

ICSW EUROPE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020

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"The Spring will take over." © R. Wiman 2020

A Message from the President

A Black Swan is here! Already the ancient Romans used the expression “a Black Swan” to refer to something that is so rare that it hardly exists. All swans anybody had seen were white. As no one had seen a black one it was not considered to exist. However, in 1697 Dutch explorers spotted black swans in Western Australia. While the previous assumption was proven wrong in the biological arena the expression has stayed with us to refer to something very very rare but having eventually high impact, and nevertheless being natural or understandable – but only afterwards.

After the 2008 financial crisis, a number of good “forecasters” popped up – after the fact saying “it was expected”. Also, now it has been too easy to say that “of course a pandemic like COVID 2019, caused by a new nasty virus, would have popped up one day”. But very few experts or decision makers attached a high enough probability to such a Black Swan that proper (expensive) precautions would have been taken. Neither the health nor the social protection system was prepared, at all. What about the economy? Did the financial crisis teach anything about the economics of Black Swans?

Now unprecedented restrictions of people's everyday life rights and freedoms have been introduced on the spot – without much discussion of eventual alternatives – or even the reliability of data concerning their effectiveness and costs. Quarantine, the ancient “preventive medicine” has been applied to various extents. It has a history going back to the Black Death of 1340s: vessels arriving from plague infected countries were not allowed to land until 30 days had passed (Italian “*trentino*”; later the isolation period was established as 40 days, *quarantino*).

We are facing a novel, unknown, unprecedented, unbelievable worldwide threat we never wanted to imagine. Most countries realized that they were not prepared for anything of this kind. Mostly discussion has been about unpreparedness from medical and epidemiological perspective. Also the criteria for choosing right responses have been predominantly based on medical or health criteria and the carrying

capacity of the health care system. Very relevant and very necessary – but not sufficient.

Every week it becomes more and more clear that the challenge is systemic, societal. Therefore decisions must consider also other values and other criteria: ethical, social, economic, juridical etc. For instance, the isolation of people 70 and over does have some, only some, medically factual justifications, but lumping together one sixth to one fifth of the population into one homogenous “risk group” to be isolated/quarantined for 40 days – or even “to the end of the year” (as suggested by an EU leader) is not the most accurately targeted action. Protecting “the vulnerable” becomes too easily an accepted act of discrimination. Protection must not turn to exclusion.

There are benefits in the so called “social distancing” – but also much collateral damage has followed in terms of physical, mental, social and economic impacts of this kind of “social distancing”. While the good intention was to keep and enforce *physical* distances it has indeed become human and social distancing, for instance of older people from their loved ones. In some cases, it has led to full isolation at the end of their lives as family is not allowed to enter the residence of the old person even at the end moments of her/his life. Also (even young) people with disabilities have often been kept in full quarantine in their residential care units. Inhuman rules, in the name of protection.

While such exclusion has ruled over a month, now some units have innovated and put in place safe meeting arrangements.

There are many sides in this gamble. There are no simple recipes. A very encouraging indication is that now facts and research have gained ground as justifications of decisions. Most solutions may create winners and losers, but this must be known and weighted. But many relevant variables in this equation are still unknown. Therefore, it is vitally important to involve in the dialogue all the stakeholders, especially those who are most seriously affected. And to involve them in the implementation of accepted measures as part of the solution and not only as part of the problem.

Furthermore, as usual, those worse off are worse off also in this situation. Both locally, nationally, and globally. In this situation that puts everyone under

new health, social, and economic risks the gaps of social protection systems have become visible. The lone entrepreneurs, own account workers, people in unconventional employment have fallen through the safety nets into zero income, loss of livelihood and will fall into poverty. Temporary solutions have been introduced in many countries, however.

It is amazing how rapid, flexible, and resilient European democratic societies have been. The civil society has introduced many countermeasures to alleviate the isolation and the ill-being of the excluded. ICSW Europe would still invite members to contribute with good examples. You surely do have such good examples that can provide ideas to others. We will continue to publish those in the next newsletter(s).

ICSW has been advocating for the rights-based, universal, and affordable health coverage, universal social protection including right to paid sick leave. Clearly such basic social guarantees have proven to be essential instruments of society for cushioning the impact of the crisis that has hit us all. Universal and equal right to access health and social protection is the best guarantee for all. No one is safe until every one is safe.

Read more on [United Nations Human Rights – Office of the High Commissioner](#).

