

OPEN FORUM

Rebuilding Global Health on  
Solidarity Principles



Moving Beyond  
Solidarity Rhetoric  
in Global Health

WHAT?

Solidarity is action that entails  
standing with and for others

Solidarity is a form of  
"identifying with"

Solidarity is a specific  
type of relationship

TO  
WHAT  
END?

SOLIDARITY  
PRINCIPLES

HOW?

Solidarity entails  
commitment to mutuality

Solidarity is built on  
and sustained by trust

Solidarity requires  
respectful and listening

Solidarity requires  
reciprocity

Solidarity requires  
transparency

Solidarity requires  
accountability

Solidarity requires  
inclusivity

Solidarity requires  
equity

Solidarity requires  
justice

Solidarity requires  
dignity

Solidarity requires  
respect

Solidarity requires  
compassion

Solidarity requires  
empathy

Solidarity requires  
courage

Solidarity requires  
strength

Solidarity requires  
wisdom

Solidarity requires  
patience

Solidarity requires  
perseverance

Solidarity requires  
faith

Solidarity requires  
hope

Solidarity requires  
love

Solidarity requires  
kindness

Solidarity requires  
gentleness

Solidarity requires  
meekness

Solidarity requires  
humility

Solidarity requires  
modesty

Solidarity requires  
self-control

Solidarity requires  
restraint

Solidarity requires  
temperance

Solidarity requires  
sobriety

Solidarity requires  
purity

Solidarity requires  
innocence

Solidarity requires  
simplicity

Solidarity requires  
clarity

Solidarity requires  
order

Solidarity requires  
neatness

Solidarity requires  
tidiness

Solidarity requires  
cleanliness

Solidarity requires  
hygiene

Solidarity requires  
health

Solidarity requires  
wellness

Solidarity requires  
balance

Solidarity requires  
harmony

Solidarity requires  
peace

Solidarity requires  
tranquility

Solidarity requires  
serenity

Solidarity requires  
calmness

Solidarity requires  
quietness

Solidarity requires  
stillness

Solidarity requires  
restfulness

Solidarity requires  
relaxation

Solidarity requires  
ease

Solidarity requires  
comfort

Solidarity requires  
convenience

Solidarity requires  
accessibility

Solidarity requires  
affordability

Solidarity requires  
availability

Solidarity requires  
reliability

Solidarity requires  
consistency

Solidarity requires  
predictability

Solidarity requires  
transparency

Solidarity requires  
openness

Solidarity requires  
honesty

Solidarity requires  
integrity

Solidarity requires  
trustworthiness



FEEDBACK  
WEBINAR

Quarterly Newsletter | Apr - Jun 2026

# THE NEXT STEP: REFINING SOLIDARITY PRINCIPLES THROUGH STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

## A WORD FROM THE PROJECT LEAD

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings!

Many of you may remember where this work began. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the word "solidarity" was the word of the moment, but also its biggest broken promise. Spoken about constantly, enacted unevenly, that contradiction is what gave rise to this project. It remains just as urgent today, as global health navigates the withdrawal from multilateralism and a retreat into nationalisms that invoke solidarity internally while undermining it internationally.

Our goal is not to impose a definition of solidarity. Instead, we wanted to identify ways in which solidarity is understood and practised across different contexts, and to find the values that would resonate across all of them. Over the years, we held workshops (in Australia, Costa Rica, Ghana, Guinea, India, Nigeria, South Africa, and the UK) and conducted in-depth interviews with researchers, civil society actors, practitioners, and people working in multilateral organisations to capture what solidarity actually means to people and could look like if taken seriously in different contexts.

This quarter, we reached a significant milestone: we unveiled the draft solidarity principles, which arose from the conversations we have had with each of you since 2023. We are now bringing them back to the communities that shaped them through regional feedback webinars, which began on June 17, 2026, with participants from the Anglophone Africa workshops.

This is a moral obligation to return this work to the people who helped make it. For feedback, we are asking: are we on the right track? What needs sharpening, or re-thinking, and what's missing? The sessions will not only refine the final principles; they will inform the next phase of the project, which entails developing practical, actionable tools to operationalise the principles for different actors in the global health funding ecosystem. It depends on getting the principles right. If the foundation is off, everything built on it will be too.

In the coming months, we will continue these conversations with participants from other regional workshops and knowledge spaces. We hope you will join us and finish the work we started together.

Together, we continue working towards moving solidarity in global health beyond the rhetoric.

