Moving Beyond Solidarity Rhetoric in Global Health

Quarterly Newsletter | April - June 2025

BEYOND RHETORIC: SOLIDARITY AS A CATALYST FOR GLOBAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS

A WORD FROM THE PROJECT LEAD

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This quarter marked a pivotal development in global health governance: following three years of complex negotiations, the World Health Assembly adopted a legally binding Pandemic Agreement in May 2025. Designed to strengthen global and national responses to future health crises beyond what we saw in the COVID-19 outbreak, this agreement represents a significant collective effort. Yet, its shortcomings remind us that deeper solidarity in global health is essential if we are to truly safeguard everyone, everywhere.

This moment reinforces the relevance of our work and draws attention to two critical aspects of solidarity. First, solidarity is inherently action-oriented: it requires deliberate choices – whether to act or refrain – with others' well-being at the centre. When we engage in solidarity, our focus shifts from self-interest to shared well-being. Second, solidarity amplifies collective agency. While agency often describes an individual's capacity to make decisions and shape their world, solidarity transforms many individual agencies into a unified force capable of driving systemic change and standing firm when our shared values are challenged.

Our Co-PIs and wider team have done remarkable work on solidarity across different contexts, and we are pleased to share ongoing updates from these efforts. We are deeply grateful to everyone who continues to contribute to this work through participation in our workshops, webinars, and other initiatives. Your suggestions, critiques, and words of encouragement are invaluable as we continue to explore the multi-layered dimensions of solidarity. We continue to learn from resilient and often marginalised communities about the power of solidarity not only to overcome difficulties, but to generate conditions for all to fare well.

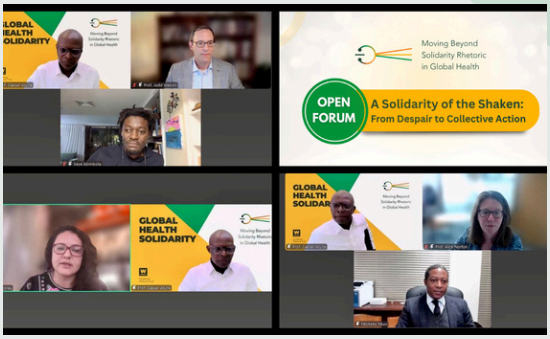
Thank you again for your continued support and collaboration

Best regards,
Prof. Caesar Alimsinya Atuire
Project Lead, Moving Beyond Solidarity Rhetoric in Global Health (GH-Solidarity Project)

DISCOVER THE LATEST UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS FROM OUR WORK ACROSS THE GLOBE

How Should Global Health Solidarity Adapt to Current Realities?

Is solidarity still possible in an era of shrinking funds and rising inequities? This was the driving question behind the inaugural Global Health Solidarity Open Forum. From calls to reframe research funding as collaboration, not aid, to demands for South–South partnerships and structural reform, read about how the virtual gathering convened leading voices from across the globe to critically examine how solidarity can move beyond rhetoric and become a transformative force in global health.



Watch the Video

> Solidarity that is not linked to the building of health systems that can deliver, to me, becomes performative. We must ensure that we are building the infrastructure necessary so that solidarity translates into lives saved.
>
> *Professor Judd L. Walson, Johns Hopkins University, during the GH-Solidarity Open Forum 2025*

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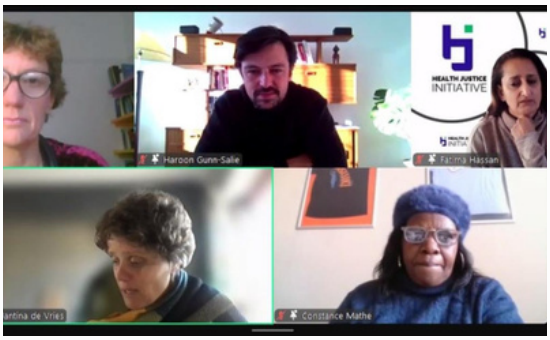
Art, Activism and Advocacy for Solidarity



In June, the Global Health Solidarity Project hosted its third bi-monthly webinar exploring how artists, activists, and legal advocates understand and practise solidarity during times of trouble. From confronting HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 inequities to calling for the decriminalisation of sex work, and using art as both protest and legal testimony, each speaker offered a compelling perspective on how solidarity becomes meaningful through action.

