Library Advocacy in Post COVID-19 World

Short-term

- Libraries need to be able to support their communities (wifi, devices, etc)
- The Pandemic cannot be an excuse for bad government – (we need to make sure we account for the future)
- Restrictions on free expression and access to information must be kept to a minimum – (It is better to promote positive interventions such as media and information literacy)
- The cultural sector needs support to avoid disaster
- Greater dependence on online tools cannot come at the expense of rights

Medium-Term

- Official approaches to re-opening need to take safety into account
- Exceptional measures on access to content should not be lifted until the need for them is over
- There needs to be meaningful investment in helping learners to catch up
- Insofar as they affect access to government information, states of emergency should be lifted as soon as possible
- Ensure that efforts continue to help those who will need to be subject to restrictions for longer
- Ensure that libraries are supported to take on the upcoming rise in demand
- Ensuring that lifting restrictions on movement doesn't mean new restrictions on privacy

Long-Term

- Mobilize libraries in the wider effort to rebuild lives, societies and economies
- Ensure proper scrutiny of decision-making during the crisis
- Learn from the experience to promote inclusion and well-being for all
- Achieve universal meaningful connectivity
- Invest in effective public (health) information systems
- Don't forget other challenges (climate, homelessness)

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