



20th Anniversary

Many Voices, A Common Goal

Global Appeal

to End Stigma and Discrimination against
Persons Affected by Leprosy

2006-2025

Many Voices, A Common Goal

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is a communicable disease that can be cured with drugs that are available free of charge. But while drugs can cure the disease, they alone cannot erase the social stigma and discrimination that are the legacy of centuries of myths and misconceptions about leprosy.

The Global Appeal is an annual message to raise awareness and call for an end to the discrimination that persons affected by leprosy continue to face. Initiated in 2006 by Yohei Sasakawa, the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, the Appeal is released every January to coincide with World Leprosy Day.

Each year, the Appeal is supported by an influential partner, building solidarity across a wide range of sectors and ensuring that its message reaches far and wide.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Global Appeal. Over the past two decades, it has brought together many voices united by a common goal: a world in which persons affected by leprosy can live in dignity, free from discrimination and able to enjoy all their basic human rights.



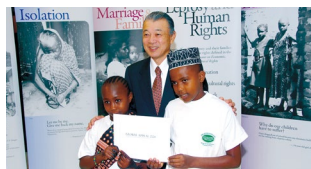
2006

World leaders and Nobel
Peace Prize laureates
New Delhi, India



2007

Representatives of persons
affected by leprosy around
the world
Manila, Philippines



2008

International human rights
organizations
London, UK



2009

World's religious leaders
London, UK



2010

World's business leaders
Mumbai, India



2011

World's leading universities
Beijing, China



2012

Members of the World
Medical Association
Sao Paulo, Brazil



2013

Members of the International
Bar Association
London, UK



2014

National human rights
organizations
Jakarta, Indonesia



2015

International Council of
Nurses
Tokyo, Japan



2016

Junior Chamber International
Tokyo, Japan



2017

Inter-Parliamentary Union
New Delhi, India



2018

Disabled Peoples'
International
New Delhi, India



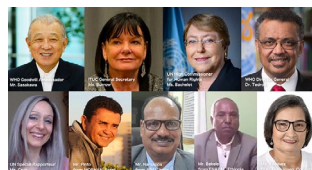
2019

International Chamber of
Commerce (ICC)
New Delhi, India



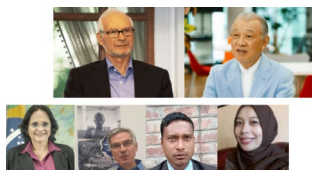
2020

International Paralympic
Committee
Tokyo, Japan



2021

International Trade Union
Confederation
Online



2022

World's philanthropic
organizations
Online



2023

Participants and organizers
of International Symposium
at the Vatican on Hansen's
Disease
Vatican City



2024

WHO
Geneva, Switzerland



2025

Ministries of Health in
Leprosy Priority Countries
Bhubaneswar, India

GLOBAL APPEAL TO END STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LEPROSY

Leprosy is among the world's oldest and most dreaded diseases. Without an effective remedy for much of its long history, it often resulted in terrible deformity. It was also thought to be extremely communicable. Patients were abandoned, forced to live in isolation and discriminated against as social outcasts.

In the early 1980s, an effective cure for leprosy became available. Multidrug therapy has successfully treated over 14 million people to date. Contrary to popular belief, leprosy is extremely difficult to contract. With prompt diagnosis and treatment, it can be medically cured within 6 to 12 months without risk of deformity.

Yet fear of leprosy remains deep-rooted. Misguided notions endure — that it is “highly contagious,” “incurable” and “hereditary.” Some even regard it as “a divine punishment.”

Ignorance and misunderstanding result in prejudice and discriminatory attitudes that remain firmly implanted as custom and tradition.

Consequently, patients, cured persons and their entire families suffer stigma and discrimination. This limits their opportunities for education, employment and marriage, and restricts their access to public services.

Fearful that by speaking out they will invite further discrimination, for long years people affected by leprosy, including their families, have been cowed into silence. Such silence reinforces the stigma that surrounds them.

The world has remained indifferent to their plight for too long.

Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and human rights.” This article, however, is meaningless to people affected by leprosy, who continue to suffer discrimination.

We appeal to the UN Commission on Human Rights to take up this matter as an item on its agenda, and request that it issue principles and guidelines for governments to follow in eliminating all discrimination against people affected by leprosy.

We further urge governments themselves to seriously consider this issue and act to improve the present situation with a sense of urgency.

Finally, we call on people all over the world to change their perception and foster an environment in which leprosy patients, cured persons and their families can lead normal lives free from stigma and discrimination.

January 29, 2006



Oscar Arias
Former President of Costa Rica
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Jimmy Carter
Former President of the United States of America
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

The Dalai Lama
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

El Hassan bin Talal
Prince of the Jordanian Hashemite Royal Dynasty

Václav Havel
Former President of the Czech Republic

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva
President of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Olusegun Obasanjo
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Mary Robinson
Former President of Ireland
Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Yohei Sasakawa
Chairman, The Nippon Foundation

Desmond Tutu
Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

R. Venkataraman
Former President of India

Elie Wiesel
President, The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Global Appeal 2007

To End Stigma and Discrimination
against People Affected by Leprosy

2007

Representatives of persons
affected by leprosy around
the world

Manila, Philippines



Adi Yosep

Adi Yosep
Indonesia

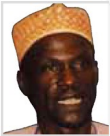
*"Every person is born free and equal
in dignity and human rights." **



Lak Kiri

Lak Kiri
Cambodia

Many people think that leprosy no longer exists.
But it does — and also the stigma and
discrimination it causes.



Shehu Abdullahi S/Fada

Shehu Abdullahi S/Fada
Nigeria

Discrimination against people affected by leprosy is
one of the oldest and most pervasive examples of
social injustice in the history of the human race.



Michihiro Kob

Michihiro Kob
Japan

Even today, millions of men, women and children
continue to suffer social, economic and legal
discrimination, simply because they or a family
member have had leprosy.



Birke Nigatu

Birke Nigatu
Ethiopia



Natália Isabel da Graça Marçal

Natália Isabel da Graça Marçal
Angola

Leprosy is a curable disease. Yet misguided notions
about leprosy persist, with devastating
consequences for those thus stigmatized.



Cristiano Claudio Torres

Cristiano Claudio Torres
Brazil



Nicole Holmes

Nicole H. Holmes
USA

Denying the inherent human rights of anyone on
the basis of disease is indefensible.
Discrimination can never be justified.



Hilarion M. Guia

Hilarion M. Guia
Philippines



P. K. Gopal

P. K. Gopal
India

Silence on this issue is not acceptable.

We urge you to join us in the fight to end
this social injustice.

Together, let us create a society in which
every individual is free and equal
in dignity and human rights.



José Ramirez, Jr

José Ramirez, Jr
USA



Parwati Oli

Parwati Oli
Nepal

January 29, 2007

Global Appeal 2007 is an initiative of Yohei Sasakawa,
WHO Goodwill Ambassador for the Elimination of Leprosy,
endorsed and co-signed by leaders of People Affected
by Leprosy around the world.



Kofi Nyarko

Kofi Nyarko
Ghana



Valdemara da Cruz Rodrigues

Valdemara da Cruz Rodrigues
Brazil



Yohei Sasakawa

Yohei Sasakawa
WHO Goodwill Ambassador for
the Elimination of Leprosy
Chairman, The Nippon Foundation



Sarat Kumar Dutta

Sarat Kumar Dutta
India



Zhuo You

Zhuo You
China

* From the First Article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

GLOBAL APPEAL 2008

To End Stigma and Discrimination against People Affected by Leprosy

*"To many of us, worse than the very disease is the prejudice that comes along with it." **

*L*eprosy is one of the world's oldest diseases.

For much of history, it was incurable.

Countless millions suffered its disfiguring effects.

Today, leprosy is easily treated with multidrug therapy.

Since the 1980s, over 16 million people have been cured worldwide.

Diagnosed early and treated promptly, leprosy leaves no trace.

Far harder to remove is the age-old stigma.

Based on ignorance and fear, society continues to discriminate against people affected by leprosy, even after they are cured.

This has devastating consequences for them and their families.

It limits their opportunities for education, employment and marriage, and it restricts their participation in community life.

Defining a person by his or her disease is unacceptable.

We appeal to society to understand the facts about leprosy.

We call for actions to end the stigma and discrimination.

We join people affected by leprosy in affirming the right of every human being to live with dignity.

January 28, 2008



Irene Khan
Secretary General, Amnesty International



Barry Clarke
Chair, International Save the Children Alliance



Julio Wilfredo Guzman Jara
Chairperson, Disabled Peoples' International



Bryan Dutton
Director General, Leonard Cheshire Disability



Richard Blewitt
Chief Executive, HelpAge International



Elly Pradervand
Executive Director,
Women's World Summit Foundation



Nicholas Howen
Secretary General,
International Commission of Jurists



Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia
General Secretary, World Council of Churches



Eugen Brand
Director General,
International Movement ATD Fourth World



Yohei Sasakawa
Chairman, The Nippon Foundation



The Nippon Foundation

*Francisco A.V. Nunes, Brazil, founder member of MORHAN (Movement to Reintegrate People Affected by Leprosy)

Global Appeal 2008 is an initiative of Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination,
Japanese Government Goodwill Ambassador for the Human Rights of People Affected by Leprosy and Chairman, The Nippon Foundation

Global Appeal 2009 to End
Stigma and Discrimination
against People Affected by Leprosy

GLOBAL APPEAL 2009

Launched at Church House, London, on 26 January 2009.
Global Appeal 2009 is an initiative of Yohei Sasakawa,
Chairman of The Nippon Foundation.

Leprosy is a disease as old as human history.
Its disfiguring effects struck fear in people's hearts.
Patients were ostracized for lack of an effective cure.
Now a cure exists, and it's available free of charge.
Diagnosed early and treated promptly, leprosy leaves no trace.
But mistaken beliefs about the disease persist.
They perpetuate social and economic discrimination.
This discrimination causes emotional and psychological pain.
To conquer this age-old stigma, drugs alone are not enough.
All of us must be part of the social healing process.
People affected by leprosy and their families have a right to a normal life.
Denying basic human rights to someone because he or she once had a disease is wrong.
Let us all join hands to eliminate fear, discrimination, and social stigma wherever they exist.
Let the healing begin today.



