PMAC PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE 2021

WS205

RESISTANCE, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS DURING COVID PANDEMIC

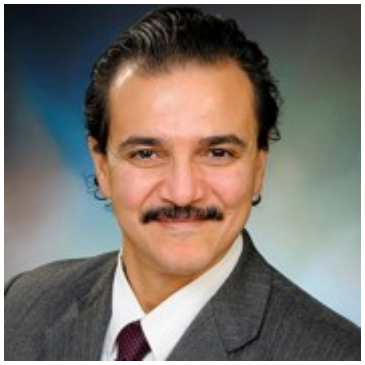
| BACKGROUND

Almost everywhere in the world, certain groups of people more than others experience severe forms of deprivation and discrimination, violence, abuse and extortion, and even detention and incarceration (including arbitrary arrest) due to their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, citizenship status, or sexual orientation. Human mobility has increased significantly during the last two decades, as internally displaced or international migrants seek to escape wars, conflicts, ethnic persecution, political instability, armed violence, extreme poverty, income inequality, and, increasingly, climate change impacts. Many of these drivers of population movement originate in corporate practices (e.g., the continuing international arms trade), government policies (e.g., a proliferation of trade and investment agreements compromising livelihoods), and national and global failures to deal effectively with climate change. Extractivism has led to forced displacement and dispossession of indigenous communities all over the world. Many of those most affected by displacement or forced migration are women and children. Others face discrimination within their own countries and may seek migration or refugee status to avoid violence, including members of LGBTQ+ communities, or those discriminated against based on race, religion, ethnicity, or other minority differences. Aggravation

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these existing social exclusion and prejudice. People of color, people in lower-income households, indigenous communities, unauthorized migrants (especially those in detention centers), refugees and asylum seekers, and prisoners (including political prisoners) have experienced a higher burden of the pandemic. These vulnerable populations and socially excluded groups were heavily impacted in terms of higher prevalence of infections, higher severity of the disease, compromised access to healthcare services, and higher rates of deaths. Mental health impacts, and increase in gender-based violence and domestic violence have also been seen.

| OBJECTIVES

- Identify and describe forms of resistance in terms of enforced extraterritorial obligations, governmental policies, social movements. How may they be supported? What have been the opportunities and threats?
- Identify and discuss policy proposals to address social exclusion at different levels, calling upon the conference participants to adopt.



Moderator

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Dr. Serag is a physician and a public health researcher. He currently works at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) as a director of programs at the Center for Global and Community Health, an adjunct Assistant Professor at the Department of Pediatrics, and an Associate Member of the Graduate Faculty at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. He is the Co-PI of the Diabetes Prevention Program and Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support projects.
Dr. Serag has extensive experience working across cultures. He served as the global coordinator of the People's Health Movement, a worldwide network of civil society organizations, academic institutes, and health activists. He was also the director of the Health Policy and Systems Program of the Association of Health and Environmental Development, a prominent think-tank group in Egypt. Dr. Serag's teaching, research, and public health practice interests are health, health system policies, health equity, and rights-approach for community empowerment.