



SECRETARIAT FOR ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND EQUITY (SARE)

COVID-19 NEWSLETTER MAY-AUGUST 2020

“Coronavirus is not some grand leveler: it is an amplifier of existing inequalities, injustices and insecurities” Owen Jones

The **coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic**, declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020, has affected 185 countries and territories. **A total of 29,119,433 persons have been infected** with the coronavirus and 925,965 have died. In the Americas, with the confirmation of the first case in Haiti, on March 19, COVID-19 has reached all countries of the region where 14,903,891 persons have contracted the virus, and 513,246 died.

The serious consequences of the pandemic have tested the response capacity of all governments, revealing the weaknesses of public health systems, disaster emergency alert systems, social protection systems and social development policies. In this context and in the most unequal region of the world, the health emergency is also a social and economic pandemic. This is because in the Americas different groups in situations of vulnerability coexist and they are subject to different levels of discrimination and face enormous gaps in access to economic, social, cultural and political rights. **If these gaps were already present before COVID-19, they are more evident during this emergency, making vulnerable groups the first and main victims of the pandemic.**

The mission of **the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE)** of the Organization of American States is to build more inclusive and equitable societies, promoting access to rights, the empowerment of groups in a situation of vulnerability, and citizen participation.

To attend to this mission and to the “Integrated Response of the General Secretariat of the OAS to the COVID-19 crisis”, **SARE has set up initiatives to facilitate the exchange of information, tools, public policy experiences, good practices and lessons learned to help member States prioritize** equality and non-discrimination principles. These initiatives are designed with a rights-based approach in order to address the serious consequences of the pandemic.

UPCOMING MEETINGS, FORUMS AND WEBINARS



Women with Disabilities, Sexual and Reproductive Rights, and their participation in gender struggles in the Americas.

Date: September 17, 2020

The webinar will help to make visible the situation of women and girls with disabilities in the exercise and protection of their rights and their position and participation in the struggles for gender equality and disseminate political proposals and programs that are being implemented in favor of women with disabilities and their transversal inclusion in gender policies.

Follow [@OEA Inclusion](#) for event details.



The role of the media regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on migrants and refugees

Date: September 22, 2020

The seventh roundtable aims to analyze the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in the Americas and discuss the role of the media, in the face of the challenges that these people face.

Follow [@OEA Inclusion](#) for event details.



The Global Compact on Refugees & Forced Displacement In Central America: Regional Cooperation & the MIRPS as a Solution

Date: September 23, 2020

The High Level event on the margins of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

(UNGA) aims to increase visibility of the crisis and the MIRPS efforts as a comprehensive solution. Furthermore, the event will work to mobilize the international community to broaden the support base to the MIRPS. Follow [@OEA Inclusion](#) for event details.



Health, Disability and COVID-19

Date: September 24, 2020

This event will raise awareness among States, decision makers in public policies, programs and projects, organizations and other relevant actors in the Latin American and Caribbean region about the importance of including a transversal, inclusive and intersectional perspective in health measures in relation to pandemic-type health catastrophes such as the one we are facing today with COVID-19, and on how these affect people with disabilities, through the realization of a specific discussion on the subject, of regional scope. Follow [@OEA Inclusion](#) for event details.



Seventh Special Meeting of CEDDIS

Date: September 30, 2020

The aim of the Seventh Special Meeting of the [CEDDIS](#) is to discuss and adopt the special methodology for the evaluation of the first group of national reports on the implementation of the Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities ([CIADDIS](#)) and the Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities ([PAD](#)).



First Regional Workshop on the Social Inclusion of Victims of Trafficking in the Americas

Date: October 6-7, 2020.

The regional workshop aims to strengthen the capacities of the Ministries of Social Development (of the countries participating in the Quito Process) to improve support mechanisms aimed at promoting the social inclusion of victims of trafficking in contexts of high human mobility. **Follow [@OEA Inclusion](#) for event details.**



Cycle of Virtual Meetings on Inclusive Education OAS-ORITEL

Date: October 7, 2020
Date: October 21, 2020

The webinars will complement the Seminars of the OAS-ORITEL Program for the Promotion of Inclusive Education in the Americas during the context of the health pandemic that is impacting the region and the world during 2020, creating spaces for virtual meetings, reflection and analysis, not only with respect to the situation of inclusive education during the pandemic, but also, and above all, after it, with students with and without disabilities, their families, teachers and Principals in schools, and government authorities in Education. **Follow [@OEA Inclusion](#) for event details.**



X Period of Sessions of the Working Group of the Protocol of San Salvador

Date: October 30, 2020

The Working Group entitled to examine the National Reports of the Protocol of San Salvador ([WGPSS](#)) will hold its tenth period of sessions - virtually - where it will discuss and present recommendations on national reports presented by the States Parties to the Protocol of San Salvador.



