



**FEMINISTS  
FOR A PEOPLE'S  
VACCINE**

**JANUARY 2022 | ISSUE #1**

## ***The Feminists for a People's Vaccine Campaign***

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The FPV campaign launched a weekly social media series called **"Eyes on the vaccine gap"** which provides updates in vaccine access as a snapshot. Every Monday we will publish current figures from Our World in Data highlighting the continuing inequality in vaccine access.

***Check it out and share!***

## **GENDER & COVID-19**

### ***Covid-19 infection, vaccination, and fertility***

A study published in the American Journal of Epidemiology in January 2022 indicates that while there may be a short-term decline in fertility in males post-SARS-CoV-2 infection,

### ***Racial disparities in maternal mortality during Covid-19***

Six out of ten women who died during or after pregnancy from COVID-19 or related complications were from "Black or minority

Covid-19 vaccination with mRNA vaccines does not impact fertility in either partner.

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ethnic groups" highlighting the uneven effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on maternal and perinatal outcomes -The Lancet editorial.

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World Health  
Organization

### ***A discourse change***

In a stark shift in position, the WHO is supporting a wider administration of booster doses together with first and second doses for children, stating that supply is no longer an issue. WHO Director General Dr Tedros and other WHO leaders were absent during the announcement on January 20, as reported by the [Health Policy Watch](#).

UNAIDS Executive Director [Winnie Byanyima](#) challenged the newly promoted assumption that supply is no longer an issue, calling this a diversionary tactic to preserve Big Pharma's business model. Countries need predictable supply, she said.

### ***Stall in WHO pandemic response and finance reform***

The WHO pandemic response talks that would allow for the WHO to have rapid access to outbreak sites are being prolonged due to China's protest against the inclusion of such language.

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The US-China tension also reflects on the WHO financial reform, as the US is reluctant to come to an agreement on increasing member states' contribution as this might mean significant influence over the UN Body by China.

+ [Read here](#)



WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION

### ***Stuck in limbo? WTO Pandemic Response plans still unclear***

India had requested for a convening to expedite a decision on the TRIPS Waiver. Some opponents from within the WTO Members have ruled this out. Recently, the EU, the US, India and South Africa (in private talks) have been trying to reach a consensus by February-end.

### ***World Economic Forum***

During her [special address](#), European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen echoed a misguided notion that the pandemic is on a course to end and attributed this success to "European values" of championing science, research, and investments.

## BIG PHARMA



### ***At the stock exchange room***

In 2022, Big Pharma will increase its revenue by 29%, reaching 84.9 billion dollars, according to an [Airfinity study](#). [Pfizer/BioNTech](#) and [Moderna](#) are expected to see the biggest increase in revenue due to an increase in prices and the roll-out of the variant targeting vaccine. 78% of doses have already been secured through contracted deals.

### ***German Green Party does an 'about-turn' on waiving patents***

On January 26, during the 2022 Annual Economic Report, German Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Robert Habeck, [declared](#) that the newly-elected Green Party didn't believe waiving patents would be the solution to vaccine inequity - adding fuel to the debunked myths and arguments used by Big Pharma.

### ***Health agencies contradict Pharma***

The [WHO](#) and the [European Medicines Agency](#) both have declared that boosters every four months, as announced by Pfizer and Moderna, are not only unsustainable but also inappropriate.

### ***European Union and Pfizer: concealed relations***

The European Commission hasn't been cooperative in a [public information request](#) to publicise alleged exchanges between EC President Ursula von der Leyen and Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla after [The New York Times](#) revealed text messages exchanged between the two played a key role in a big vaccine purchase deal. Notably, the EU is a key actor in securing Big Pharma's interests and blocking the TRIPS waiver.

### ***Hope for the global South could have a new face: Cuba***

Cuba has produced three indigenously-produced vaccines that provide upwards of 90% protection. With one of the highest vaccination rates in the

### ***Brazil: A button away from compulsory licensing***

The Brazilian civil society has finally tabled a comprehensive bill to reform its national patent law, allowing the

world (86% fully vaccinated), including children as young as two, Cuba's vaccines are cheap to produce and easy to store. Their vaccines represents hope for global South countries as Cuba offers technology transfer to share its vaccine recipe.

[+Read further](#)

state to waive IP barriers imposed on essential health products. In a Project Syndicate [op-ed article](#), the authors- including Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz- argue that Brazil's law, if approved, could be an alternative to a blanket IPR waiver.

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## AN EXPERT'S POINT OF VIEW

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SANGEETA SHASHIKANT



*At the FPV Campaign Partner's Gathering on February 7, Sangeeta Shashikant (TWN), discussed the issue which claims that the pandemic is ending or is becoming endemic, as unfounded. Even if the endemic scenario confirms itself, supply and access to vaccines - especially new generation jabs, therapeutics, and diagnostics remain an issue. COVID-19 is far from over.*

[+ SEE HER FULL PRESENTATION](#)



## SILVER LININGS IN VACCINE ACCESS

### **A PATENT-FREE VACCINE FOR COVID-19**

*Corbevax, a new COVID-19 vaccine using microbial-based protein technology, has been developed by the Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development at Baylor College of Medicine, and is currently undergoing clinical trials. Dr. Peter Hotez and Dr. Maria Bottazzi, who are leading the initiative, have pledged to keep the vaccine patent-free, calling it "the world's COVID-19 vaccine".*

[\*\*+ READ FURTHER\*\*](#)

**RECOMMENDED READS**



The latest Issue of TWN's magazine, [Third World Resurgence](#), is available now!



[COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccination: Some Gender Perspectives](#) - Gender & Covid-19 Project at the BRAC School of Public Health



[Davos 2022 Round-Up](#) - DataSyn



[Using gender analysis matrixes to integrate a gender lens into infectious diseases outbreaks research](#) - Health Policy and Planning Journal



**WORTH TWITTER  
THREAD OF THE  
MONTH**

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