

A circular portrait of Asha George, a woman with dark hair, wearing a patterned shirt, smiling. The portrait is set against a background of a sketch showing a person holding a cross and another person. The portrait is framed by a blue circular graphic element.

Asha George

Asha George joined the School of Public Health at the University of the Western Cape in 2016 as the South African Research Chair (SARChI) in Health Systems, Complexity and Social Change. She is also Adjunct Professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She is a qualitative researcher engaged with health systems to advance health and social justice in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). With a gender and rights lens, she focuses on the frontline interface and governance of services, taking into consideration community and health worker perspectives.

She started her career working in Mexico with government ministries and the UN system to advance the Beijing and Cairo agendas for women's health and rights. She then returned to India, where she partnered with allies across community, district, state and national health systems to advance maternal health from a gender and rights perspective.

During the COVID-19 pandemic she co-convoked over a thousand participants primarily from LMICs in a virtual process to define sex and gender priorities for pandemic responses. <https://www.bmj.com/gender-and-pandemic-response>. She supports gender-transformative programming in a learning partnership with NACOSA and Hope Africa in Klipfontein, Cape Town, co-convokes the African Regional Community of Practice on Gender and Health and supports analysis of gender mainstreaming in health at scale with partners across Africa and Asia. With students, she is exploring how to queer health systems across African health systems.

Her contributions to global health leadership include election to the Board of Health Systems Global and serving as its Vice Chair from 2016-2018, and its Chair from 2018 to 2020; and serving as a Commissioner for the Lancet Commission on Re-Aligning Child Health for the SDG Era. In 2019, she was nominated to the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for the Human Reproduction Program/ Department of Reproductive Health Research at WHO Geneva and serves as Chair since mid 2022. She also currently leads the Gender and Equity sub-group of the Global Financing Facility's Results Advisory Group and advises the Women's Health Exemplars team at Gates Ventures.

Dr George is rated as a B3 scientist by the National Research Foundation. Since 2002, she has co-edited 3 edited volumes and 4 journal supplements, as well as co-authored over 150 journal publications and multiple technical reports and guidance documents.