With gratitude and respect,

**Prof. Caesar Alimsinya Atuire**

Project Lead, *Moving Beyond Solidarity Rhetoric in Global Health (GH-Solidarity Project)*

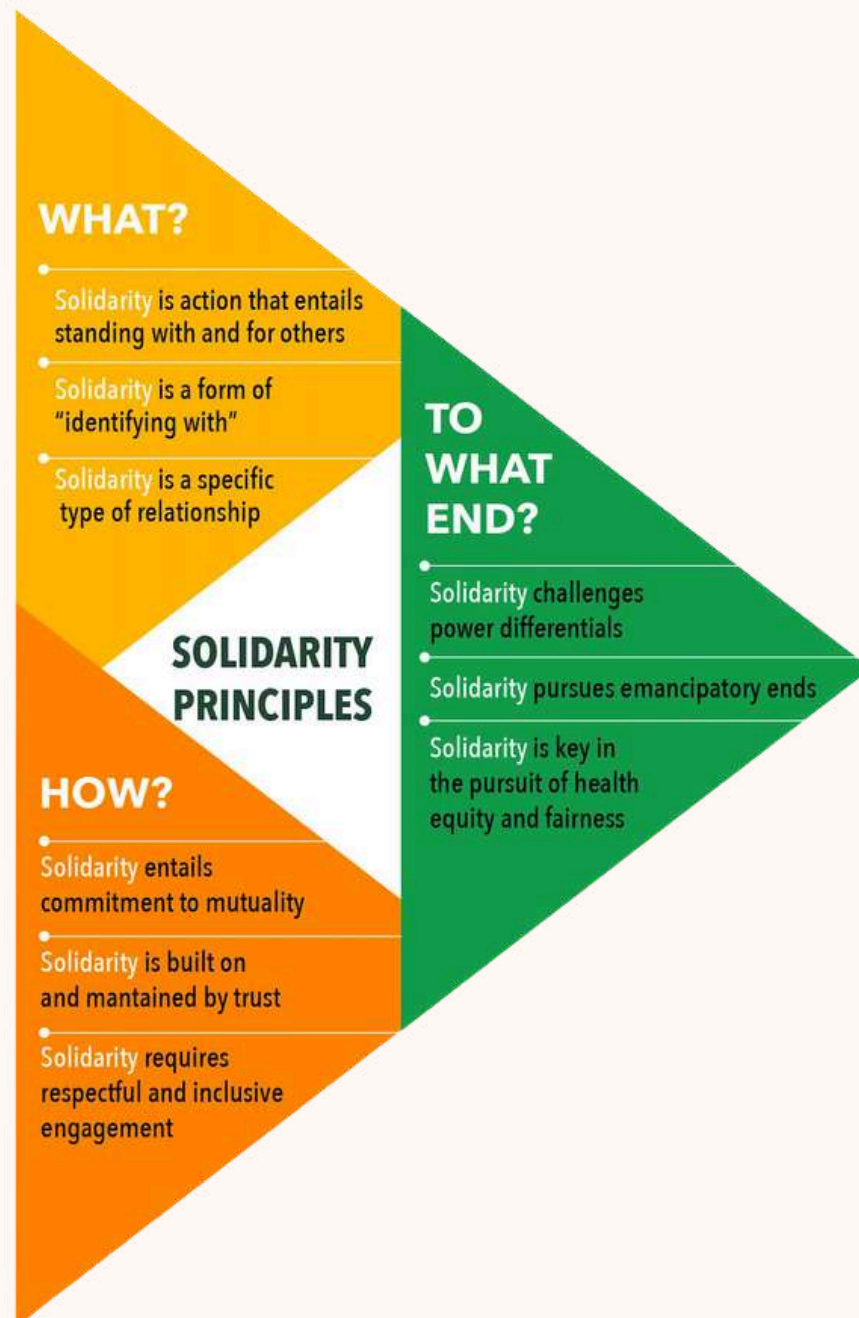


## Introducing the Draft Solidarity Principles

We are pleased to share the draft Solidarity Principles, now available for review and feedback. These principles are organised around a **3-3-3 framework**, which offers a practical way to think about solidarity in global health across **three dimensions: what** solidarity is, **how** it is practised, and **to what end**.

Together, these principles serve as evolving standards for reflection and practice, guiding global health actors in shaping their roles, decisions, relationships, and institutional arrangements through solidarity.

As many of you have contributed to the conversations during workshops, interviews and online dialogues that shaped this work, we are now bringing the draft principles back to you. We warmly invite you to read through them and share your feedback, insights, questions, or suggestions with us. Your contributions will help strengthen the principles as we continue refining them for wider use across the global health ecosystem.