His Eminence
Ammar A.
Al-Hakim
Vice President of Islamic
Supreme Council of Iraq



His Eminence
Archbishop
Istrinsky Arseniy
Vicar of the Holy Patriarch
of Moscow and All Russia



Sant Shri Morari
Bapuji
Shri Sitaram Seva Trust, India



His Eminence
Cardinal Javier
Lozano Barragán
President,
Pontifical Council for Health
Pastoral Care, Vatican



His Holiness
The 14th Dalai Lama
of Tibet



The Very Reverend
John Robert Hall
Dean of Westminster,
United Kingdom



His Royal Highness
Prince Hassan bin
Talal of Jordan
President Emeritus,
World Conference of
Religions for Peace



The Reverend
Dr. Samuel Kobia
General Secretary,
World Council of Churches



The Reverend
Dr. Stavros Kofinas
Coordinator of the European
Network of Health Care
Chaplaincy; Representative of
the Ecumenical Patriarchate of
Constantinople



The Most Venerable
Yukci Matsunaga
President,
Japan Buddhist Federation



His Eminence Rabbi
Yona Metzger
The Chief Rabbi of Israel



His Eminence
Gaudencio Borbon
Cardinal Rosales
The Cardinal Archbishop
of Manila, the Philippines



Priestess Beatriz
Schulthess
President,
Indigenous Peoples Ancestral
Spiritual Council



His Eminence K.H.
Sahal Mahfud
Chairman,
Indonesian Council of Ulama



His Holiness
Tep Vong
The Great Buddhist Supreme
Patriarch of the Kingdom of
Cambodia



His Eminence
Archbishop
Gregorios Theocharous
Archbishop of Thyateira and
Great Britain



The Most Reverend
Desmond Tutu
Archbishop Emeritus of
Cape Town, South Africa



Yohei Sasakawa
Chairman of The Nippon
Foundation, Japan; WHO
Goodwill Ambassador for
Leprosy Elimination

GLOBAL APPEAL 2010

TO END STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LEPROSY

2010

World's business leaders
Mumbai, India

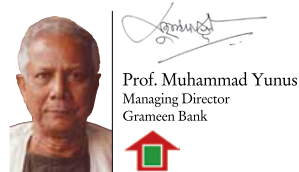
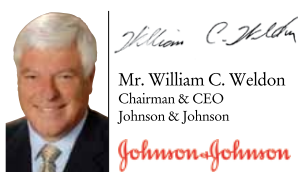
People affected by leprosy often say that dealing with society's attitudes toward the disease is harder than dealing with the disease itself.

Leprosy is curable,
yet the problems brought on by leprosy don't end when the treatment is complete.

Many people with the disease remain marginalized
because stigma and discrimination restrict opportunities for education, training and work.

We believe that people affected by leprosy have the same rights as everyone else,
and deserve the same opportunities as everyone else.

We support the principle of social integration and economic empowerment of
people affected by leprosy.



GLOBAL APPEAL 2011

TO END STIGMA AND
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
PEOPLE AFFECTED
BY LEPROSY

The heads of
100
of the world's
leading
universities
declare that the
discrimination
suffered by
people affected
by leprosy has
no place
in our world.

2011
World's leading universities
Beijing, China

“Leprosy is a curable disease, yet it continues to stigmatize.

The corollary of this stigma is discrimination, resulting in limited opportunities and social exclusion.

The stigma associated with leprosy is rooted in myths and misconceptions that deserve no place in today's world.

With awareness and education, this stigma can be challenged.

With education, people affected by leprosy can be empowered to overcome the social and economic barriers that society has placed in their way.

We call for an end to discrimination against people affected by leprosy and their families.

We support their right to live in dignity as full members of the community with equal access to opportunities and enjoying all their human rights.

”

University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin Rector Prof. Cossi Norbert Awanou	Academy of Management, Mongolia Rector and President Prof. Dr. Chukunbaatar Gelegpil	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia President Prof. Andreas Eshete	Escuela Agrícola Panamericana- Zamorano, Honduras President Dr. Roberto Cuevas	The American University in Cairo, Egypt President Dr. David D. Arnold
Ankara University, Turkey Rector Prof. Dr. Cemal Talug	University of Antananarivo, Madagascar President Prof. Abel Andrianisimahavandy	Ateneo de Manila University, The Philippines President Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J.	The Australian National University Medical School, Australia Dean Prof. Nicholas Glasgow	Bayero University, Nigeria Vice-Chancellor Prof. Attahiru Muhammad Jega
University of Bucharest, Romania Rector Prof. Dr. Ioan Panzaru	Cairo University, Egypt President Prof. Dr. Hossam Kamel	University of California, Los Angeles, USA Chancellor Dr. Gene D. Block	University of California, San Diego, USA Chancellor Dr. Marye Anne Fox	The University of Cambridge, UK Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel President Prof. Rivka Carmi	The University of Bristol, UK Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Eric Thomas	University of Bucharest, Romania Rector Prof. Dr. Ioan Panzaru	Cairo University, Egypt President Prof. Dr. Hossam Kamel	University of California, Los Angeles, USA Chancellor Dr. Gene D. Block
University of Cape Coast, Ghana Vice-Chancellor Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang	Cardiff University, UK Vice-Chancellor Dr. David Grant	Charles University, Czech Republic Rector Prof. RNDr. Václav Hampl	Chiang Mai University, Thailand President Prof. Dr. Pongsak Angkassith	University of Chile, Chile Rector Prof. Victor L. Pérez Vera
University of Coimbra, Portugal Rector Prof. Fernando Jorge Rama Seabra Santos	Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia Rector Assoc. Prof. PhDr. František Gašpar	Complutense University of Madrid, Spain Vice-Chancellor for International Relations Dr. Lucía González Páez	Le Conservatoire de Paris, France Director Mr. Bruno Mantovani	University of Copenhagen, Denmark Rector Prof. Ralf Hemmingsen
Istituto di Formazione Politica "Pietro Arnepe", Italy Director Prof. Giovanni Notari S.J.	Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia Rector Prof. Ir. Sudjarwadi	University of Geneva, Switzerland Rector Prof. Jean-Dominique Vassalli	University of Helsinki, Finland Rector Prof. Thomas Wilhelmsson	Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary President Dr. József Pálfi
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Switzerland Director Prof. Philippe Burin	Jadavpur University, India Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pradip Narayan Ghosh	Jagiellonian University, Poland Rector Prof. Karol Musiał	Jawaharlal Nehru University, India Vice-Chancellor Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya	Jilin University, China President Prof. Tao Zhan
Juntendo University, Japan CEO Prof. Hideaki Ogawa	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia Vice-Chancellor Prof. Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabudin	Keio University, Japan President Prof. Atsushi Seike	Lanzhou University, China President Prof. Zhou Xuhong	University of Latvia, Latvia President Prof. Maris Auzins
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Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan President Prof. Shun Korenaga	The Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia Rector Prof. Lav Chhiv Eav	Ruhr University Bochum, Germany Rector Prof. Dr. Einar W. Weiler	Rural Polytechnic Institute for Training and Applied Research, Mali Director General Prof. Faïré Samake	Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia Rector Prof. Nikolay Mikhailovich Kropachev
Sokoine Agricultural University, Tanzania Vice-Chancellor Prof. Gerald C. Monda	The University of the South Pacific, Fiji Vice-Chancellor and President Prof. Rajesh Chandra	Sun Yat-sen University, China Vice-Chancellor Prof. Daren Huang	The University of Sussex, UK Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Farthing	The University of Texas at Austin, USA President Dr. William Powers, Jr.
The Fletcher School, Tufts University, USA President Dr. Lawrence S. Bacow	Uppsala University, Sweden Vice-Chancellor Prof. Anders Hallberg	Utrecht University, The Netherlands President Minister Yvonne C.M.T. van Rooy	Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Vietnam President Prof. Mai Trong Nhiuan	Waseda University, Japan President Prof. Kaoru Kamata
University of the Western Cape, South Africa Rector and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Brian P. O'Connell	World Maritime University, Sweden President and Professor Dr. Björn Kjerve	Xinjiang University, China President Prof. Tashpolat Tiyp	Yale University, USA President Dr. Richard C. Levin	York University, Canada President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Mamdouh Shoukri
				Yunnan University, China President Prof. He Tianchun

Launched
in Beijing, China,
on 25 January 2011,
Global Appeal 2011 is an
initiative of Yohei Sasakawa,
WHO Goodwill Ambassador for
Leprosy Elimination, Japanese
Government Goodwill Ambassador for
the Human Rights of People Affected
by Leprosy, and Chairman of
The Nippon Foundation.

GLOBAL APPEAL

To end stigma and discrimination against people affected by leprosy



2012

Endorsed by members of The World Medical Association

There are many myths and misconceptions about leprosy. As members of the medical profession, we have the first responsibility to set the record straight.

Leprosy is a mildly infectious disease. It is not spread by casual contact. It is curable with multidrug therapy that kills the bacteria and stops the disease from spreading. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment help prevent the onset of disability and deformity associated with leprosy. There are no medical grounds for isolating a person with the disease.

Yet people with leprosy continue to face social discrimination, even after they are cured. Whole families are marginalized, sometimes with devastating results.

Drugs can cure leprosy, but only greater public awareness can end the stigma it attracts.

Without the social stigma, more people would come forward for treatment. New cases would be detected sooner and be less likely to result in disability. The burden of leprosy in the world would be reduced.

We affirm the right of people affected by leprosy to receive treatment at any hospital. We call for an end to discrimination against them and their families. We support their right to live in dignity as full members of the community with equal access to opportunities and enjoying all their human rights.

