

## **Covid-19 Insights: Analysis from Ethics, Human Rights and Law Perspectives**



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### **Safeguarding Prison Health during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic**

**A petition from health care and public health professionals to  
Chief Justices of High Courts and  
High Powered Committees of the Indian States and Union Territories to  
safeguard health and health rights of all prisoners during the Covid-19 pandemic**

Tuesday, June 23, 2021

To,  
Honorable Justices, High Courts,  
Indian States and Union Territories; and  
Chairpersons, High Powered Committees,  
Indian States and Union Territories; and  
Executive Chairpersons, State Legal Service Authority;  
Cc: Chairperson, National Legal Services Authority

Hon'ble Justice Shri Arup Kumar Goswami,

Greetings! This appeal – **endorsed by 45 organization from across India and outside; and 187 professionals in health and allied themes from India and outside** - is initiated by Forum for Medical Ethics Society ([FMES](#)) and Jan Swasthya Abhiyan ([JSA](#)) on behalf of health care workers and public health professionals, in solidarity with in-mates of prisons in India to safeguard their health and health rights during the COVID-19 pandemic based upon public health and human rights principles. Two other appeals – [appeal 1](#) (April 6, 2020), and [appeal 2](#) (May 3, 2021) - have been made earlier, with similar objectives.

We appreciate the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India (SC) Orders ([March 23, 2020](#); [May 7, 2021](#)) to address the pressing problem of overcrowded prisons and threat it poses to health of prisoners in general and more so in the event of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In passing this and other related orders since then towards decongesting prisons and safeguard health of prisoners, the SC have repeatedly invoked various international covenants and declaration such as [UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), and [UN's International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#) along with Article 21 of the Constitution of India, and [the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993](#) towards upholding the principle of human rights, and right to life and right to health.

Importantly, High Powered Committees (HPCs) constituted via the [SC Order \(2020\)](#) have responded to their mandates by undertaking measure towards decongestion of prisons. **While these measures are appreciated, these have been inadequate from a public health and human rights perspective during the ongoing pandemic. They have also been un-even across states and UTs. Therefore, there is an urgent need for you to further strengthen efforts towards decongestion of prisons across the country and ensure adequate quality health care services, including access to COVID-19 vaccines, made available for prison inmates.**

Below, we wish to bring to your notice select key observations regarding efforts made by HPCs across states and UTs, and outstanding issues **which warrant your immediate attention and action**:

1. **Inadequacy of efforts to decongestion in response to the SC Orders ([2020](#); [2021](#)).** For example, [Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative \(CHRI\) reports](#) that during the first wave, over 61,100 prisoners were released, which achieved only about 15.4% overall reduction in occupancy rate. Additionally, this is inadequate to address overcrowding of 40% of the Indian prisons including 134 prisons having overcrowding from 100% to 636%.
2. **Regarding criteria for Release to achieve Decongestion,** we note that the SC Order ([2020](#))
  - a. left it open to HPCs, "... to determine the category of prisoners who should be released ..., depending upon the nature of offence, the number of years to which he or she has been sentenced or the severity of the offence with which he/she is charged with and is facing trial or any other relevant factor, which the Committee may consider appropriate." (pp:5).; and
  - b. It also directed that HPCs will follow the release of inmates of prisons guided by the [Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\) prepared by the National Legal Services Authority \(NALSA\)](#) meant for smooth functioning of Under Trial Review Committees (UTRCs) with respect to ensuring Under Trial Prisoners (UTPs) covered under 14 categories benefit without delays.;
  - c. We note that **these criteria for release of inmates of prisons towards achieving decongestion employed by HPCs DO NOT take into account wide ranging vulnerabilities of prison in-mates relating to aspects such as health (ill-health – physical and mental), age, and being differently abled.** These vulnerabilities need to be central to determine the release of prison in-mates both because it is being done in response to the ravaging pandemic; and because the government and its apparatuses are entrusted to uphold rights of prison in-mates in alignment with the Constitution of India and other relevant international obligations we mentioned earlier.
  - d. The [CHRI Report](#) brings forth that barring a few states/UTs, most relied on the aforementioned criteria for release of prison in-mates even though SC Order ([2020](#)) had mentioned that HPCs may consider, "... or any other relevant factor, which the Committee may consider appropriate." for release of prison inmates. For example, [CHRI Reports](#) that only five state HPCs (Mizoram, Punjab, West Bengal, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir) considered cases of elderly prisoners for release; **only three (Mizoram, Punjab and Delhi), HPC considered undertrials who were suffering from comorbidities, chronic diseases and preexisting conditions** like chronic diabetes, HIV, serious

