



## **Women Working Worldwide statement re COVID-19**

*Over the past year COVID-19 has greatly disrupted all of our daily lives. To a greater degree it has affected the lives of women in general but particularly those working in global value chains who are already in undervalued and insecure work. Corporations cancelled orders and refused to fulfill payments in an attempt to protect their industries and their profits, as consumer habits changed in the face of the pandemic, all at the expense of the most vulnerable in the supply chains.*

*During this time as an organisation we have continued in our fight for equity and equality, and supported women by doing the following:*

- *Conducted research highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls in Kenya including a rise in gender based violence, forced marriages, domestic violence and FGM.*
- *Presented the findings of this research to FCDO, ETI, and retailers.*
- *Used this research to develop gender sensitive COVID-19 training for flower farm workers.*
- *Developed a practical toolkit for Trainers to use for raising worker's awareness of gender issues on flower farms and in the wider community.*
- *Promoted awareness of the unequal impact of COVID-19 on women in general and women in global supply chains through our facebook posts and other social media channels.*

*The development and roll out of vaccines means that for some a sense of relative normality will soon return, but the inequitable distribution of vaccines highlights yet another form of inequality, which we will continue to highlight and work with others towards ensuring a more equitable distribution.*

*It is obvious that the pandemic has highlighted many inequalities which were already there, exacerbated some of them, and created a few new ones. The end of the pandemic will not mean the end of these inequalities and to address the devastating impact the pandemic has had on gender equality more advocacy, solidarity and partnerships will be needed.*

*If you are a brand or supplier company that wants to ensure that you are able to support the women in your value chains to be able to rise to these forthcoming challenges, please contact us to discuss your requirements at [caroline@womenww.org](mailto:caroline@womenww.org) .*

*If you would like to support our work during these challenging times, you can donate to us too at <https://www.women-ww.org/donate> . Your support is very much appreciated.*

*All WWW staff, students and trustees are working remotely during this time, however, we can still be contacted via our usual communication channels (e-mail, website and Facebook).*