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## International & European Institutions



### Interwoven lives, threads of hope - Ending inequalities in sexual and reproductive health and rights

**UNFPA**

While progress has been made over the past 30 years on sexual and reproductive health and rights, major gaps remain around the globe with inequalities constituting a main underlying driver. This report outlines the state of play on SRHR, showcases examples of promising practices and programmes, and calls for the need of more and better disaggregated data.

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### Recognition, justice and development for people of African descent must be pursued more vigorously, Deputy says

**OHCHR**

On the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Geneva, the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights called for renewed action to realise the rights of People of African Descent. This includes an explicit call for policy action to reduce inequities in physical and mental health.

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## Women must have full control of their sexual and reproductive health and rights

### European Parliament

In a recently adopted resolution with 336 votes in favour, 163 against and 39 abstentions, MEPs want to enshrine the right to abortion in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, in light of global movements including those of EU member states to restrict or remove sexual and reproductive rights.



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## Commercial interests a barrier to promoting health in Europe, Belgium reiterates

### World Health Organization

Belgium's Minister Vandenberghe calls to tackle the commercial determinants of health and blames industry to delay the EU's work on NCD prevention at the cost of Europeans' health. The EU works on NCDs for example through the EU Beating Cancer Plan. Civil society is mentioned to play a vital role in raising awareness of issues of this kind.

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## A "big victory" for intersex people and their rights

### OHCHR

On April 4 the Human Rights Council passed a groundbreaking resolution urging Member States to intensify efforts in combating discrimination, violence, and harmful practices against intersex individuals, while also addressing underlying factors such as stereotypes, misinformation, stigma, and taboos.

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## Research Developments



### The Lancet Breast Cancer Commission

#### The Lancet

A recently released Commission by the Lancet focuses on breast cancer. In particular, it expands on disparities and inequities in breast cancer. Along socioeconomic lines, but also along ethnic and racial lines there is still a lot to be done to reduce breast cancer disparities.

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## Influence of social determinants of health in the evolution of the quality of life of older adults in Europe

### Nature

When comparing the effect of the social determinants of health on quality of life in Europe, patterns between men and women above 50 can be identified. Particularly in women, socio-economic, education and geographic background is shown to lead to poorer quality of life.

**nature**

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## Inequalities in physical and mental health among people in prison

The Lancet

People in prison face significant health inequities, brought on by a lack of healthcare access and stigmatisation. There is an estimated 11.5 million people in prisons worldwide, whose right to health need to be recognised.

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## Health equity in Ireland: past, present, and future

The Lancet

This editorial sheds light on health equity related developments in recent decades in Ireland. It outlines the legislation of same-sex marriage, the legalisation of abortion care, as well as its ambitious 10-year plan to universally accessible health-care systems.

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## Health effects of holistic housing renovation in a disadvantaged neighbourhood in the Netherlands

BMC Public Health

Housing is a core social determinant of health; it has profound effects on our ability to live a healthy life. Research from the Netherlands once again emphasises this, citing the effects of poor housing and related socioeconomic issues on mental health. Social interventions are needed to counteract this.

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## Socioeconomic inequalities in avoidable mortality in Italy: results from a nationwide longitudinal cohort

BMC Public Health

For the first time, health inequalities by way of avoidable mortality have been studied on the Italian national level. The results show that the Italian National Health Service has not yet achieved its goal of health equity, and that related indicators should feature more centrally in Italy's public health policy.

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## In the Media



## Weathering: How racism impacts the body on a cellular level

Deutsche Welle

Part of the effect of racism on health is observed through the structural and societal exclusion, but what about its effects on the cellular level? Research shows that racism can have very real effects on the cellular level; this concept is called 'weathering'. There is still further research to be done on the topic, but it is another incentive to act against racism.

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**Abortion rights are featuring in this year's European election campaign in a way we've not seen before**

### The Conversation

Sexual and reproductive rights (SRH), particularly the right to abortion, are already highly restricted in many EU member states. And while recent developments, such as France's decision to inscribe the right to abortion in its constitution are a beacon of hope, the upcoming EU elections might mean no good, as many far-right parties predicted to make significant gains, call for restrictions on abortion rights.

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**The harms of adverse childhood experiences are well-known. But positive experiences can affect future health, too**

### STAT News

Ensuring good health and wellbeing in as early a stage as possible is crucial for a child's upbringing and future. Often we tend to focus on adverse experiences in childhood, but the author of this article wants to pay attention to the effect positive experiences can have on a child's long-term health.

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## Other News



**The future of public health in Europe**

**EuroHealthNet  
Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies**

Greater efforts are needed by the future European Health Union to address health equity and invest in health promotion and disease prevention. This report outlines what Public Health will look like in 2035 and identifies persistent inequalities as one key public health challenge.

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## Is global health on the ballot in 2024?

Save the Children

Global health risks disappearing from political agendas in the year of the elections which will result in a heavy toll especially on children's health. Therefore, political leaders should: strengthen health systems, provide leadership to fight health inequities, and ensure the meaningful participation of children and civil society in decision-making.

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## Increasing immunization uptake in Roma communities

UNICEF

Health inequities among Europe's Roma populations take different forms. Read here about an example of inequities in immunisation in a Roma community in Bosnia and Hercegovina. The article expands on ways to increase immunisation, giving an excellent overview of the power of health mediation and building trust.

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## Upcoming Events



### Digital conference: Good and equal health in the Nordics

Nordic Welfare Centre

On May 7, this conference will explore lessons learned and insights gained from a selection of current work on health-promoting and preventive measures. What brings these initiatives together is the way in which they seek to strengthen community and social relations.

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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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