neurological issues, chronic lung and kidney disease, severe asthma, heart condition, cancer, Hepatitis B or C, Tuberculosis, etc. Only **Punjab** HPC specifically mentioned pregnant women as the category for release. It notes disappointedly that the HPC **Chhattisgarh**, decided against issuing any general direction for release of prisoners aged above 60 years in view of the scope of the orders passed by the apex court. We note these for you to draw upon for your further immediate action.

- e. [Chiefs of the UN agencies \(May 13, 2020\) in a signed statement](#) **appealed for the release of non-violent detainees as well as for those at high-risk, such as the elderly and people with pre-existing health conditions** by highlighting the heightened vulnerability to COVID-19 of prison inmates and others in confinement, and urged policymakers to “...*consider limiting the deprivation of liberty to a measure of last resort, particularly in the case of overcrowding*”, which undermines hygiene, health, safety and human dignity, causing an “*insurmountable obstacle for preventing, preparing for or responding to COVID-19.*”.
3. Currently, additional complexities have stemmed from the ravaging second wave of the pandemic. For example, almost 90% of the prisoners who have been released last year (*year 2020*) have returned to prisons in February and March, 2021 as per the SC Order ([2021](#)). This, therefore, warrants immediate attention to respond to heightened risks of the spread of the pandemic and further compromise of health of prison in-mates stemming from return of prisoners.
4. **A long-standing issue of strengthening prisons’ health care services needs immediate attention to ensure prison inmates’ access to timely and quality healthcare (preventive and treatment).** Prison inmates during this pandemic are at heightened health risks both for their vulnerabilities arising of overall poor prison conditions; and lack of access to appropriate and quality COVID-19 health care resources.
5. Against this backdrop and in view of the projections by public health experts of a third wave of the Covid-19 epidemic, the delays in achieving vaccination coverage due to shortage of vaccine supply, the **obligations of the State is to take measures in** alignment with the [WHO has warning](#), “... without controlling the infection inside prisons, global efforts to tackle the spread of the disease may fail”; that ‘efforts to control COVID-19 in the community are likely to fail if strong infection prevention and control measures, testing, treatment and care are not carried out in prisons and other places of detention as well.’.
6. **Furthermore**, specific requirements of **special groups of prisoners**, such as, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and transgender persons, needs attention.
7. We appreciate the reference the SC Order (2020) made towards restricting new arrest and averting further congestion, “...The High Powered Committee shall take into account the directions contained in para no.11 in *Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar*, (2014) 8 SCC 273.”. (pp:5). Also, alternatives for detention should be promoted and alternative forms of custody such as house arrest, open prisons, correctional homes be considered.
8. Political prisoners can be let out on bail and be treated like they are in detention (house arrest).
9. Finally, **as medical and public health professionals** we are guided by international ethical conventions and guidelines. According to the [World Medical Association Declaration of Edinburgh on Prison Conditions and Spread of Tuberculosis and other Communicable Diseases](#), “Prisoners enjoy the same health care rights as all other people. This includes the right to humane treatment and appropriate medical care... . **The most efficient way of reducing disease transmission is to improve the prison environment by putting together an efficient medical service that is capable of detecting and treating the disease, and by targeting prison overcrowding as the most urgent action.**”. It also recommends that wherever possible alternatives to detention should be used.

