April 2020 Newsletter

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A Note From Christiaan Morssink

World Health Organization Director-General
Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (3-11-2020)

“We’re deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity and by the alarming levels of inaction...”

…I have said from the beginning that countries must take a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, built around a comprehensive strategy to prevent infections, save lives and minimize impact. Let me summarize it in 4 key areas:

- Prepare and be ready
- Detect, protect and treat
- Reduce transmission
- Innovate and learn

I remind all countries that we are calling on you to (1):
- activate & scale up your emergency response mechanisms:
- communicate with your people about the risks & how they can protect themselves
- find, isolate, test & treat every #COVID19 case & trace every contact

I remind all countries that we are calling on you to (2):
- ready your hospitals
- protect and train your health (care) workers
- let’s all look out for each other
There’s been so much attention on one word. Let me give you some other words that matter much more, & that are much more actionable: **Prevention. Preparedness. Public health. Political leadership.** And most of all, **People!!!!**

“We’re in this together, to do the right things with calm and protect the citizens of the world. It’s doable“.

That’s the talk at the GLOBAL level. Here in the USA, the talk at the state level reflects the urgency that is in Director-General Ghebreyesus’ message. The White House and Fox News seem to be thinking in political terms, seeing hoaxes, Asian and (now) European threats to our nation, and other nonsense.

At our own community level, I can only urge you all to heed the urgency of the Director General, and listen to the messages from the city’s Department of Public Health, unencumbered by white house guidelines, narrow-mindedness and mental aloofness. I also urge you to stay healthy, eat healthy food, have some fever reducing over-the-counter stuff to help your body in case of a fever and have the telephone numbers ready to ask for health care, social support, and arrange your financial, tax prep work, etc. for when a real quarantine or emergency hits home. Talking about home, and car, and workplaces: keep it clean, and wear gloves that can be cleaned as well. Hug your kid, your spouse, NO OTHERs. Wash your linens a bit more often, wash your hands with prolonged effort. Stay alive. We need you come October to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the UN and a few weeks after that to vote for those politicians who can make multilateralism great again.

*NO, NO, NO, for a while at least.*

*Let's try no touch greetings*
We invite you to join us for a unique online discussion on;
"No Waste, No Wars, No Warming"
on Wednesday April 22nd, Earth Day from 1-2:15 pm on Zoom.

Registration and Zoom link here!

OUR PLANET, OUR FUTURE.

GLOBAL WATER ALLIANCE

Please Note the following change of date
GWA conference is now postponed to Thursday, Sept. 24th, 2020
To mark its 75th anniversary in 2020, UN Secretary-General António Guterres announced that the UN is planning to host the biggest-ever global conversation on the role of global cooperation in building the future we want.

Throughout this year, UNA-USA will engage its network of over 200 chapters and more than 20,000 members in the U.S. to conduct “Global Consultations” that will elevate policy recommendations to achieve a sustainable future by 2045.

Our goal is to engage Americans in all 50 states. Notes and recommendations from the Global Consultation will be provided to the United Nations and key decision-makers within the public sector, including Members of Congress.

We need your voice—become a member today!

Click here
We’re Staying Connected on Issues that Matter

The Global Engagement Online Series ("GEOS") is a virtual alternative to our 2020 Global Engagement Summit which will keep you inspired, informed, and connected to the UN this year.

Future Session Topics

- Sustainable Development Goals
- Climate Action
- International Policy
- Gender Equality
- The COVID-19 Pandemic
- Quality Education
- LGBTI Rights & Gender Identity
- UN75 & UN History