World Medical Association
President
Dr. José Luiz Gomes do Amaral

Order of Physicians of Albania
President
Dr. Din Abazaj

American Medical Association
President
Dr. Peter W. Carmel

Australian Medical Association
President
Dr. Steve Hamblinton

Austrian Medical Chamber
President
Dr. Walter Dornier

Azerbaijan Medical Association
President
Dr. Naiman N. Safarli

Association Belge des Syndicats Médicaux
President
Dr. Lamyé Ridand

Associação Médica Brasileira
President
Dr. Florêncio de Araújo Cardoso Filho

Canadian Medical Association
President
Dr. John Haggies

Chinese Medical Association
SG and Vice-President
Dr. Liu Yanfei

Federación Médica Colombiana
President
Dr. Sergio Izazola

Unión Médica Nacional, Costa Rica
President
Dr. Alexis Castillo Quiroz

Conseil national de l'ordre des médecins de la cote d'Ivoire
President
Dr. Akia Kioo

Danish Medical Association
President
Dr. Mads Koch Hansen

Royal Dutch Medical Association
President
Dr. A.C. Neuenhuyzen Roussman

Consejo General de Colegios Médicos de España
President (Soria)
Dr. José Ramón Huerta Blanco

Finnish Medical Association
President
Dr. Timo Kaukonen

French Medical Association
Vice-President
Dr. Xavier Deau

Georgian Medical Association
President
Dr. Gia Lobzhanidze

German Medical Association
President
Dr. Frank Ulrich Montgomery

Guatemala Medical Association
President
Dr. Carlos Amílcar Gómez

Association Médicale Haïtienne
President
Dr. Claude Sureau

Honduras Medical Association
President
Dr. José Manuel Espinal

Hong Kong Medical Association
President
Dr. Choi Kin

Icelandic Medical Association
President
Dr. Margrét Aðalsteinsdóttir

Indian Medical Association
President
Dr. Vinay Aggarwal

Indonesian Medical Association
President
Dr. Pijo Sidpratonno

Irish Medical Organisation
Chief Executive
Mr. George McNeice

Israel Medical Association
President
Dr. Leonid Edelman

Japan Medical Association
President
Dr. Katsuyuki Hiratsuka

Kazakhstan Medical Association
President
Dr. Adnen Sadykova

Korean Medical Association
President
Dr. Min Ho Kyung

Latvian Medical Association
President
Dr. Pēteris Apinis

Macedonian Medical Association
President
Prof. Jovan Toloski

Colegio Médico de México
President
Dr. Ramón Murieta González

Mozambican Medical Association
President
Dr. Rosel Sidomao

Nepal Medical Association
President
Dr. Kisan Prasad Shrestha

New Zealand Medical Association
President
Dr. Paul Cockfield

Nicaragua Medical Association
President
Dr. Pablo Emilio Mongilo

Norwegian Medical Association
President
Dr. Høge Gjesing

Asociación Médica Nacional de Panamá
Vice-Presidente
Dr. Lil Espino Weng

Colegio Médico del Perú
Vice-Presidente
Dr. Carmen Fajardo

Polish Chamber of physicians and dentists
President
Dr. Maciej Hamankiewicz

Portuguese Medical Association
President
Dr. José Manuel Silva

Slovak Medical Association
President
Prof. Peter Kristufek

Swedish Medical Association
President
Dr. Marie Wedns

Taiwan Medical Association
President
Dr. Ming-Bein Lee

Tanzania Medical Association
President
Dr. Namila P. Moezi

Medical Association of Thailand
President
Dr. Jongsate Adanepong

Sindicato Médico del Uruguay
President
Dr. Martín Rebollo

Medical Association of Uzbekistan
President
Prof. Abdull Rhydayberganov

2013

Members of the
International Bar
Association

London, UK

International Bar Association
Akira Kawamura
Immediate Past President

Colegio de Abogados de la
Ciudad de Buenos
Máximo J. Fonrouge
Presidente
Argentina

AiresAustrian Bar
Rupert Wolff
President
Austria

Bahamas Bar Association
Ruth M.L. Bowe-Darville
President
Bahamas

National Bar Association of
Bangladesh
Shah Khasruzzaman
Secretary General
Bangladesh

Nederlandse Orde van
Advocaten bij de Balie te
Brussel (NOAB)
Hugo Vandenberghe
President
Belgium

The Brazilian Bar Association
**Ophir Filgzeiras Cavalcante
Junior**
National President
Brazil

CESA - Centro de Estudos das
Sociedades de Advogados
**Carlos Roberto Fomes
Mateucci**
President
Brazil

Canadian Bar Association
Robert C. Brun
President
Canada

Cyprus Bar Association
Koulia D. Vakis
Chief Executive Officer
Cyprus

Czech Bar Association
Martin Vychpeň
President
Czech Republic

The Danish Bar and Law
Society
Torben Jensen
Secretary General
Denmark

Bar Council of England and
Wales
Michael Todd QC
Chairman
England and Wales

The Law Society of England
and Wales
Lucy Scott-Moncrieff
President
England and Wales

Estonian Bar Association
Toomas Vaher
Chairman
Estonia

Council of Bars and Law
Societies of Europe
Marcella Prunbauer-Glaser
President
Europe

Finnish Bar Association
Mika Ilveskero
President
Finland

Paris Bar
Christiane Féral-Schuhl
President
France

German Bar Association - DAV
Franz Peter Altemeier
Director of International and
Human Rights Department
Germany

Ghana Bar Association
Frank W.K. Beecham
National President
Ghana

Hong Kong Bar Association
Kumar Ramanathan, S. C.
Chairman
Hong Kong

Hungarian Bar Association
János Bánáti
President
Hungary

Society of Indian Law Firms
Lalit Bhasin
President
India

Indonesian Advocates
Association (PERADI)
Otto Hasibuan
President
Indonesia

The Law Society of Ireland
James B. McCourt
President
Ireland

Korean Bar Association
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President
Korea

Bar Council Malaysia
Lim Chee Wee
President
Malaysia

Law Society of Namibia
Natasha Bassingthwaighte
Vice-President
Namibia

Nigerian Bar Association
Osita Okoro
Executive Director
Nigeria

The General Council of the
Bar of Northern Ireland
Mark Mulholland QC
Chairman
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Law Society of Northern
Ireland
Norville J. Connolly
Past President
Northern Ireland

Law Society of Scotland
Lorna Jack
Chief Executive
Scotland

The Law Society of
Singapore
Wong Meng Meng
President
Singapore

Slovak Bar Association
Katarína Cechová
Representative
Slovak Republic

The Swedish Bar Association
Claes Zettermarck
President
Sweden

Istanbul Bar Association
Mehmet Durakoğlu
Vice-President
Turkey

Uganda Law Society
James Mukasa Sebugenyi
President
Uganda

GLOBAL APPEAL 2013

TO END STIGMA AND
DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST PEOPLE
AFFECTED BY LEPROSY

Endorsed by the International Bar Association and
member organisations

Throughout its long history, leprosy has been one of the world's most misunderstood and stigmatizing diseases. Over the centuries, countless millions afflicted by leprosy have been shunned by their fellow human beings in the belief that they are cursed with a highly contagious, disabling, untreatable disease.

Thanks to modern chemotherapy, leprosy, or Hansen's disease, is now completely curable. With early diagnosis and treatment, it is not disabling. Nor is leprosy highly transmissible. There is no need to isolate anyone with the disease, exclude him or her from their place of work or ban them from public office.

But old images of leprosy die hard and continue to shape popular perceptions of the disease—perceptions reinforced by stigmatizing terminology. For those that are the object of such prejudice, the social, economic and psychological consequences can be devastating.

Helping to perpetuate these outdated stereotypes are various laws, customs and regulations that discriminate against people affected by leprosy in different parts of the world.

There are no medical grounds for segregating or otherwise singling out a person affected by leprosy. Therefore, any laws that sanction such practices are without foundation.

We call for the abolition of all laws that discriminate on the basis of leprosy, we condemn all acts of discrimination against people affected by leprosy and we support the right of people affected by leprosy to live in dignity enjoying all their basic human rights.

Japan Federation of Bar
Associations
Kenji Yamagishi
President
Japan

Tokyo Bar Association
Yoshifusa Saito
President
Japan

Amsterdam Bar Association
G. J. Kemper
LLM
Netherlands

New Zealand Bar Association
Stephen Mills QC
President
New Zealand

National Council for Legal
Advisers in Poland
Maria Ślęzak
The Bar Representative
Poland

Supreme Bar
Council/Warsaw
Andrzej Zwara
President
Poland

Law Society of South Africa
**Krish Govender and Jan
Stemmett**
Co-Chairpersons
South Africa

Valencia Bar Association
Luis Sebastián Maganto
Member of the Board
Spain

Ukrainian Bar Association
Valentyn Zagariya
President
Ukraine

Law Association of Zambia
James Banda
President
Zambia

Launched in London, United Kingdom, on 24 January 2013, Global Appeal 2013 is an initiative of Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, Japanese Government Goodwill Ambassador for the Human Rights of People Affected by Leprosy, and Chairman of The Nippon Foundation. This year's Appeal is being made in partnership with the International Bar Association—the global voice of the legal profession.

GLOBAL APPEAL 2014

To end stigma and discrimination against people affected by leprosy

2014

National human rights
organizations

Jakarta, Indonesia

Endorsed by National Human Rights Institutions

Leprosy is one of the world's oldest diseases. Caused by a bacillus, it is completely curable today with modern drug therapy. Contrary to widespread belief, leprosy is not hereditary, it is not untreatable, it is not highly infectious and it is not divine punishment.

Yet because of the myths and misconceptions that surround leprosy, discrimination is never far away. This discrimination can limit opportunities for education, employment and marriage. It can restrict access to public services. It can marginalize entire families.

In December 2010, recognizing the disease's devastating social, economic and psychological impact, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution on elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members.

The resolution is accompanied by principles and guidelines and reaffirms that people affected by leprosy and their family members should be treated as individuals with dignity and are entitled to all human rights and fundamental freedoms under customary international law, relevant conventions and national constitutions and laws.

As national human rights institutions, we applaud the U.N. resolution and condemn all leprosy-related human rights violations. We uphold the right of people affected by leprosy to live in dignity, free from discrimination. We pledge our support to help to bring down the remaining barriers of stigma and prejudice that stand in their way.

