

August 2023

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## WHO/Europe and EPHA Sign New Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Collaboration for Better Health and Wellbeing in Europe

### European Public Health Alliance

In a significant step toward promoting health equity and improving people's health, WHO/Europe and EPHA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance their partnership. EPHA, as Europe's leading NGO alliance advocating for better health for all, will work closely with WHO/Europe to address key health challenges and drive positive change.

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## International & European Institutions

### Transforming the health and social equity landscape

#### World Health Organization

This report, with input from EPHA, explores the interrelationships between health, the economy and social capital. It examines how Member States can work to build social cohesion and invest in people's health to improve resilience and promote an equitable recovery.

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## Fundamental Rights Report 2023

### European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

The 2023 iteration of the FRA's yearly Fundamental Rights Report has been released. Among its wide range of topics are equality and non-discrimination in health, racism, xenophobia and related intolerance, Roa equality, and Rights of the Child.

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## To end HIV/AIDS, target discrimination and inequalities, Türk says

### Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, has commented on the need to address discrimination and inequalities to ensure access to testing, treatment and prevention services for HIV/AIDS. "For our responses to HIV/AIDS to be effective, they need to be fully grounded in human rights", he said.

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## New report calls for greater attention to children's vital first years

### UNICEF

Together with the WHO, UNICEF has released a report on the importance of nurturing care, emphasising the first 1000 days. Especially when it comes to marginalised groups, it is crucial to act in this early period, which this report once again emphasises in great detail.

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## Research Developments

## Exploring the intersections of structural inequities and health disparities

### BMC Public Health

Although increasingly being recognized as a driver of poor health and health inequities, there is limited research on the pervasive effects of racism on population health. This BMC editorial explorer macro-level racism, citing examples from the US and Europe.

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## AI in medicine: creating a safe and equitable future

### The Lancet

AI is already proving to be a very useful tool in diagnosis, but there are also risks. One of those risks is to do with health equity. Some research has already showed that AI use can be biased to region or race. Only by addressing these risks early can we assure that AI can improve medicine overall.

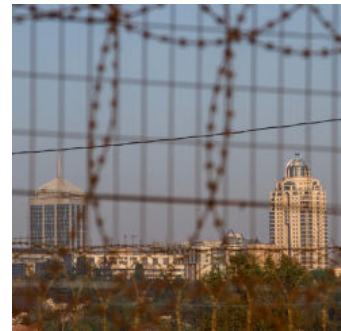
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## The best medicine for improving global health? Reduce inequality

### Nature

The ambition of the SDG health targets was always lofty, but they can provide a foundation for formulating national strategies and allocating resources to improve health and well-being outcomes and counter disparities. Good health is not just down to biology; it is affected by the environment, opportunity, economics and discrimination.

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## Inequalities in COVID-19 severe morbidity and mortality by country of birth in Sweden

### Nature

Research in Sweden reveals that the risk of COVID-19 mortality and ICU admission of migrants was higher than that of Swedish-born people. This was mainly related to socioeconomic status and living conditions.

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## Indigenous determinants of health: a unified call for progress

### The Lancet

Despite comprising about 6% of the world's population, Indigenous Peoples are disproportionately affected by poverty.<sup>4</sup> Many continue to report experiencing barriers to and being prevented from accessing basic rights and freedoms, including the prerequisites of health: peace, shelter, education, food, income, a stable eco system, sustainable resources, social justice, and equity.

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## The role of structural racism and geographical inequity in diabetes outcomes

### The Lancet

Diabetes is pervasive, exponentially growing in prevalence, and outpacing most diseases globally. This paper uses new theoretical frameworks and a narrative review of existing literature to show how structural inequity (structural racism and geographical inequity) has accelerated rates of diabetes disease, morbidity, and mortality globally.

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## In the Media

### What does it mean to be queer and a Traveller? Three people explain

#### Cosmopolitan

Intersectional discrimination can have effects expressed in every facet of life. People who part of both the LGBTQIA+ and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community may face a large amount of issues as a result. This article lets three people share their stories, ranging from reduced healthcare access, reduced access to PrEP medication, as well as housing.

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### Care for the Neediest

#### Transitions

Limited access to healthcare for Roma is an issue that is often overlooked. One example exists in access to maternal healthcare and paediatric care in Bulgaria. This article provides an extensive overview of what forms this issue may take.

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### The last bastion of stigma: Criminalizing HIV transmission

#### Politico

A podcast episode from the Lancet's 'EU Confidential' series. This episode focuses on stigma in the form of criminalisation of HIV transmission and what is necessary to bring an end to such prosecutions.

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## Other News

### Why collaborating with communities is essential to eradicate health inequalities

#### EuroHealthNet

Citing the example of work done with Roma women by the Prolepsis Institute in Greece, EuroHealthNet discuss the importance of community action in reducing health inequalities. Racism, biases both should be addressed through building trust in and working with the community.



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### A lifetime of racism makes Alzheimer's more common in Black Americans

#### Associated Press

Research in the United States shows that Black Americans have higher rates of Alzheimer, in addition to other diseases. This is in large part due to adverse living conditions and poverty which can lead to a host of health risks.

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### The G20 must act now for the health and wellbeing of women, children, and adolescents around the world

#### BMJ

If global health is to improve, then the G20 needs to be aware of the importance of investing in women, children and adolescents, according to this opinion piece. It points in particular to the effects of systemic discrimination, food insecurity, poverty and that these groups suffer disproportionately.

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### Activists take legal action after Romani woman gives birth on pavement outside hospital in Romania

#### ERRC European Roma Rights Centre

The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) and the Romani Lawyers Association ROMAJUST have taken legal action against a Romanian hospital on behalf of a 24-year-old Romani woman who gave birth outside on the pavement after being refused medical care.

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## Upcoming Events





## **Empower Health: People, Politics, Possibilities**

### **EPHA**

Thirty years ago the European Public Health Alliance was formed and the EU Treaty first included a specific reference to Public Health, with this Treaty entering into force only some weeks after EPHA was founded. What could the next Thirty years hold for European Public Health and EPHA? How best can EPHA empower people, politics and possibilities in its next thirty years. Join us for a conference to discuss this with some of those that have worked in or with EPHA both past and present.

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## **The Interplay of Gender and Mental Health: A Global Health Issue**

### **European Institute for Women's Health**

This webinar will bring together a diverse range of experts to synthesise key evidence, discuss important issues and make concrete recommendations on how access to healthcare, targeted healthcare supports and services, and gender equity must work in synergy to improve the mental health and wellbeing of everyone, everywhere.

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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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