



Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL

Serving Communities and Partnering the Mission of the YMCA Worldwide

27 March 2020

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

Let's overcome this crisis collectively and continue our service to humanity

Dear club members,

We hope that you and your family are safe and healthy in this unusual period of time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the other members of your club. We are trying our best to stay connected with all the leaders around the world through different ways and strengthen our solidarity and fellowship.

As you know, for the first time ever, all people, institutions, governments and organisations around the world are standing together with a common message that urges both prayers and action to protect life. The novel coronavirus pandemic has reached all regions of our planet. There is fear and panic, pain and suffering, and doubt and misinformation about both the virus and our inability to respond adequately. Amid stories of suffering and tragedy, there are also stories of simple kindness and extravagant love, of solidarity, and the sharing of hope and peace in innovative and surprising ways by our clubs and YMCAs which are responding in many countries.

As a socially committed organisation, we urge all to consider the needs of the most vulnerable people in this crisis, the poor and the aged, though we have many limitations placed on the way we can serve. In the midst of this grave crisis, we lift up prayers for those providing leadership and for governments around the world, urging them to give priority concern to those who live in poverty, as well as to refugees and other marginalised peoples living in our midst.

In this homebound period, club members shall experience a deep solidarity and fellowship by maintaining communication through telephone or through online platforms. We urge members and families everywhere to give highest priority to addressing this situation and assisting in whatever ways we can in our collective efforts to protect life. Let us manifest God's unconditional love in safe, practical ways that protect life, alleviate suffering, and ensure that clubs become a source of positivity and hope. You may be homebound these days. However, physical distancing does not mean emotional isolation from others, and we urge clubs all over the world to review their role in society by safely ministering to, providing for, and caring for the poor, the sick, the marginalised, and the aged – especially all those who are most at risk due to the physical shutdown of services.

9 Avenue Sainte-Clotilde, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland | ihq@ysmen.org | +41-22-8091530 | www.ysmen.org
International President: Mrs Jennifer Jones | International Secretary General: Mr Jose Varghese

Motto: To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right

We would appreciate if you could share your thoughts and actions through our website <https://www.ysmen.org/covid-19> so that we may share your wisdom and creativity widely with the rest of our club members around the world.

We are confident that the world will overcome this crisis collectively and we will continue our service to humanity.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

Best regards,



Jennifer Jones
International President



Jose Varghese
International Secretary General

