



GLOBAL APPEAL

to End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy

2006-2023

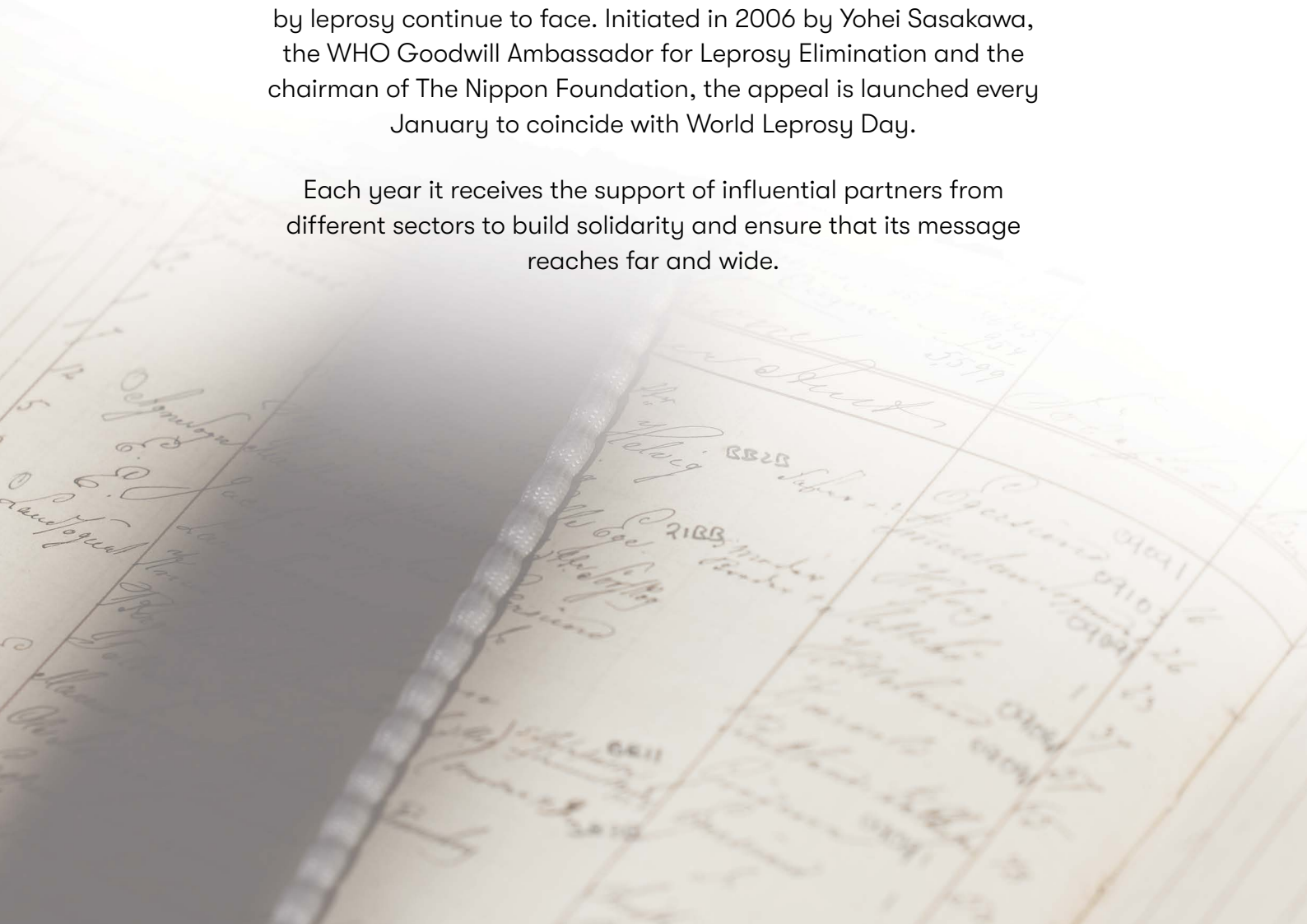
**SASAKAWA
LEPROSY
HANSEN'S DISEASE
INITIATIVE**

About the Global Appeal

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 a 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 unjust discrimination that persons affected by leprosy continue to face. Initiated in 2006 by Yohei Sasakawa, the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination and the chairman of The Nippon Foundation, the appeal is launched every January to coincide with World Leprosy Day.

