

# GLOBAL APPEAL 2023

to End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy

*Endorsed by the organizers and participants of the International Symposium  
at the Vatican on Hansen's Disease "Leave No One Behind", January 23-24, 2023.*

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## to End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy

This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> 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 70<sup>th</sup> 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)*



**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

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**Jose Manikkathan Varghese**

AIFO India, India

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**Sarang Gayadhane**

Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), India

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**Lucrecia Vasquez Acevedo**

Felehansen, Colombia

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**Gladis Estela Llano Uribe**

Fundación Villa Bernarda, Colombia

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**Dinesh Basnet**

IDEA Nepal, Nepal

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**Jimmy Innes**

Lepra, UK

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**Francisco Faustino Pinto**

MORHAN, Brazil

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**Atsushi Sunami**

Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

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**Clare McIntosh**

St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

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**Michael Mann**

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Italy

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**Juan Alberto López Padilla**

Colombia

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**Laila de Laguiche**

Alliance Against Leprosy, Brazil

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**Vanja Anea Reis Dos Santos**

Brazilian Union of Women, Brazil

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**Marie Paulette Razazarohavana**

Filles de la Charité St-Vincent de Paul, Madagascar

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**Anil Fastenau**

German Leprosy and Tuberculosis Relief Association (GLRA), Germany

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**Pradeep Kumar Lama**

IDEA Nepal, Nepal

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**Sabine Ramasinoro**

Marana Center, Madagascar

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**Patrícia Gonçalves Soares**

MORHAN, Brazil

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**Fabrizio Bozzato**

Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

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**Edward N Reed**

St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

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**Coty Jean Ibrahiman Diakite**

Union Internationale Raoul Follereau, Côte d'Ivoire

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**Bill Simmons**

American Leprosy Missions, USA

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**Steven Loudel Ssemwanga**

Buluba Hospital, Uganda

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**Manfredo Radicati di Primeglio**

Fondation CIOMAL de l'Ordre de Malte, Switzerland

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**Benedict Okoe Quao**

Ghana Health Service, Ghana

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**Tim Hughes**

International Bar Association, UK

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**Margarida Cristiana Napoleão Rocha**

Ministry of Health, Brazil

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**Zhang Yun**

Niigata University, Free University of Berlin, Germany

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**Gaurab Sen**

Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation, India

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**Katharine Jones**

St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

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**Magnus Vollset**

University of Bergen, Norway

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**Iñigo Lasa**

Anesvad Foundation, Spain

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**Marina Emilia Fusquine Fontes**

Concurso Nacional de Beleza, Brazil

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**Thierry zen Ruffinen**

Fondation CIOMAL de l'Ordre de Malte, Switzerland

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**Martha Cecilia Barbosa Ladino**

GLRA Colombia, Colombia

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**Geoff Warne**

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

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**Letícia Cezar da Frota**

Miss World Brazil 2022, Brazil

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**Novartis Pharma AG**

Switzerland

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**Elisabeth Nilsson**

Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation, Sweden

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**Maggie Burgess**

St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

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**Margareth Hagen**

University of Bergen, Norway

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**Marlen Eizaguirre Marañón**

Anesvad Foundation, Spain

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**Alberto Roggi**

Damien Foundation, Belgium

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**José Manuel Amorós Muñoz**

Fontilles, Spain

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**Natalia Carolina Mendez Pulido**

GLRA Colombia, Colombia

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**Narasimha Rao Potharaju**

International Leprosy Association, India

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**Artur Custódio Moreira de Sousa**

MORHAN, Brazil

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**Al Kadri**

PerMaTa Indonesia, Indonesia

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**Pirkko Vihko**

Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation, Finland

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**Michael Forbes Smith**

St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

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**Michelangelo Casano**

Voglio Vivere, Italy

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**Maya Ranavare**

Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), India

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**Tesfaye Tadesse Haile**

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

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**Bawani Chelliah**

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Sri Lanka

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**Amar Bahadur Timalisina**

IDEA Nepal, Nepal

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**Shigeatsu Tominaga**

La Fondation Franco-Japonaise Sasakawa, France

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**Carlos Alberto Abelheira da Silva**

MORHAN, Brazil

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**Doddy Agustinus Tumanduk**

PerMaTa Indonesia, Indonesia

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**Clare Barton**

St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

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**Brent Morgan**

The Leprosy Mission International, UK

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**David Patrick Burgess**

UK



The Global Appeal is an annual event to raise awareness of leprosy and call for an end to the stigma and discrimination that persons affected by the disease continue to face. Launched in 2006 by Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination and chairman of The Nippon Foundation, the Appeal is issued every January on or near World Leprosy Day on the last Sunday of the month. Each year the Appeal receives the backing of prominent individuals and organizations who lend their voices in support of its message of inclusion. Global Appeal 2023 is the 18<sup>th</sup> in the series.