

Global Appeal 2015

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.