



The Elders

The Elders launch new initiative on Universal Health Coverage at Women Deliver

17 May 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COPENHAGEN, Tuesday 17 May 2016

The Elders launched a new initiative to promote [**Universal Health Coverage \(UHC\)**](#) at the Women Deliver conference as part of the organisation's mission to support equality, social justice and sustainable development.

UHC means that everybody receives the health services they need without financial hardship, and is a goal that all countries are committed to achieving by 2030 following the agreement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Elders' UHC initiative has four key messages:

- UHC is the best way to achieve the [**health Sustainable Development Goal**](#)
- UHC delivers substantial [**health, economic and political benefits**](#) across populations
- [**Women, children and adolescents**](#) must be covered as a priority
- [**Public financing is the key to UHC**](#)

[**Gro Harlem Brundtland**](#), Deputy Chair of The Elders, said:

"No-one should be denied necessary health services or risk falling into poverty because of medical fees, but this is a reality for hundreds of millions of people across the world. The Elders believe this is unacceptable and unnecessary. Universal Health Coverage is a realistic, achievable aim that all leaders should adopt if they are serious about meeting the Sustainable Development Goals."

The Elders will use their collective experience and convening power to make the case for UHC at the highest political levels, and to listen to and amplify the voice of grassroots activists and health practitioners across the world.

Four Elders are attending the Women Deliver conference in Copenhagen where they will expand upon this new initiative to a global audience of women's rights and equality activists and media representatives: Gro Harlem Brundtland, [Hina Jilani](#), [Graça Machel](#) and [Mary Robinson](#).

The Elders will continue to campaign for UHC at the international, regional and country level throughout 2016 and into the following year.

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About The Elders

The Elders are independent leaders using their collective experience and influence for peace, justice and human rights worldwide. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The Elders are [Martti Ahtisaari](#), [Kofi Annan](#) (Chair), [Ela Bhatt](#), [Lakhdar Brahimi](#), [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#) (Deputy Chair), [Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#), [Jimmy Carter](#), [Hina Jilani](#), [Graça Machel](#), [Mary Robinson](#) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

[Desmond Tutu](#) is an honorary Elder.

Find out more

For biographies of the Elders, blogs, photos, videos and more information about their work please go to www.theElders.org.

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