Dr. Sima Samar
Chairperson
Independent Human Rights
Commission
Afghanistan

Dr. Mizanur Rahman
Chairman
National Human Rights
Commission
Bangladesh

Ms. Maria do Rosário Nunes
Ministra-Chefe
Secretaria de Direitos
Humanos da Presidência
da República
Brazil

Mr. Emmanuel Ntakarutimana
President
Independent National
Human Rights Commission
Burundi

Mr. David Langtry
Acting Chief Commissioner
Canadian Human Rights
Commission
Canada

Ms. Lorena Fries Montleón
Director
National Institute of Human
Rights
Chile

Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali
President
National Council for
Human Rights
Egypt

H.E. Ambassador Teruneh Zenna
Chief Commissioner
Ethiopian Human Rights
Commission
Ethiopia

Mr. Michel Forst
Secretary General
Commission Nationale
Consultative des Droits de
l'Homme (CNCDH)
France

Mr. Ucha Nanuashvili
Public Defender
(Ombudsman)
Office of Public Defender
of Georgia
Georgia

Dr. York Chow Yat-ngok
Chairperson
Equal Opportunities
Commission
Hong Kong SAR, China

Justice K. G. Balakrishnan
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Commission of India
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Ms. Siti Noor Laila
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National Commission on
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Dr. Mousa Suleiman Burayzat
Commissioner General
The National Centre for
Human Rights
Jordan

Ms. Anne Muniyiva Kyalo Nguigi
Commissioner (Acting Chair)
National Commission on
Human Rights
Kenya

Mr. Sami Kurteshi
Ombudsman
Ombudsperson Institution
of Kosovo
Kosovo

Mr. Juris Jansons
Ombudsman
Ombudsman Office of the
Republic of Latvia
Latvia

Dr. Augustinas Normantas
Head of the Office
The Seimas Ombudsmen
Lithuania

Mr. Hasmy Agam
Chairman
Human Rights Commission
of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
Malaysia

Ms. Kadidia Sangare Coulibaly
President
Commission Nationale des
Droits de l'Homme du Mali
Mali

Mr. U Win Mra
Chairman
Myanmar National Human
Rights Commission
Myanmar

Mr. Kedar Nath Upadhyay
Chairperson
National Human Rights
Commission
Nepal

Prof. Michael O'Flaherty
Chief Commissioner
Northern Ireland Human
Rights Commission
Northern Ireland

Ms. Loretta Ann Rosales
Chairperson
Commission on
Human Rights
Philippines

Prof. Irena Lipowicz
Human Rights Defender
Poland

Ms. Vlasta Nussdorfer
Ombudsman
Human Rights Ombudsman
Republic of Slovenia

Mr. Anastasiu Crisu
People's Advocate
People's Advocate
Institution
Romania

Mr. Marian Mesaros
Executive Director
National Centre for
Human Rights
Slovak Republic

Ms. Amal Hassan Eltinay
Chairperson
National Commission for
Human Rights
Sudan

Mr. Amiri Ramadhani Manento
Chairman
Commission for Human
Rights and Good Governance
Tanzania

Ms. Amara Pongsapich
Chairperson
National Human Rights
Commission of Thailand
Thailand

Ms. Lynette Anthea Stephenson
Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman of
Trinidad and Tobago
Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. Med S. K. Kaggwa
Chairperson
Uganda Human Rights
Commission
Uganda

Ms. Valeriya Lutkovska
Parliament Commissioner
for Human Rights
Ukraine

To end stigma and discrimination
against people affected by leprosy

GLOBAL APPEAL 2015

Endorsed by International
Council of Nurses

2015

International Council of
Nurses
Tokyo, Japan



Judith Shamian
Judith Shamian
President,
International Council of Nurses



山崎 陽子
Yohel Sasakawa
Chairman,
The Nippon Foundation



Leprosy is curable, yet myths and misconceptions about the disease persist.

Because of the stigma, people affected by leprosy face social rejection—even after they are cured.
Whole families are marginalized, sometimes with devastating results.

As the world's largest group of health professionals, nurses are committed to alleviating physical and mental
suffering and promoting the health of all people, without prejudice.

We understand the importance of equitable access to health services and of educating the public about disease
—especially a misunderstood disease such as leprosy.

Our message is clear: leprosy can be cured. Drugs kill the bacteria. Early diagnosis and treatment prevent disability.
There is no reason to isolate anyone with the disease.

Nurses affirm the right of people affected by leprosy to receive treatment and care.

We call for an end to the discrimination they and their families face.

We support the right of people affected by leprosy to live in dignity as full members of the community, enjoying equal access to all their human rights.

ANDORRA Col·legi d'Infermiers i Llevadores d'Andorra	ANGOLA Associação Nacional de Enfermeiros de Angola	ARGENTINA Federación Argentina de Enfermería	ARUBA Aruba Nurses Association (ODEA)	AUSTRALIA Australian College of Nursing	AUSTRIA Österreichischer Gesundheits- und Krankenpflegeverband	BAHAMAS Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas	BAHRAIN Bahrain Nursing Society	BANGLADESH Bangladesh Nurses Association	BARBADOS Barbados Nurses Association Inc.	BELGIUM Fédération Nationale des Infirmières de Belgique (FNIB)	BELIZE Nurses Association of Belize	BERMUDA Bermuda Nurses' Association	BOLIVIA Colegio de Enfermeras de Bolivia
BOTSWANA Botswana Nurses Union	BRAZIL Conselho Federal de Enfermagem	BULGARIA Bulgarian Association of Health Professionals in Nursing	BURKINA FASO Association Professionnelle des Infirmières/ères du Burkina	CANADA Canadian Nurses Association	CHILE Colegio de Enfermeras de Chile	CHINA Chinese Nursing Association	COLOMBIA Asociación Nacional de Enfermeras de Colombia	CONGO DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC Association Nationale des Infirmiers/ères du Congo	COOK ISLANDS Cook Islands Nurses Association	COSTA RICA Colegio de Enfermeras de Costa Rica	CROATIA Croatian Nurses Association	CUBA Sociedad Cubana de Enfermería	CYPRUS Cypriot Nurses and Midwives Association
CZECH REPUBLIC Czech Association of Nurses	DENMARK DBK - Danish Nurses' Organization	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC Asociación Dominicana de Enfermeras Graduadas	EAST TIMOR East Timor Nurses Association	ECUADOR Federación Ecuatoriana de Enfermeras/os	EGYPT Egyptian Nurses Syndicate	EL SALVADOR Asociación Nacional de Enfermeras de El Salvador	ERITREA Eritrean Nurses Association	ESTONIA Estonian Nurses Union	ETHIOPIA Ethiopian Nurses Association	FIJI Fiji Nursing Association	FINLAND Finnish Nurses Association	FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA Association of Nurses and Midwives of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	FRANCE ANFIDE
GAMBIA Gambia Nurses & Midwives Association	GERMANY DBK - Bundesverband	GHANA Ghana Registered Nurses Association	GREECE Hellenic Nurses Association	GRENADA Grenada Nurses Association	GUATEMALA Asociación Guatemalteca de Enfermeras Profesionales	GUYANA Guyana Nurses Association	HAITI Association Nationale des Infirmières Licenciées d'Haïti	HONDURAS Colegio de Profesionales de Enfermería de Honduras	HONG KONG College of Nursing Hong Kong	HUNGARY Hungarian Nursing Association	ICELAND Nurses Association	INDIA Indian Nursing Council	INDONESIA Persatuan Perawat Nasional Indonesia
IRELAND Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN Iranian Nursing Organization	ISRAEL National Association of Nurses in Israel	ITALY Consociation Nazionale delle Associazioni Infermiere-Infermieri	JAMAICA Nurses Association of Jamaica	JAPAN Japanese Nursing Association	JORDAN Jordan Nurses and Midwives Council	KENYA National Nurses Association of Kenya	KOREA Korean Nurses Association	KUWAIT Kuwait Nursing Association	LEBANON Order of Nurses in Lebanon	LESOTHO Lesotho Nurses Association	LIBERIA Liberia Nurses Association	LITHUANIA Lithuanian Nurses Association
LUXEMBOURG Association Nationale des Infirmiers et Infirmières Luxembourgeois	MACAU Nurses Association of Macau	MALAWI National Organisation of Nurses and Midwives of Malawi	MALAYSIA Malaysian Nurses Association	MALTA Malta Union of Midwives & Nurses	MAURITIUS Mauritius Nursing Association	MEXICO Colegio Nacional de Enfermeras, A.C.	MONACO Association Nationale des Infirmières de Monaco	MONGOLIA Mongolian Nurses Association	MONTENEGRO National Association of Nurses and Midwives of Montenegro	MOROCCO Association Marocaine des Sciences Infirmières et Techniques Sanitaires	MOZAMBIQUE Associação Nacional dos Enfermeiros de Moçambique	MYANMAR Myanmar Nurses and Midwives Association	NAMIBIA Namibian Nurses Association
NEPAL Nursing Association of Nepal	NETHERLANDS NU '91	NEW ZEALAND New Zealand Nurses' Organisation	NICARAGUA Asociación de Enfermeras Nicaragüenses	NIGERIA National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives	NORWAY Norwegian Nurses Organisation	PAKISTAN Pakistan Nurses Federation	PALESTINE Palestinian Nursing and Midwifery Association	PANAMA Asociación Nacional de Enfermeras de Panamá	PARAGUAY Asociación Paraguaya de Enfermeras	PHILIPPINES Philippine Nurses Association	POLAND Polskie Towarzystwo Pielęgniarskie	PORTUGAL Ordem dos Enfermeiros	ROMANIA Romanian Nursing Association
RUSSIA Russian Nurses Association	RWANDA Rwanda Nurses and Midwives Association	SAMOA Samoa Registered Nurses Association, Inc.	SAO TOME & PRINCE Associação Nacional dos Enfermeiros e paritericos de São Tomé e Príncipe (ANIDES)	SENEGAL Association Nationale des Infirmières d'Etat du Sénégal (ANIDES)	SERBIA Association of Health Workers of Serbia	SEYCHELLES Nurses Association of the Republic of Seychelles	SIERRA LEONE Sierra Leone Nurses Association	SINGAPORE Singapore Nurses' Association	SLOVAKIA Slovak Chamber of Nurses & Midwives	SLOVENIA Nurses and Midwives Association of Slovenia	SOLOMON ISLANDS Solomon Islands Nurses Association	SOUTH AFRICA Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa (DENOSA)	SPAIN Consejo General de Enfermería de España
SRI LANKA Sri Lanka Nurses Association	ST. LUCIA St. Lucia Nurses Association	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES St. Vincent & The Grenadines Nurses Association (SVG)	SURINAME Suriname Nurses Association	SWAZILAND Swaziland Nursing Association	SWEDEN Swedish Association of Health Professionals	SWITZERLAND Association Suisse des Infirmières/Infirmiers	TAIWAN Taiwan Nurses Association	TANZANIA Tanzania National Nurses' Association	THAILAND Nurses Association of Thailand	TOGO Association nationale des Infirmiers/ères du Togo	TONGA Tonga Nurses Association	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO Trinidad & Tobago Registered Nurses Association	TURKEY Turkish Nurses Association
				UGANDA Uganda Nurses & Midwives Union	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Emirates Nursing Association	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA American Nurses Association	URUGUAY Colegio de Enfermeras del Uruguay	ZAMBIA Zambia Union of Nurses Organization	ZIMBABWE Zimbabwe Nurses Association				

From ancient times, leprosy has been feared around the world as a disfiguring disease without a cure — a divine punishment, even. Through the ages, individuals with leprosy have suffered harsh discrimination and inequalities.