Each year it receives the support of influential partners from different sectors to build solidarity and ensure that its message reaches far and wide.



Many Voices, A Common Goal

Signatories and Venues, 2006-2023



2006

World leaders and Nobel
Peace Prize laureates

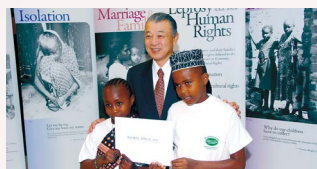
New Delhi, India



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)

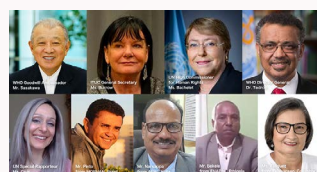
New Delhi, India



2020

International Paralympic
Committee

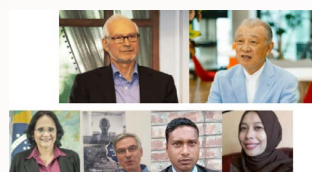
Tokyo, Japan



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

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



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

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



Nicole Holmes

Nicole H. Holmes
USA

Silence on this issue is not acceptable.



Hilarion M. Guia

Hilarion M. Guia
Philippines

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



P. K. Gopal

P. K. Gopal
India

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



Valderiussa da Cruz Rodrigues

Valderiussa da Cruz Rodrigues
Brazil



佐川 陽子

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.

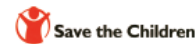
We join people affected by leprosy in affirming the right of every human being to live with dignity.

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



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

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

GLOBAL APPEAL 2009

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.

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



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
Yukei 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

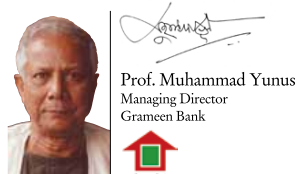
People affected by leprosy often say that dealing with society's attitudes toward the disease is harder than dealing with the disease itself.

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

TO END STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LEPROSY

2011

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.

“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. Chukurbasat Gellegpil	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 Andriantsimahavandy	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 Belgrade, Serbia Rector Prof. Dr. Branko Kovacevic	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 Rector 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	Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Turkey Rector Prof. Dr. Ali Akademir	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 Hámpl	Chiang Mai University, Thailand President Prof. Dr. Pongsak Angkashit	University of Chile, Chile Rector Prof. Victor L. Pérez Vera	The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China Vice-Chancellor and President Prof. Joseph Sung
Chulalongkorn University, Thailand President Prof. Pitom Kamolratanasakul	University of Coimbra, Portugal Rector Prof. Fernando Jorge Rama Seabra Santos	Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia Rector Assoc. Prof. PhDr. František Gašár	Le Conservatoire de Paris, France Director Mr. Bruno Mantovani	University of Copenhagen, Denmark Rector Prof. Ralf Hemmingsen
University of Deusto, Spain Rector Dr. Jaime Orúa Orúa	University of East Anglia, UK Vice-Chancellor Professor Edward Acton	European Institute of Business Administration, France Dean Mr. J. Frank Brown	University of Helsinki, Finland Rector Prof. Thomas Wilhelmsson	Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary President Dr. József Pálfi
Indonesia University of Education, Indonesia Rector Prof. Dr. H. Sunaryo Kartadinata	Inner Mongolia University, China President Prof. Chen Guoqing	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 Rector Prof. Tao Zhan	Johns Hopkins University, USA Acting President Dr. Ronald J. Daniels	The University of Jordan, Jordan President Prof. Bashir Al Zurbi	The Julliard School, USA President Dr. Joseph W. Polisi
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 Rector Prof. Marcin Auzins
The University of Leeds, UK Professor Michael Arthur	University of Leipzig, Germany Rector Prof. Dr. jur. Franz Häuser	University of Lima, Peru Rector Dr. Bise Wisotzki	School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK Director Professor Paul Webley	Mahidol University, Thailand President Clinical Professor Piyasakol Sakolsatayadorn
Makerere University, Uganda Acting Vice-Chancellor Prof. Venansius Banyamureeba	University of Malawi, Malawi Vice-Chancellor Dr. Emmanuel Fabiano	The University of Malaysia, Malaysia Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ghazali Jasmon	The University of Manchester, UK President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell	Massey University, New Zealand President Prof. Steve Maharey
El Colegio de Mexico, Mexico President Dr. Javier GarcíaDiego	Monash University, Australia Vice-Chancellor and President Prof. Ed Byrne	University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria Rector Prof. Dr. Werner Hasitschka	University of Nairobi, Kenya Vice-Chancellor Prof. George Magoha	Nanjing University, China President Prof. Chen Jun
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece Rector Prof. Demosthenes N. Asimakopoulou	National Taiwan University, Taiwan President Dr. Su-Chen Lee	National University of Singapore, Singapore President Prof. Tan Chorh Chuan	University of New South Wales, Australia President and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Frederick G. Hillmer	Newcastle University, UK Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Brink
University of Oslo, Norway Rector Prof. Ole Petter Ottersen	Oxford Brookes University, UK Vice-Chancellor Professor Janet Beer	University for Peace, Costa Rica Rector Mr. John J. Maresca	Peking University, China President Prof. Zhou Qifeng	University of the Philippines, The Philippines President Prof. Emerinda R. Roman
Polytechnic University of Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso President Prof. Hamidou Boly	Pontifical Gregorian University, Italy Rector Fr. François-Xavier Dumortier, S.J.	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. Elmar W. Weiler
Rural Polytechnic Institute for Training and Applied Research, Mali Director General Prof. Faïké Samaké	Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia Rector Prof. Nikolay Mikhaïlovich Kropachev	University of São Paulo, Brazil Rector Prof. Dr. João Grandino Rodas	The University of Sheffield, UK Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Burnett	Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Bulgaria President Prof. Ivan Ilchev
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 University of Toronto, Canada President Prof. David Naylor	University of Traditional Medicine, Myanmar Acting Rector Prof. Dr. Than Maung	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 Rector Prof. Kaoru Kamata	The University of the West Indies, Jamaica Vice-Chancellor Prof. E. Nigel Harris	Yale University, USA President Dr. Richard C. Levin	York University, Canada President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Mahmoud Shoukri
Yunnan University, China President Prof. He Tianchun	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 Kjerfve	Xinjiang University, China President Prof. Tashpolat Tiyp	York University, Canada President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Mahmoud Shoukri

