



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Statement delivered by Gabriela Poller-Hartig, Permanent Observer to UN Vienna on the occasion of the joint CND CCPCJ Beijing+25 special event on 12 June 2020

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Women are vastly over-represented as frontline health and care workers. Women are over-represented in informal employment in many countries. Groups disproportionately affected by violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect include women and children.

I fear that this kind of female quantitative representation is not what the Beijing Declaration has envisioned by calling for gender equality in all dimensions of life. 25 years after this groundbreaking commitment for women's and girl's rights, we have to acknowledge that existing inequalities will magnify the primary and secondary impacts of COVID-19.

Around the globe, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are working hard to address these inequalities and drive forward change. Protection, Gender and Inclusion measures are mainstreamed throughout humanitarian response to COVID-19. Those at higher risk like in many contexts women and girls, benefit from our unique access to local communities.

Key approaches to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on women include: adopting a "whole society" approach, with highly context-specific knowledge of social dynamics, ensuring that secondary impacts are addressed from the start in an intersectoral manner, with sufficient funding allocated specifically to Protection Gender and Inclusion as a necessity.

In concluding, I like to underline that the RC approach is also a contribution to addressing quite a few of the 12 critical areas of concern as they have been defined in the Platform for Action of the Beijing Declaration.

By mainstreaming Gender and Inclusion we hope to achieve changes for the better in fields like the economic situation of women, their access to health and education, their situation at workplaces and at home because we firmly believe that a life in dignity and equality means ensuring access, participation and safety.

Thank you.

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

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