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Media Release

## **CORONA HITS US – OFTEN TWICE!**

**We, the interest group of the Swiss Interest Group of the Swiss Women's Business Association and Community Partners, speak for the independent entrepreneurs and company owners in Switzerland.**

There is a call for the entire economy to remain agile, innovative, and above all, positive. But many self-employed women have somehow been balancing family, home office and home schooling. Since the closure of schools, their working hours have reduced drastically. Employed women are struggling to manage their 8 ½ hour working day at home with the children. Both mothers and childless women suffer from the uncertainty this situation presents. They face financial losses because of this omnipresent pandemic.

The fact that the Federal Council now offers far-reaching support to self-employed persons and owners is crucial. Because the sudden loss of contracts can put these stakeholders in immediate distress, they often have a small capital cushion. It will affect them by the rapid fall into social welfare.

**Our interest group is requesting for the Federal Council and SECO to include the following points for further considerations:**

- Self-employed persons and owners\* need fast, unbureaucratic help for liquidity and extensions of short-time work.
- Part-time independent and especially start-ups are also affected.
- Small businesses should be entitled to short-time work; they pay ALV contributions.
- Employees and independent workers (both mothers and fathers) now have to do more care work, on top of teaching their children at home, making an enormous part of their working time previously possible is no longer possible.
- Self-employed persons and owners are uncertain: a hotline for questions could help.
- Employers should be called upon by the authorities to provide goodwill to employees that are performing care work duties.
- A call for creditors to offer goodwill in their calculations could help to defuse the situation. The same applies to the offer of a tax deferral at the tax office.

Switzerland will master the current challenges. We are convinced of this! But it needs ALL of us to do so—the larger- and medium-sized companies, the micro-enterprises, and the self-employed..

We will emerge stronger from the crisis - but only together!

## Interest Group of the Swiss Women's Business Associations and Community Partners

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