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**epha** health equity feed

**October 2024**

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# International & European Institutions

### WHO releases guidance on gender inequalities and antimicrobial resistance

One of the largest challenges in public health is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). AMR, like any other topic related to public health, has a significant equity dimension along different kinds of determinants. Women and girls face barriers in healthcare access which is reflected in diganosis and treatment, while men may be more exposed to antibiotics through work in agriculture, animal husbandry or slaughterhouses.

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### New publication out on equality and non-discrimination

**Eurostat**

Eurostat's has released a large report on equality and non-discrimination. It highlights key disparities across various social groups within the EU, covering areas like health, education, the labour market, and income. The results once more underscore persistent challenges faced by individuals based on sex, age, disability, and ethnicity, while also emphasising gender-based violence and discrimination. The report provides valuable data for policymakers and NGOs to address these inequities and ensure more inclusive policies across Europe .

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### Report highlights inadequate healthcare access for LGBTI people, recommends solutions

**Council of Europe**

LGBTI individuals in Europe face specific barriers when accessing healthcare. A new Council of Europe reports shows that many face discrimination and poor mental health due to lack of inclusive care. The report urges governments to act by improving training, updating laws, and collecting better data to address these disparities. In addition, transgender and older LGBTI people are highlighted as groups needing urgent attention. The report offers a clear path for creating fairer, more inclusive healthcare systems across Europe.



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### The Ministry of Health and UNICEF have provided quality healthcare for over 75,000 refugee children and others in need of care

**UNICEF**

The Czech Ministry of Health has been responsible for ensuring access to healthcare to Ukrainian refugees. A large part of the refugees were women and children, and services had to be adapted to meet their specific needs. Together with UNICEF, steps were also taken to train Ukrainian healthcare workers to work in the Czech system, while Roma health mediators were also put in place.

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### Roma mediators in Moldova enable Roma families to enjoy their human rights

**OHCHR**

One of the key solutions to combatting health inequities that result from antigypsyism is health mediation. Not only because this is a targeted approach to health, but precisely because it takes into account the many-faceted ways in which structural discrimination impacts health. The OHCHR provides an insight into this by highlighting an inspiring health mediation project in Moldova.

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# Research Developments

# Open for submission: Social determinants of infectious diseases

*Deadline: 24 March 2025*

The impact of the social determinants of health can be seen in how they affect communities and individuals differently. Nature attempts to shed light on what this looks like by opening a collection of papers that explore the social determinants of infectious disease. The deadline is until March 2025.

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# Preventing suicide: understanding the complex interplay between individual and societal factors

Commemorating World Suicide Prevention Day, the Lancet released a series on suicide prevention. This article focuses on the impact of societal factors and the social determinants on suicide prevention. Stigma, discrimination, marginalisation, all have direct or indirect impacts on mental health. As such, policy and research requires a wider cross-sectoral lens.

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# From conceptualising to modelling structural determinants and interventions in HIV transmission dynamics models

**BMC Public Health**

A wide range of structural determinants, including criminalisation, stigma and inequitable gender norms, have an impact on the inequities in the burden of HIV. To tunderstand these determinants, this research conducted a scoping review of 17 HIV modelling studies, revealing causal pathways which could be useful to predict impacts and adapt interventions accordingly.

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# Gender differences in cost-related unmet healthcare needs: a national study in Turkiye

**BMC Public Health**

It is difficult to get a grasp on the degree to which people have unmet healthcare needs. Even more difficult is to get a grasp of what the gender differences are within this context. New research from Türkiye analysed health survey data shows that not only 15,4% of individuals cannot access healthcare due to financial constraints, there is also a large gender disparity.

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# Rethinking Covid-19 vaccine inequality in Germany: a spatiotemporal analysis of education and socioeconomic deprivation

**Nature**

When it comes to public health and health equity, a lot of valuable lessons can be learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Research from Germany explored vaccination

rates based on socioeconomic and educational background and found that gaps emerged very early in the vaccination campaign and were not closed until the 4th vaccination wave.

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# In the Media



## Equality 'downgrade' in European Commission dismays rights groups

**The Guardian**

A wide range of civil society organisations and advocates have spoken out against von der Leyen's decision to water down the equality portfolio. During the new mandate, Equality will fall under preparedness and crisis management, significantly reducing attention to equity topics.

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## Unveiling the exploitation of women's health

**The Lancet**

Developments in women's health are frustrated globally, despite significant attention for the topic. With fragmented steps forward and tokenistic approaches, the gap between men and women is still very much there. The reasons for this, and possible solutions are explored through a feminist lens in the book 'Sick of It' by Sophie Harman. This review provides an overview of the book, linking it the examples of current challenges.

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## AI in health care and the fragile pursuit of equity and social justice

**The Lancet**

Just like any development in medical tools or instruments, the increasing use of AI comes with great opportunities and great challenges. Medical Artification Intelligence has the potential to provide a step forward, but may pose risks in increasing disparities. By ensuring open access, rather than limiting the use of new technologies, we can ensure that use of AI in healthcare supports a move towards social justice.

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### One in ten adolescents show signs of problematic use of social media

The WHO has released a report on the social media usage of adolescents, showing that a significant group uses social media intensively in such a way that it may impact their mental health. Part of the cause could be limited digital literacy, making it difficult to identify what is positive and what is negative.

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### Doctors criticise Finland's proposal to withhold healthcare from migrants

Finland is planning to reverse a law which allowed undocumented migrants in Finland to access healthcare in an attempt to cut spending on migration. Health experts comment that this move will lead to deaths, while PICUM reiterates by saying it would be a betrayal of equality and justice.

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## Other News



### Structural racism and the social determinants of health

**The BMJ**

The riots in the UK have brought the discussion on structural racism and social justice to the forefront again. Though the discussion may focus largely on prejudice, the issue cuts much deeper into structural and systematic disadvantage faced by ethnic minority groups. This piece covers three ways in which racism may influence health, being direct impacts, inequalities based on social determinants and the way in which health and care systems function.

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### Governments need to guarantee health care without racism

**Human Rights Watch**

Policy action to counter racism in health and healthcare is lagging behind, despite clear recommendations being made to countries across the globe. Human Rights watch once again underlines the need for governments to start acting, citing a range of statements and research the organisation has been involved in.

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### New project within NWA health inequalities

**NWO**

The Dutch Research Council has awarded and started a large overarching project on health inequalities. It combines four previous projects on the same topic and focuses on promoting health inclusion for people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

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### Podcast explores what drives health disparities

**Harvard T.H. Chan**

As part of a bi-weekly series, this podcast by Harvard University explores the root causes of health inequities. In conversation with leading experts, structural barriers are explored and solutions discussed to reach health equity.

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# Upcoming Events

### Launch of WHO book 'Health inequality monitoring: harnessing data to advance health equity'

**World Health Organization**

*11 December 2024 13:00 – 14:15 CET*

One of the most important aspects of combatting health inequities is collecting equality data. A lack of data is not an excuse not to act, but it does play a crucial role in designing inclusion policy that is as effective as possible. This event launches a book which explores development of equality data collection and how it can be harnessed to advance health equity

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