

## Call for United Efforts Against the New Coronavirus Pandemic

*“Blessed is He in whose hand is dominion, and He is over all things competent - [He] who created death and life to test you [as to] which of you is best in deed - and He is the Exalted in Might, the Forgiving” (Surat Al-Mulk)*

Libyan brothers, Libyan sisters,

The world is facing the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic and the deaths of thousands of people. The whole world, including our region, is witnessing dangerous and unforeseen developments. A historical moment is upon us during which there can be no room for anything other than truth and reason.

The new Coronavirus is a threat to all humanity. Nations should be joining forces and working together to fight it, but such collaboration is largely absent at this time. Libya is at even greater risk than other countries as our health facilities are modest, and our institutions are not ready for a challenge of this order.

The spread of Coronavirus threatens the lives of all our citizens without exception, but particularly affects the most vulnerable: the elderly and those with chronic illnesses or low immunities. The urgent need to save lives makes the fight against Coronavirus far more important than any other battle. Combatting it should be a priority that overrides all our divisions.

On this basis, we, the signatories of this call, each in his/ her own capacity, commit to carry out their necessary duties at this critical time, and call upon our fellow citizens to join our efforts to:

- Ensure transparent exchange of information to allow the objective assessment of medical needs across the country;
- Ensure urgent coordination between all health institutions;
- Distribute jointly all medical and technical equipment and other necessary materials, and the common purchase of supplies from abroad needed to counter the virus;
- Facilitate safe corridors for medical personnel, trucks and aircraft carrying medical equipment and medicines, to all areas including conflict areas;
- Coordinate security measures to successfully implement curfews necessary for limiting the spread of the epidemic;
- Provide the necessary goods to all rural and remote areas to avoid the movement of citizens to the major population centers;
- Take exceptional precautions to prevent infection within the care centers, rehabilitation institutions and host centers for migrants and refugees, to avoid them become infection clusters. As has taken place in other international context, this could include temporarily releasing some prisoners who do not pose a threat to public order;
- Put sufficient exceptional financial resources at the disposal of the central and local authorities to manage the consequences of this emergency health situation;
- Urge youth to set up volunteer teams in coordination with competent bodies to provide assistance to vulnerable groups and to support medical and paramedical personnel across the country;
- Require media and social media activists to assume their national responsibility by sensitizing citizens to preventive methods and promoting solidarity.

This call is also directed at all citizens to urge them to take the Coronavirus pandemic seriously, and to comply with the ultimate responsibility of not endangering their lives. We must all respect the precautionary preventive measures advised by national and international health agencies.

Libya has the ability to overcome this current crisis – and, God willing, Libyans will succeed in protecting their fellow citizens and their country.

This call is launched on the initiative of the Libyan signatories listed below, and in collaboration with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.

May God save Libya and its people

This is a preliminary list of signatories. This Call is open to all Libyans who wish to join it. Those willing can endorse the Call by sharing it on social media pages.

<b>Name</b>	<b>City/ Municipality</b>
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