(author: Ronald Wiman, ICSW Europe President)



ICSW Elections 2020

To ICSW Member organisations, ICSW Board, ICSW Management Committee:

The ICSW Joint World Conference in Rimini, Italy has, due to the Corona virus, been postponed until November 8-11, 2020. **The ICSW General Assembly** will as a consequence also have to be postponed. A new date is scheduled for **November 10, 2020**.

Consequently, the deadline for nominations (70 days before) will now be **September 1, 2020** (ICSW Global By-laws, section 9). 50 days ahead: Nominations will

be notified to all Member organisations with voting rights.

ICSW Elections Committee
Mirtha Sosa Crevoisier and Judith Kaulem

⇒ **Executive Director – International Council on Social Welfare**

ICSW is now looking for a **new Executive Director** and CEO to implement the decisions of our General Assembly, Board and Management Committee and having the overall administrative responsibility for our operations.

More information from *Eva Holmberg Herrström*, President (eva.herrstrom@icsw.org) or *Tom Johannesen*, Executive Director (tjohannesen@icsw.org).

Send your application to tjohannesen@icsw.org **not later than August 31, 2020**.

Please mark the application and any information request “Executive Director ICSW”.

⇒ **Regional Elections**

The following positions are available in each region:

- Regional President
- Regional Vice President
- Regional Treasurer
- up to two other members

Nominations for all positions can be made by any member from Category A (National Member Organisation); Category B (International Member Organisation that is assigned to a particular region based on the location of their corresponding member; Category C (Other Member Organisation); or Category D (Associate Member Organisation).

The Elections documents are available here:

[Global Elections Calls for Nominations 2020](#)
[Responsibilities of Various Positions](#)
[Regional Elections Calls for Nominations 2020](#)
[Statement by Candidate for Election](#)

(source: ICSW; available at: <<https://www.icsw.org/index.php/news/119-icsw-elections-2020>>



"Who will help Slovakia" Initiative – a good practice example in the fight of COVID-19

The current situation shows us how the current time of life with a corona virus can contribute to and help our lives. Solidarity and aid are becoming a fundamental mission that we currently have.

Immediately after the outbreak of corona virus in Slovakia the help initiative arose in the country. It is an initiative **"Who will help Slovakia #WholsGonnaHelpSlovakia"** in which many companies and individuals have participated. The initiative arose spontaneously, as health workers in Slovakia did not have enough material and protective equipment.

Initiative is helping Slovakia's hospitals, clinics, health-care and social-care system facilities cope with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. We collect donations from individuals, businesses and organisations through an on-line platform. These funds are used to purchase, transport and distribute protective gear across the country where most needed. Anyone can join www.ktopomozeslovensku.sk.

[We] believe that this information will help to support Slovakia, as a country where solidarity, humanity and helping the weaker has its main place in the hearts and actions of the population.

Read more about the initiative (in Slovak) at forbes.sk, and <https://www.forbes.sk/slovenskom-presla-velka-vlna-solidarity-pomoc-mozete-aj-vy/>.



Masks made for seniors from the Bratislava - Staré Mesto district in the protected tailoring workshop of Donna Rosi. Photo: Sita

(text: Martin Halás, IVRA-Institute for Research on Socio-Economic Risks and Alternatives)

Finland: lighter lock-down but successfully 'lowering the epidemic curve'

Government activated "Exceptional Circumstances" crisis legislation on 27/3/2020 till 13th May 2020.

It gave the Government extended authority to give *necessary* legislation (must be approved by the Parliament, however) and regulations that may restrict constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens in case such action is absolutely *necessary* ('important' is not enough of a criterion). Based on this exceptional mandate and the existing Public Health legislation the Government has ruled a number of restrictions to gatherings and services, including restaurants. Schools and libraries were closed, shops were allowed to stay open – but customers all but disappeared. People were *strongly recommended* to restrict their mobility and contacts but general curfew did not apply. People over 70 and other risk groups were strongly recommended to stay at home in 'quarantine-like' situation, in self-isolation.

While the restrictions in a country with population density about a tenth of European average (18 people per square kilometer) were milder than in many other countries, the strategy has been successful thus far.

