



# Promoting knowledge sharing and intersectoral action for health equity and human rights as priority issues in the Americas



Sharing Knowledge for Action

The Health Equity Network  
of the Americas

## HENA VISION: SHARING KNOWLEDGE FOR ACTION

An intersectoral network dedicated to promoting health equity and equality in the Americas.

### CORE FUNCTIONS:

- 1) Disseminate knowledge related to: a) health inequities and human rights in populations living in situations of vulnerability; and b) policies and programs in the pursuit of health equity.
- 2) Provide avenues to access and utilize this knowledge through HENA advocacy efforts.

### GOALS:

- 1) To **identify, promote, and share** health equity policies and practices based on a human rights approach;
- 2) To **encourage action** on promoting health equity through policies and practices that consider social determinants of health and human rights;
- 3) To **monitor progress** and impact of health-related policies.

## PRIMARY POLICY FOCUS AREAS



### GENDER EQUALITY

HENA **advances** the adoption of policies that encourage gender equality and equity, with a primary focus on **violence against women**, the reduction of domestic violence, and the protection of sexual and reproductive rights.



### UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

HENA encourages policies that achieve universal health care coverage in the Americas. HENA informs policies that improve **primary care**, health care systems and services delivery in the Americas.



### RACIAL/ETHNIC/ IMMIGRANT/INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

HENA advocates for policy change positively affecting at-risk populations, with a focus on **immigrant populations**. HENA efforts include work to encourage policies that prevent racial discrimination, honor ancestral heritage, and promote well-being for historically marginalized populations.

### HENA HISTORY

Summit 2017: Health Equity in the Americas took place in Cuernavaca, Mexico in November 2017 when health equity experts convened to identify strategies to address health disparities across gender, race, ethnicity, and other social determinants of health.

Participants pledged to *Collaborate, Build Power, and Take Action* and began work to bring HENA to life.

### HENA: ALIGNED WITH THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

HENA's work remains aligned with many of the SDGs, including: no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities/communities, peace/justice and strong institutions, and partnerships for the goals.

### HENA IN THE HEALTH EQUITY POLICY LANDSCAPE

HENA focuses its energy on research, policy, and advocacy work. HENA shares knowledge and resources promoting policy and action through 1) hosting convenings in the Americas and the Caribbean; 2) publishing research in scholarly journals; 3) conducting policy analyses to assess laws that impact health equity; and 4) briefing policymakers on the findings of these analyses.

### HENA Collaborators

The foundation of HENA comprises experts from 26 countries who represent non-governmental organizations, civil society, academia, and government agencies. These organizations include: FEIM (Argentina); CARICOM (Caribbean Community); University College of London's Institute of Health Equity (England); Cayetano Heredia University (Peru); University of Costa Rica (Costa Rica); FIOCRUZ (Brazil); CARE (Peru); CLADEM; Satcher Health Leadership Institute (US); UCLA Fielding School of Public Health; Policy Link; Institute de Medicina Tropical Pedro Kouri; Center for Study of Women; FUNSALUD; UCLA Center for Health Policy Research; UnidosUS;

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