Moving Beyond  
Solidarity Rhetoric  
in Global Health

**OPEN FORUM**

**Rebuilding Global Health on  
Solidarity Principles.**



## Open Forum April 2026: Beginning the Refinement Journey

Our first step in refining the draft Solidarity Principles was to introduce them publicly during the Open Forum, *Rebuilding Global Health on Solidarity Principles*.

The speakers, Michelle Childs (DNDi), Prof. Madhukar Pai, (McGill University, Canada), Julia Kemp (Wellcome Trust), and Dr Benjamin Djoudalbaye (Africa CDC), offered insights that helped ground the principles in real-world questions of power, funding, governance, vaccine equity, regional manufacturing, and shared responsibility.

Their reflections marked an important beginning in this next phase of the project, helping us test how the principles speak to the current realities of global health and how they might be strengthened for practical use. Read some excerpts from the Open Forum below, and follow the link to read the full recap.



“

"Global health has always been unequal, but the pandemic made those inequalities impossible to ignore. If solidarity is to mean anything, it must confront the systems that reproduce injustice — not simply respond to crises when they explode."

- Prof. Madhukar Pai

Chair, Department of Global and Public Health,  
McGill School of Population and Global Health, Canada

“

"If we want solidarity to be real, we must build research ecosystems where communities are not peripheral but central. Equity is not a by-product of good intentions — it is the result of deliberate design."

- Julia Kemp  
Associate Director, Equitable Research Ecosystems,  
Wellcome Trust



“

"For me, the question is not whether solidarity is a nice idea — it is whether we can design systems that hold on to justice when it is inconvenient, when funding tightens, and when politics intrude. Solidarity helps us decide what we do not compromise on when things get tough."

- Michelle Childs  
Policy Advocacy Director, Drugs for Neglected Diseases  
initiative (DNDi)



“

"Africa must no longer be an afterthought — solidarity must be embedded in global frameworks with reserved supplies, shared IPs, and regional manufacturing, because a health threat in Mali is a threat everywhere; pathogens don't need visas."

- Dr. Benjamin Djoudalbaye  
Ag. Director of External Relations and Strategic Engagement  
Africa Centre for Disease Control



[Read the Open Forum Recap](#)

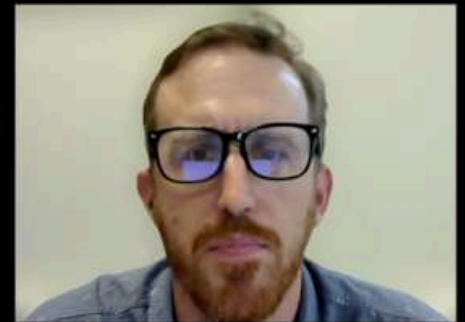
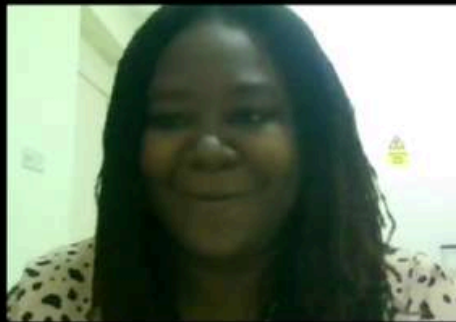


Moving Beyond  
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**FEEDBACK  
WEBINAR**

## ***Refining the Solidarity Principles Together: Anglophone Regional Dialogue***



### **Highlights from the first Feedback Webinar, June 2026**

The first Regional Feedback Webinar marked an important step in moving the draft Solidarity Principles from presentation to collective refinement. It brought together contributors from the Global Health Justice Group gathering, the Rural Women's Assembly workshop, the Expert Workshop on Igbo Conceptualisations of Solidarity, and the Anglophone Africa workshop held in Ghana.

The session created space for participants to see how their insights shaped the 3-3-3 framework and to offer further reflections on its strengths, gaps, and practical use. Speakers broadly affirmed the principles while sharpening important questions around lived realities, cultural grounding, community knowledge, methodology, power, accountability, and implementation.

Read reflections from workshop representatives on how the draft Solidarity Principles speak to their contexts, experiences, and hopes for global health.



“Solidarity entails relating and identifying with others, but it is rooted in a metaphysics of human nature. The principles reflect this truth — that none of us is sufficient alone, and our survival depends on leaning into each other’s spaces.”