Thanks to the development of effective drug therapy, leprosy is now completely curable — and the cure is free. With early diagnosis and treatment, the disabling effects of the disease can be prevented.

However, the stigma and discrimination associated with leprosy remain deeply rooted. Individuals with the disease, those who have been cured and even their families find themselves treated unjustly, with their opportunities for education, employment, marriage and other forms of participation in society restricted.

Myths and misconceptions are what prompt this stigma. In order to remove these misperceptions about leprosy, and eliminate the stigma and discrimination, people need to be properly informed about the disease.

JCI (Junior Chamber International) is the leading global network of active young citizens, dedicated to creating sustainable impact in their communities by seeking targeted solutions to local challenges.

We will use our international reach to condemn and fight against the discrimination that individuals affected by leprosy experience.

We will support activities to ensure that the next generation is properly educated and informed to eliminate the discrimination.

We will aspire for a world in which individuals affected by leprosy and their families can live free from discrimination and enjoy the same rights and opportunities as everybody else in order to reach their greatest potential.



Pascal Dike
2016 JCI President



Kosuke Shibata
2015 JCI Japan President



Yohei Sasakawa
Chairman of The Nippon Foundation



JCI Argentina	JCI Australia	JCI Austria	JCI Bangladesh	JCI Belgium	JCI Benin	JCI Bolivia	JCI Botswana	JCI Brazil	JCI Bulgaria	JCI Burkina Faso
JCI Burundi	JCI Cambodia	JCI Cameroon	JCI Canada	JCI Catalonia	JCI Chad	JCI Chile	JCI Colombia	JCI Comoros	JCI Republic of Congo	JCI Cote d'Ivoire
JCI Croatia	JCI Cyprus	JCI Czech Republic	JCI Democratic Republic of the Congo	JCI Denmark	JCI Djibouti	JCI Dominican Republic	JCI Dutch Caribbean	JCI Ecuador	JCI Egypt	JCI Estonia
JCI Finland	JCI France	JCI Gabon	JCI Georgia	JCI Germany	JCI Ghana	JCI Greece	JCI Guinea	JCI Haiti	JCI Honduras	JCI Hong Kong
JCI Iceland	JCI India	JCI Indonesia	JCI Ireland	JCI Italy	JCI Jamaica	JCI Japan	JCI Jordan	JCI Korea	JCI Latvia	JCI Lebanon
JCI Lesotho	JCI Lithuania	JCI Luxembourg	JCI Macao	JCI Madagascar	JCI Malawi	JCI Malaysia	JCI Maldives	JCI Mali	JCI Malta	JCI Mauritius
JCI Mexico	JCI Moldova	JCI Monaco	JCI Mongolia	JCI Morocco	JCI Myanmar	JCI Namibia	JCI Nepal	JCI the Netherlands	JCI New Zealand	JCI Nicaragua
JCI Niger	JCI Nigeria	JCI Norway	JCI Pakistan	JCI Panama	JCI Paraguay	JCI Peru	JCI Philippines	JCI Poland	JCI Portugal	JCI Puerto Rico
JCI Romania	JCI Russia	JCI Rwanda	JCI Scotland	JCI Senegal	JCI Serbia	JCI Singapore	JCI Slovakia	JCI South Africa	JCI South Sudan	JCI Sri Lanka
JCI Suriname	JCI Sweden	JCI Switzerland	JCI Syria	JCI Taiwan	JCI Thailand	JCI Togo	JCI Tunisia	JCI Turkey	JCI Ukraine	JCI United Kingdom
JCI Uruguay	JCI USA	JCI Venezuela	JCI Vietnam	JCI West Indies	JCI Zambia	JCI Zimbabwe				

GLOBAL APPEAL 2017

To End Stigma and Discrimination
Against Persons Affected by Leprosy



Saber Chowdhury
Mr. Saber H. Chowdhury
(Bangladesh)
President,
Inter-Parliamentary Union



Mr. Yohei Sasakawa
Mr. Yohei Sasakawa
Chairman,
The Nippon Foundation



2017

Inter-Parliamentary Union
New Delhi, India

Leprosy, a disease once feared for its disfiguring effects, is completely curable today with modern drug therapy. Over 16 million people have been treated worldwide.

Early diagnosis and prompt treatment help prevent physical impairment.

Yet mistaken beliefs about the disease persist, perpetuating social and economic discrimination.

In different parts of the world, people affected by leprosy and their family members can find themselves:

- deprived of opportunities for education, employment, and marriage.
- marginalized or rejected by society.
- stigmatized by outdated laws and practices based on discredited assumptions.

We, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, firmly believe that solutions to the challenges facing persons affected by leprosy must be firmly embedded in human rights, as a key component of democracy and development.

We condemn all forms of discrimination on the grounds that a person has or once had leprosy.

We recognize and support the 2010 United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and Their Family Members, and are committed to contributing to the implementation of its accompanying principles and guidelines.

We urge all Parliaments to promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies to end stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy, and to ensure that:

- Persons affected by leprosy and their family members are treated at all times with dignity and respect;
- Persons affected by leprosy and their family members are fully represented and involved in political discussions and decisions which affect them, and that they benefit from the full enjoyment of their human rights;
- We help create a society in which every individual is free and equal in dignity and human rights.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF IPU

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of the Executive Committee
Mr. I. Liddell-Grainger
(United Kingdom)

IPU Vice-President
Mr. E. Eithuro
(Kenya)

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Mr. A. Jaseem Ahmed
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(Brazil)

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Member
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(Cuba)

Member
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(Angola)

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Colombia	Comoros	Congo	Costa Rica	Côte d'Ivoire	Croatia	Cuba	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Denmark	Djibouti	Dominican Republic	Ecuador	Egypt	El Salvador	Equatorial Guinea	Estonia	Ethiopia
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Guyana	Guinea	Guinea- Bissau	Haiti	Honduras	Hungary	Iceland	India	Indonesia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
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Lao People's Democratic Republic	Latvia	Lebanon	Lesotho	Libya	Liechtenstein	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Madagascar	Malawi
Malaysia	Maldives	Mali	Malta	Mauritania	Mauritius	Mexico	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Monaco	Mongolia
Montenegro	Morocco	Mozambique	Myanmar	Namibia	Nepal	Netherlands	New Zealand	Nicaragua	Niger
Nigeria	Norway	Oman	Pakistan	Palau	Palestine	Panama	Papua New Guinea	Paraguay	Peru
Philippines	Poland	Portugal	Qatar	Republic of Korea	Republic of Moldova	Romania	Russian Federation	Rwanda	Samoa
San Marino	Sao Tome and Principe	Saudi Arabia	Senegal	Serbia	Seychelles	Sierra Leone	Singapore	Slovakia	Slovenia
Somalia	South Africa	South Sudan	Spain	Sri Lanka	Sudan	Suriname	Swaziland	Sweden	Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic	Tajikistan	Thailand	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Timor-Leste	Togo	Tonga	Trinidad and Tobago	Tunisia	Turkey
Uganda	Ukraine	United Arab Emirates	United Kingdom	United Republic of Tanzania	Uruguay	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Viet Nam	Yemen	Zambia
Zimbabwe									

Launched in Delhi, India, on January 30, 2017, Global Appeal is an initiative of Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, Japanese Government Goodwill Ambassador for the Human Rights of Persons Affected by Leprosy and Chairman of The Nippon Foundation.

Global Appeal 2018

2018

Disabled Peoples'
International
New Delhi, India

To End Stigma and Discrimination Against Persons Affected by Leprosy

Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) is an organization
open to persons with disabilities of any kind.

Our goal is an inclusive society in which everyone has rights and can participate in society.

Both DPI and The Nippon Foundation are committed to this goal.

"Nothing about us without us" is the guiding principle of our activities to realize an inclusive society.

DPI pledges to work together with the leprosy community to

raise awareness of the disease to encourage

a proper understanding of leprosy and respect for the human rights

of the individuals and families it affects.

We will work together with persons affected by leprosy to speak out and

advocate for greater social participation.

In working towards our common goal of an inclusive society,

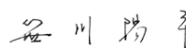
we will share knowledge and experience with persons affected by leprosy.

Together with persons affected by leprosy,

we call on society for the protection of our rights and for equal opportunity.