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What Makes One a Person?

In April, the University of Ghana hosted an insightful symposium that tackled one of philosophy's most enduring questions: What makes us persons in the moral sense? At the centre of the discussion was a new book by Professors Caesar Atuire and Nancy Jecker, 'What is a Person? Untapped Insights from Africa,' which introduces the idea of Emergent Personhood. Read more to explore how the concept of emergent personhood enriches our understanding of solidarity.

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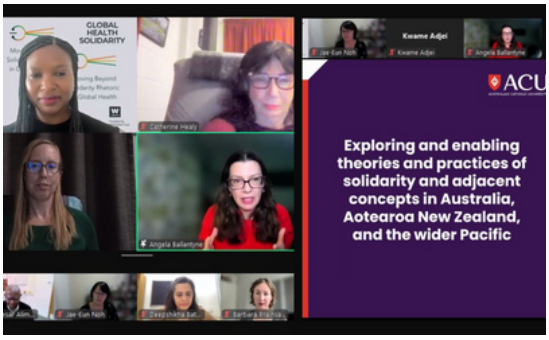
Centring Marginalised Voices



How can global health genuinely centre the voices of Indigenous communities, sex workers, and those historically excluded from the benefits of research? What does it mean to act "at the pace of trust"? When does inclusion become extractive? And how can allyship move from intention to structural change? Read to explore the key insights and practical takeaways that emerged from this conversation.

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SPOTLIGHT - PERSPECTIVES ON SOLIDARITY

Solidarity Embodied and Enacted

Compiled by Dr. Donna Andrews

The Ethics Lab at the University of Cape Town, one of the implementing partners of the Global Health Solidarity Project, has released an insightful new publication titled Solidarity in Action: Summer School Newsletter.

The newsletter documents stories of solidarity — from seed sharing and land reclamation to healing circles and food festivals among women from across Southern Africa who participated in the Rural Women's Assembly (RWA) Summer School held in February 2025. Dr. Andrews, a senior researcher at the university, provides a brief synthesis of key reflections and insights shared on the final day of the school.

> **… If you look at yourself as an individual, you think you can not change anything but together, even starting with this room already, we are the force. We can influence the vote.**
>
> -Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, activist, Quaker, and former Deputy Minister of Defense and Health in South Africa at the Rural Women's Assembly

Read the Newsletter Here

Beyond Symbolic Acts: Moving from Instant Solidarity to Deep, Solid Commitments.

Written by Dr. Jae-Eun Noh

Solidarity in a Fragmented World: The Role of Young people.

Written by Dr. Julian Natukunda

In this video, leading voices from around the globe share their unique perspectives on the meaning and practice of solidarity within their local and global contexts. From Africa to Oceania and Europe, these scholars and practitioners explore how solidarity shows up in health, justice, community, and everyday life.

Watch here

ISFiT 2025 | March 15th Weaponisation of Healthcare: Solidarity Work for the Greater Good? At the POWER-themed International Student Festival in Trondheim, Dr. Caesar Atuire of the Global Health Solidarity Project joined a powerful panel to unpack tough global health questions and share insights on the meaning of solidarity in today's fractured world.

Watch here

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

More information on the Call for Papers Here

4TH AUGUST

4th Bi-Monthly Webinar - August 2025

So far in 2025, our Bi-Monthly Webinar Series has travelled across the globe, bringing conversations on solidarity from Canada, Australia, and South Africa. We are excited to announce that the fourth Global Health Solidarity Bi-Monthly Webinar is headed to Costa Rica!

As we continue exploring the lived meanings and practices of solidarity from region to region, this upcoming session promises to bring fresh insights from Central America's unique social, political, and cultural landscape. Stay tuned to our social media platforms for speaker announcements, registration links, and more details soon!

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