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. Safarov

Association Belge des Syndicats Médicaux
President
Dr. Lemlye Rikland

Associação Médica Brasileira
President
Dr. Florentino 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 Isaza Rodríguez

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

Conseil national de l'ordre des médecins de la cote d'Ivoire
President
Dr. Aka Kroo

Danish Medical Association
President
Dr. Mads Koch Hansen

Royal Dutch Medical Association
President
Dr. A.C. Neuwelhuizen Kousman

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

Finnish Medical Association
President
Dr. Tero Kaukonen

French Medical Association
Vice-President
Dr. Xavier Deau

Georgian Medical Association
President
Dr. Gia Lortkhanishvili

German Medical Association
President
Dr. Frank Ulrich Montgomery

Guatemala Medical Association
Secretary
Dr. Celso Amílcar Gómez

Association Médicale Haïtienne
President
Dr. Claude Suena

Honduras Medical Association
President
Dr. José Manuel Espinal

Hong Kong Medical Association
President
Dr. Choi Kin

Icelandic Medical Association
President
Dr. Margrjet Adalsteinsdóttir

Indian Medical Association
President
Dr. Vinay Aggarwal

Indonesian Medical Association
President
Dr. Pijo Sidpramoto

Irish Medical Organisation
Chief Executive
Mr. George McNeice

Israeli Medical Association
President
Dr. Leonid Eidelman

Japan Medical Association
President
Dr. Katsuyuki Hiratsuka

Kazakhstan Medical Association
President
Dr. Aldin Sadikov

Korean Medical Association
President
Dr. Man-Ho Kyung

Latvian Medical Association
President
Dr. Petris Apinis

Macedonian Medical Association
President
Prof. Jovan Toloski

Colegio Médico de México
President
Dr. Ramón Murieta González

Mozambican Medical Association
President
Dr. Rosal Salomao

Nepal Medical Association
President
Dr. Kisan Prasad Shrestha

New Zealand Medical Association
President
Dr. Paul Cockleford

Nicaragua Medical Association
President
Dr. Pablo Emilio Mangabo

Norwegian Medical Association
President
Dr. Høge Gjesing

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

Colegio Médico del Perú
Vice-President
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 Kristufak

Swedish Medical Association
President
Dr. Marie Wedns

Taiwan Medical Association
President
Dr. Ming-Boen Lee

Tanzania Medical Association
President
Dr. Namile P. Mwap

Medical Association of Thailand
President
Dr. Jongsate Adanpong

Sindicato Médico del Uruguay
President
Dr. Martín Peaballa

Medical Association of Uzbekistan
President
Prof. Abdulla Rhytalyberganov

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 stigmatising 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.

