

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**