



# Bulletin

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of Psychological Science  
Established in 1889

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All National Members, Affiliates and Liaisons of IUPsyS are encouraged to circulate this and future monthly Bulletins to relevant groups, such as members of committees or their national membership.

If you have comments about the Bulletin or suggestions for items to include in future editions, or if you wish to add names to the IUPsyS email list for the Bulletin and Newsletter, please contact the IUPsyS Secretariat: [secretariat@iupsys.org](mailto:secretariat@iupsys.org)

The IUPsyS Monthly Bulletin is for IUPsyS National Members, Affiliates, and related organizations, and their members. It provides brief updates on the work of the Union and related regional and international matters.

## IUPsyS' Global Footprint

### COVID-19: WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER<sup>1</sup>

SATHS COOPER, IUPSYS PAST PRESIDENT

Since the inauguration of the very first International Congress of Psychology (ICP) in August 1889 in Paris as part of the centennial of the French Revolution, key events – such as the Spanish Flu pandemic, the Spanish Civil War, the Great Depression, and the two World Wars – have impacted ICPs and national psychology associations. None of these have had the devastating global effects wreaked by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), which has reportedly affected 212 countries and territories at nearly all societal levels.

In previous emergencies that our interconnected, disparate and fragile world has confronted, there has been some semblance of regional, if not a modicum of world understanding and cooperation in responding to such emergencies. This perilous period has laid bare socioeconomic and geopolitical fault lines everywhere, “exposing the frailties and inequalities of our societies” (United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/05/1063022>). The fairly rigid nationalistic responses to this virus, that respects no borders, have set in motion a tragic spectacle of a strident few reverting to atavistic, ethnocentric type, solipsist in their navel-gazing concern for just themselves, with hardly a care for the majority in our world, especially the most vulnerable. We have been subjected to war talk and knee-jerk blaming of the World Health Organization (WHO), which together with the Office of the UN Secretary-General, have been the isolated voices of global reason, advocating for solidarity and pleading for closer collaboration and coordinated effort in containing the extremely destructive effects of the pandemic. Instead of the “brave, visionary and collaborative leadership” that the UN Secretary-General has repeatedly called for, we have been shamed by the spectacle of inept immature leadership, often out of their depth, quickly resorting to denialism, populist rhetoric, unscientific “cures” and dangerously engendering jingoistic hate speech.

The displaced, the marginalised, the underserved, who have, for the most part invisibly, eked out their daily grinding existence, are ironically for once on an equal footing with the rest of us in confronting the depredations of COVID-19. The World Bank in October 2018 noted that “Nearly half the world lives on less than US\$5.50 a day” and “remains committed to achieving the goal of ending extreme poverty, defined as living on less than \$1.90 a day, by 2030.”

(<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/10/17/nearly-half-the-world-lives-on-less-than-550-a-day>).

<sup>1</sup>Title of the United Nations Secretary-General's Address on 23 April 2020.

When 2020 vision ought to be apparent, we are witness to a colossal failure in leadership, overshadowing the human solidarity that the WHO has consistently been calling for and the articulated and coordinated response to this global emergency that the United Nations Secretary-General has called for. We can and must stand together at this time of severe uncertainty and world-wide insecurity. Our collective knowledge of the human condition in distress and unremitting impacts should guide a more considered and compassionate understanding that should shine through the rhetoric and give hope to all our people, everywhere, that this too shall pass, as we do the best we can to help those around us to deal with the pandemic and its inexorable consequences. We should work to enabling the post-COVID world to be more considerate and compassionate. How we treat the worst off amongst us is a mark of our common humanity.

IUPsyS commends our National Members for all that they have and continue to do to help during the pandemic and sharing their resources. A survey to identify the needs of National Members is on its way!

### ICP2020 RESCHEDULED TO 18-23 JULY 2021



As you already know from the ICP2020 message of 19 March 2020, the 32nd International Congress of Psychology has been postponed to 18-23 July 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although it was a difficult decision to make, however, the health and safety of the participants and everyone else involved in the event is of highest priority and the ICP2020 team take this very seriously. ICP2020 immediately started negotiating with the Congress premises, hotels and other partners in order to minimise the impacts on participants and to secure the event for 2021.

- Further details may be viewed [here](#).
- A message from the Presidents of IUPsyS and ICP2020 may be viewed [here](#).

## News from International Bodies

### UNITED NATIONS



### COVID-19 RESPONSE

The United Nations news [page](#) brings together information and guidance from the World Health Organization and the United Nations regarding the current outbreak of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Please visit this [page](#) for daily updates.

Further resources from the United Nations may be accessed [here](#).

### WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



### WHO MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

The World Health Organization is working closely with global experts, governments and partners to rapidly expand scientific knowledge on this new virus, track the spread and virulence of the virus, and provide advice to countries and individuals on measures to protect health and prevent the spread of this outbreak. In January 2020 the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of a new coronavirus disease, COVID-19, to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and in March 2020, WHO made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterised as a pandemic. WHO and public health authorities around the world are acting to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. As this time of crisis is generating stress throughout the populations globally and the WHO Department of Mental Health and Substance Use have developed this [document](#) that can be used in communications to support mental and psychosocial well-being in different target groups during the outbreak.

The [WHO COVID-19 weblink](#) also provides public advice and country and technical guidance. Various other specific material may be accessed at:

- [Mental Health and Psychosocial Considerations During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- [Advice for the Public](#)
- [Advice for Health Worker](#)

### THE WHO BULLETIN

The WHO Bulletin is one of the world's leading public health journals. It is a peer-reviewed monthly journal with a special focus on developing countries, giving it unrivalled global scope and authority. The Bulletin is one of the top public and environmental health journals and full detail may be accessed [here](#).

### INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL



### ISC NEWSLETTER

The International Science Council (ISC) is a non-governmental organization with a unique global membership that brings together 40 international scientific Unions and Associations and over 140 national and regional scientific organizations including Academies and Research Councils. It is the only international non-governmental organization bringing together the natural and social sciences and the largest global science organization of its type (<https://council.science/>). The latest newsletters of the International Science Council brings you the latest on their activities and may be viewed [here](#).

### PORTAL OF COVID-19 RESOURCES

The ISC has created an online [portal of COVID-19 resources](#) that showcases the scale and scope of response, and encourages ISC members and partners to collaborate and share best practices during the pandemic. The [portal](#) contains information on responses by scientific communities in different fields and different countries and regions of the world and provides access to rapidly emerging scientific debate on the situation.