

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

World Gynecologic Oncology Awareness Day (World GO Day) Press release.

Support Not Stigma: join the 8th #WorldGODay on September 20!

On September 20, 2026, the World will celebrate the 8th World Gynecologic Oncology Day (World GO Day). Launched by ESGO ENGAGe in 2019 to support the more than 3 million women living with a gynecological cancer, a set of cancers originating in the reproductive organs that includes ovarian cancer, uterine/endometrial/womb cancer, cervical cancer, vaginal cancer, and vulvar cancer, as well as rare cancer types. There are more than 1 million newly diagnosed every year, and this figure, according to Globocan Cancer Tomorrow, is due to rise to more than 2 million by 2050 (with increases varying from 38% for endometrium to 77% for vagina). Only an improvement in global awareness and a change in health policies and disease management can help to face this challenge.

Therefore, on September 20th, PAGs (Patient Advocacy Groups), patients, caregivers, doctors, researchers, companies, and institutions are invited to celebrate together with ESGO and ENGAGe this World GO Day to contribute to the change. Sport activities, public talks, webinars, conferences, hospital events and interviews with experts, patient stories sharing and many other activities are organized worldwide to spread information all over the world about gynecological cancer symptoms, risks, care, cancer prevention, and screening.

This year, the theme is **Support Not Stigma** — a call to move beyond awareness of the problem and actively build systems of support for women affected by gynaecological cancers. Women's health has historically been less prioritised. Even today, gynaecologic health is not talked about enough. Female reproductive systems and female-presenting bodies are stigmatised and often seen as 'taboo'.

Stigma, defined as “a set of negative and often unfair beliefs that a society or group of people have about something,” is something that all cancer patients may face, but due to societal and cultural factors including misogyny, ageism, or taboos about discussing reproductive organs, may be even more frequently endured by patients diagnosed with ovarian, uterine/endometrial, cervical, vaginal, or vulvar cancer.

Much too often, many are taught to dismiss or even hide the signs and symptoms of gynaecologic cancer for the comfort of others. This can result in later diagnoses which, unfortunately, are linked to worse survival and treatment outcomes. Patients and their caregivers often report feeling unsupported or alienated, even within previously supportive relationships. Depression and stress may also contribute to poorer response to cancer treatment.

But there are more reasons than ever to be hopeful. By building awareness about the importance of knowing risk factors and identifying signs and symptoms of gynaecologic cancers, we can reduce stigma bit by bit. By educating about cancer prevention — from HPV vaccines to positive lifestyle changes — we are reducing risk for the next generation. And by listening to patient stories, we are creating a world where all of us can be seen and supported. For more information on this topic, please visit <https://www.worldgoday.org/support-not-stigma/>

The aim and hope for this year's World Gynecologic Oncology Day is to surpass the impact of 2025, which had 45 countries and 117 PAGs involved, and 126 activities organised. All together we can win.

Hashtags:

#SupportNotStigma

#NoStigmainGO

#WorldGODay

Draft of quotes:

1.

On World GO Day, we stand together not only in awareness, but in strength, hope, and solidarity. Every woman facing a gynaecological cancer deserves to be heard, supported, and never feel alone. Together, we light the path toward greater understanding, earlier diagnosis, and a future filled with equal access to the best care.

Anne de Middelaer, ENGAGe Co-Chair

Behind every cancer diagnosis, there is a special human story. World GO day is a day of
2. gynaecological cancer patients to come together and make a great voice. Share your story with us and get united to create a new world without cancer myths and fears. Don't forget, Cancer cannot decrease our love, hope and spirit. Join us, share your story, and give a voice to our patients and doctors.

Murat Gultekin, ENGAGe Co-Chair

Women affected by gynaecological cancers should never feel isolated, ashamed, or unheard. World GO Day reminds us that beyond every diagnosis there is a person who deserves dignity,
3. empathy, support, and access to the best possible care. Together, we must replace stigma with solidarity, awareness with action, and work together toward the establishment of networks of excellence in gynaecological cancer care.

Jalid Sehoul, ESGO President

Media Contact

Zuzana Santamaria, World Gynecologic Oncology Day project manager

Email: worldgoday@esgo.org

www.worldgoday.org

About Gynecological Cancers

With an estimated annual incidence of more than 3.6 million and mortality exceeding 1.3 million, these cancers account for nearly 40% of all cancer incidence and for more than 30% of all cancer mortality in women worldwide. Among those, approximately 44% are represented by cervical cancer, 29% by endometrial cancer, 23% by ovarian cancer and less than 5% by other gynecological cancers, i.e., vulvar and vaginal cancers. In 2020, 420,000 women worldwide died from gynecological cancers.

Some gynecological cancers can be prevented. Regular screening and examinations along with lifestyle choices can help reduce risk factors and even promote early diagnosis at a stage when treatment can be more effective, and a complete cure is possible. Although cervical cancer is mostly preventable and can be cured if diagnosed early through screenings, 7 out of 10 women avoid these examinations because of fear they might have the HPV virus.

