



International Forum of Catholic Action

Appeal on access to vaccination, necessary for COVID-19 prevention

Pope Francis is insisting that humanity cannot save itself, that we need each other and the pandemic has confirmed this. We are all in the same boat. We note that even the major pharmaceutical companies cannot provide all the health care supplies needed in the face of, COVID-19 on their own.

The spread of the Coronavirus and its effects have affected our countries in the same way, regardless of culture, creed, social or economic status. However, the vaccine as the main tool to fight the disease is not equally distributed, as fewer vaccines reach developing countries and many have difficulty acquiring them.

We believe that "the wellspring of human dignity and fraternity is in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (FT 277)" and vaccination "is a universal common good".

We know that "the virus of individualism, which does not make us freer or more equal or more brotherly or sisterly, but rather makes us indifferent to the suffering of others. And a variant of this virus is closed nationalism, which prevents, for example, an internationalism of vaccines. Another variant is when we put the laws of the market or intellectual property above the laws of love and the health of humanity. Another variant is when we create and promote a sick economy, which allows a few very rich people, a few very rich people, to own more than all the rest of humanity, and production and consumption patterns to destroy the planet, our "Common Home" 1 .

The virus knows no frontiers, so mass vaccination is urgently needed in all countries equally.

Faced with the virus of indifference, we can discover the mercy contained in the parable of the Good Samaritan who cares for the wounded, the neighbour. In our global village, the neighbour is every inhabitant of the world; every man and woman. We cannot pass by and look the other way. " The *social character* of mercy demands that we not simply stand by and do nothing. It requires us to banish indifference and hypocrisy, lest our plans and projects remain a dead letter " 2.

United with the different ecclesial and social voices, members from different countries, gathered in the International Forum of Catholic Action (IFCA), we appeal to national authorities, international bodies and pharmaceutical companies to work decisively and effectively to guarantee and facilitate access to vaccines against COVID-19 for the entire world population with parameters of equity, our brothers and sisters need it!

1 Videomessage of the Holy Father Francis on the occasion of "Vax Live - the concert to reunite the world", Saturday, 8 May 2021

2 Francis, *Misericordia et misera*, 20 November 2016