- Professor Francis Njoku,  
Professor of Philosophy and Jurisprudence,  
University of Nigeria, Nsukka



"It is worth considering the extent to which solidarity is also used in pursuit of less admirable objectives."

-Dr. Peter West-Oram

[Reflection on the Draft Solidarity Principles](#)



"Solidarity asks not only 'what do I owe the person beside me' but 'what do I owe the ones who came before, and the ones not yet born.'"

-Dr. Irene Honam Tsey

[What the Baobab teaches us About Solidarity](#)

[Read the Webinar Recap](#)

[Watch the Full Webinar Here](#)

## LATEST PUBLICATIONS

*This section highlights recent publications on solidarity emerging from our work and collaborations around the globe.*

We are delighted to share that the first paper in our Global Health Solidarity Special Issue is now available. Further papers will be published on a rolling basis through the *Public Health Humanities Journal*.

## Towards a New Language of Collaborative Action: Rethinking “Solidarity” with Convergence

By Dr. Mary Ndu and Dr. Elysée Nouvet

ARTICLE

### Towards a New Language of Collaborative Action: Rethinking “Solidarity” with Convergence

Mary Ndu<sup>1</sup> and Elysee Nouvet<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Applied Health Science, Western University Faculty of Health Sciences, Canada and <sup>2</sup>School of Health Studies, Western University Faculty of Health Sciences, Canada  
Corresponding author: Mary Ndu; Email: mndu@uwo.ca

Analysis

BMJ Global Health

### Demanding solidarity, not salvation: sex work and global health

Marlise Linda Richter<sup>1,2</sup>, M H Ditmore<sup>3</sup>, Jantina de Vries<sup>1</sup>

### Demanding solidarity, not salvation: sex work and global health

By Dr. Marlise Linda Richter et al.

We are pleased to see the Global Health Solidarity Project's draft Solidarity Principles cited in this important piece, which echoes our call for solidarity to move beyond vague declarations and become a basis for concrete action.

PLOS Global Public Health

OPINION

### Globalisation, rising authoritarianism, declining solidarity, and retreating multilateralism: A perfect storm for amplifying the risk of outbreaks

Winfred Dotse-Gborgbortsii<sup>1\*</sup>, Madhukar Pai<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Geography, University College London, London, United Kingdom, <sup>2</sup> School of Population and Global Health, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, <sup>3</sup> Department of Medicine (Soin), Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

### Globalisation, rising authoritarianism, declining solidarity, and retreating multilateralism: A perfect storm for amplifying the risk of outbreaks

By Dr. Winfred Dotse-Gborgbortsii and Prof. Madhukar Pai

## WATCH THE LATEST VIDEOS



Prof. Caesar Atuire from the Global Health Solidarity Project introduces the draft Solidarity Principles and explains the 3-3-3 framework.

[Watch here](#)



Speakers from DNDi, McGill University, Wellcome Trust, and Africa CDC reflect on the draft Solidarity Principles during the April 2026 Open Forum.

[Watch here](#)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS



Moving Beyond  
Solidarity Rhetoric  
in Global Health



## FEEDBACK WEBINAR

### ***Refining the Solidarity Principles Together: Pacific and South Asia Feedback Webinar***

*Join this regional conversation to reflect on the draft solidarity principles, share your perspectives, and explore how they can be strengthened and operationalised in practice.*



**Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2026**



**14:30 AEST | 16:30 NZST/FJT | 10:00 IST |  
05:30 BST | 04:30 GMT | 07:30 EAT**

**SCAN TO  
REGISTER**



The upcoming second Regional Feedback Webinar, focused on the **Pacific and South Asian** regions, will continue the process of refining the draft Solidarity Principles with the communities and contributors who helped shape this work. The session will create space to reflect on how the principles resonate across different contexts, what may need to be strengthened, and how solidarity can be embedded within the structures, decisions, and practices that shape the global health ecosystem. Join us on **Wednesday, 5th August 2026** at **14:30 AEST | 16:30 NZST/FJT | 10:00 IST**.

[Register for the Second Feedback Webinar Here](#)

### **Oxford Global Health and Bioethics International Conference**

**15-16 July 2026**



If you are attending the Oxford Global Health and Bioethics International Conference (ETHOX Conference), we warmly invite you to join the Global Health Solidarity Project workshop, "Making Solidarity Work: Ethical Goals for Operationalising Solidarity in Global Health Practice," on **Thursday, 16th July 2026 at 11:00 - 12:30 BST**.

[Check out the programme here](#)

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## THANK YOU!