**Asks**

In view of this, we urge HPCs across all states and UTs to take urgently the following steps:

1. Include medical professionals, medical social workers, public health professionals, health department officials and relevant civil society organisations in these Committees to facilitate and monitor the release of prison inmates.
2. Urgently convene to discuss and modify the categories of prisoners to be considered for release, giving priority to the health status of the prisoners, especially the under-trial prisoners (UTPs).
3. Use the criteria of age and vulnerability across prisoners and treat everyone equally irrespective of charges/offense; and release those who are thus eligible, subject to their consent.;
4. Ensure that all health facilities, such as, testing, contact tracing are available, by linking up with local hospitals from public and private sectors, for safeguarding health of the prisoners who are not released, to ensure their access to timely and dignified health care.;
5. Take this opportunity to ensure speedy trials, granting of bail and releasing those who have been granted bail.;
6. Categorise prisoners as one of the priority groups for vaccination and offer vaccination to all prisoners in a safe and non-coercive manner while we note vaccine roll out for prison inmates.;
7. Given the hesitation among some prisoners to return to their homes due to fear of hunger and poor living conditions, ensure that the released prisoners and their families have timely access to medical care and relief measures such as food rations, and are not denied entitlements under national and state programmes.;
8. Utilize this opportunity to prioritize improvement of prison conditions and implement long overdue prison reforms: such as increasing budgets for prison health facilities, improvement of the living conditions in prisons, and appointment of requisite medical and other staff, for protecting life, liberty and dignity of prisoners.

**Sincerely,**

Dr Sunita Sheel Bandewar, General Secretary, **Forum for Medical Ethics Society** ([sunita.bandewar@gmail.com](mailto:sunita.bandewar@gmail.com); [fmesmumbai@gmail.com](mailto:fmesmumbai@gmail.com); [admin@fmesinstitute.org](mailto:admin@fmesinstitute.org) ); and

Dr Sulakshana Nandi, National Joint Convener, **Jan Swasthya Abhiyan** ([sulakshan.nandi@gmail.com](mailto:sulakshan.nandi@gmail.com); [jsasect.delhi@gmail.com](mailto:jsasect.delhi@gmail.com) )

## **ENDORSEMENTS (Organizational)**

**Safeguarding Prison Health during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic**

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Chief Justices of High Courts and  
High Powered Committees of states and Union Territories to  
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pandemic**

### **45 ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSEMENTS**

<b>Sr No</b>	<b>Name of organisation endorsing the Letter</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>State</b>
1.	AJMG Foundation	India	Delhi
2.	All India People's Science Network	India	All India

3.	Centre for Health And Resource Management	India	Bihar
4.	Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP)	India	Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra
5.	CLUB des AMIS DAMIEN	KINSHASA	
6.	Coalition Against Fascism in India	India	Not mentioned
7.	Conference of Religioys of India	India	Maharashtra
8.	Dalit Solidarity Forum in the USA	India	Tamil Nadu
9.	Forum for Medical Ethics Society	India	Maharashtra
10.	Friends of India, Texas	USA	
11.	Health Action for Human Rights	India	Delhi
12.	Health Alliance for Democracy, Phillipines	Philippines	Philippines
13.	Health, Ethics, and Law Institute of Forum for Medical Ethics Society (FMES)	India	Maharashtra
14.	HIV Justice Network	Globally	
15.	Human Rights Law Network	India	
16.	India Civil Watch International	India	Not mentioned
17.	Indian Christian Women's Movement	India	Many in India
18.	Indian Christian Womens Movement	India	Not mentioned
19.	International Solidarity for Academic Freedom in India (InSAF India)	India	Not mentioned
20.	Jagrit Adivasi Dalit Sangathan , Madhya Pradesh	India	Madhya Pradesh
21.	Jan Aarogya Andolan	India	Maharashtra
22.	Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA)	India	Delhi
23.	Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, Mumbai (JSA-Mumbai)	India	Maharashtra
24.	JANANEETHI	India	Kerala
25.	Kamukunji Paralegal Trust (KAPLET)	India	Kenya
26.	Malawi Network of people living with HIV and AIDS	Malawi	NA
27.	National Network of Sex Workers	India	Eight states
28.	MEERA FOUNDATION	India	Tamil Nadu
29.	National Alliance of Peoples Movement (NAPM)	India	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujrat, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi. Kerala
30.	NGO AFI	Republic of Moldova	NA
31.	ONG Santé et Action Globale		Togo
32.	Pal Care Foundation	India	Delhi
33.	Peace and Equality Cell	India	Gujrat and Bihar
34.	People's Union for Civil Liberties	India	All India
35.	People's Watch	India	All India
36.	Progressive India Collective	India	Not mentioned
37.	Public Health Resource Network	India	Delhi, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha
38.	Sahayini Social development society		Delhi

