



National Association of Professional Social Workers in India

Reg. No. 53647 of 2005 (Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860)

SECRETARIAT: C/o. BPHE'S Centre for Studies in Rural Development-
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Dr Harsh Vardhan
Minister for Health and Family welfare
Government of India
New Delhi

30.03.2020

Subject : An Appeal to use Physical Distancing in place of Social Distancing

Hon'ble Minister,

The Government of India has issued an Advisory on Social Distancing Measure in view of spread of COVID-19 disease on 16th March 2020, directing states across the country to take social distancing measures as a preventive strategy. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reiterated the importance of social distancing, and asked citizens to raise the awareness level and follow guidelines undertaken by the government to prevent the spread of novel corona virus at every possible level.

We are appreciative of MoHFW, Government of India and efforts taken so far under able leadership of Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi ji who advocated social distancing in his address to the nation on 24th March 2020 for 21 days countrywide lockdown. We at NAPSWI reiterate our commitment to fight with COVID 19 and assure you wholehearted support to efforts of MoHFW, Government of India, various State Governments and other stakeholders.

We wish to draw your kind attention that World Health Organization (WHO) has started using the phrase "[physical distancing](#)" instead of "[social distancing](#)" as a way to prevent the spread of the novel corona virus from people to people. We at NAPSWI welcome this move as a step towards to bring back social wellbeing of People Living with COVID19 and their families suffering from social isolation. We underline the importance of a physical distance as "absolutely essential" to respond to global pandemic it does not mean that socially we have to disconnect from the people who are significant and part of day to day life.

We, the members of social work fraternity through our organisation [National Association of Professional Social Workers in India](#), appeal to you and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India as well as public health institutions and authorities, public health professionals and public in general to use the term "Physical distancing" in place of "Social distancing", while issuing public notices, instructions, #tags, appeals to maintain physical distance as prescribed by WHO and enhance the quality of social bonding and social wellbeing by connecting with people living with COVID19.

We request you to issue a notification in this regard.

With Kind regards

Prof Sanjai Bhatt
President

Dr Suresh Pathare
Secretary