Javed Abidi
Global Chair
Disabled Peoples' International



Yohei Sasakawa
Chairman
The Nippon Foundation

DPI Angola,
Associação Nacional De
Deficientes Angolanos (ANDA)

DPI Benin,
Federation des Associations
des Personnes Handicapées
du Benin (FAPHB)

DPI Burkina Faso,
Fédération Burkinabè des
Associations pour la Promotion
des Personnes Handicapées
(FEBAH)

DPI Burundi,
Union des Personnes
Handicapées du Burundi
(UJHB)

DPI Cameroon,
Plateforme Inclusive Society for
Person with Disabilities
(PISPWD)

DPI Cape Verde,
Associação Caboverdiana de
Deficientes (ACD)

DPI Chad,
Union Nationale des
Associations des Personnes
Handicapées du Tchad
(UNAPHT)

DPI Congo,
Union National des
Associations des Personnes
Handicapées du Congo
(UNHACO)

DPI Democratic
Republic of Congo,
Centre Intercommunautaire
Congolais pour les Personnes
avec Handicap (CICPH)

DPI Ethiopia,
Federation of Ethiopian
National Associations of
Persons with Disabilities
(FENAPD)

DPI Gabon,
Fédération Nationale des
Associations des et pour
Personnes Handicapées du
Gabon (FNAPHG)

DPI Gambia,
Gambia Federation of the
Disabled (GFD)

DPI Ghana,
Ghana Federation of the
Disabled (GFD)

DPI Guinea Bissau,
Federação das Associações de
Defesa e Promoção dos
Direitos das pessoas com
Deficiência da Guiné-Bissau
(FADPD)

DPI Guinea Conakry,
Fédération Guinéenne
Pour La Promotion Des
Associations De Personnes
Handicapées de Côte d'Ivoire
(FEGUIPAH)

DPI Ivory Coast,
Confédération des
Organisations des Personnes
Handicapées de Côte d'Ivoire
(COPHCI)

DPI Kenya,
United Disabled Persons of
Kenya (UDPK)

DPI Lesotho,
Lesotho National Federation Of
Organizations Of The Disabled
(LNFOD)

DPI Liberia,
National Union of Disabled
(NUOD)

DPI Madagascar,
Plateforme des Federations des
Personnes Handicapées de
Madagascar (PFPH)

DPI Malawi,
Federation of Disability
Organizations of Malawi
(FEDOMA)

DPI Mali,
Federation Malienne des
Associations de Handicapes

DPI Mauritius,
Voice of DPI

DPI Niger,
Fédération Nigerienne des
Personnes Handicapées (FNPH)

DPI Nigeria,
National President, Joint
National Association Of
Persons With Disabilities
(JONAPWD)

DPI Senegal,
Sénégalaise des Associations
de Personnes Handicapées

DPI Sierra Leone,
Disability Awareness Action
Group (DAAG)

DPI South Sudan,
South Sudan Union of Persons
with Disabilities

DPI Tanzania,
Tanzania Federation of
Disabled People's
Organizations (SHIYAWATA)

DPI Togo,
Fédération des Associations de
Personnes Togolaise
Handicapées (FETAFH)

DPI Zambia,
Zambia Federation of the
Disabled (ZAFOD)

DPI Egypt,
Seven Million Disabled (FAPH)

DPI Iraq,
People Association in Baghdad

DPI Jordan,
Disability Equality Society

DPI Lebanon,
Lebanese Physical
Handicapped Union

DPI Libya,
Libyan Organization
for the Rights of People
with Disabilities

DPI Mauritania,
The Mauritanian Association
for the coalition of women
with disabilities

DPI Morocco,
Morocco Forum
"Disabilities and Rights"

DPI Palestine,
Great Palestinian Union
for People with Disabilities

DPI Sudan,
Edraak Organization for
Persons with Disabilities

DPI Syria,
Cultural Forum for people with
special needs in Syria

DPI Tunisia,
Tunisienne de Defense des
Droits de Personnes
Handicapées

DPI Yemen,
Al Saeeda Society for the Care
and Rehabilitation of
Deaf Girls in Yemen

DPI Afghanistan,
Afghan Peduli Disabilitas Dan
Lepra Indonesia (GFDLI)

DPI Australia,
Australian Federation
of Disability Organisations
(AFDO)

DPI Bangladesh,
Protibondhi Nagorik
Shangathaner
Parishad (PNSP)

DPI Bhutan,
Disabled Persons' Association
of Bhutan (DPAB)

DPI Cambodia,
Cambodian Disabled People's
Organization (CDPO)

DPI Cook Islands,
Cook Islands National Disability
Council

DPI Fiji,
Fiji Disabled Peoples
Federation (FDFP)

DPI India,
National Centre for Promotion
of Employment for Disabled
People (NCPEDP)

DPI Indonesia,
Gerakan Peduli Disabilitas Dan
Lepra Indonesia (GFDLI)

DPI Laos,
Lao Disabled People's
Association

DPI Malaysia,
Malaysian Confederation of the
Disabled

DPI Maldives,
Maldives Association of
Physical Disabilities (MAPD)

DPI FS Micronesia,
Pohnpei Consumer
Organization, Federated State
of Micronesia (FSM)

DPI Mongolia,
Disabled Peoples International
of Mongolia

DPI Nepal,
National Federation of the
Disabled Nepal (NFDN)

DPI New Zealand,
Disabled Persons Assembly Inc.
(DPANZ)

DPI Pakistan,
Pakistan Disabled People's
International (PDPI)/ Estantara
Group

DPI Papua New Guinea,
PNG National Assembly of
Disabled People (PNG ADP)

DPI Palau,
OMEKESANG Association

DPI Philippines,
National Federation of Persons
with Disabilities in the
Philippines

DPI Samoa,
National Council of People with
Disabilities in Samoa/Nuanua o
le Alofa (N.O.L.A)

DPI Singapore,
Disabled People's Association
(DPA)

DPI Solomon Islands,
People with Disabilities
Solomon Islands (PWDSI)

DPI Sri Lanka,
Disability Organizations Joint
Front (DOJF)

DPI Vanuatu,
Disability Promotion &
Advocacy (DPA)

DPI Vietnam,
Hanoi Association of People
with Disabilities

DPI Azerbaijan,
Society "For International
Cooperation of Disabled
People" (FICDP)

DPI Turkmenistan,
Central Athletic Sports Club for
the Disabled of Turkmenistan

DPI Uzbekistan,
Consultative Council of DPOs in
Uzbekistan

DPI Costa Rica,
Federación Costarricense de
Organizaciones de Personas
con Discapacidad

DPI El Salvador,
Asociación Cooperativa de
Grupo Independiente Pro
Rehabilitación Integral
(ACOGIPRI)

DPI Guatemala,
Coordinadora de
Organizaciones de Personas
con Discapacidad de
Guatemala (CODIGUA)

DPI Honduras,
Fundación Hondureña de
Rehabilitación e integración del
limitado (FUHRL)

DPI Mexico,
Confederación Mexicana de
Limitados Físicos
Representantes de Deficientes
Mentales a.c.

DPI Nicaragua,
Organización de
Revolucionarios Discapacitados
(ORD)

DPI Panama,
Asociación Nacional De
Personas Impedidas (ANPI)

DPI Antigua & Barbuda,
Antigua & Barbuda Association
of Persons with Disabilities
(ABAPD)

DPI Bahamas,
Disabled Persons' Organization
(DPO)

DPI Barbados,
Barbados National
Organization of the Disabled
Inc. (BARNOD Inc.)

DPI Belize,
Belize Assembly for Persons
with Diverse Abilities (BAPDA)

DPI Dominica,
Dominica Association of
Persons with Disabilities Inc.
(DAPD Inc.)

DPI Guyana,
Guyana Council of
Organisation for Persons with
Disabilities (GCOPD)

DPI Haiti,
Network Association for the
Integration of Disabled Persons
(RANIPH)

DPI Jamaica,
Combined Disabilities
Association (CDA)

DPI Montserrat,
Montserrat Association for
Persons with Disabilities Inc.
(MAPD Inc.)

DPI St. Lucia,
National Council of Persons
with Disabilities (NCPD)

DPI Trinidad and Tobago,
Trinidad and Tobago Chapter
of Disabled People's
International (TTDPI)

DPI United States,
United States International
Council on Disabilities (USICD)

Launched in New Delhi, India, on January 30, 2018, Global Appeal 2018 is an initiative of Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, Japanese Government Goodwill Ambassador for the Human Rights of Persons Affected by Leprosy, and Chairman of The Nippon Foundation.

To End Stigma and Discrimination Against Persons Affected by Leprosy

GLOBAL APPEAL 2019

Each year, thousands of people are newly diagnosed with leprosy.

Depending on their circumstances, they will join other persons affected by the disease who face multiple forms of discrimination and barriers to their participation in society.

In order to combat this discrimination, it is necessary to demystify leprosy by promoting accurate information—namely that leprosy is curable, that treatment is free and that there is no reason to marginalize anyone with the disease.

Success on this front also requires working to build a more inclusive society.

As the world business organization, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) works to create solutions for sustainable economic growth for the benefit of all through a commitment to international trade, responsible business conduct and a global approach to regulation.

By drawing on our global network of 45 million companies in over 100 countries, we develop and advocate inclusive approaches to important challenges, with the objective of making business work for everyone, every day, everywhere.

That includes those affected by leprosy because everyone deserves a chance to fulfil his or her potential, and the barriers of stigma and discrimination should not be allowed to limit their opportunities.

Together with The Nippon Foundation and other stakeholders, the ICC is committed to a truly inclusive society in which the rights of each individual are respected and every person can live with dignity.



Sunil Mittal
Sunil Bharti Mittal
Honorary Chair,
International Chamber of Commerce



佐川 陽子
Yohei Sasakawa
Chairman,
The Nippon Foundation

ICC Afghanistan	ICC Albania	ICC Argentina	ICC Armenia	ICC Australia	ICC Austria	ICC Bahrain	ICC Bangladesh	ICC Belgium
ICC Bolivia	ICC Brazil	ICC Bulgaria	ICC Burkina Faso	ICC Canada	ICC Chile	ICC China	ICC Chinese Taipei Business Council	ICC Colombia
ICC Costa Rica	ICC Croatia	ICC Cuba	ICC Cyprus	ICC Czech Republic	ICC Denmark	ICC Dominican Republic	ICC Ecuador	ICC Estonia
ICC Finland	ICC France	ICC Georgia	ICC Germany	ICC Greece	ICC Guatemala	ICC Hong Kong	ICC India	ICC Indonesia
ICC Iran	ICC Ireland	ICC Italy	ICC Japan	ICC Jordan	ICC Kenya	ICC Kuwait	ICC Lebanon	ICC Luxembourg
ICC Macao	ICC Macedonia	ICC Malaysia	ICC Mexico	ICC Monaco	ICC Morocco	ICC Netherlands	ICC New Zealand	ICC Nigeria
ICC Norway	ICC Pakistan	ICC Panama	ICC Paraguay	ICC Peru	ICC Philippines	ICC Poland	ICC Portugal	ICC Qatar
ICC Saudi Arabia	ICC Serbia	ICC Singapore	ICC Slovakia	ICC Slovenia	ICC South Africa	ICC Spain	ICC Sri Lanka	ICC Sweden
ICC Switzerland	ICC Syria	ICC Thailand	ICC Turkey	ICC Ukraine	ICC United Arab Emirates	ICC United Kingdom	ICC United States	ICC Uruguay

GLOBAL APPEAL 2020

To End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy

Leprosy is a curable disease.
But it is not just a simple health issue.

Many people affected by the disease are marginalized
because of stigma and discrimination.

Their opportunities in life are restricted, even after being cured.

Society's prejudice has a negative impact on their families, too.