Civil society and the private and public sector actors introduced a number of innovative approaches and actions to facilitate people's everyday life. Here some examples:

- Many cities and municipalities launched helplines and websites, where it is possible to ask help for food deliveries, or practical assistance with services (target groups incl. seniors, disabled, families with small children);
- Libraries being closed, city of Helsinki opened a temporary digital service point to serve the city's residents who do not have their own computer or smartphone to use digital services;

- All Finnish children are entitled to a free daily school meal in both primary and secondary schools. During lockdown, schools offered the possibility to take-away lunches, food packages or cash subsidies to cater for children in distant learning;
- NGOs and municipalities have arranged garden concerts for people in resident care-homes;
- Some municipalities have offered social work appointments using walking-meetings, taking care of social distancing but still meeting face-to-face;
- Children's cultural centres launched a webpage called "Hobbies at home", where children (and teachers) can find ideas how to do art projects and try new things at home;
- Some municipalities have offered guided "balcony exercise" for self-isolating senior citizens. The Training Instructor gives instructions in the garden;
- Local NGOs doing check-rounds for elderly people living in rural areas. Giving information about Local practical assistance services (food delivery etc);
- Most NGOs started webinars, chat groups and other virtual meetings instead of face-to-face meetings and services;
- Distant learning in basic education has been successful. Schools reopened at the end of April;
- Small enterprise owners and own account workers were given temporary financial assistance by municipalities;
- Restaurants (also fine-dining restaurants) have started offering delivery and take-aways, including dinner and brunch packages;
- Some Resident old age homes introduced a safe meeting container outside the residence;
- Finland has become the number one teleworking nation: 60% are now working from home, next are the BeNeLux countries with slightly over 50%.

Restrictions are being eased at the beginning of June. Need for physical distancing and additional hygienic measures are still being emphasized.

(authors: Kirsi Marttinen, Ronald Wiman, SOSTE Finland)

A social work response to the Coronavirus Crisis

Vadim Moldovan, Professor of Social Work, Free University of Moldova and the City University of New York

Crisis is a catalyst for change, and its functionality is three-fold:

- 1) Crisis as a trauma-inflicting shock
- 2) Crisis as a pretext to political change
- 3) Crisis as a fork in history

Due to the lack of reliable information about the medical and epidemiological aspects of the Crisis, I will refrain from the all-important conversation on whether the measures taken to contain the epidemic were commensurate with the threat. I am operating on the epistemological platform that acknowledges an exploitative character of the state-people relationship and approach this basic social contradiction through the dialectic frame. In other words, it is the issue of social justice. The purpose of this essay is to explore the state vs. people dialectic in the context of the Coronavirus Crisis in global relevance.

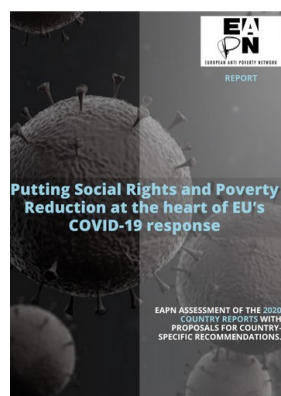
1) The Crisis came as crises usually come – unexpectedly ripping apart the fabric of society. Economic systems, social relations and human lives were abruptly and brutally curtailed taking a toll on human health. The traumatic stress of the alleged mortal threat, media hype, loss of employment, and suspension of civil liberties inflicts palpable damage. Emotional reaction to the shock can come in many forms but underneath it all, such trauma induces profound fear and confusion. Humanity is becoming more vulnerable, more deprived, and potentially more volatile. "Never let a crisis go to waste" is a recent articulation of the age-old methodology of the ruling class. The utility of the crisis to the state is yet to be understood but the catastrophic trauma inflicted on people is in evidence with hundreds of millions losing sources of livelihood and facing the inevitable famine. The sense of numbness, usually accompanied by denial, apathy, and helplessness is a common reaction to trauma. That is the period when the populace is at its most vulnerable to losing its rights and freedoms.

2) Any society exists in the state of perpetual dialectic tension where the ever-present internal contradictions (cultural, economic, gender, to name a few) are managed by the state. Social control is arguable the main function of the state, and it ranges from street regulations to such extreme examples as banning large gatherings of people, restricting travel, sequestration, and curfew. Historical pretexts for such radical restrictive measures were many – external aggression, terrorist threat, civil unrest, etc. This time around, an epidemic became a pretext (whether real or contrived) to extreme social control by the state, even though the origin and character of the epidemic remain mysterious and a subject of intense debate. The ease with which the political transformation occurred when the state flipped the switch and turned off the economy, abolished social life, and confined people to their dwellings is truly astonishing. Who would imagine that such social cataclysm would occur without democratic debate, legislative due process, and on a say-so of a few powerful global bureaucracies?

