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Friends, and Colleagues,

Today, December 10<sup>th</sup>, is International Human Rights Day. It is the anniversary of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights which affirms that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Not some, but all. As we come to the end of this extraordinarily difficult year for humanity, a year of pandemic COVID-19 and of painfully clear inequalities which have worsened the pandemic for so many, science has again delivered real hope. The coming first generation COVID-19 vaccines are impressive in both efficacy and safety. Treatment options are expanding. Yet the pandemic, as we know, is surging. And the vaccines, for many months to years, will be scarce and supplies insufficient for all who need and want them.

As we honor the frontline workers fighting the pandemic, and mourn those who have been lost, let's commit to making sure that all human beings are protected from the ravages of COVID-19 as soon as is humanly possible. All human beings deserve access to vaccines if they want them, not only the privileged of wealthy countries. That is a fundamental human rights principle we must work to realize.

COVID-19 anywhere is COVID-19 everywhere.

Without access, equity, and a global effort for all of humanity, we risk failing to control this pandemic. This means that human rights are more relevant in this pandemic time than ever before.

Wishing all safety, health, and the access to health care we all deserve.

Sincerely,

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Chris Beyrer  
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