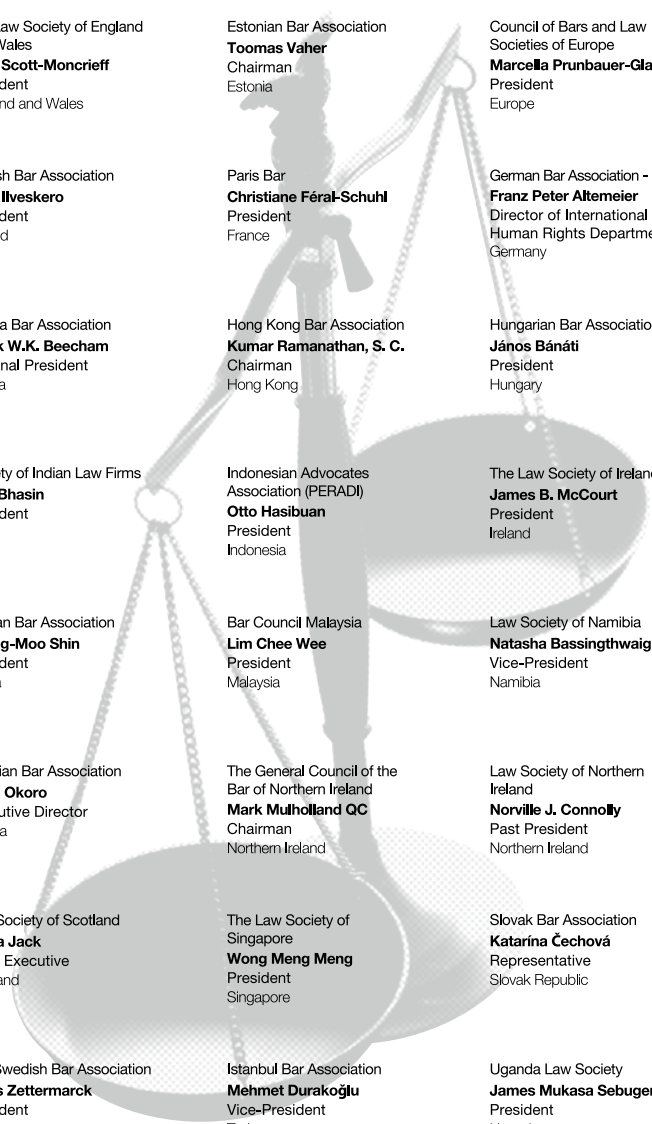
Thanks to modern chemotherapy, leprosy, or Hansen's disease, is now completely curable. With early diagnosis and treatment, it is not disabling. Nor is leprosy highly transmissible. There is no need to isolate anyone with the disease, exclude him or her from their place of work or ban them from public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

But old images of leprosy die hard and continue to shape popular perceptions of the disease—perceptions reinforced by stigmatising 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.



	International Bar Association Akira Kawamura Immediate Past President	
Colegio de Abogados de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires Máximo J. Fonrouge Presidente Argentina	Aires Austrian 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 Filgjeiras 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 Young-Moo Shin President Korea	Bar Council Malaysia Lim Chee Wee President Malaysia	Law Society of Namibia Natasha Bassingthwaight Vice-President Namibia
Nigerian Bar Association Osita Okoro Executive Director Nigeria	The General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland Mark Mulholland QC Chairman Northern Ireland	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 Čechová 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
		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

GLOBAL APPEAL 2014

To end stigma and discrimination against people affected by leprosy

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 Monleón
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
Chairperson
National Human Rights
Commission of India
India