PAST EVENTS



Virtual Roundtable “The post COVID-19 new “normal” and persons with disabilities: towards disability-inclusive responses”

Date: May 14, 2020

This webinar collected information from key government actors, as well as multilateral and civil society organizations, on States’/Governments’ responses to the post-COVID-19 world for persons with disabilities with a rights-based approach that reduces gaps and avoids dynamics that normalize inequalities.

Watch [HERE](#) (Spanish)



Meetings of Experts from the National Councils on Disability

Date: May 29, 2020 (Spanish)

Date: June 9, 2020 (English)

The objective of these meetings was to exchange ideas and proposals about this emergency and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the post-COVID-19 world emphasizing good practices in inclusive policies implemented by member states.



Facebook Live “Youth and Inclusion in the COVID-19 context” (available in Spanish)

Date: June 8, 2020

The Facebook Live event promoted a discussion among its participants, specifically those that

are in vulnerable groups: youth with disabilities, youth of African Descent, Indigenous youth and LGBTQI youth, as well as those living in poverty, among others, to learn how they have been affected by the pandemic, and to collect their proposals for governments from a transversal and inclusive perspective. Watch [HERE](#) (Spanish)



State responses to the impacts of COVID-19 on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees

Date: June 16, 2020

The second roundtable aimed to analyze the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in the Americas and discuss current and future responses by States, at the national and local levels, in the face of to the challenges that these people face, applicable in policies and practices and that are in line with a human rights approach. Watch [Here](#) (Spanish)



Migrants and Refugees in the Americas in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

Date: June 23, 2020

The joint event between the OAS, Rotary International, District 7620 and Rotary Club of Washington Global addressed the role and work of different stakeholders in the Migrant and Refugee Crisis. Watch [HERE](#)



The role of civil society organizations on the impacts of COVID-19 on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees

Date: June 23, 2020

The third session aims to analyze the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the Americas and discuss the role of civil society organizations in the search for current and future solutions to the challenges that these people face, applicable in policies and practices and that are in line with a human rights approach. **Watch [HERE](#) (Spanish)**



High-Level launch of the Spain Presidency of the MIRPS Support Platform to Mobilize support for Displaced People in Central America

Date: June 29, 2020

The purpose of the event was to announce the government of Spain's assumption of the leadership of the Support Platform for the MIRPS -- the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions to forced displacement in Central America and Mexico. **Press Release: [HERE](#); Watch: [HERE](#)**



The role of academia and think tanks in the face of the impacts of COVID-19 on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees

Date: July 7, 2020

The fourth session aims to analyze the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the Americas and discuss the role of academia and think tanks in the search for current and future solutions to the challenges these people face, applicable in policies and practices and in line with a human rights approach. **Watch [HERE](#) (Spanish)**



Ecommerce & Consumer Safety in the Context of COVID-19

Date: July 20, 2020

The purpose of the virtual dialogue was to address the challenges to protect and empower consumers when they buy products online in the context of COVID-19. The virtual dialogue, hosted by the Committee on the Safe Consumption and Health Network (CSHN), was among the 20 Member States of the Network, as well as with multilateral organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia.



Voices of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic

Date: July 21, 2020

Analyze the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking communities in the Americas and discuss their role in seeking current and future solutions to the challenges they face, applicable in policies and practices and that are in line with a human rights approach. **Watch [HERE](#).**



Indigenous Peoples in the Post COVID-19 Context: Challenges and Recommendations

Date: August 13, 2020

The webinar was focused on promoting dialogue on the recommendations and challenges for indigenous peoples in the post-COVID-19 context in the OAS member states. The event was organized by the OAS Department of Social Inclusion and the Amazon Conservation Team within the framework of the Third Inter-American Week of Indigenous Peoples. **Watch [HERE](#) (Spanish)**



The role of the organs of the Inter-American System, judges and national human rights institutions in the face of the impacts of COVID-19 on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees

