

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **GROUP PETITIONS WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION TO DEAL WITH UNDERLYING DRIVER OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

*Poor family planning and population growth set the stage for the disease*

The WHO chief recently warned that 'we are in uncharted territory' as the number of coronavirus cases worldwide passes 90,000. Having Kids is now petitioning the World Health Organization to address the fundamental driver of the coronavirus and many other public health threats: Overcrowding, driven by poor family planning.

#### **[Read the letter here.](#)**

As the WHO has recognized, [overcrowding exacerbates epidemics](#) and is perhaps the most [fundamental threat to public health](#). Overpopulation is a [key factor in the spread of a variety of diseases](#) including coronavirus, yet this [driver is often ignored](#) in policymaking.

#### **The facts are clear:**

- The U.N. has issued world population [projections with massive variability](#).
- That variability is caused by the U.N.'s adherence to a [dangerously outdated family planning model](#) that ignores human rights and democracy. Governments in many countries are exacerbating the problem by [pushing women to have kids they don't even want](#).
- That variability will drastically impact the [threat that diseases pose to humanity](#) worldwide.

According to Erika Mathews, Executive Director of Having Kids: "We can change the direction the world is headed by promoting smaller and more equitable families. We just have to start a serious conversation about ensuring the future we all want."

[Having Kids](#) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to reforming family planning by replacing parent-centered family planning models with the human rights-based and [child-first Fair Start model](#).