Now is The Time!

We, the Public Health community of this world know and explain that health is a global political, economic and social issue of fundamental importance. Health is an indicator of the robustness and sincerity of our societal construction, of our living together in this world.

COVID-19 makes visible all the inequalities and disfunctions in our health and welfare systems. It shows that health is a common global good and not a commodity. It exposes our vulnerability all around the globe, ending the colonial mindset of “some diseases for the poor”.

Did we Public Health people bring our message sufficiently to the stage where it is most needed? A rhetoric question – there is always room for improvement! Now is the time to reconsider and go out into the public! Emphasize that we need working on strengthening systems including sustainable funding – not curing symptoms with a quick fix. Instead of charity we need justice and have to call for the right political context as highlighted by I. Kickbusch.

Now is the time to support multilateralism, to strengthen international organization and their financing as well as governance, it is time to work on international health regulations again, it is time to explain Universal Health Coverage (UHC), it is time to Leave No One Behind, it is time to have health literacy promoted, it is time to see our common overarching interests. It is time to communicate openly and continuously to all of the public, to the leadership as well as to the different levels of politics: COVID-19 shows us that Public Health is core.

We, the Public Health community of this world, together with many likeminded people will continue to work for solidary, global systems that will protect people from health risks and their socio-economic consequences.

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