



Health is a fundamental human right, a moral and social imperative, and the basis of equitable growth and sustainable development

Newsletter

Issue 14, November 2014

Health News

Good health: a powerful tool in the fight against inequality

A new report published by Oxfam calls on governments to reduce inequality by changing the rules and systems that promote inequality and by prioritising policies that redistribute money and power. 'Even It Up: Time to End Extreme Inequality' argues that universal public services – including health and education – are a key part of the solution to out-of-control inequality.

<http://www.globalhealthcheck.org/?p=1700>

Alternative World Health Report released

[*Global Health Watch 4*](#) underlines the need to reorient global governance and build public health systems. With contributions from more than 80 experts from across the globe, GHW4 addresses key issues in the health sector. It covers diverse issues related to health systems and the range of social, economic, political and environmental determinants of health. To buy the book, visit

<http://zedbooks.co.uk/node/17814>

Championing Public Health Nutrition

The Fourth Biennial Conference took place on 25-26 November 2014 in Gatineau, Quebec, Canada. [Click here](#) to see the programme.

The conference was organised by the **Canadian chapter** of the Centre for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), an independent health advocacy organization responsible for Nutrition Action Healthletter.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

On the 25th Anniversary of the passing of the Convention, IBFAN has published a statement congratulating the States parties and Committee for what they have achieved, including Article 24 of the Convention on breastfeeding education and support and General Comment No. 15 stressing the obligation for States to protect and promote breastfeeding. It points out, however, that breastfeeding continues to face tremendous commercial pressures from the baby food industry. [Click here](#) for the full text.

Swedish Workplace HIV & AIDS Programme

The recent annual conference took place in Lusaka. It covered diabetes risk factors, medical

male circumcision, gender dialogues and cancer awareness. See the [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) for articles and photos.

Newsletter of the People's Health Movement

[Click here](#) to download the latest issue of the PHM newsletter (Sept-Nov 2014). This includes an analysis of what the Ebola crisis reveals about the global economic and political system.

Health equity and universal health coverage in Japan

Japan's national health scheme was put in place in 1951, and is praised by the WHO and OECD. In [Health Equity: Japan's Post-war strides towards Universal Health Coverage from a Grassroots Perspective](#), Toru Honda examines the factors responsible for this success.

WHO bulletin, November 2014

Highlights from [the recent issue](#) include Climate change and health; Low prevalence of multidrug-resistant TB in Malawi; Universal health coverage for South East Asia; and Making WHO guidelines more responsive to country needs.

Mental Health

New resources on disability, physical and mental

Handicap International has added 25 open-access resources to the [Source collection](#) on Disability and Inclusion. The topics range from Physical and functional rehabilitation, Violence against women with disabilities, and Children with learning difficulties to Disability and the post-2015 agenda.

Health and Human Rights

New report highlights impacts of trade agreements on human rights in the Pacific

A recent report by UNDP, UNOHCHR and the WHO – [Pacific Trade and Human Rights](#) - shows how trade, development and human rights need to be brought together in a more integrated and inclusive manner for the benefit of Pacific Islands Peoples, including their right to health.

Ebola, Human Rights and Poverty – Making the Links

In [this article](#) for Open Global Rights, Alicia Ely Yamin of the Center for Economic and Social Rights, Harvard University, argues that the Ebola crisis shows the necessity of a human rights approach to public health that focuses on discrimination and accountability. She argues that the crisis itself has been driven by deep inequities in access to basic rights and a legacy of conflict.

Ethical recruitment practices

CGFNS International and the Alliance for Ethical International Recruitment Practices have joined forces to strengthen the important work of ensuring fair and equitable

treatment for foreign-educated health professionals in the USA. For more information contact communications@cgfns.org.

Announcements

Graduate Institute 2015 Careers Forum

The [Forum](#) will take place at the Maison de la Paix, Geneva, from 11-13 March 2015. It offers the opportunity for institutions to make themselves known and meet talented potential employees. Registration is requested before 20 November 2014.

Brocher Foundation: residencies offered on the ethical, legal & social implications of new medical developments

The call for proposals for the 2016 residencies is launched. These last for between one and four months, and give some 12 researchers the opportunity to work at the Brocher Centre on projects examining the implications for humankind of recent medical research and new technologies. [Click here](#) for details including terms and conditions for proposal submission.

Calling humanitarian workers and interested health professionals

The [Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action](#) offers the following courses in April-May 2015: one-week intensive courses on Nutritional crises, Chronic diseases, Sexual and reproductive health, and Violence; seven-week course on Health in humanitarian emergencies. Contact cerahgeneve@unige.ch to apply.

2015 Social Forum: Access to Medicines

The Civil Society Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights announces that the next Social Forum will focus on "*access to medicines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including best practices in this regard*". 18 - 20 February, 2015, Rm. XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. [Click here](#) for additional information and relevant documents.

The Forum Newsletter aims to provide information to members and cooperating organisations and serve as a platform for sharing updates, ideas and experiences. Please send us material you want to share at: info@ngo-forum-health.ch

Visit our website at: <http://ngo-forum-health.ch/>