

Global Public Health Week 2025: Redefining equity and decolonizing public health

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Public health serves as a cornerstone for global well-being, addressing critical challenges such as disease prevention, health promotion, and emergency preparedness. Despite its importance, public health systems often operate in the background, with contributions overlooked. The Global Public Health Week (GPHW)¹, an initiative of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPFA)² seeks to spotlight public health's role, celebrate achievements, and facilitate international collaboration. GPHW is a collaborative initiative that unites public health professionals, institutions, and communities worldwide. It provides a platform for discussing evidence-based strategies, sharing innovative practices, and fostering partnerships that address global health challenges.

The 2025 edition of GPHW focuses on “Redefining Equity: Decolonizing Public Health for a Healthier World,” acknowledging the ongoing need to confront systemic inequities rooted in historical and cultural legacies. As the world recovers from the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, GPHW provides an opportunity to discuss solutions that advance health equity, empower marginalized populations, and address the persisting impacts of colonial frameworks in global health systems. Global discussions during GPHW will focus on reimagining global health frameworks through inclusive and participatory approaches, ensuring that equity becomes an integral component of all public health initiatives.

Starting on April 7, to coincide with World Health Day, GPHW is expected to host approximately 100 events from across the globe. The opening ceremony of GPHW 2025 will be inaugurated by Emma Te Patu, WFPFA President, an Indigenous health leader committed to advancing equity and inclusion in global public health. Key additional sessions will focus on the release of the new Global Charter for the Public's Health³, a cornerstone document of the WFPFA, which has been updated to address the current geopolitical landscape. The week will conclude with a closing ceremony,

setting the stage for the 18th World Congress on Public Health⁴, scheduled to take place from September 6–9, 2026, in Cape Town, South Africa. On top of that, the WFPFA aims to foster global participation across its membership and beyond. Individuals, associations, and institutions are encouraged to organize online or onsite events on public health topics, using any format and language they prefer. Active participation is crucial to amplifying advocacy efforts and sharing innovative solutions worldwide.

Global Public Health Week remains a vital initiative for enhancing the visibility of public health and driving meaningful progress, as well as advocating for sustained investments to strengthen health systems and ensure preparedness for future crises. By embracing diverse perspectives, including those of Indigenous leaders, young professionals, and community-based practitioners, GPHW promotes collective action toward building a healthier and more equitable world. Event submissions are open until March 14th, 2025. Together, through dialogue and collaboration, we can redefine equity and create resilient, inclusive public health systems that serve all.

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