

London, Friday 29 January 2021

To : Interdisciplinary perspectives on
Equality and Diversity: An International
Journal (IPED)

Dear Dr. Barbara Myers, dear Editorial Board,

I am writing to you on behalf of the OVERDUE team, led by Prof. Adriana Allen (Development Planning Unit, UCL), to submit the revised version of our position paper titled “COVID-19: A turning point to further sanitation justice?”. We wish to thank you for your constructive suggestions, as well as for the careful comments of the two anonymous reviewers. Please find attached a new version which we hope will meet your expectations. We have expanded the list of authors to include 3 colleagues who have joined us in our research project and in proofreading and upgrading our article, Festo Dominic Makoba, Ilundi Polonia Cabral, and Richard Prosper. We hope it will be possible to include them at this stage and we will do the necessary procedure online to add them along the other authors in the IPED interface. We thank you for your comprehension.

We have addressed the requirements and comments in the following way:

1. Introducing subheadings:

We thank you for this request which will indeed make the paper easier to follow. We have introduced 3 subheadings to structure the paper around the intersecting inequalities underlying sanitation, the issue with COVID-19 responses, and pathways to further sanitation justice.

2. Simplifying the abstract:

We have rephrased the abstract to cut the three long sentences into several shorter and more accessible sentences.

3. Define formal terms related to sanitation:

Indeed, our text was missing key definitions and we thank you for this remark. We have clarifications on page 3 to define on grid sanitation and off-grid sanitation. We added a footnote page 3 to define “basic sanitation” and the discussions around this expression. It reads: “According to the JMP, “basic sanitation” corresponds to improved sanitation facilities that are not shared between households while safely managed sanitation further includes the safe disposal of excreta in situ or transported and treated offsite. Unfortunately, data for safely

managed sanitation is limited, with no data for pit emptying and excreta management of on-site systems even though this is a crucial component of safety for those living in dense residential settlements unserved by piped sewerage systems (Mitlin 2015) (WHO&UNICEF 2017). Shared facilities are systematically disregarded in basic sanitation regardless of the number of households sharing.”

4. Discuss in more detail the range of inequalities:

We have re-written section 2 entirely to better detail these inequalities as well as what we meant by intersecting inequalities, adding several key references. The section illustrates more clearly the multiple factors shaping sanitation and the distribution of inequalities along lines of identity, such as gender, class, age, sexuality, and ability.

5. Correct grammatical and spelling errors:

Thank you for the careful proofreading and the suggestions. We have proofread the attached text several times and hope it now contains less errors.

6. And 7. Rephrase long sentences especially the last one of first paragraph, to make the flow of the paper clearer.

This sentence has been cut and simplified. Thank you for this suggestion.

9. Homogenise referencing style.

We switched to Harvard referencing style and homogenised the references. This has considerably reduced the number of footnotes, making the overall paper easier to read.

We hope these modifications will meet your expectations and are at your disposition for further improvements and suggestions. Once again, thank you for the attention dedicated to our position paper. We look forward to discovering and reading the finalized special issue.

Best regards,

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