

THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY
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THE NETWORK
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



TUFH2020 MEXICO

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Eradicating the Pandemic of Violence against Women (VaW) during COVID-19: advancing health and human rights once and for all
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Systems and Community Based Responses for COVID 19</i>
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Abstract N^o	TUFH482
Content	<p>Violence Against Women (VaW) is a grave violation of human rights, a public health pandemic and a major obstacle in efforts to reduce poverty, war, and illnesses. VaW has been ignored despite the efforts of many. During COVID-19, those living with VaW are often trapped with perpetrators, resulting in increased violence and abuse. Women and girls in abusive situations are facing disproportionate health consequences due to measures such as lockdowns, which also result in economic hardship, creating a global she-cession. During COVID-19, a spotlight has been shone on the tragedies of morbidity and mortality produced by VaW. We argue that this critical time period can be used to catalyze long lasting changes to prevent and mitigate VaW through comprehensive short and long term policy measures related to education, research, media coverage, legislation, policing, social work and so forth. It is urgent that governments everywhere make women and children's safety an immediate priority through the provision of safe housing, food security, healthcare and retraining for livelihoods. The only way to decrease VaW in the long term is to work to change the underlying conditions causing VaW, including hegemonic toxic masculinities, patriarchy, and oppressive cultural practices. The pandemic of VaW must never be silenced again and movements such as #MeToo ought to be supported to promulgate effective human rights changes that lead to systemic and institutional justice. Because of the intensification of VaW during this time, COVID-19 offers the world the opportunity to eradicate VaW once and for all.</p>