



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Office of the
General Secretary

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An open letter to the Leaders of the G7

Geneva, 19 February 2021

Re: The global vaccine effort must reach everyone

Your Excellences,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and its 148 member churches in nearly 100 countries, on the occasion of your 19 February meeting to discuss the global efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the development and distribution of the vaccines advance, we have observed with deep concern that the access to the vaccines is unequal. Wealthy countries have secured their doses, sometimes in more quantities than they need, while other countries and their populations have inadequate or no access at all.

The growing lack of solidarity with the most vulnerable and marginalized amongst us is immoral and unacceptable.

The unequal access to vaccines reveals once again the immense inequality in the world, now even exacerbated by COVID-19. A global approach driven by 'vaccine nationalism' cannot work because until all are safe, no one is.

As leaders of the world's richest nations, you have a responsibility towards supporting the global battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

We call on you to:

- Redouble your efforts to financially support the development and distribution of vaccines to developing countries whose limited resources undermine their ability to acquire and provide vaccination to all its citizens. This includes the provision of adequate funding towards initiatives such as COVAX facility.
- Address the challenges related to research, development and sharing of technology and intellectual property rights in the context of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics.

As a faith-based organization that is locally present through its members, and active and operational in humanitarian and development work in developing countries, you can count on us to do our part and to support your efforts.

Yours sincerely

Rev. Dr Martin Junge
LWF General Secretary