

## Press Release

# World Patient Safety Day 2020: Protecting patients and health workers during COVID-19

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On the 17 September 2020, we will be launching the 'Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety' Charter. Health worker safety and patient safety are inseparable, and the world's ability to successfully fight the coronavirus pandemic depends on our ability to

safeguard health workers. World Patient Safety Day 2020, marked on 17 September, will focus on an often-overlooked aspect of patient care - the safety of health workers.

WHO will launch a new '*Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety Charter*' and is calling on hospitals and organisations to support the charter and commit to concrete actions that ensure that we have safer conditions for health workers and patients.

We will be discussing patient safety at our online forum later in September where you can contribute to our discussion.

### **On the 17th September WHO launched a 'Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety' Charter**

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us of the vital role health workers play to relieve suffering and save lives. One of the keys to keeping patients safe is keeping health workers safe.

Globally, around 14% of COVID-19 cases reported to WHO are among health workers, and in some countries it's as much as 35%. Every day, health workers are exposed to stress, burnout, stigma, discrimination and even violence.

To mark World Patient Safety Day, WHO has launched a charter on health worker safety, for many countries, hospitals, clinics to implement.

Now more than ever, we have a duty to give health workers the safe working conditions, the training, the pay and the respect they deserve.

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**For more information contact:**

**Nancy K. Sikah**

**WHO Representative for Asia-Pacific**

**Email: [femmeprotects@gmail.com](mailto:femmeprotects@gmail.com)**

**Web: [www.creativity-4-change.com](http://www.creativity-4-change.com)**

**Twitter: @femme20201**