3) The familiar world has vanished. People are hoping for a semblance of the old world to return but hardly anyone expects that life will ever be the same. For now, the “new normal” is what some are aptly calling a “medical martial law”, and the shape of the post-crisis world is as obscure as the motivations of the state that imposes draconian restrictions on the population in the name of safety. Even though the efficacy of such prevalent treatment methods as quarantine, face masks, and ventilators is questioned by many scientists, people have neither a choice nor a voice in this matter as constitutional rights of assembly, religious worship, free speech, freedom to travel, etc. are being suspended. The Crisis is being used as a social control device of unprecedented impact – its reach is global, duration indefinite, and trauma devastating. Hundreds of millions worldwide are out of work and facing hunger. Many will continue to trust in benevolence of the state and efficacy of the lockdown for a while longer but should it become evident to the people that the state exaggerated the threat of the epidemic in order to create this catastrophic social crisis, the reaction will be global and revolutionary. The obedience of the populace to the medical martial law regime is predicated on trust in governments, the mainstream media, and medical establishment.

We are at that point in the trajectory of human race where the road forks into a dialectic between the interests of the state (social control) and people (human rights). Although this conflict is embedded in any human society, the Crisis revealed a chasm between the ruling class and people in our day and age. The state has become menacingly more powerful, while people, traumatized, alienated, and impoverished, became more disempowered. We need to understand this situation through the social conflict frame in order to organize effectively, respond, appropriately and impact social processes. Hopefully, people will prevail and a better world will emerge from the Coronavirus Crisis.

EAPN's Assessment of the 2020 Country Reports with proposals for Country-Specific Recommendations



In this report, we present our members' assessment of the 2020 Country Reports in the context of COVID19, monitoring progress on poverty and social rights through the Europe 2020 poverty target, the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the SDGs as well as follow up on 2019 Country-specific Recommendations.

This includes an **assessment of progress on participation of People Experiencing Poverty and NGOs in Member States** and the **reflection in the Country Reports**.

In the context of the COVID19 epidemic, most EAPN members underlined the urgency of revising the 2020 CSRs to prioritize direct financial and other support to guarantee people's rights and living standards, not just economic support to companies/markets. In particular, protecting people's health and access to health/care services, defending jobs, ensuring adequate incomes and livelihoods.

COVID19 Priority Recommendations

1. Embed poverty/social impact assessment
2. Reinforce quality public health and social care services

3. Prioritize adequate minimum income and social protection, continuing increases
4. Protect employment/ prevent precarious work/ revalue front-line work
5. Ensure that the poor don't pay with austerity

Overall Messages for CSRs based on the Country reports

1. Ensure macroeconomic policies, support social rights and reduce poverty
2. Give priority to poverty reduction, implementing social rights and SDGs, prioritising integrated antipoverty strategies, including an EU strategy
3. Support additional integrated strategies for key-at-risk groups
4. Urgently improve adequacy and coverage of minimum income and social protection
5. Guarantee rights to public & essential services: health, housing and social services
6. Tackle barriers to accessing quality jobs and in-work poverty
7. Invest in universal, free, public education, training and lifelong learning
8. Strengthen meaningful participation of people experiencing poverty & NGOs at all stages

[Read the Assessment](#)

Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council (PVCC)



The most important actions of the Pancyprrian Volunteerism Coordinative Council (PVCC) against the fight of the Corona Virus for the support of our member organizations (voluntary organizations/ NGOs) as well as the vulnerable groups are as follows:

1) Mapping of the situation among the member organisations

The PVCC conducted a **mapping research** among its member organisations aiming to collect information about their needs, problems, suggestions, good practices during the pandemic of the Corona Virus. The results were used to open a channel of communication with its member organisations with a constant flow of information to address the different problems/issues aroused in relation to COVID-19. In addition **the PVCC informed the relevant authorities** about the results for further actions.

2) Operation of a HELPLINE which provides social empowerment through support, information and interconnection with other services. The helpline supports vulnerable social groups.

3) Support to member organisations:

- PVCC's News Service informs on a daily basis NGOs/member organisations on all latest developments
- The PVCC distributed protective masks to its member organisations
- Webinars for the empowerment of professionals and volunteers
- Development of special COVID-19 page on the PVCC website providing information, guides, webinars and other useful information and tools for member organisations

(author: Alexandra Kyriacou, PVCC)

Coronavirus: Vulnerable groups at risk of shouldering burden of crisis, warns EU civil society network



photo: *Social Platform*

Published on The Parliament Magazine, 28 April 2020

Written by **Piotr Sadowski** on 28 April 2020 in Opinion

The world is currently held under the dark cloud cast by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the face of the rising death toll and lockdowns – both social and economic – there is one clear beacon of light in the darkness: extraordinary acts of bravery and kindness carried out by individuals, communities and frontline workers.

