

## "TAKE ACTION AGAINST...INEQUITIES AND ACKNOWLEDGE PERSONAL PRIVILEGE"

NASW Ethical Standards - Highlight of 2021 Revisions



44% OF VACCINES HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED IN "RICHER" COUNTRIES.(1)

LESS THAN 1% HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED IN "POORER" COUNTRIES.(1)

01

### MAKE A CALL

Tell your elected officials to urge the president to commit more resources and an action plan while at the G7 Summit. The resources committed on June 10 are noteworthy, but we await next steps. Vaccines must rapidly be distributed to the countries most in need. A *TIME SENSITIVE* script is provided in the enclosed documents. Find contact information for your [senator](#) and [representative](#).

02

### WRITE A LETTER OR EMAIL

In the enclosed documents, you will find a template letter/email that can be customized. The template calls for direct bilateral assistance to low and middle income countries (LMIC) where COVAX has been unable to distribute expected vaccines, and for the U.S. to donate vaccines that will realistically expire before they can be used. In valuing social justice, social workers are called to advocate for equal access to resources and services for all people (NASW Code of Ethics). Letting unused vaccines go to waste is unethical and can be remedied by donating directly to countries with highest rates of COVID-19 and related deaths, lowest vaccination rates, and/or least resources to address the epidemic, especially LMICs affected by conflict and natural disasters.

03

### LEARN ABOUT THE PROBLEM

Learn about the global context that has caused some countries to be more hard hit by inequitable distribution than others. Learn about the global racial disparities in vaccine distribution and uptake. Learn about our privilege as people living in the U.S. Learn how you can change the systems that contribute to inequity. Take action.

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## E-MAIL TEMPLATE

RE: [Time sensitive] Bilateral COVID-19 vaccines to low- and middle-income countries

Dear Honorable \_\_\_\_:

I am a [social worker/student/professor/researcher] at [organization/institution] and a constituent in your [district/state]. I am writing to urgently request that you share the following concern with President Biden before the G7 Summit is over: Immediate action is needed to stem the spread of COVID-19 and emerging variants. The promised donation of 500 million vaccines earlier this week was a noteworthy start, and the leadership of the U.S. was important in sparking actions from other global leaders. There is still work to be done.

Immediate assistance is required in countries hardest hit by the epidemic, including those affected by conflict and natural disasters. I join various public health organizations such as UNICEF and World Health Organization in asserting that vaccines must be made available by the end of August rather than 2022. UNICEF analysis suggests that G7 countries can donate 20% of their vaccines without any interruption to vaccination to adults in their countries.

The U.S. is uniquely positioned to provide additional direct assistance, and as a social worker with values of social justice and equity, I am advocating for an ethical response to this epidemic going forward. A more equitable approach is not only beneficial for countries in need, but also promotes global health. Until everyone is protected, no one is protected.

Please take time to urge the president to use the G7 Summit as an opportunity to be a leader in this challenge. A plan for rapid distribution of vaccines should be a goal of the G7 Summit.

Thank you for your time,

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## CALL SCRIPT

My name is \_\_\_\_ . I am a [social worker/student/professor/researcher] at [organization/institution] and I live in \_\_\_\_\_. I am calling to ask that Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_ speak with President Biden before the end of the G7 Summit to share my concern about the inequity in global vaccine distribution. I would like to ask the representative/senator to encourage the president to create an explicit plan with other world leaders to donate 20% of their vaccinations by the end of August. According to UNICEF, this will not significantly delay our vaccination plan. A plan for rapid distribution of vaccines should be a goal of the G7 Summit because equitable global vaccination will protect all people, including Americans. Thank you for your time and work.

## LEARN ABOUT THE PROBLEM

Bloomberg Resilience Ranking

Covax: How many Covid vaccines have the U.S. and other G7 countries pledged? June 11, 2021. BBC.

G7 vaccine pledge is just a drop in the ocean, campaigners say. June 11, 2021. Reuters.

Lives first, profits later: How to close the vaccine gap. June 8, 2021. ACLU Podcast: At Liberty.

Nepal Rising - COVID-19 Wave 2

Partners in Health Covid Response

UN experts: G7 government's must ensure vaccines' access in developing countries. June 9, 2021. UNHCR.