Ms. Siti Noor Laila
Chairperson
National Commission on
Human Rights
Indonesia

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



Judith Sherman
Judith Sherman
President,
International Council of Nurses



宇川 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 Collegi d'Infermiers i Llevedors 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 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 Infirmières 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 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 Profesiones de Enfermería de Honduras	HONG KONG College of Nursing Hong Kong	HUNGARY Hungarian Nursing Association	ICELAND Icelandic 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 Consociazione Nazionale delle Associazioni Infermiere-Infermieri	JAMAICA 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 & Infirmières Luxembourgais	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 Rwandan Nurses and Midwives Association	SAMOA Samoa Registered Nurses Association, Inc.	SAO TOME & PRINCIPE Associação Nacional dos Enfermeiros e pariteros de São Tomé e Príncipe	SENEGAL Association Nationale des Infirmières d'Etat du Sénégal (ANIIDES)	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 Infirmières/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
Pascal Dike
2016 JCI President



Kosuke Shibata
Kosuke Shibata
2015 JCI Japan President



Yohhei Sasakawa
Yohhei 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
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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



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
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(Kenya)

IPU Vice-President
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(United Arab Emirates)

IPU Vice-President
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(Brazil)

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Mr. R. del Picchia
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Ms. A. Habibou
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Member
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Member
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(Viet Nam)

Member
Ms. Y. Ferrer Gómez
(Cuba)

Member
Ms. M.J. Oliveira Valente
(Angola)

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Bulgaria	Burkina Faso	Burundi	Cabo Verde	Cambodia	Cameroon	Canada	Chad	Chile	China
Colombia	Comoros	Congo	Costa Rica	Côte d'Ivoire	Croatia	Cuba	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
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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

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,

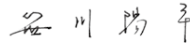
we will share knowledge and experience with persons affected by leprosy.

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 Handicapees
du Benin (FAHNB)

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

DPI Burundi,
Union des Personnes
Handicapees 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 Nationale 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
Handicapees 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 Handicapees 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 (FETAPH)

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
Handicapees

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

DPI Afghanistan,
Afghan Landmine Survivors
Organization (ALSO)

DPI Australia,
Australian Federation
of Disability Organisations
(AFDO)

DPI Bangladesh,
Protibondhi Nagorik
Shangathaner
Parishad (PNSF)

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 (GPDLI)

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 (DPPI)/ Estanara
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
(ACOGIPIR)

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

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

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

DPI Nicaragua,
Organización de
Revolucionarios Discapacitados
(ORD)

DPI Panama,
Asociacion 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 for 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 Bharti Mittal
Honorary Chair,
International Chamber of Commerce



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

Andrew Parsons
President,
International Paralympic Committee



Yohei Sasakawa

Yohei Sasakawa
Chairman,
The Nippon Foundation

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 Paralympic 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, DRO	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.



Don't Forget Leprosy

Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) Initiative launched the "Don't Forget Leprosy"/"Don't Forget Hansen's Disease" campaign in 2021, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, to ensure that efforts against leprosy and the needs of those affected by the disease were not neglected. In the years since, we have carried out a number of activities and events including the Global Appeal under the slogan "Don't Forget Leprosy" and the campaign continues as we work with stakeholders around the world for the goal of a leprosy-free world.

In the days and weeks before and after World Leprosy Day 2022, we worked with 32 organizations from 13 countries, including Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Indonesia and Nigeria, on awareness-raising activities. We also supported research projects by 14 organizations from 10 countries on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on persons affected by leprosy, discrimination against them and the socio-economic situation of their communities.

In January 2023, as part of the Don't Forget Leprosy campaign, we co-organized an international symposium on Hansen's disease that took place at the Vatican, during which we launched the 2023 Global Appeal.

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.

