



Editorial

Health in the roadmap for women's rights

The first 100 days of a political mandate are typically used to set the foundations for the most important topics to be addressed. For both von der Leyen Commissions, this date was the 9th of March; one day after International Women's Day. In the mission letter on Preparedness and Crisis Management, and Equality, one of the first calls under Union of Equality is for a Roadmap for Women's Rights to be released by International Women's Day. The promise was kept, and we can now read the 8 priorities set by the European Commission.

We are very glad to see that the second priority focuses on the highest standards of health, following the first priority on freedom from gender-based violence. In other words, women's health is prominently featured in the Commission's approach to women's rights and a gender-equal society. This shows that the collective efforts of a wide range of stakeholders on women's health have paid off. Even so, these priorities are just the starting point – it is now our shared responsibility to turn them into concrete action, whether that means strengthening research and healthcare training, or empowering women and communities.

Prioritisation of specific topics around women's health is only part of the story. What is required now is to keep raising awareness and driving action to address structural injustices; injustices that exist in a health sphere that continues failing to see to the specific needs of women. Together with its members and partners, EPHA has contributed to this discussion through events, newsletters, and guest articles highlighting key women's health concerns over the past year.

This newsletter adds to the momentum, building on the work of EPHA's members and partners and ensuring that it stays part of the conversation on women's rights. The European Cancer Organisation expands on [5 essential women's cancer rights](#) based on its Women & Cancer paper. The European Liver Patients' Association provides 7 recommendations on achieving health equity for [women with liver disease](#). Klimaka in Greece, a member of EPHA's Roma Health Network, sheds light on [early marriage and early motherhood in Roma communities](#), based on the work of its Roma Influencers Network. Make Mothers Matter adds to the discussion on intersectionality, providing [recommendations on tackling challenges and stigma](#) faced by mothers with disabilities. Researchers from Wageningen and Edinburgh universities highlight the often-overlooked burden of [endometriosis and the goals of the EUmetriosis project](#).

The solutions for resolving centuries of injustice faced by women could never be fully mapped out in a period of 100 days. The effects run deep, which requires a complete view of where additional efforts are needed. In that sense, the Roadmap for Women's Rights charts a course, but we must ensure that not a single story is lost as we progress on the road to true gender equality.

Authored by



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This Month's Top Stories



Championing Women's Cancer Rights: A Call for Policy Action

By **Marion L'hôte**, Senior Policy Officer, European Cancer Organisation (ECO)

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Liver Disease Does Not Discriminate, Healthcare Should Not Either

By **Beatrice Credi** (Head of Office), European Liver Patients' Association – ELPA

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Breaking the Cycle of Early Marriages and Early Motherhood in Roma Communities

By **Evgenia Zarokosta**, Klimaka

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Beyond the Stigma: Supporting Mothers with Disabilities

By **Johanna Schima** (Vice President & Head of EU Team), Make Mothers Matter

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What is the role of self-management in endometriosis care?

By **Erica Selznick** (PhD Student), Wageningen University,

Paula Blancarte Jaber (PhD Student), University of Edinburgh,

Andrea Ford (Wellcome Trust Research Fellow), University of Edinburgh,

and **Inga T. Winkler** (Associate Professor), Wageningen University

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EPHA Updates



Clean Industrial Deal: Public Health and Environmental Considerations Now Needed

EPHA is now urging policymakers to ensure the deal integrates key public health and environmental considerations to deliver a truly sustainable industrial future.

[READ THE NEWS RELEASE](#)

Concerns over the lack of information on the publication of the 2025 calls for operating grants under the EU4Health programme

The members of the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance ask in a new joint statement for transparent information on the operating grants for 2025 under the EU4Health programme.

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Zero Hidden Hunger at the General Assembly

The Zero Hidden Hunger project, focusing on reducing micronutrient deficiencies in Europe, has made significant progress in its first year! At the General Assembly, EPHA highlighted achievements in data collection and presented outcomes of interviews with academics and experts from international organisations. These valuable insights will inform the Policy Lab's work.

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EPHA Events



Combatting Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare: A Case Study of Prostate and Breast Cancer

This webinar, co-organised by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and the European Cancer Organisation (ECO), explores ethnic health disparities through a lens of cancer inequities. Building on research from across the globe and drawing on experiences from European Union (EU) policy, a 2022 Lancet series added a crucial consideration to this understanding by recognising racism, xenophobia, and discrimination as fundamental determinants of health.

The webinar aims to raise awareness of the nature of cancer inequities and explores ways to reduce them. In doing so, it addresses both the cancer burden and health disparities within a global context.

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News From Members



ECL: “Critical Medicines Act paves the way for greater availability of and access to cancer drugs through collaborative procurement”

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IDF Europe: Stalled progress on NCDs and diabetes: accelerated action needed before 2030

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ENSP: European health organisations urge EU Member States to support the EU Commission’s proposal for smoke- and aerosol-free environments

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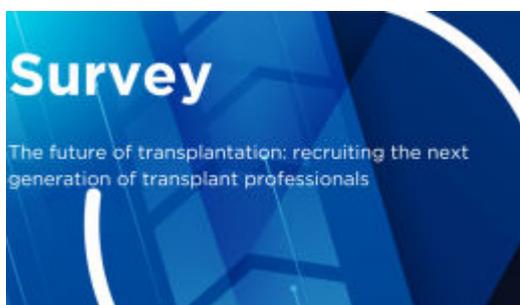


BSLM Consensus Statement: Anti-Obesity Medications

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ERS joins call for effective stakeholder engagement during the implementation of the European Health Data Space

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ESOT: Calling all Transplant Centres

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HAI: Global Health and Development Under Attack

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RCN: Student loan forgiveness would keep nurses in profession for up to a decade longer

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SAFE: Study finds 'Western diet' during pregnancy linked to ADHD in children

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Other News



Commission forgets diet is key for health in its food and agriculture vision

Mounting scientific evidence shows that unhealthy diet is linked to increased risk of cancer, cardiovascular and other obesity-related serious diseases.

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