer review process of health equity research.

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## Roma Health

### Page Not found

Big Issue North

For some, healthcare digitisation has worked well, so far, often mitigating the need for a time-consuming face-to-face appointment. For other demographics, however, the move has further decreased their chances of accessing healthcare at all. One such demographic is the Roma population. Around two thirds of Big Issue North vendors are Roma –and despite facing greater health risks, they are less likely to seek medical help when compared to British vendors.

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**BIG ISSUE NORTH**  
THE INDEPENDENT STREET PAPER | WORKING NOT BEGGING

## What we learnt from Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller children who responded to The Big Ask

### UK Children's Commissioner

As Children's Commissioner I am dedicated to championing the voices of all children which is why I was delighted when 2,300 children and young people that self-identified as Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller (GRT) submitted responses to The Big Ask last year – the largest ever survey of children in England

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## Remembering the Roma Gypsies

### Dorset Council

Dorset Council will be flying the Roma Flag at County Hall from 23 to 30 June this year in commemoration of the deaths of all the Roma and Sinti murdered by the Nazis at Auschwitz.

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## End the Deplorable Situation of Roma People Living in Europe Now

### Renew Europe

Renew Europe welcomes the adoption by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the Renew Europe-led resolution on "The situation of Roma people living in settlements in the EU". The resolution recalls the urgent need for concrete measures at both EU and national level to tackle the dire situation of marginalised Roma people living across Europe, predominantly in settlements, which lack basic infrastructure and services and contravene human dignity and rights.

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## In the Media

### Cost of living: Soaring bills damaging people's health

#### BBC

The Royal College of Nursing says people are having to make heart-wrenching choices that compromise their health and wellbeing. Along with GPs and hospital doctors, they warn health inequalities between rich and poor risk becoming worse.

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### 39 opportunities to tackle black communities' health inequalities

#### BBC

Two councils have teamed up to address healthcare inequalities faced by Black communities. Lewisham Council and Birmingham City Council have published a report featuring 39 ways to tackle the impact of disadvantage and discrimination.

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## Other News



## Scottish Government to tackle racial disparities through mental health reforms

The National

The reform also aims to better meet the needs of people with a learning disability and ensure appropriate care for those with serious mental illness within the criminal justice system

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## Health disparities white paper: parliamentary briefing

NHS Confederation

Ahead of the publication of the health disparities white paper, UK NHS leaders have identified four priorities it must reflect.

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## Health inequalities: Why is it harder for some people to eat healthily?

Cancer Research UK

Inequalities in diet and eating are extremely complex – the healthy option is not always the easy option, or an option at all.

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## ‘The reduction of health inequalities will now be a measure of success’

Nursing Times

From July 2022, the health system in England will restructure – putting the emphasis on integrated care across systems, places and populations, and specifically including the reduction of health inequalities as a measure of success.

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## Never forget that early vaccines came from testing on enslaved people

### Stat News

In response to the growing spread of monkeypox, public health leaders are for the first time since the 1970s opening the locked stockpiles of smallpox vaccines to control the spread of the virus. But here's something to consider: Those vaccines originated as a direct result of slavery.

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## Three necessary elements to achieving health equity: takeaways from the Yale Healthcare Conference

### Yale School of Management Blog

The Yale Healthcare Conference panel "Driving Health Equity: Perspectives from the Pozen-Commonwealth Fellowship," discussed the most pressing topics in achieving health equity and mitigating disparities.

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## Upcoming Event

### Health, Race and Racism International Conference (7 & 8 July)



#### NHS Race and Health Observatory

Online conference organised by the independent NHS Race & Health Observatory, which aims to break barriers to better health

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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EPHA (AISBL) is the European Platform bringing together public health organisations representing health professionals, patients groups, health promotion and disease specific NGOs, academic groupings and other health associations. The European Public Health Alliance has received funding under an operating grant from the European Union's EU4Health Programme (2021-2027). The content of this email represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains. Transparency Register Number: [18941013532-08](#)

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