## 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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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)

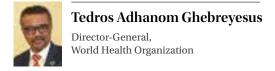








WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination Chairman, The Nippon Foundation





## Alice Cruz

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

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