GLOBAL HEALTH 5050

TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY IN GLOBAL HEALTH

GLOBAL HEALTH 50/50 DIGEST

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WELCOME

As cases of COVID-19 continue to surge globally, at Global Health 50/50 we have been thinking about what it means to represent gender in times of pandemic; in data, in the workplace, in the media and in and through the stories that have become salient in our societies.

Our ongoing Sex, Gender and COVID-19 Project has raised important questions about who is represented and who is not, how this representation frames our understanding of the pandemic and the actions that are being taken to mitigate it, and rendered tangible the dangers of misrepresentation.

We have found that despite all that we know and are learning about the role of gender in the COVID-19 pandemic, reporting trends are moving in the wrong direction. In the past month, 1 in 5 countries that had previously reported sex-disaggregated data on COVID-19 cases were no longer found to be reporting such data. And where data does exist, it ignores the impact of COVID-19 on the health of trans and non-binary people. We have not identified any country where COVID-19 national surveillance reporting is inclusive of diverse gender identities.

These data gaps create major blind spots in our understanding of COVID-19 and inhibit our ability to achieve better health and equal opportunities for all people of all genders, everywhere. But they also reveal a troubling tendency in how gender and gender equality are conceived. The stories that we tell and the perspectives that we represent, frame our understanding of what it means to be gendered beings and to exist within these structural power relations. Gender blindness is a symptom of our way of envisioning gender and a reflection of the narratives we promote.

For real, tangible change to happen, we need to match robust, intersectional data with strong narratives that render visible the 'blind spots' in our societies, policies and structures. Now more than ever, we need powerful storytelling that, rather than obscures, captures the diverse and complex ways that gender is filtered through all of our lives; in the systems in which we live, the opportunities, choices and rights we have, and through our own minds and bodies.

Reflective representation energises debates and informs discourse – and is a key tool for transforming how we see gender, and in turn for reinforcing the demand for sex-disaggregated data to inform gender analysis and bring about change.

In this, our second GH5050 digest, we explore some of the routes we are using to shift the narrative on gender through our This is Gender 2021 competition, the Sex, Gender & COVID-19 project, our 2021 report, and through the incredible work of our collective of volunteers.

Most importantly, we invite you to get involved and strengthen the call for new narratives, robust data and the accountability needed to hold decision-makers to account for gender equality and health equity.

GENERATING REPRESENTATIONS OF GENDER IN A TIME OF CRISIS

THIS IS GENDER 2021

This is Gender, the global photography competition hosted by Global Health 50/50, is back. Now in our second year, we invite photographers to share their vision of what gender looks like and to submit photographs that explore the diverse ways in which gender norms – rigid and fluid, traditional and progressive – are lived and subverted by men, women and non-binary people.

The COVID-19 pandemic has held a mirror up to society and revealed our relationship to our environments, each other and the systems in which we live. In turn, the pandemic has exposed existing social fractures and inequalities. As borders have closed and our gaze has turned inward, the pandemic has both exasperated pervasive and restrictive notions of gender roles and catalysed transformations in the gendered landscape.

AT THIS MOMENT OF GLOBAL UPHEAVAL IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO PRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE IMAGERY THAT REFLECTS THE DIVERSE REALITIES OF GENDER.

All photographic and photojournalistic forms are welcome and photographers from low- and middle-income communities and countries are particularly encouraged to participate.

Prizes

- £500 cash prize for first place and cash prizes available for secondary category awards.
- Global exposure across our platform, media partnerships and through our world-recognised annual report.
- Opportunity to have your work featured in a curated exhibition (online if COVID-19 dictates).
- Opportunity to join our global photographer database and connect with organisations and individuals seeking imagery to complement their work in global health and development.
- GH5050 certificate for outstanding depiction of gender.

Explore last year's submissions and coverage here.

Read more about the power of reflective representation & the role of photography and narratives in global health in our Representation Matters series.

