

## World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA)



### Press Release

#### **Health Professions support WHO's Vaccine Equity Declaration, calling for accelerating vaccine equity for all frontline workers**

25 March 2021

The World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) supports the World Health Organization's [Vaccine Equity Declaration](#), which encourages countries to ensure that access to immunisation is determined by need, rather than wealth or geographic location

Representing 41 million health professionals around the world, WHPA recognizes that health professionals are at the heart of every health system and governments must provide safe, supportive environments to help them thrive, including access to vaccines.

**WHPA members stress that early vaccine access is critical to ensuring the health and safety of our essential workforce, protecting not only them but also their patients, families, communities, and the broader health of countries.**

WHPA represents health professionals on WHO's Steering Committee for The Year of the Health and Care Workers, chaired by WHO Director General Dr Tedros. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic the five members of the WHPA have been advocating for the rights, respect and support of health professionals and workers around the world and have strengthened their collaboration through the Stand Up for [Positive Practice Environments](#) campaign and an increased dialogue.

Each of the WHPA members have signed the declaration individually, in addition to collectively. Find out more about their professional recommendations and activities in the [statement](#).

On behalf of health professionals everywhere, WHPA encourage leaders and policy makers to also [sign the declaration](#) and support the workforce who continue to support us throughout this epidemic.

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The [World Health Professions Alliance \(WHPA\)](#) speaks for more than 41 million health care professionals worldwide, assembling essential knowledge and experience from the key health care professions in more than 130 countries.

The WHPA was formed in 1999 and now brings together the global organizations representing the world's dentists, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists and physicians. We work to facilitate collaboration among the health professions and major stakeholders such as governments and international organizations, including the World Health

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Organization. By working in collaboration, instead of along parallel tracks, patients and health care systems benefit.

Together, the partners of the WHPA include more than 600 national member organizations, making us the key point of global access to health care professionals within the five disciplines.

[FDI World Dental Federation \(FDI\)](#) serves as the principal representative body for more than one million dentists worldwide with membership comprising of some 200 national dental associations in about 130 countries.

The [International Pharmaceutical Federation \(FIP\)](#) is the global federation of national organisations representing more than four million pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists and pharmaceutical educators around the world.

The [International Council of Nurses \(ICN\)](#) is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations, representing the more than 27 million nurses worldwide.

[World Physiotherapy](#) is the sole international voice for physiotherapy, representing more than 660,000 physiotherapists worldwide through its 125 member organisations.

The [World Medical Association \(WMA\)](#) is an international organisation representing more than nine million physicians with its membership of 115 national medical associations.

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**‘Stand Up For Positive Practice Environments’**, a campaign initiated by the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA), highlights the need for urgent action to address the global health workforce crisis; too many countries have desperate shortages of health professionals, impacting negatively on people’s health outcomes and health worker well-being. The reasons are complex. A prevailing reason, however, is the poor quality of most healthcare work environments that are undermining health service delivery and driving health professionals away from their caregiving role and country.

Positive Practice Environments – health care settings that support excellence and decent work conditions – have been proven to have the power to attract and retain staff, provide quality patient care and strengthen the health sector as a whole. That’s why WHPA’s worldwide campaign is urging health professionals, managers, governments, policy and decision-makers, and community leaders, to ‘Stand Up For Positive Practice Environments.’

[www.positivepracticeenvironments.org](http://www.positivepracticeenvironments.org)



TURN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS INTO  
HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE  
WORK ENVIRONMENTS.

#PositivePracticeEnvironments