



World Health Organization

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In reply please
refer to:

Your reference:

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Dear Dr Luthra,

Thank you for your letter and update to Dr Chan. I read with interest the update of your initiative with *Every Women Every Child* Action Network and the letter you received from President Barack Obama. As I am sure you already know, women's health has been Dr. Chan's priority for the WHO, as is the work to achieve the goals of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health and Every Woman Every Child.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is an ambitious one that paints the picture of a peaceful and prosperous world. In order to address the pervasive problems of poverty, violence and inequality and see a transformative shift in our society, we must commit to taking the bold steps outlined in each of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and we have to work together.

For many women and girls, gender discrimination is, unfortunately, an everyday reality. Women, especially those living in poverty, may not be able to access care because they do not have the power or means to make decisions or challenge harmful social norms. Discrimination is often the consequence of the failure to fulfil women's rights.

Lack of education and advocacy are the core of gender and health inequalities, thus your initiatives through the e-learning platforms, gathering information on Women's Health and strengthening collaboration worldwide, are important contributions to our common goals to improve access to health.

In addition, when women participate effectively and enjoy equal opportunities to lead, they have the chance to give a voice to all women's experiences and we can move closer to ensuring everyone's health and wellbeing.

I would like to share that WHO itself has taken steps to address gender parity within the Organization as well.

On behalf of the organization, I would like to offer you my heartiest congratulations to you and your team for your determined work to improve Women's Health and gender equality.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Flavia Bustreo
Assistant Director-General
Family, Women's and Children's Health

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