

## Statement on the well-being of intersex people in the context of COVID-19

The unprecedented coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19)<sup>1</sup> poses a particular threat to intersex people. In addition to the medical aspect, the spread of the disease allows states to introduce new restrictions. At the same time, the escalating crisis in national and international legal mechanisms limits advocacy opportunities. Intersex people, including intersex people with disabilities, older intersex people, and other groups, are particularly vulnerable to increasing unemployment and the financial crisis, which is becoming crucial in the context of intersex people having limited access to medication, including essential hormone therapy.

Amid widespread negative psychological trends, including racist sentiment and sweeping allegations by religious leaders, intersex people are at additional risk of discrimination due to escalating prejudice. This situation increases the risk of violence due to being forced to stay with abusive household members or in detention for medical reasons. Besides, isolation can undermine the physical and mental health of intersex people, their financial well-being, and their belief in justice.

We call on intersex people and their allies in these difficult times to take care of themselves and support each other in the face of an impending threat. To survive the global crisis:

- Follow these guidelines: wash your hands regularly and thoroughly; Avoid touching your face; keep one meter away from other people; stay home.<sup>2</sup>
- If your household members pose a threat to you: consider staying with friends during a pandemic, think out an escape plan, always have a telephone with you, and set up trusted numbers for speed dialing.
- Do not forget to communicate with friends via online communication. If necessary, contact our organization for peer contacts and free psychological assistance

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<sup>1</sup>Infection manifests itself in symptoms of fever, fatigue, and dry cough and spreads by airborne droplets through the air, objects, and surfaces around the infected person. Read more about coronavirus infection on the UN website: United Nations, Coronavirus infection (COVID-19), URL: <https://www.un.org/ru/coronavirus>

<sup>2</sup> If you are constantly taking medications, buy them a few months in advance to leave your home less often.