The International Paralympic Committee aspires to
a more inclusive society for people through Para sport.

It aims to challenge stereotypes and transform attitudes,
breaking down social barriers toward people with a disability.

Diversity and inclusion are core to what the IPC stands for.

We are committed to the creation of a just and
equitable society.

In this Paralympic year 2020, we stand with persons affected
by leprosy in calling for an end to stigma and discrimination.

Together we seek to realize a society that respects the human
dignity and fundamental freedoms of all its members.



Andrew Parsons
President,
International Paralympic Committee



Yohei Sasakawa
Chairman,
The Nippon Foundation

2020

International Paralympic
Committee
Tokyo, Japan

Afghanistan	Algeria	Andorra	Angola	Antigua and Barbuda	Argentina	Armenia	Aruba
Australia	Austria	Azerbaijan	Bahrain	Barbados	Belarus	Belgium	Benin
Bermuda	Bhutan	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Botswana	Brazil	Brunei	Bulgaria	Burkina Faso
Burundi	Cambodia	Cameroon	Canada	Cape Verde	Central African Republic	Chile	China
Chinese Taipei	Colombia	Comoros	Congo	Costa Rica	Côte d'Ivoire	Croatia	Cuba
Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	Djibouti	Dominican Republic	DR Congo	Ecuador	Egypt
El Salvador	Estonia	Ethiopia	Faroe	Islands	Fiji	Finland	France
Gabon	Gambia	Georgia	Germany	Ghana	Great Britain	Greece	Grenada
Guatemala	Guinea	Guinea-Bissau	Guyana	Haiti	Honduras	Hong Kong	Hungary
Iceland	India	Indonesia	Iran	Iraq	Ireland	Israel	Italy
Jamaica	Japan	Jordan	Kazakhstan	Kenya	Kiribati	Korea	Korea DPR
Kuwait	Kyrgyzstan	Laos	Latvia	Lebanon	Lesotho	Liberia	Libya
Liechtenstein	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Macau	Madagascar	Malawi	Malaysia	Maldives
Mali	Malta	Mauritius	Mexico	Moldova	Mongolia	Montenegro	Morocco
Mozambique	Myanmar	Namibia	Nepal	Netherlands	New Zealand	Nicaragua	Niger
Nigeria	North	Macedonia	Norway	Oman	Pakistan	Palestine	Panama
Papua New Guinea	Paraguay	Peru	Philippines	Poland	Portugal	Puerto Rico	Qatar
Refugee Para (lympic) Team	Romania	Russia	Rwanda	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Samoa	San Marino	Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia	Senegal	Serbia	Seychelles	Sierra Leone	Singapore	Slovakia	Slovenia
Solomon Islands	Somalia	South Africa	Spain	Sri Lanka	Sudan	Suriname	Sweden
Switzerland	Syria	Tajikistan	Tanzania	Thailand	Timor-Leste	Togo	Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago	Tunisia	Turkey	Turkmenistan	U.S. Virgin Islands	Uganda	Ukraine	United Arab Emirates
United States of America	Uruguay	Uzbekistan	Vanuatu	Venezuela	Vietnam	Yemen	Zambia
							Zimbabwe

About Global Appeal

The Global Appeal is an annual message to raise awareness of leprosy and to call for an end to the discrimination against persons affected by leprosy. First launched in 2006 by Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination and chairman of The Nippon Foundation, it is issued every January to coincide with World Leprosy Day, and endorsed each year by world leaders and organizations in different fields, including religion, business, education, medicine, and law. Launched in Tokyo, Japan on January 27, 2020, Global Appeal in its 15th year is endorsed by the International Paralympic Committee.

GLOBAL APPEAL 2021

To End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy
Endorsed by the International Trade Union Confederation

As the International Trade Union Confederation, our mission is to promote and defend the rights and interests of all working people.
Although leprosy is completely curable, prejudice and discrimination based on old perceptions linger.

The stigma of leprosy can result in ostracism and job loss.

Even family members of a person affected by leprosy may find doors closed to them, despite being eager and willing to work.

International labor standards uphold the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

ITUC supports the efforts of persons affected by leprosy who want to earn a living.

We believe in equality and non-discrimination.

We uphold the right of every individual seeking work to be treated with dignity, fairness and respect.



Ms. Sharan Burrow
General Secretary,
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)



Yohei Sasakawa
WHO Goodwill Ambassador
for Leprosy Elimination
Chairman, The Nippon Foundation



Signed on behalf of the ITUC and its 332 national member organisations representing 200 million workers in 163 countries and territories.

Afghanistan	Albania	Algeria	Angola	Antigua and Barbuda	Argentina	Armenia	Australia	Austria	Azerbaijan
Bahrain	Bangladesh	Barbados	Belarus	Belgium	Belize	Benin	Bermuda	Bonaire	Bosnia-Herzegovina
Botswana	Brazil	Bulgaria	Burkina Faso	Burundi	Cambodia	Cameroon	Canada	Cape Verde	Central African Republic
Chad	Chile	Colombia	Comoros	Congo	Congo, DRC	Cook Islands	Costa Rica	Côte d'Ivoire	Croatia
Curaçao	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	Djibouti	Dominica	Dominican Republic	Ecuador	Egypt	El Salvador
Eritrea	Estonia	Ethiopia	Fiji	Finland	France	French Polynesia	Gabon	Georgia	Germany
Ghana	Great Britain	Greece	Grenada	Guatemala	Guinea	Guinea-Bissau	Haiti	Honduras	Hong Kong SAR, China
Hungary	Iceland	India	Indonesia	Iraq	Ireland	Israel	Italy	Japan	Jordan
Kazakhstan	Kenya	Kiribati	Korea, South	Kosovo	Kuwait	Latvia, Republic of	Lesotho	Liberia	Liechtenstein
Lithuania, Republic of	Luxembourg	Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Rep. of	Madagascar	Malawi	Malaysia	Mali	Malta	Mauritania	Mauritius
Mexico	Moldova	Mongolia	Montenegro, Republic of	Morocco	Mozambique	Myanmar	Namibia	Nepal	Netherlands
New Caledonia	New Zealand	Nicaragua	Niger	Nigeria	Norway	Oman	Pakistan	Palestine	Panama
Paraguay	Peru	Philippines	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Russian Federation	Rwanda	Saint Lucia	Samoa
San Marino	Sao Tome and Principe	Senegal	Serbia	Sierra Leone	Singapore	Slovakia	Somalia	South Africa	Spain
Sri Lanka	Sudan	Surinam	Swaziland	Sweden	Switzerland	Taiwan, ROC	Tanzania	Thailand	Togo
Tonga	Trinidad and Tobago	Tunisia	Turkey	Uganda	Ukraine	USA	Vanuatu	Vatican	Venezuela
								Yemen	Zambia
									Zimbabwe

The Global Appeal is an annual message to raise awareness of leprosy and to call for an end to the discrimination against persons affected by leprosy.

First launched in 2006 by Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination and chairman of The Nippon Foundation, it is issued every January to coincide with World Leprosy Day, and endorsed each year by world leaders and organizations in different fields.

Launched online on January 31, 2021, Global Appeal in its 16th year is endorsed by the International Trade Union Confederation. gasasakawa.org

Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) Initiative is a strategic alliance that links together the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, Sasakawa Health Foundation, and The Nippon Foundation for achieving a leprosy-free world.

GLOBAL APPEAL 2022

Global Appeal to End Stigma
and Discrimination against
Persons Affected by Leprosy

In recent times, we have seen how fear of disease has changed people's behavior, creating divisions in society and widening inequalities.

Leprosy, or Hansen's disease, has had this effect.

It is one of the world's oldest recorded infectious diseases. In the past, people with leprosy were ostracized out of fear of infection. It was seen by some as a divine punishment or a curse.

Leprosy is now curable, but myths and misconceptions remain.

Even today, persons affected by leprosy and their families continue to face social rejection in various parts of the world, and this has been made harder to bear by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

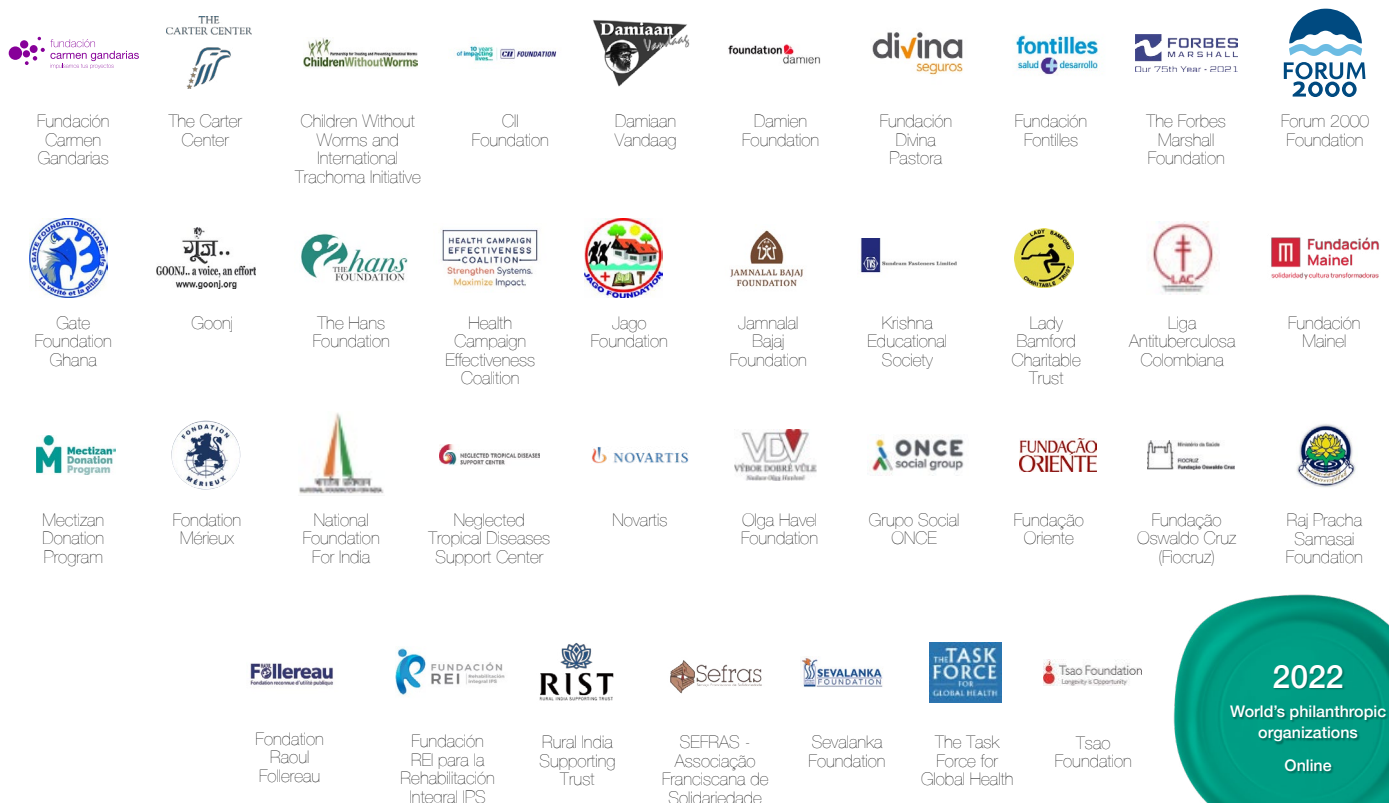
As foundations, we are committed to contributing to the public good.

