Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The coronavirus was first confirmed in the Chinese city of Wuhan in late December 2019, and later declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation in early March 2020. To date, millions of cases have been confirmed in countries across the globe, and more than one million people have died due to COVID-19 worldwide. Unfortunately, the deadly virus continues to spread, with little end in sight. Although much coverage has been dedicated to exploring the different impacts of the crisis (such as social and economic), relatively little attention has been directed to examining the particular impact of the pandemic on women and girls. Past crises and outbreaks have demonstrated that men and women are differently affected, while preexisting inequalities and challenges for women and girls are often exacerbated. This special issue of the Journal of International Women’s Studies is dedicated to critically interrogating and broadening understanding of how the COVID-19 crisis has impacted women and girls around the world.

We welcome abstracts of papers addressing the following potential topics and questions, among others:

- In what ways has COVID-19 affected women and girls differently?
- How may (or does) the global crisis threaten many of hard-fought gains achieved by women and girls over the decades?
- How have women and girls been at the frontlines of the recovery or the response (at home, in public, within institutions, etc.)?
- How has COVID-19 affected extreme poverty, education, employment, health, unpaid care, and violence against women and girls?
- In what ways has the pandemic exposed or exploited pre-existing inequalities faced by women and girls?
- What have been (if any) the progressive and effective steps taken to understand and address COVID-19's impact on women and girls?
- Other possible topics or themes include:
  - Emerging challenges and new inequalities for women and girls
  - Sexual and reproductive health and rights during the pandemic
  - Solidarity, resilience, and adaptation
  - Women’s political leadership in addressing COVID-19
  - Women and girls in the home during lockdowns (education, care of dependents, mothering, etc.)
  - Emotional and psychological impacts on women and girls
  - Women and girls from minority, indigenous, marginalized, and vulnerable groups
  - Voice of women and girls
  - Insecurity (employment, food, housing, etc.)
  - Priority measures and targeted protections
Authors are invited to submit brief abstracts (approximately 250-400 words) outlining their proposed submissions. Abstracts should emailed as attachments to fikrejesus87@gmail.com, and be in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Submissions should not have been published previously, nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Timeline

- Deadline for Abstract Submission: 28 February 2021
- Email Address for Submission: fikrejesus87@gmail.com
- Editors will review abstracts and invite submission of full manuscripts by 9 April 2021. All manuscripts will be expected to adhere to the formatting guidelines of the Journal of International Women’s Studies. Further details and instructions may be found here: https://vc.bridgew.edu/jiws/policies.html
- Deadline for submission of manuscript first draft: 30 June 2021
- Following review, draft papers will be returned to authors by mid-August 2021
- Deadline for final version of manuscript: 15 September 2021

The Journal of International Women's Studies is an on-line, open-access, peer reviewed feminist journal that provides a forum for scholars, activists, and students to explore the relationships among theories of gender and sexuality and various forms of organizing and critical practice. Learn more at https://vc.bridgew.edu/jiws/.