39.	Shramik Adivasi Sanghatana, Madhya Pradesh	India	Madhya Pradesh
40.	South Asia Solidarity Group UK	UK	NA
41.	TB Europe Coalition	EUROPE	NA
42.	Treatment Action Group	Globally	NA
43.	Vidhayak Trust	India	Maharashtra
44.	Women's Initiatives	India	Andhra Pradesh
45.	संविधान बचाओ देश बचाओ अभियान उत्तर प्रदेश. लखनऊ.	India	Uttar Pradesh

## ENDORSEMENTS (Individual)

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### 187 INDIVIDUAL ENDORSEMENTS

Sr No	Name of the person making endorsement	Professional practice	Country	State
1.	A P Josy	Advocate	India	Chhattisgarh
2.	Aakar Patel	Columnist	India	Karnataka
3.	Aameen		India	Punjab
4.	Aashish Gupta	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Delhi
5.	Abhay Shukla	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Maharashtra
6.	Abhishek Samuel	Student	India	Uttarakhand
7.	Agrima Raina Dr	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Delhi
8.	Aijaz Ahmed Dr	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Jammu and Kashmir
9.	Akshara	A Teacher	India	Karnataka
10.	Alexander John Dr	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff, A Teacher, From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Kerala
11.	Alexis Benos	From any Academic Institution or think tank	Greece	
12.	Alwyn D'Souza	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	Not mentioned	
13.	Amar Jesani Dr	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Maharashtra
14.	Ambily P	A Teacher	India	Kerala
15.	Amit verma	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Chhattisgarh
16.	Amita Joseph		India	New delhi
17.	Amita Pitre	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Pune
18.	Ammu Abraham		India	Maharashtra
19.	Anant Phadke	Civil Society, Public Health	India	Maharashtra
20.	Anjana Chari	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Pondicherry
21.	Anoop singh rawat	Corporate	India	Uttarakhand

22.	Antara Dev Sen	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Delhi
23.	Anuradha Kalhan	A Teacher	India	Maharashtra
24.	Apeksha Vora		India	Maharashtra
25.	Arlene Manoharan	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Karnataka
26.	Ashok Maridas	Documentary Filmmaker	India	Karnataka
27.	Asmina Venkatesh		India	Maharashtra
28.	Asmita	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Uttarakhand
29.	Avinash Kadam	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Maharashtra
30.	Avni	Student	India	Maharashtra
31.	Ayman Youssef	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	Texas, USA	
32.	Bala		India	Tamilnadu
33.	Barun Mukhopadhyay	A Teacher	India	West bengal
34.	Beena Choksi	A Teacher	India	Maharashtra
35.	Benedicta Mary Anthony	Social Worker	India	Maharashtra
36.	Beulah Shekhar	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Tamil Nadu
37.	Bindu Desai	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	USA	Albany,Ca, USA
38.	Biraj Patnaik		India	Delhi
39.	Bittu K R	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Karnataka
40.	Brinelle D'souza	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Maharashtra
41.	C Joseph	Management professional	Not mentioned	
42.	Cassandra Nazareth		India	Maharashtra
43.	Cedric Prakash	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Gujarat
44.	Chacko Anthony	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Jharkhand
45.	Chayanika Shah	A Teacher	India	Maharashtra
46.	Colleen Daniels	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	Not mentioned	
47.	Daniel Thomas		India	Karnataka
48.	Deepa V	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Delhi
49.	Deepak Kapur	From any Academic Institution or think tank	outside India	outside India
50.	Deepak kumar	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Jharkhand
51.	Deepika Joshi	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Chhattisgarh
52.	Edwin	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Karnataka
53.	Francis Parmar	Retired academicial	India	Gujarat
54.	Frazer Mascarenhas Dr	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Maharashtra

