

To:

E. Oscar Alleyne; Donna Beal, Vice-Chair; Kaye Bender, President-Elect; Georges C. Benjamin, Executive Director; Charlene Cariou; Lisa Carlson, Immediate Past President; Shontelle L. Dixon; Anne Dressel; José Ramón Fernández-Peña, President; Sarah Gareau; Teresa Garrett; M. Aaron Guest, Governing Council Speaker; Benjamin H. Hernandez; Jeffrey Hall; Jeanie Holt; Brittany Marshall; Nandi Marshall; Rachael N. Reed; David Reyes; Hope Rollins; Catherine L. Troisi; Deanna Wathington; Heather Walter-McCabe; Samantha H. Xu

February 16, 2021

Dear APHA Executive Board members,

We call on you to show leadership for integrity and public health.

Tobacco kills more than 8 million people a year. 80% of the deaths are in low and middle income countries. The tobacco industry is the key cause of this continuing epidemic of death. It carries out aggressive, multi-million dollar campaigns to addict new generations of youngsters to tobacco, particularly in racialized and low income populations. The tobacco industry works ceaselessly to sabotage effective public health regulations.

182 countries therefore ratified the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The Convention requires that countries reject any engagement or collaboration with the tobacco industry or organizations funded by the tobacco industry.

The American Public Health Association has, to date, not supported this landmark public health Convention.

We call on the American Public Health Association to join with the World Federation of Public Health Associations and leading public health organizations in the United States and around the world and support the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and reject any engagement or collaboration with the tobacco industry or organizations funded by the tobacco industry.

We urgently await your response.

SIGNATORIES

Organizations and region of operation

Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa (ASPHA). Africa

Cancer Aid Society. India

Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada

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US COPD Coalition. Sam P. Giordano, MBA, RRT, FAARC, Chair. USA

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Comité National Contre le Tabagisme, CNCT. Pr Yves Martinet, president. France

Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control, Hong Kong, China. Director: Dr Judith Mackay. Asia

Fundación Anáas. Colombia

Corporate Accountability. International

European Society for Environmental and Occupational Medicine (EOM Society). Europe

Austrian Council on Smoking and Health. Austria

Coalición México Saludable / Mexico Salud-Hable Coalition. Juan Nuñez Guadarrama, Coordinador de Coaliciones. Mexico

Coalition québécoise pour le contrôle du tabac - Quebec Coalition for Tobacco Control. Flory Doucas, Co-director and Spokesperson, Quebec

Health and Environment Justice Support (HEJSupport). International

Rideau Institute. Peggy Mason, President. Canada

Peoples' Health Movement - South Africa

Occupational Knowledge International

Association "Health Mission" Beograd, Serbia. Dr. Srmena Krstev, Vice President. Serbia

Alternative Information & Development Centre (AIDC). South Africa

Tobacco Free Portfolios, Milena Stojceska, Senior Manager. International

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TB Proof. Ingrid Schoeman, Operational Manager. South Africa

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World Public Health Nutrition Association. Angela Carriedo, RN, MSc, PhD, Secretary of Communications

Smoking and Alcohol Harms Alleviation and Rehabilitation Association - SAHARA. Dr Hermann Reuter, Director. South Africa

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