Whether this is in the form of a shop worker helping an older person with their groceries, or the outpouring of gratitude for our health services, these demonstrations of solidarity will be as well remembered as the losses.

But what must also be remembered is that people in vulnerable situations will need the support of society and government not just now, but also in the long-term.

This is why it is vital that the actions taken by EU and national leaders are inclusive. The policies put in place to fight the after effects of this crisis must guarantee that no one is left behind.

This would include groups at heightened risk of poverty, social exclusion and discrimination such as children, youths, older people, women, people with disabilities, the LGBTIQ community, homeless people, migrants and refugees, and ethnic and religious minorities.

These people in vulnerable situations were hardest hit by the raft of austerity measures introduced in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, with the number of people at risk of experiencing poverty and social exclusion peaking at 24.8 per cent of the population in 2012.

Latest figures show that this had declined to 21.7 per cent by 2018 – still some 109.2 million people. Unless stark lessons are learnt from the past, these groups will once again shoulder the burden of EU and national economic and social policies that put profit-making before the rights, wellbeing and dignity of people.

Socially inclusive and sustainable policies to fight the current worsening crisis must be the basis for long-term changes which build more resilient societies that can better face crises in the future.

Many Social Platform members are already doing their part to ensure that solidarity and justice are upheld during this crisis – particularly for the most vulnerable in society.

For example, within the network Volonteurope, of which I am Secretary-General, we have numerous member organisations, whose volunteers are working hard to reduce social isolation and loneliness of the most hard-hit, vulnerable community members, while keeping safe.

Social Platform's membership has a comprehensive understanding of social realities on the ground, most of whom have direct experience of building inclusive societies in practice and can demonstrate what is possible.

This is why it is so important that civil society organisations are meaningfully involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of measures to tackle this crisis.

Social Platform has already released a statement that will form the basis of our work on the crisis going forward, identifying certain areas where it is already clear that improvements to existing policies and practices can, and should, be taken. [...]

The full text can be read [here](#).

(website source: Social Platform; available at: <<https://www.socialplatform.org/news/coronavirus-vulnerable-groups-at-risk-of-shouldering-burden-of-crisis-warns-eu-civil-society-network/>>)

Social Platform: COVID-19 – disseminating members' responses and reactions

So that we can amplify the amazing work that our members and your national members are doing to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ground, we are updating some of our communications tools – including our external 'Social Compass' newsletter and sections of our website – to better disseminate your messages.

Please, let us know about the activities, reports, recommendations etc. in response to the [Covid-19] crisis, which will be added to our continually-updated web resource.

Please send the above information to
covid19@socialplatform.org

In the end of 2019, **Social Platform** produced a [video](#) to promote the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Our aim was to target European and national decision makers and to encourage them to meaningfully implement the Pillar's 20 principles.

However, as all know, the COVID-19 crisis has changed everything and this year we are in a very different situation when many plans have been seriously altered. Nevertheless, the crisis did not alter our determination and has instead reinforced the need for a stronger social Europe.

This year, the European institutions are working towards an Action Plan on implementing the Pillar and we believe our video could be a helpful tool for you and your national members to support your advocacy work and communicate about the Pillar.

Our plan was to link the launch of the video to an event and give the video a greater visibility and profile, but now we need to adjust to a different reality which is why we are offering this video to you and your national members to use and promote. The video is subtitled in all EU languages and is available on our website: https://www.socialplatform.org/social_pillar_video/.

AGE Platform Europe



Older person's rights must be equally protected during the pandemic

As the coronavirus COVID-19 is spreading across Europe and worldwide, national authorities and EU institutions do their utmost to address the pandemic. Their key objective is to ensure that across the European Union, hospitals and health care professionals will maintain their capacity to provide intensive care to all who need urgent medical attention.

Solidarity as the best response

No one is invincible: we are all at risk of getting infected by the virus. But older persons, persons with disabilities, or persons with pre-existing medical conditions might suffer much more severe consequences. Respecting the containment measures are an act of solidarity with those at risk of most serious outcomes and with the health and care professionals that are on the frontline.



Read more about [The voice of older persons at EU level](#).

