



# GLOBAL OVARIAN CANCER CHARTER

a World Ovarian Cancer  
Coalition initiative

## THE GLOBAL OVARIAN CANCER CHARTER

### Call for PRE-LAUNCH SIGN UP - July 2020

The **Global Ovarian Cancer Charter** is a **call to action** for all those committed to improving survival and quality of life for women with ovarian cancer.



The Charter consists of six Global Goals (outlined on page 4). Its purpose is to drive short- and medium-term improvements in survival and quality of life for women with ovarian cancer, no matter where they live.

The Charter is intended to:

- Increase the visibility of ovarian cancer challenges at local, regional, national, and international levels.
- Showcase good practice in relation to activities and organizations that support the Global Goals.
- Stimulate new projects and collaboration within the global ovarian cancer community.

The Charter will be launched at the Presidential Plenary of the [2020 xDigital Annual Global Meeting of the International Gynecologic Cancer Society](#) on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Implementation of the Charter will run for 2 years.

**The deadline for pre-launch sign up is 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

**The Charter can be used by anyone with an interest in ovarian cancer to advocate for improvements at the local, regional, national, or international levels. This includes:**

- Professional organizations, for example, representing clinicians or other professionals working in ovarian cancer
- Patient advocacy organizations
- Individual patient advocates
- Cancer control planners at regional, national, or international levels
- Other global groups with a focus of reducing the burden of cancer



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## BACKGROUND

In 2018 the [World Ovarian Cancer Coalition](#) undertook the [Every Woman Study™](#), which included the *largest ever survey of women with the disease*. The Study was overseen by an Expert Advisory Panel including patient and clinical representatives. The results have been presented at a number of international scientific meetings and published in the [IJGC](#).

The Study also included qualitative research with women in low- and middle-income countries and the [World Ovarian Cancer Coalition Atlas](#)<sup>1</sup> - a literature review of global incidence, mortality, survival, and trends.



1531 women from 44 countries responded to the Study survey, and members of the international clinical community in 16 countries provided key input and insight into the [Every Woman Study™](#).



The Study showed that there are wide variations between countries in terms of best practice, and how local challenges differ in tackling this disease. It is clear that no one country has all the answers and that all could benefit if variations are addressed, and best practices shared.

**The Goals of the Charter are directly linked to the findings of [the Every Woman Study™](#).**

<sup>1</sup> An updated version of the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition Atlas will be released in October 2020.



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**We are now seeking individuals and organizations to sign up as Charter *Supporters* or *Champions* to be publicly recognized at the formal high-profile launch in September 2020.**

## CHARTER SUPPORTERS – simple and quick

Individuals and organizations can formally register to be *Supporters* via a simple form. Additional information about their activities that relate to the Charter Goals is not required. *Supporters* are encouraged to share their endorsement via their own networks and can choose to receive regular updates. *Supporters'* names or logos will appear on the Coalition website and they will receive an electronic badge they can use on their own channels. *Supporters* can go on to apply for *Champion* status.

## CHARTER CHAMPIONS – the Goals in action

*Charter Champions* will be those that want to showcase examples of their good practice in action. Potential *Charter Champions* need only provide a simple outline of their current or upcoming project or initiative that speaks to one or more of the six Global Goals.

*Charter Champions* will be publicly acknowledged as such during the Charter's period of implementation with their work put before the global community.

*Charter Champions* and their collaborators retain all ownership for their projects but will be able to promote them with a Champion badge/logo. If necessary, a simple agreement can be drawn up regarding use of information and materials. There is no direct cost to apply or be a Champion.

All Charter Champions will be able to put their projects forward for an award at an anniversary event to be held in September 2021.

### **Those applying for *Charter Champion* status for their projects or initiatives should:**

- Identify and articulate those Global Goals that are most relevant to them, and how their current project, initiative, or proposal works to further that (those) goal(s).
- Be open to sharing their learnings and best practices through occasional updates, in the form of World Ovarian Cancer Coalition-led panel discussions, “Charter Chats” short video interviews, newsletter articles and other means as appropriate.
- Agree to promote and link through to the Charter on their website and in communications with organization members on a regular basis.
- Agree to have their projects and initiatives promoted on the Coalition’s website and external communications, with the understanding that adequate signposting back to the *Champion’s* own public channels will be undertaken.
- Consider new or enhanced projects and collaborations that might further the initiative.



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## THE GLOBAL OVARIAN CANCER CHARTER

Women who develop ovarian cancer should have the best possible chance of survival and best quality of life, wherever they live. Sustained investment in research and infrastructure will ultimately deliver new and better diagnostic and treatment options, but there are opportunities to make progress right now through the Charter's six Global Goals.