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS

We encourage photographers to contribute to expanding the imagery associated with the concept of gender by exploring, for example:
- How the landscape of work – professional, domestic, care or otherwise – is gendered
- How gender intersects with health and wellbeing
- How politics and commercial industries exploit gender roles and how they are challenged
- How gender intersects with other aspects of identities and vulnerabilities

We are particularly interested, but not exclusively, in works that contemplate these topics in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEET THE *THIS IS GENDER* 2021 JUDGING PANEL

We are honoured to announce our 2021 judging panel. Each a leader in their fields, we're looking forward to drawing on their astonishing expertise and invaluable experience for the competition.
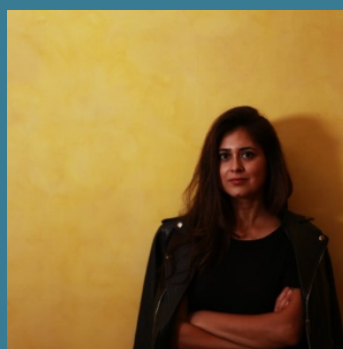
JESSICA HORN

Jessica's work focuses on co-building knowledges, narratives, practices and resources for embodied feminist transformation. Jessica is a founding member of the African Feminist Forum and is a Commissioner on the Lancet Commission on Gender and Global Health.
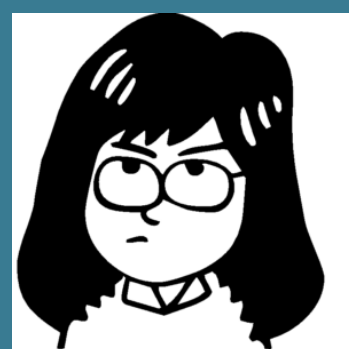
AZU NWAGBOGU

Azu Nwagbogu is the Founder and Director of African Artists' Foundation (AAF), a non-profit organisation based in Lagos, Nigeria. Nwagbogu also serves as Founder and Director of LagosPhoto Festival, an annual international arts festival of photography held in Lagos.

SUHIAR KHAN

Suhair works in Strategy for Google in London. In 10 years at Google her work has mostly focused on creativity, culture, and technology (and most recently, sustainability). She is the founder of Open/Ended – a new online platform for activism in design.

ESRA'A AL SHAFEI

Esra'a Al Shafei is a Bahraini human rights activist and founder of Majal.org, a network of digital platforms that amplify under-reported and marginalized voices and was selected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum and as a Young Leader by Asia Society.

In the highly politicised and contested contemporary environment where the very concepts of gender and gender equality, and those who dare to promote it, are under attack worldwide, we believe that images that explore gender in all its dazzling diversity are more important than ever.

GLOBAL HEALTH 50/50

TELLING THE STORY WITH DATA
LAUNCHING THE SEX, GENDER AND COVID-19 PROJECT

In September, we came together with ICRW (India) and APHRC (Kenya) to launch the Sex, Gender and COVID-19 Project. The project builds on our data tracker to offer the world's largest database of sex-disaggregated data on COVID-19, investigate the roles sex and gender are playing in the outbreak, build the evidence base of what works to tackle gender disparities in COVID-19 health outcomes, and advocate for effective gender-responsive approaches to the pandemic, both globally and regionally.

With our team of dedicated data volunteers, we are currently tracking data in 183 countries – find out if your country is one of them here.

October Update Report from the COVID-19 Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker
Interested in the latest insights on the data, trends, key messages and data gaps from our tracker? Our new monthly report presents key takeaways from the latest data, shows changes in reporting patterns and provides global-level sex-disaggregated data on COVID-19 along the clinical pathway.

Check here on a monthly basis to discover more about what data reveals about gender, COVID-19 and global health.

Want to get involved in our data tracking efforts?
Get in touch at info@globalhealth5050.com

At the core of our Sex, Gender and COVID-19 Project is the belief that when gender is represented in data, we are able to better understand and ultimately address the impacts of both sex and gender on health outcomes and build more equitable, sustainable and healthy societies.

