



IS SPACE CLOSING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN GLOBAL HEALTH?

73rd WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY WEEK

THE
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE
GENEVA

GLOBAL
HEALTH
CENTRE

STOPAIDS.

medicusmundi
international network
health for all

IS SPACE CLOSING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN GLOBAL HEALTH?

Speakers

- **Gargeya Telakapalli**, Research Associate, People's Health Movement
- **Mercy Korir**, Medical Doctor; Journalist, KTN News, Kenya
- **Mike Podmore**, Executive Director, STOPAIDS; Chair, Action for Global Health
- **Nadejda Dermendjieva**, Executive Director, Bulgarian Fund for Women
- **Thomas Schwarz**, Executive Secretary, Medicus Mundi International

Moderator

- **Meg Davis**, Special Advisor, Strategy and Partnerships, Global Health Centre

HUMAN RIGHTS AFFECTING NGOS & MEDIA

Freedom of assembly

- The right to peacefully gather in public

Freedom of association

- The right to form an association, register, hire staff, open a bank account

Freedom of expression

- The right to express an opinion, investigate, watchdog, advocate for policy change

Participation

- The right of local stakeholders to free, prior and informed consent to development plans

Transparency, accountability, non-discrimination

Sources: ICCPR, ICESCR, Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, Declaration on Right to Development, UN Common Understanding on HRBA, GI-ESCR 2014, ICNL 2016

RISE OF AUTHORITARIANISM

Silencing of journalists and whistle-blowers

- In 2019, 250 journalists imprisoned, 150 in China alone

Barriers to NGO registration and funding

- Burdensome legal requirements
- Restrictions on foreign funding: Russia-style "foreign agent" laws now adopted in Israel, India, Australia, Austria, Hungary & Poland

Targeting of certain groups

- Vilification, distrust and violence
- Human rights groups; anti-corruption; refugees and migrants; women's rights; LGBTIQ+ groups; labor rights; environmental rights; youth

COVID-19 Civic Freedom Tracker

Keep Civic Space Healthy

This tracker monitors government responses to the pandemic that affect civic freedoms and human rights, focusing on emergency laws. [For information about our methodology, click here.](#)

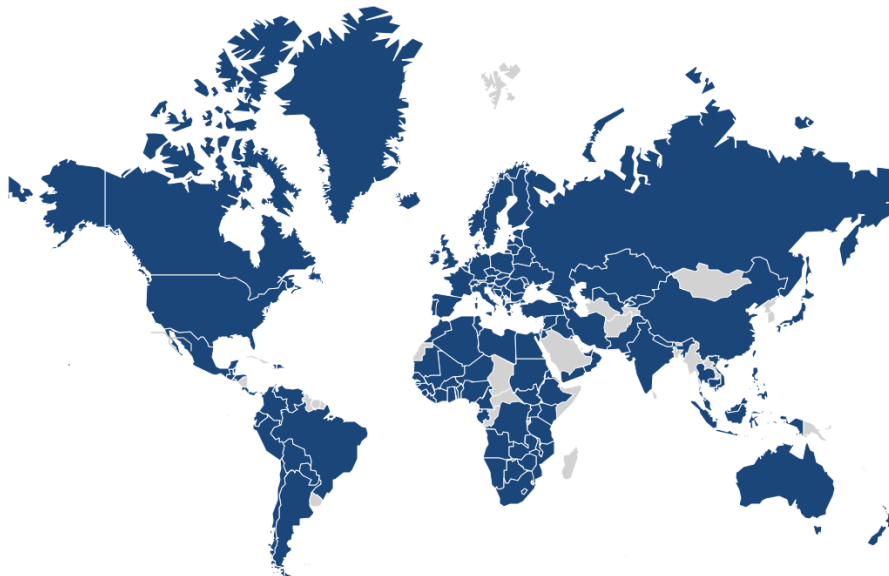


84 COUNTRIES WITH
EMERGENCY
DECLARATIONS

32 COUNTRIES WITH
MEASURES THAT
AFFECT EXPRESSION

111 COUNTRIES WITH
MEASURES THAT
AFFECT ASSEMBLY

27 COUNTRIES WITH
MEASURES THAT
AFFECT PRIVACY



■ Country with entries

How
healthy is
our civic
space in
the
pandemic?

ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE

Key institutions

- **Unitaid** – 2 civil society constituencies with voting rights
- **The Global Fund**– 3 civil society constituencies with voting rights
- **Gavi** – 1 civil society representative with voting rights
- **UNAIDS** – 5 regional civil society representatives
- **World Bank** – N/A

World Health Organization

- **No civil society representation**; plans to strengthen engagement
- **In February, Executive Board reformed role of non-state actors**

Who will govern the COVID-19 response?

- **Worldwide pledging marathon**
- **€ 7.4 billion** for diagnostics, treatment and vaccines
- **Will this be transparent, will civil society be at the table?**

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Thursday 14 May 2020 15:00		Sunday 17 May 2020 12:00		Tuesday 19 May 2020 16:00	
Wednesday 20 May 2020 15:00		Thursday 21 May 2020 15:00		Friday 22 May 2020 15:00	
Wednesday 27 May 2020 14:00					

All WHA Events and Recordings: graduateinstitute.ch/GHC-WHA-2020

Mailing List: graduateinstitute.ch/globalhealth