Addressing social injustice and building a better world is at the heart of what we do.

Discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their families is an issue of human rights.

No one should be stigmatized on the basis of a disease.

In the spirit of philanthropy, we call for a society in which everyone can live a dignified life enjoying all their basic rights.



About Global Appeal

The Global Appeal is an annual message to raise awareness of leprosy and to call for an end to the discrimination against persons affected by leprosy. Initiated in 2006 by Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination and chairman of The Nippon Foundation, it is issued every January

to coincide with World Leprosy Day. Each year it is endorsed by different individuals or organizations in fields including business, education, health, human rights and the law. Endorsed by the world's philanthropic foundations, Global Appeal 2022 is the 17th appeal in the series.

**SASAKAWA
LEPROSY
HANSEN'S DISEASE
INITIATIVE**

GLOBAL APPEAL 2023

to End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Dr. G.H. Armauer Hansen's discovery of the bacillus that causes leprosy.

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is now a curable disease. With early detection and treatment, disability associated with leprosy can be prevented.

Multidrug therapy, the cure for leprosy, is available free of charge throughout the world. But drugs alone are not enough to overcome social and economic discrimination.

To complete the healing process, we must cultivate the human family's innate vocation to fraternity and recognize that all human beings are brothers and sisters, equal in dignity.

Today, as the 70th World Leprosy Day, established by Raoul Follereau in 1954, approaches, we stand with persons affected by Hansen's disease.

We join them in working for a world free from the stigma associated with the disease and for an end to social injustice.

Let all of us play our part in realizing an inclusive society in which no one is left behind.

Love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:39)

2023

Participants and
organizers of International
Symposium at the Vatican
on Hansen's Disease

Vatican City



Cardinal Michael Czerny, S.J.

Prefect,
Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human
Development



Pierre-Yves Thiebault

President,
Raoul Follereau Foundation



Antonio Lissoni

President,
Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau



Yohei Sasakawa

WHO Goodwill Ambassador
for Leprosy Elimination
Chairman, The Nippon Foundation



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director-General,
World Health Organization



Alice Cruz

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Elimination
of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy
and Their Family Members

Jose Manikkathan Varghese
AIFO India, India

Laila de Laguiche
Alliance Against Leprosy, Brazil

Bill Simmons
American Leprosy Missions, USA

Íñigo Lasca
Anesvad Foundation, Spain

Marlen Eizaguirre Marañón
Anesvad Foundation, Spain

Maya Ranavare
Association of People Affected by
Leprosy (APAL), India

Sarang Gayadhane
Association of People Affected by
Leprosy (APAL), India

Vanja Anea Reis Dos Santos
Brazilian Union of Women, Brazil

Steven Loudel Ssemwanga
Buluba Hospital, Uganda

Marina Emilia Fusquine Fontes
Concurso Nacional de Beleza, Brazil

Alberto Roggi
Damien Foundation, Belgium

Tesfaye Tadesse Haile
Ethiopian National Association of
Persons Affected by Leprosy (ENAPAL),
Ethiopia

Lucrecia Vasquez Acevedo
Felehansen, Colombia

Marie Paulette Razazarohavana
Filles de la Charité St-Vincent de Paul,
Madagascar

**Manfredo Radicati di
Primeglio**
Fondation CIOMAL de l'Ordre de Malte,
Switzerland

Thierry zen Ruffinen
Fondation CIOMAL de l'Ordre de Malte,
Switzerland

José Manuel Amorós Muñoz
Fontilles, Spain

Bawani Chelliah
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary,
Sri Lanka

Gladis Estela Llano Uribe
Fundación Villa Bernarda, Colombia

Anil Fastenau
German Leprosy and Tuberculosis
Relief Association (GLRA), Germany

Benedict Okoe Quao
Ghana Health Service, Ghana

Martha Cecilia Barbosa Ladino
GLRA Colombia, Colombia

**Natalia Carolina Mendez
Pulido**
GLRA Colombia, Colombia

Amar Bahadur Timalsina
IDEA Nepal, Nepal

Dinesh Basnet
IDEA Nepal, Nepal

Pradeep Kumar Lama
IDEA Nepal, Nepal

Tim Hughes
International Bar Association, UK

Geoff Warne
International Federation of
Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP),
Switzerland

Narasimha Rao Potharaju
International Leprosy Association,
India

Shigeatsu Tominaga
La Fondation Franco-Japonaise
Sasakawa, France

Jimmy Innes
Lepira, UK

Sabine Ramasinoro
Marana Center, Madagascar

**Margarida Cristiana Napoleão
Rocha**
Ministry of Health, Brazil

Leticia Cezar da Frota
Miss World Brazil 2022, Brazil

**Artur Custódio Moreira de
Souza**
MORHAN, Brazil

**Carlos Alberto Abelheira da
Silva**
MORHAN, Brazil

Francisco Faustino Pinto
MORHAN, Brazil

Patrícia Gonçalves Soares
MORHAN, Brazil

Zhang Yun
Niigata University, Free University of
Berlin, Germany

Novartis Pharma AG
Switzerland

Al Kadri
PerMaTa Indonesia, Indonesia

Doddy Agustinus Tumanduk
PerMaTa Indonesia, Indonesia

Atsushi Sunami
Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

Fabrizio Bozzato
Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

Gaurab Sen
Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation,
India

Elisabeth Nilsson
Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa
Foundation, Sweden

Pirkko Vihko
Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa
Foundation, Finland

Clare Barton
St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

Clare McIntosh
St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

Edward N Reed
St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

Katharine Jones
St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

Maggie Burgess
St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

Michael Forbes Smith
St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

Brent Morgan
The Leprosy Mission International, UK

Michael Mann
The Sovereign Military Order of Malta,
Italy

Coty Jean Ibrahim Diakite
Union Internationale Raoul Follereau,
Côte d'Ivoire

Magnus Vollset
University of Bergen, Norway

Margareth Hagen
University of Bergen, Norway

Michelangelo Casano
Voglio Vivere, Italy

David Patrick Burgess
UK

Juan Alberto López Padilla
Colombia

GLOBAL APPEAL 2024

to End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy

Leprosy, a disease with ancient origins, still lingers in our world, primarily affecting countries in Asia, Africa and South America. While it is now curable, the enduring stigma and discrimination surrounding leprosy remain barriers to its elimination. Early detection and treatment can prevent physical impairment, but fear of discrimination often keeps people from seeking help. To envision a world without leprosy, we must collectively reject the discrimination that clings to this disease and reach every case. The COVID-19 pandemic made the fight against leprosy harder by disrupting country efforts to control the disease. The World Health Organization (WHO), Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) Initiative (SLI) and partners are working with countries to help rebuild these national efforts and ensure better access to care for all. Our greatest ally in this endeavour will be a well-informed public.

Here's how you can help:

- **Educate Yourself:** Learn the facts about leprosy, its curability, and the importance of early treatment and possible prevention.
- **Encourage Treatment Seeking:** If you come across a suspected case of leprosy, prompt treatment is vital. Treatment is available free of charge. Encourage people to seek help.
- **Reject Discrimination:** Treat everyone with compassion and respect, regardless of their health status.
- **Spread Awareness:** Share accurate information about leprosy and challenge stereotypes within your community.

Together, we can create a world where no one is left behind on account of a treatable disease. Let us break the chains of discrimination, work toward a leprosy-free world, and ensure dignity and care for everyone affected by this disease.



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General, World Health Organization



Yohei Sasakawa
WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination
Chairman, The Nippon Foundation



List of WHO 23 global priority countries for leprosy where 95% of new cases were detected in 2022

Angola

Bangladesh

Brazil

Comoros

Côte d'Ivoire

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Egypt

Ethiopia

India

Indonesia

Kiribati

Madagascar

Micronesia (Federated States of)

Mozambique

Myanmar

Nepal

Nigeria

Philippines

Somalia

South Sudan

Sri Lanka

Sudan

United Republic of Tanzania



GLOBAL APPEAL 2025

to End Stigma and Discrimination against
Persons Affected by Leprosy

January 30, 2025

Leprosy, once feared as an incurable disease, is now treatable with modern medicine. When diagnosed and treated early, it is not disabling.

Also known as Hansen's disease, leprosy is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae* and mainly affects the skin and peripheral nerves.

Despite advances in treatment, many people with leprosy still face stigma and discrimination due to outdated stereotypes and myths. This fear of rejection often prevents people from seeking diagnosis and treatment, leaving many cases undetected.

As Ministries of Health in leprosy priority countries, we recognize that leprosy is not just a health issue—it is also a social issue. Stigma and discrimination hinder progress toward eliminating the disease and violate the rights of those affected.

We are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to healthcare services without fear of discrimination and are working toward the global goal of zero leprosy by 2030.

Together, let us raise awareness, dispel misconceptions and ensure that no one affected by leprosy is left behind.

Endorsed by the Ministries of Health in Leprosy Priority Countries



Global Appeal 2025 coincides with the 50th anniversary of The Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Health Foundation's partnership with the World Health Organization for a world without leprosy.



GLOBAL APPEAL



 Website



 Newsletter



 Facebook



 Instagram



 X

Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) Initiative

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