Explore some of our coverage

Why the coronavirus is killing more men than women, The Washington Post

New COVID-19 Information Underscores How Much We've Learned About the Disease, Teen Vogue

COVID Gender-Disaggregated Data Reveals Groups Being Left Behind in National Responses, Ms Magazine

Where The Women Aren't: On Coronavirus Task Forces, NPR

From stories about the relationships between our social environments and health, data and marginalisation, women in the workforce, and the way gender may play a role in who is tested and treated for COVID-19, our data has been covered extensively by international and national media and is playing a key role in promoting and informing public and policy dialogue on the role of sex and gender in the COVID-19 pandemic.

MAINTAINING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GENDER-EQUALITY IS MORE CRUCIAL THAN EVER
THE GLOBAL HEALTH 50/50 2021 REPORT

Amidst an historic pandemic, growing inequalities and suffering, we are kicking off work on our fourth annual report with renewed purpose and urgency.

We recognise that the report comes at a time when organisations, particularly those working to advance global health, are operating under unprecedented levels of pressure and uncertainty. However, COVID-19 has revealed deep and entrenched inequality in our societies, with women, – particularly women of colour – who are disproportionately represented in low-paid jobs and facing substantial increases to their domestic labour, most acutely affected. This is why now more than ever, our commitments to uphold equality and dignity, and accountability mechanisms to ensure that these commitments are maintained, are essential.

Make sure that you have signed up to our mailing list to receive the latest updates on our progress on the 2021 report & details on our launch plans.

AS COVID-19 HAS SWEPT THE GLOBE, IT HAS ALSO REDEFINED OUR WORKING ENVIRONMENTS AND IS THREATENING HARD-WON GAINS FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND EQUITY.

With this in mind, the Global Health 50/50 report will explore how the global health sector is responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its workforce. We intend to showcase positive examples to contribute to learning across the sector. This focus will complement a review of progress made since 2019 across a number of workplace policies, including anti-sexual harassment, family-friendly workplaces and gender pay gap monitoring.

Recognising that COVID-19 has reshaped global health priorities, the report will also explore how the sector is responding to the pandemic. This will involve mapping the COVID-19 related activities of global organisations and assessing the extent to which they are taking a gender-lens to this work.

Explore the Power, Privilege & Priorities 2020 Report here.

EXPANDING GH5050
WELCOMING RENZO GUINTO

Global Health 50/50 is growing. We're delighted to welcome Renzo Guinto to the GH5050 Advisory Council. Renzo is an emerging leader in planetary health, sustainable development and the decolonisation of global health. He is the Chief Planetary Doctor of PH Lab – a "glo-cal think-and-do tank" for advancing the health of both people and the planet and Associate Professor of the Practice of Global Public Health and Inaugural Director of the Global Health Program of the St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine in the Philippines.

Renzo's vast experience and commitment to planetary health and health equity will be invaluable as GH5050 continues to advocate for a fairer and more representative global health landscape and better health outcomes for all.

"COLONIALIST GLOBAL HEALTH IS ALSO GENDER-DISCRIMINATORY. THEREFORE, THE PURSUIT OF DECOLONIZING GLOBAL HEALTH CANNOT BE TOTALLY DIVORCED FROM THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER INEQUALITY. A TRULY 'DECOLONIZED' GLOBAL HEALTH IS GLOBAL HEALTH 50/50."

DR RENZO GUINTO

Global Health 50/50 is powered by a dedicated, passionate and brilliant team of volunteers who generously give their time and expertise to advance action and accountability for gender equality in global health. Learn more about the collective here.

Want to get involved in our work?

Get in touch: info@globalhealth5050.org

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Do you want to challenge narrow representations of gender in global health and development through photographic imagery and storytelling? Help to power our open-access flagship database on sex, gender and COVID-19? Enable relentless advocacy for gender equality? Support early-career researchers across the globe?

Be part of the movement and donate today.

Global Health 50/50 is a not-for-profit that depends on the generosity of our volunteers, advisors and funders to support our work. Donate to the cause and help us to bring about concrete change for gender equality around the world.

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www.globalhealth5050.org