55.	Gayatri Saberwal	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Karnataka
56.	Geeta Charusivam	Concerned citizen	India	Tamil Nadu
57.	Gopalkrishna Gandhi	Government Pensioner	India	Tamil Nadu
58.	Harsh Mander	A Teacher, From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights, From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Delhi
59.	Hazel	Mental health professional	India	Maharashtra
60.	Imrana Qadeer	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Delhi
61.	Indira C	Public Health Researcher and work with CSOs	India	Delhi
62.	Jagdish Patel	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Gujarat
63.	Jaime Todd-Gher, JD, LLM	From any Academic Institution or think tank, Research Fellow, University of Toronto, Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Program and Independent Human Rights Consultant	India	Not mentioned
64.	John Peter	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Tamil Nadu
65.	Juned kamal	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	MP
66.	Justice D.Hariparathaman (Retd)	Legal	India	Tamil Nadu
67.	Jyotsna Singh	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Delhi
68.	K.J. Mukherjee	A Teacher	India	Delhi
69.	Kamal Narayan Kalita	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Assam
70.	Kanika	From any Academic Institution or think tank	Not mentioned	
71.	Kanika	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Delhi
72.	Keerthik Ram	Criminologist	India	Tamil Nadu
73.	Kennedy Advocate working in the field of human rights	Advocat	India	Tamil Nadu
74.	Keshav Desiraju	Retired Government	India	
75.	Kiran Kumbhar	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff, From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Maharashtra
76.	Lalita Roshni Lakra	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Delhi
77.	Lara Jesani	Lawyer	India	Maharashtra
78.	Leena Menghaney	Lawyer, Rights and Public Health	India	Uttar Pradesh
79.	Leila Passah	Independent consultant on gender and development	India	Karnataka
80.	Lisa Pires	A Teacher	India	Goa
81.	Liyander		India	TAMIL NADU
82.	Ludmila Lucia Mihailescu	former in medical officer in Romanian Prison Administration	Romania	



83.	M Shuaeb Saifullah	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Delhi
84.	Madhushree	Artist working with community children	India	Chennai
85.	Mahjabeen	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Jammu and kashmir
86.	Maneesh Gupta	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Delhi
87.	Manan Ganguli	Ekta Niketan Jharkhand	India	Jharkhand
88.	Manisha Shastri	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Karnataka
89.	Margaret	Social networking	India	Maharashtra
90.	Marion Birch	From any Academic Institution or think tank	Not mentioned	
91.	Meena Saraswathi Seshu	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Maharashtra
92.	Meenal Mamdani	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	USA	
93.	Meghna Yadav	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Haryana
94.	Mira Shiva Dr	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Delhi
95.	MOHAMED KHADER MEERAN Dr	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Tamil Nadu
96.	Mohan Rao Prof	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff, A Teacher	India	Karnataka
97.	Mohit P. Gandhi	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Rajasthan
98.	Mridula Mukherjee	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Delhi
99.	Nandini Kumar	Bioethicist	India	Kerala
100.	Nanita Sharma		India	Delhi
101.	Navdeep Mathur	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Gujarat
102.	Neelam Puthran	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Maharashtra
103.	Neha	From any Academic Institution or think tank	Not mentioned	
104.	Nisha Biswas	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	West Bengal
105.	Nivedita Menon	A Teacher	India	Delhi
106.	Nivedita Saksena	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	New Delhi
107.	P Rajamanickam	All India Peoples Science Network	India	New Delhi
108.	Padma Deosthali Dr	Independent Researcher	India	Maharashtra
109.	Parijata	Lawyer	India	Delhi
110.	Philo Thomas	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Maharashtra
111.	Prabir Chatterjee	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	West Bengal
112.	Prashanth N S	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff, From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Karnataka
113.	Pratiksha Baxi	A Teacher	India	Delhi
114.	Praveen Kumar	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Bihar
115.	Priyam Lizmary	Lawyer	Not mentioned	