### THE SIX GLOBAL GOALS

#### GLOBAL PRIORITY

Ovarian cancer must become a global priority, so that the increasing burden and challenges of successfully treating women with ovarian cancer are recognized and planned for at national, regional, and local levels.

*Ovarian cancer is on the rise. Global cases will increase by 50% by 2050, with developing countries bearing the greatest burden. In the Every Woman Study™ over two thirds of women diagnosed had not heard of the disease prior to their diagnosis. Raising awareness and the need for action are critical.*



#### RAPID DIAGNOSIS

**Women must have access to diagnosis without delay.**

*The Every Woman Study™ showed it took six months on average for women to be diagnosed with ovarian cancer from when they first noticed symptoms. Symptom awareness must be improved so women seek and access appropriate help quickly. Doctors also need support so they know who should undergo testing and so that they are able to access tests without delay thereby enabling more women to start and tolerate treatment quickly.*



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## BEST POSSIBLE CARE/SPECIALTY CARE<sup>2</sup>

**Women must have access to surgery, treatments and clinical trials that optimize their chances of survival and quality of life.**

*Personalized medicines are transforming treatments and outcomes for some women with ovarian cancer, with the potential to help many more. Evidence shows that ovarian cancer surgery, performed by highly experienced and trained surgeons in high volume centers offer the best chance of survival. Around the world, a multitude of promising clinical trials are proceeding. Yet, for all these, access and information can be erratic, disproportionate, and even nonexistent for patients and their physicians.*

*At a minimum, affordable access to quality, multimodal treatments, essential medicines, technologies, and surgical oncology must be improved. Evidence-based clinical guidelines for ovarian cancer, appropriate to the level of resource are essential. Lack of finance should not be a barrier to best possible care, and we must not allow the gap between the highest and low resource countries to widen any further. The goal should always be to improve the status quo in any setting.*



## FAMILY HISTORY

**Women and doctors must have access to appropriate and timely genetic testing and counselling.**

*For women with a family history of ovarian and other cancers<sup>3</sup>, it is important to determine if they or others in their family are also at risk. This requires raising awareness of the importance of knowing cancer history on both sides of the family enabling women to take steps to quantify and reduce their risk if needed. For women diagnosed with ovarian cancer, with or without a family history, access to prompt genetic testing and counselling can enable access to personalized treatments and identify others who may be at risk. Where societal stigma about hereditary cancer may exist, broader awareness initiatives may be necessary to overcome these challenges.*

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<sup>2</sup> Please note the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition is finalizing wording of this Goal in collaboration with the International Gynecologic Cancer Society, therefore subsequent versions of “Best Possible Care/Specialist Care” may differ.

<sup>3</sup> For example: breast, pancreatic, prostate, and bowel cancers



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## DATA IMPROVEMENT

**Data used to develop cancer control plans and treatments must reflect the diversity of local populations to ensure the best possible outcomes.**

*The quality and quantity of data fluctuates around the world, which means that in many places it is not possible to quantify the burden of the disease or to develop evidence-based cancer plans. In some regions this will mean addressing the lack of cancer registration. If this is not yet possible at a national level, then localized efforts to collect data should be fostered. Ethnic background and location in the world play a part in the incidence and survival for women with ovarian cancer. Improving data on the different types of ovarian cancer and improving the diversity of those undergoing clinical trials will help ensure women of all ethnic backgrounds are able to receive the most effective treatments for them, no matter where they live.*

## INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

**Women must have access to good quality information and support in their own language, that helps them to live well with the disease.**

*The Every Woman Study™ indicated that overall there was a significant paucity of information about ovarian cancer, with more than half saying that they didn't get the information they needed at the time of diagnosis and more than one fifth unable to obtain information at any point in their journey. Additionally, many women indicated they had unmet mental health support needs. Where possible, clinicians and patient groups should work together to develop accessible resources and physical and mental support for women at all stages - whether newly diagnosed, just out of treatment, facing recurrence, in palliative or end of life care. Their mental wellbeing as well as their physical wellbeing should be considered in equal measure.*

## SIGN UP NOW OR CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

To sign up as a *Supporter* or *Charter Champion* ahead of the launch, please complete the appropriate form accessed by clicking below, by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

For any questions or additional information please contact Programme Director Frances Reid:  
[frances@worldovariancancercoalition.org](mailto:frances@worldovariancancercoalition.org)

**SUPPORTER  
SIGN UP – CLICK HERE**

**CHAMPION  
SIGN UP – CLICK HERE**