

## SIAEC Conference 2021

### *„Ethical Action: COVID Affecting Human Rights and Democracy“*

#### Conclusions

COVID-19 measures by governments cause **drastic effects** on the

- application of human rights and the
- practice of democracies

**Ethical approach** to the impact of COVID-19 measures:

- Medical ethics
- Security ethics
- Economical ethics
- Ecological ethics.
- Freedom of opinion and expression

**Reality:**

- There are more than one “pandemics” happening at the same time. COVID, racism, marginalization, economic inequalities, unequal access to education, discrimination, situation of migrants, - Syndemics.
- Vulnerable groups, (migrants, refugees, minorities, poor, women), are suffering disproportionately in the pandemic with higher mortality rates, mental health, economic impact, greater exclusion
- Question of access to education is a key one.
- Real challenge in the tension between positive and negative freedom (human rights, need for public health controls, etc)
- There is a risk that COVID is being used to justify human rights abuses and restrictions of basic freedoms.
- COVID shows the value of clear and independent information, but also the danger of misinformation / disinformation.
- The strengthening of (new and old) borders.

**Lessons learned:**

- Disparate issues in various continents
- Assistance vs. distance
- Individual responsibility and rights
- Right of Health
- Emergency laws and democracy

<b>SIAEC</b>	Secrétariat International des Ingénieurs, Agronomes et Cadres Économiques Catholiques	International Secretariat for Catholic Engineers, Agronomists and Industry Officials
A specialised secretariat of Pax Romana MIIC / ICMICA - Mouvement International des Intellectuels Catholiques / The International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs		

- Abuse by impairment of assembly
- Abuse by emergency laws
- Trust in politics decays
- Politics and science
- Political disputes negotiated as conflicts of knowledge
- Epistemization of the Political  
(how the power of knowledge endangers democracy)
- Return to normality?

### **Ways forward:**

- There is a special responsibility for Catholic professionals and intellectuals.
- Fratelli Tutti – offers a critical challenge to respond and go beyond borders (viruses know no borders, Christian solidarity also knows no borders).
- Right to health needs to be prioritized - new treaty on right to health
- Question of climate change - how to engage and mobilize civil society.
- Intergenerational solidarity
- COVID 19 shows us that we should take rights seriously, need to rethink our rights (right to health)