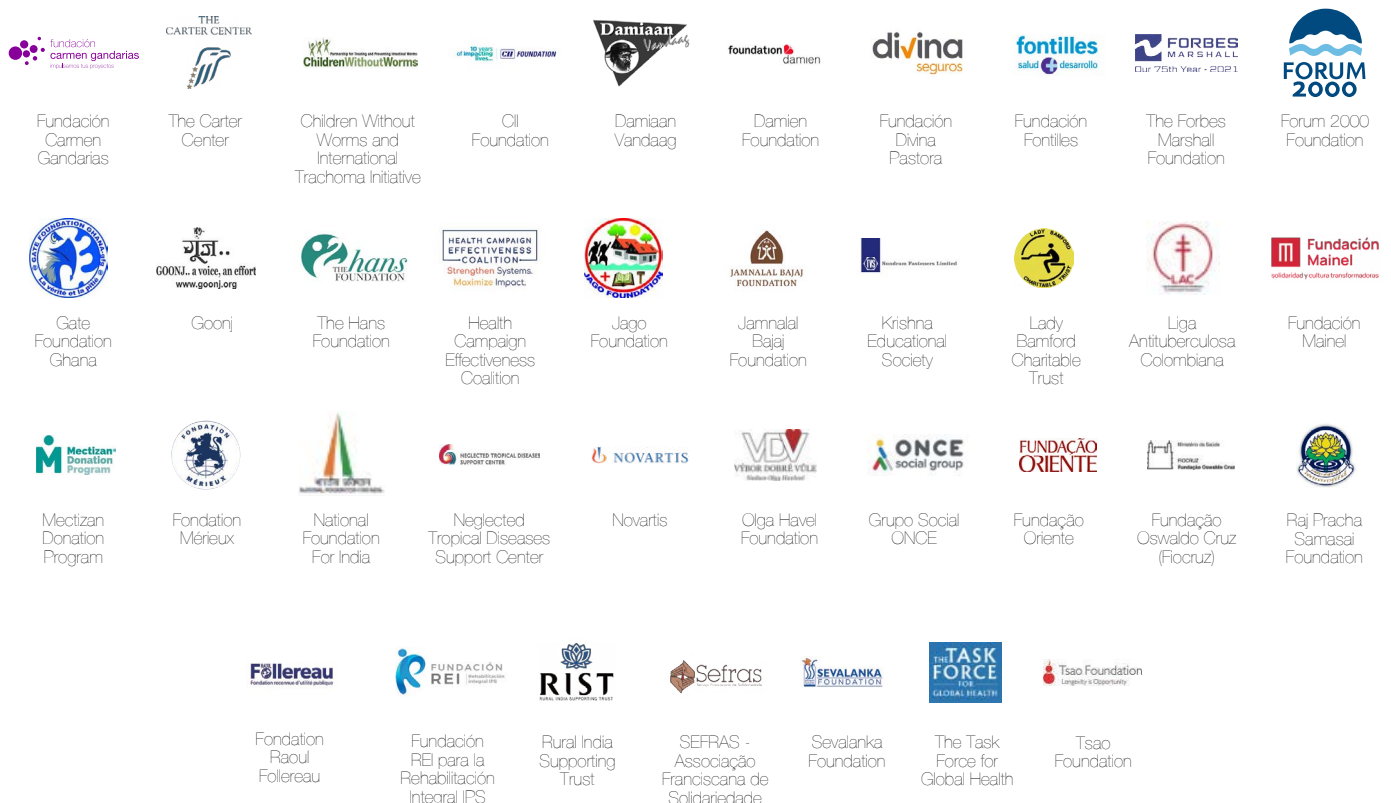
As foundations, we are committed to contributing to the public good.

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)



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

Iñigo Lasa
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 Timsalina
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
Lepra, 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
Sousa**
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

About us

Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's) Disease Initiative



Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) Initiative is a strategic alliance formed in 2020 between WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination Yohei Sasakawa, The Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Health Foundation for the purpose of achieving zero leprosy. We pursue the goal of zero leprosy, a world free from all forms of suffering associated with the disease, through a three-part mission: tackling disease, eliminating discrimination and preserving history.

Yohei Sasakawa

WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination

World Health Organization (WHO) Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination Yohei Sasakawa, who is also the Japanese Government Goodwill Ambassador for the Human Rights of Persons Affected by Leprosy and Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, has visited around 100 countries in his role as an ambassador for leprosy elimination to raise awareness of the disease and the challenges associated with it since he was first appointed in 2001. He has gained a global perspective and is in a unique position to advocate for persons affected by leprosy and their families.



Sasakawa Health Foundation



笹川保健財団
SASAKAWA
Health Foundation

Sasakawa Health Foundation (SHF) was co-founded in 1974 by Yohei's father, Ryoichi Sasakawa, and Morizo Ishidate, a pharmacologist who was the first person to synthesize a drug treatment for leprosy in Japan. SHF is committed to a public health approach and collaborates with a wide range of stake-holders in order to address interrelated medical and social issues.

The Nippon Foundation

The Nippon Foundation (TNF), also founded by Ryoichi Sasakawa, has been providing funding for leprosy-related initiatives since 1967. In addition to providing the majority of funding for SHF and the WHO Goodwill Ambassador's activities, TNF has been the main donor to the WHO's Global Leprosy Programme since 1975.





GLOBAL APPEAL



 Website



 Newsletter



 Facebook



 Instagram



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