	Cherian			
116.	Radha Holla		India	Uttar Pradesh
117.	Rajalakshmi	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Tamil Nadu
118.	Rajan K C	CSO	Nepal	NA
119.	Rajeev	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Karnataka
120.	Rajendra Dushing	A Teacher	India	Maharashtra
121.	Rajni Bakshi		India	Maharashtra
122.	Ravi Duggal	Independent Public Health Researcher and Activist	India	Maharashtra
123.	Ravi Ram	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights, From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Telangana
124.	Reeti	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Chhattisgarh
125.	ROGER GAIKWAD	Ordained Minister	India	Assam
126.	Rosa Merlyn	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Maharashtra
127.	Roshan Hari M	Student	India	TAMILNADU
128.	S Subramanian	Independent Researcher	India	Tamil Nadu
129.	S. Srinivasan	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Gujarat
130.	S.Krishnaswamy	Retired Professor and in AIPSN	India	Tamil Nadu
131.	sakina		Not mentioned	
132.	Salim Hamza Saboowalla	Social Activist	India	Mumbai, Maharashtra State
133.	Samer Jabbour	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	Lebanon	
134.	sandhya gokhale	Feminist collective	India	Maharashtra
135.	Sandhya Srinivasan	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Maharashtra
136.	Sanjai Sharma	Health Worker	India	Delhi
137.	Sanjay Nagral	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Maharashtra
138.	Santosh Karmarkar	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Maharashtra
139.	Saswati Ghosh	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	West Bengal
140.	Satish Bahekar Dr	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Maharashtra
141.	Sayan Das	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff, From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	West Bengal
142.	Sebastian Poomattam	Advocate and social activist and priest	India	Chhattisgarh
143.	Shakeel ur Rahman Dr	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Bihar
144.	Shalini Gera	Lawyer	India	Chhattisgarh
145.	Shefali Saini	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Haryana
146.	Shekhu	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Delhi
147.	Shelley Saha	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Maharashtra

148.	Shrifal Raina	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	J&K
149.	Shriyuta Abhishek	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Chhattisgarh/ Maharashtra
150.	Shweta Narayan	From NGO working on public health and environment	India	Kerala
151.	Siby K George	A Teacher	India	Maharashtra
152.	Siddharth K J	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	India	Karnataka
153.	Simrin Kafle	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	Nepal	Nepal
154.	Smitha Nair	A Teacher	India	Maharashtra
155.	Snehal	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff, From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights, From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Delhi
156.	Soumitra Patharee	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff, From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Maharashtra
157.	Subbulakshmy Natarajan	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Karnataka
158.	Subhash Mittal	Self-employed professional	India	Delhi
159.	Sudha	Advocate	India	Tamil Nadu
160.	Sudhir Pattnaik		India	Odisha
161.	Suja Burman	Student	India	West Bengal
162.	Sujata Gothoskar	Women's organisation	India	Maharashtra
163.	Sulakshana Nandi	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	Not mentioned	
164.	Sumaiyah Khan	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Uttar Pradesh
165.	Suman	NSS volunteer	India	Haryana
166.	SUNIL KAUL	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff, A public health worker	India	Assam and northeast
167.	Sunita Sheel	Social Scientist, Bioethicists	India	Maharashtra
168.	Suresh Shah	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	Nepal	
169.	Swati Narayan	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Karnataka
170.	Swati Rane Dr	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	India	Maharashtra
171.	Sweta Dash		India	Delhi
172.	Thelma Narayan Dr	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff, Professional resource group on Community Health	India	Karnataka
173.	Tureeya		India	Uttarakhand
174.	Uma Chakravarti Retd Professor	A Teacher	India	Delhi
175.	Uma V Chandru	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Karnataka
176.	Umara	Student	India	New Delhi
177.	Utkarsh Sharma	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights, From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Maharashtra

178.	V R Raman	From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Delhi
179.	Vasundhara	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff	Not mentioned	
180.	Veena Johari	Lawyer	India	Maharashtra
181.	Vijayan M J	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights, From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Delhi
182.	Vinay Kulkarni	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff, From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights, From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Maharashtra
183.	Vivek Monteiro		India	Maharashtra
184.	Vivekanand Jha	A Doctor/Nurse/Medical staff, From any Academic Institution or think tank	India	Delhi, Telangana, AP
185.	Wim Vandavelde	From any CSO/ NGO working on health rights	South Africa	Western Cape, South Africa