

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

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELIEF

The COVID-19 pandemic has destabilized most economies around the world, forcing people into unemployment and plunging many into poverty. Women and LGBTI persons are among the hardest hit because they are more likely to work in the informal sector and often have to survive without job protections.

### Actions Parliamentarians can take:

- Urgently address food shortages in vulnerable communities;
- Grant cash transfers and provide alternative temporary employment, such as jobs in manufacturing personal protection equipment, for women and LGBTI persons;
- Provide social protection schemes for women and LGBTI persons who are working in or laid-off from the informal economy;
- Consider affirmative action measures for women and LGBTI persons during the economic recovery period; and
- Formulate post-pandemic programs and targets for the economic empowerment of women and LGBTI persons.

### Country-Specific Practices:

#### Asia

India: Cash grants are provided for women who have a particular type of bank account.

#### Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina: The government has established a 1% quota for transgender workers in civil service jobs.

#### Middle East

Turkey: There are increased social and maternity benefits for women.

#### North America

Canada: The government has announced an additional \$15 million to support female entrepreneurs through the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy (WES) Ecosystem Fund.

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

Mónica Adame, Program Director ([monica.adame@pgaction.org](mailto:monica.adame@pgaction.org))

Alex Roche, Senior Program Officer ([alejandro.roche@pgaction.org](mailto:alejandro.roche@pgaction.org))