



# OUR HEALTH EQUITY PRINCIPLES



## Health is a human right

We believe in the fundamental right to the highest attainable standard of physical, mental and social health and well-being as well as healthcare for all without distinction on the grounds of race, religion, political belief, sexuality, disability, economic or social condition.



## Centering the voices and experiences of people living with or communities affected by health inequities

We believe people with lived experiences of health inequities are experts and we will actively solicit meaningful input from members within our community and support them to authentically tell their stories in a dignified and respectful manner in all of our work.



## Meaningful engagement

We will extend AfGH membership to LMIC-based organisations and UK diaspora groups and work with them to highlight health inequities and propose solutions to the UK government.



## Inclusivity

We will embrace diversity in all its forms and promote an environment of inclusion to ensure all our members feel welcome, free from discrimination, are comfortable to engage, bring new topics to the table and can challenge us, as well as having equal access to resources and opportunities to shape our work.



## Redressing systems (and history) which lead to health inequities

We will not victim blame or knowingly imply that certain conditions (health or otherwise) are inherent to a particular person or group. We will instead focus on shining a spotlight on oppressive systems in place, explaining why and how some people are more affected by structural health inequity, that is - in historical, social, cultural and economic context - and then hold those systems which perpetuate health inequities to account. As a UK-based network, we will always consider how racism and other forms of discrimination unfairly disadvantage people and lead to social and health inequities, including through our continual learning and action to decolonise global health and health systems.



### Continual learning

We do not claim to be experts in health equity and will strive to continually test and adapt our approach, and learn from and be guided by people living with or communities affected by health inequities.



### Mutual respect

We will appreciate every member's unique contribution to the network and will foster a healthy anti-discriminatory environment and non-oppressive approach for our members. We recognise that we are different and do not all share the same beliefs, values and culture, however we choose to respect the beliefs, values and culture of others whilst not imposing our own on others.



### Transparency and accountability

We recognise that our past, present and future actions have consequences, and we are committed to making meaningful amends that support transparency and responsiveness when we cause harm.



### Appreciating intersectionality

We acknowledge that health and health equity is intersectional and individuals may belong to more than one group and may therefore have overlapping health and social inequities. We strive to present individuals as the multi-dimensional persons that they are and we will articulate the particular needs and experiences of these people while not overgeneralising a particular community.



### Collectivism and solidarity

We stand in solidarity with our fellow global citizens affected by health inequities, as well as our new LMIC members and diaspora organisations championing health equity, and we will use our platform to offer active allyship and advocacy, practical support and to propose solutions to redress health inequities, highlighting how reduced health disparities contributes to the common good and benefits all.