



Principal Investigator: Prof. Ilina Singh, University of Oxford

The Ethics Accelerator receives core funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council as part of UKRI's covid-19 funding. Grant number AH/V013947/1.

www.ukpandemicethics.org

UK Pandemic Ethics Accelerator

Seeking Expressions of Interest:

The Covid-19 Pandemic And International Aid

Please use the following reference for all correspondence and submissions relating to this call: AH/V013947/1/PA3/002

The UK Pandemic Ethics Accelerator intends to commission a substantial piece of ethics research from an external academic(s) to support its current inquiry. This document sets out the aims and scope of the research envisaged.

Background

The Covid-19 pandemic has been a truly global challenge, affecting countries across the world. However, the health, economic and social impacts of the pandemic have profoundly affected less affluent countries. To some extent, this has been recognised by the international community – a record high of \$161.2 billion of foreign aid was delivered in 2020, a 3.5% increase of the amount from 2019.¹ Much of this extra spending was provided to help developing countries tackle the pandemic by supporting health systems, ensuring food security, and providing humanitarian aid.

Yet, as the pandemic continues, moral questions about the impact of the pandemic on the aid obligations of affluent nations persist. Does the fact that many developing countries are facing health, social and economic crises as a result of the pandemic weaken their obligations to provide foreign aid? To what extent should countries prioritise vaccinating their own citizens before donating vaccines to the international COVAX scheme? Should foreign aid be directed towards interventions that will help to mitigate the international spread of the coronavirus? Or should aid be directed

¹ World Economic Forum, 'Foreign Aid Hit a Record High Last Year. Here's What It Means for the Global Pandemic Recovery'.

towards non-Covid related causes, addressing needs that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, but nonetheless overshadowed by other urgent needs generated by the pandemic.

The answers to these questions will depend to a large extent on the grounds of our moral obligations to foreign nationals, and the strength of our reasons of partiality to our own co-nationals. The UK Pandemic Ethics Accelerator aims to produce leading ethics research and analysis about the impact that the pandemic should have on our understanding of these concepts, and their role in practical arguments about the provision of foreign aid.

Purpose

To assist the UK Pandemic Ethics Accelerator to develop a broad, comprehensive, and detailed understanding of the impact of the pandemic on obligations to provide foreign aid, and the associated ethical challenges, obstacles, and implications for providing aid in context of a global pandemic. The connections among these areas of interest should be interrogated, and the analysis should identify and illustrate where and how, from an ethics point of view, these areas are linked.

Approach

The analysis should be based on an analysis of the existing literature and other publicly available resources. Much of the information required should be reported descriptively, and analysis of the ethical issues should be presented in a neutral and even-handed way. The analysis must be grounded in contemporary facts and realities; it should not be a purely theoretical piece or rely on speculative cases. Illustrative case studies, based on empirical material, can be very effective in making the point, and would be welcomed as part of the analysis.

The review would be expected to cover:

(a) OUTLINE SCOPE

- (i) ETHICAL ISSUES, DISTINCTIONS, CONCEPTS, DEFINITIONS
- (ii) LEGAL AND REGULATORY ISSUES
- (iii) GUIDELINES

(b) IMPLEMENTATION AND GOVERNANCE PROCEDURES

(c) GAPS, CHALLENGES, RISKS

(d) OTHER CONCERNS

Scope

Given the nature of the themes relevant to this piece of research, the review should cover the following levels and jurisdictions:

- UK
- INTERNATIONAL

Information for researchers

We welcome proposals from researchers with complementary expertise working together.

Interested researchers are invited to submit a brief proposal (no more than 1500 words, excl. CVs) setting out how they would meet the objectives outlined in the brief. This should include:

- a brief summary of expertise and 2-page CV of those who will be involved
- up to 5 headline points that the review would be expected to make
- an outline of the proposed approach to fulfilling the brief (research methodology)
- an indicative outline of the final report (which is expected to be 4000 words in length)

An honorarium of **£5000** is offered on completion of this work. This is offered on the understanding that the honorarium reflects five weeks / 25 days of work (To discuss further, please contact Dr Jonathan Pugh at jonathan.pugh@philosophy.ox.ac.uk)

The proposal should be submitted to the Ethics Accelerator Secretariat (ukpandemicethics@psych.ox.ac.uk) by **Friday 8th October 2021** 18:00 BST. The expected date for submission of the final report is **Friday 4th February 2022** 18:00 BST.

Peer Review

All proposals are subject to internal and external peer review.

All final products for the Pandemic Ethics Accelerator are peer reviewed.

What Will We Do with the Final Review?

We will publish the review, with the researcher(s) identified as authors, on the Pandemic Ethics Accelerator website. We may also write a Policy Brief based on the review; and we may offer researchers an opportunity to write a blog based on the review. In all outputs, the researcher(s) are clearly identified as authors, and the Accelerator is identified as the funder. If there is press or policy interest in the review, we will direct that interest to the author(s).

We ask that the author(s) do not publish the review elsewhere without express permission from the Pandemic Ethics Accelerator.

If authors go on to develop the review for academic publication, the Pandemic Ethics Accelerator would expect to be acknowledged as (one of the) funders of the work.