(text and photo: AGE Platform Europe; available at: <https://age-platform.eu/coronavirus-covid-19>)



SDG Watch Europe Steering Group Statement on Covid-19

The Steering Group of SDG Watch Europe has published **a Statement on the consequences of Covid-19**. The document was released on April 7th 2020 as a preliminary statement from the Steering Group in time for Eurogroup meeting where additional measures were discussed.

It was sent out to the following policymakers:

- [European Commission coronavirus response team](#)
- [Eurogroup representatives](#)
- MEPs who expressed interest in SDG's [MEPs4SDGs](#) initiative and SDG WE activities.

In the following weeks SDG Watch Europe will work on a longer position paper in consultation with Work Strand 1 and a wider membership of SDG WE.

The Statement on the consequences of Covid-19 can be downloaded [here](#).

(source: SDG Watch Europe;
<<https://www.sdgwatcheurope.org/>>)



Women's rights and the COVID-19 pandemic



Incidents and evidence are increasingly reported showing that the policy of isolation and confinement leads to increased levels of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence – and therefore to a heightened need of protection against this. Attention needs to be paid also to the possible longer-term effects of the pandemic on the balance between professional and personal life and on women's economic independence, since it may force many of them to make difficult choices and to move to unpaid work.

Most member states, international organisations and non-governmental organisations are taking action to tackle the specific impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women's rights. Through the information page, the Council of Europe aims at disseminating information about initiatives, practices, statements, and guidelines put in place, notably in line with the spirit of the Istanbul Convention. By clicking on the boxes on the webpage, you will be redirected to four pages containing respectively information on action undertaken by our member states, on the Council of Europe institutional response (official documents, statements etc.), and on the initiatives by other international organisations and by NGOs. Information on national measures was collected following a call for submissions issued jointly by the [Gender Equality Commission](#) and the [Committee of the Parties](#) to the Istanbul Convention.

For more information click on the Council of Europe information webpage [here](#).

(source: Council of Europe; available at: <<https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/women-s-rights-and-covid-19>>)

Conferences/Expert Meetings



**SWESD 2020
HAS BEEN POSTPONED!**

**NEW DATES:
8TH – 11TH, NOVEMBER 2020
RIMINI, ITALY**

Dear SWESD2020 Delegates,

Once again, we cordially regret the inconvenience the SWESD2020 postponement might have caused.

A force majeure event has occurred and the release of the ordinance COVID-19 by Italian Government and Ministry of Health has forced us to make this final decision, taken in order to protect the vulnerable part of our society and to reduce any risk that might be caused by travel and attendance to such an international meeting. As anticipated in the last official communication the **SWESD2020 Conference**, will be held in **Rimini, Italy, from November 8 to 11, 2020**.

The registrations purchased until now will be automatically considered valid for the new date, as well as the invoices issued.

If you have already registered for the Conference, **you are not requested** to complete the registration process again.

Looking forward to welcoming you in Rimini!

[All about the Conference here](#)

Useful Links

COVID-19 general information:

[World Health Organisation](#)

(WHO – available in different languages)

[European Commission](#)

(available in all EU languages)

[European Medicines Agency](#) (EMA)

[European Centre for Disease Control](#) (ECDC)

[Council of the European Union](#)

[WHO Health Alert on COVID-19 via WhatsApp](#)

United Nations Human Rights – Office of the High Commissioner:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25748&LangID=E>

EAPN's Assessment of the 2020 Country Reports with proposals for Country-Specific Recommendations:

<https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/EAPN-EAPN-Assessment-of-2020-Country-Reports-with-alternative-CSRs-4405.pdf>

SDG Watch Europe Steering Group Statement on Covid-19:

[https://www.sdgwatcheurope.org/documents/2020/04/sdg-watch-europe-steering-group-statement-on-covid-19.pdf/](https://www.sdgwatcheurope.org/documents/2020/04/sdg-watch-europe-steering-group-statement-on-covid-19.pdf)

Council of Europe – Women's rights and the COVID-19 pandemic – information webpage:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/women-s-rights-and-covid-19>

Colophon

ICSW Europe registered office is located at the municipality of Utrecht (The Netherlands).

The name of the Association is: International Council on Social Welfare Europe, abbreviated to: ICSW Europe.

The Newsletter of ICSW European Region is published quarterly. Material may be freely reproduced or cited provided the source is acknowledged. Contributions on social welfare from all sectors of the international community are welcome.

Contributions and comments can be sent to:

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