

Session June 2020

Webinar: A change for the better or for the same?
How to reduce inequalities and poverty throughout the upcoming economic and ecological transitions?

Date: 23 June
14.30 – 17.00

The spread of a new virus brought concerns to all, both rich and poor people alike. But as the pandemic progressed we quickly realized that, once again and as in almost all matters, the poorer and the most fragile in our societies were facing more difficulties. The health concerns were quickly joined by economic concerns and questions remain on what changes will this pandemic bring to our societies. Will we come back to “business as usual” as soon as possible? Did the pandemic showcased flaws that will no longer be acceptable? Did it spark a new movement in favour of more solidarity, activism, and greater social and intergenerational justice?

While at the start of the pandemic, the concern was centered on the elderly and people with low access to healthcare, such as migrants, other groups quickly came to our attention. With the need for confinement, persons in residential care institutions, isolated individuals and persons with disabilities saw their usual support be put at risk. Decent housing, domestic violence and mental health problems have also been identified as growing concerns. Furthermore, the economical crisis looming already affected precarious jobs and young workers.

It is unclear when a new or old “normal” will be stable, but we have seen unprecedented government programs to address an unprecedented socio-economical crisis that is yet to fully reveal itself. In the next couple of years life will surely be different in many aspects. Change will be inevitable. The question now is if we maintain the usual frameworks or if we will adopt new ones that will turn into reality so many aspiring conventions, commitments and promises already made.

We will address how this pandemic revealed the inequalities in our societies, what were the responses and what still needs to be done. And in order to move this discussion forward we will be asking:

- 1) what is happening and what needs to happen to build a fairer society after this pandemic for all groups that tend to be more affected by inequalities? and
- 2) what needs to be put in place so that in future pandemics and other crisis, the most fragile in our communities are protected and cared for?

Draft program

Moderation: Miguel Cabral, Vice-President of the Human Rights Committee

Introduction Anna Rurka – President of the Conference of INGOs

The Social Determinants of Health and COVID-19, was there something we already knew? Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Director, UCL Institute of Health Equity

The role of the Council of Europe in Health and Social Protection before and after COVID-19? Will there be a difference? Laurence Lwoff, Head of the Bioethics Unit of the Council of Europe

Documenting and responding to the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on marginalised communities. Elisabeth Marie, Caritas Europe, and Maritchu Rall, ESAN.

The impact of COVID-19 on Women. Sadia Mir, WUNRN Europe Gender Policy Expert

The role of civic actors to build societies that deliver for all. Giada Negri, Advocacy Officer at European Civic Forum

Questions open for INGOs contributions:

- 1) what is happening and what needs to happen to build a fairer society after this pandemic for all groups that tend to be more affected by inequalities? and
- 2) what needs to be put in place so that in future pandemics and other crisis, the most fragile in our communities are protected and cared for?