

# ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN, GIRLS AND LGBTI PERSONS: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

## ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

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To tackle the COVID-19 global pandemic, many countries have chosen to divert important resources from essential health services for women, girls and LGBTI persons, further heightening their health risks. Furthermore, heightened stigma and discrimination against LGBTI persons have resulted in unequal access and quality of healthcare.

### Actions Parliamentarians can take:

- Resolve delays and disruptions in access to healthcare for women, girls and LGBTI persons;
- Establish sexual, reproductive and HIV-related health services as essential;
- Ensure confidential access to sexual, reproductive and HIV-related healthcare as well as full consent from patients at all times;
- Address women's, girls' and LGBTI persons' increased health risk through preventative measures, including early detection and treatment of COVID-19;
- Provide female health workers and other frontline workers with an adequate supply of personal protective equipment and appropriate psychological support; and
- Guarantee easily accessible transportation services for women, girls and LGBTI persons living in rural areas to seek healthcare.


### Country-Specific Practices:

#### **Africa**

Kenya: Community health workers have found innovative ways to deliver drugs to HIV-registered patients, such as home deliveries by bike and multi-month refills.

#### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

Honduras: Employers are obliged to supply the materials and equipment necessary to carry out paid domestic work safely.



**To learn more about PGA's Gender, Equality and Inclusion Program, or to share your country's experience and policies, please contact:**

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