Date: August 18, 2020

This session aimed to analyze the impacts that the pandemic is having on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the Americas and to discuss the role of the Inter-American System, judges and national human rights institutions in the search for current and future solutions to the challenges these people face, applicable in policy and practice and in line with a human rights approach. **Watch [HERE](#) (Spanish)**



Launch of the Project to strengthen the capacities of local authorities in the reception and integration of migrants and refugees in the Americas

Date: August 31, 2020

DSI launched the Project on "Strengthening the Capacities of Local Authorities in the Reception and Integration of Migrants and Refugees in the Americas". This project led by the OAS, together with the IOM, PADF, UNHCR, ILO, UNDP, UN Woman, the Canadian Research Chair of Excellence in Migration and Integration at Ryerson University, and the Club de Madrid aims to strengthen the capacities of local authorities in the reception, assistance, protection and socio-economic and cultural integration of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the region. **Watch [HERE](#) (Spanish)**



INTERVIEWS AND ARTICLES

- June 15, 2020. Muñoz-Pogossian, Betilde. **How to Fight Xenophobia: Tips from a Venezuelan.** Available [HERE](#).
- June 20, 2020. Muñoz-Pogossian, Betilde. **Giving Venezuelan Refugees a Hand.** Available [HERE](#).
- June 29, 2020. Muñoz-Pogossian, Betilde. **More rights after COVID-19.** Available in Spanish [HERE](#).
- July 15, 2020: Molina, Pamela. interview in the Newspaper of Education: **“Disability is a social and ideological construction, the same as the concept of Gender”.** Available in Spanish [HERE](#)
- July 23, 2020. Muñoz-Pogossian, Betilde (CADE 2020). **Resilient, inclusive and sustainable development.** Available in Spanish [HERE](#).
- July 30, 2020. Muñoz-Pogossian, Betilde. **The Sordid Tale of Returned Venezuelan Migrants.** Available [HERE](#).
- August 20, 2020: Rojas Davila, Roberto. **Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples face growing structural racism in times of COVID-19.** Available [HERE](#)
- September 14, 2020: Calderón, Ainscow, Bersanelli and Molina-Toledo. **Educational Inclusion and Equity in Latin America: an analysis of the challenges.** Available [HERE](#)

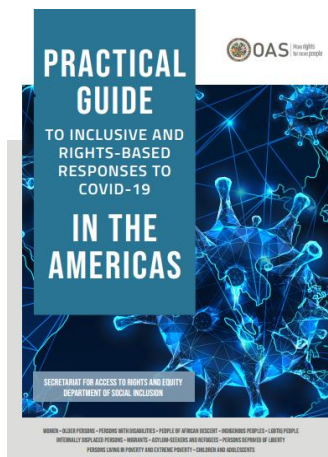


FEATURED RESOURCE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity of the OAS. **“Practical Guide to Inclusive and Rights-Based Responses to COVID-19 in the Americas”.**

The objective of the guide is to support member States in their efforts to respond to the pandemic by offering tools to decision-makers that take into account the specific needs of groups in situations of vulnerability.

The guide is available in English [HERE](#).



Thank you to all of our Facebook and Twitter Followers! Let's keep moving onward and upward!!



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REPOSITORY OF POLICIES AND INITIATIVES IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS



Launching of the “Post COVID-19: OAS Portal for Consultations, Forums, and Repository”

The objective of the [Portal](#) is to be a participatory and democratic space where everyone has the opportunity to express their ideas on how we can shape the post-COVID-19 world so that more people access more rights beyond the pandemic.

Participants can propose ideas and initiatives that may later become real projects to be implemented with a priority objective: to guarantee more rights for all people, beyond the pandemic.

For more information click [HERE](#).



- **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC): [COVID-19 Observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean.](#)**
- **WORLD BANK (WB): [World Bank Group’s Operational Response to COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) – Projects List.](#)**
- **INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF): [Policy Responses to COVID-19.](#)**
- **INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO): [Country policy responses.](#)**
- **ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD): [OPSI COVID-19 Innovative Response Tracker.](#)**
- **CITIBANK: [COVID-19 Pandemic.](#)**
- **UNITED NATIONS (UN): [COVID-19: Bachelet urges States to take extra steps to include people with disabilities.](#)**



OAS | More rights for more people

