



**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

# **Many Voices, A Common Goal**

## **Global Appeal**

to End Stigma and Discrimination against  
Persons Affected by Leprosy

**2006-2025**

# Many Voices, A Common Goal

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 the 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 discrimination that persons affected by leprosy continue to face. Initiated in 2006 by Yohei Sasakawa, the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, the Appeal is released every January to coincide with World Leprosy Day.

Each year, the Appeal is supported by an influential partner, building solidarity across a wide range of sectors and ensuring that its message reaches far and wide.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Global Appeal. Over the past two decades, it has brought together many voices united by a common goal: a world in which persons affected by leprosy can live in dignity, free from discrimination and able to enjoy all their basic human rights.



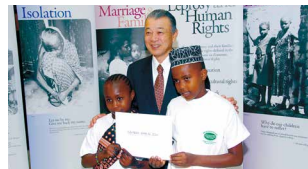
## 2006

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 City



## 2024

WHO  
Geneva, Switzerland



## 2025

Ministries of Health in Leprosy Priority Countries  
Bhubaneswar, India

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# GLOBAL APPEAL TO END STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LEPROSY

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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



*Lak Kiri*

Lak Kiri  
Cambodia

*"Every person is born free and equal  
in dignity and human rights." \**

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



*Michihiro Kob*

Michihiro Kob  
Japan

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.



*BIRKE NIGATU*

Birke Nigatu  
Ethiopia



*Natália Isabel da Graça Marçal*

Natália Isabel da Graça Marçal  
Angola

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.



*Cristiano Claudio Torres*

Cristiano Claudio Torres  
Brazil



*Nicole Holmes*

Nicole H. Holmes  
USA

Leprosy is a curable disease. Yet misguided notions  
about leprosy persist, with devastating  
consequences for those thus stigmatized.

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



*Hilarion M. Guia*

Hilarion M. Guia  
Philippines



*P. K. Gopal*

P. K. Gopal  
India

Silence on this issue is not acceptable.

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



*José Ramirez, Jr.*

José Ramirez, Jr  
USA



*Parwati Oli*

Parwati Oli  
Nepal

Together, let us create a society in which  
every individual is free and equal  
in dignity and human rights.

January 29, 2007



*Kofi Nyarko*

Kofi Nyarko  
Ghana



*Valderiussa da Cruz Rodrigues*

Valderiussa da Cruz Rodrigues  
Brazil

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.



*Yohei Sasakawa*

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

2010

World's business leaders  
Mumbai, India

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<br>Rector<br>Prof. Cossi Norbert Awanou                                    | Academy of Management, Mongolia<br>Rector and President<br>Prof. Dr. Chukurbasart Gelegpil                                   | Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia<br>President<br>Prof. Andreas Eshete  | Escuela Agrícola Panamericana-Zamorano, Honduras<br>President<br>Dr. Roberto Cuevas                     | The American University in Cairo, Egypt<br>President<br>Dr. David D. Arnold                      |
| Ankara University, Turkey<br>Rector<br>Prof. Dr. Cemal Talug  | University of Antananarivo, Madagascar<br>President<br>Prof. Abel Andriantsimahavandy  | Ateneo de Manila University, The Philippines<br>President<br>Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J.                  | The Australian National University Medical School, Australia<br>Dean<br>Prof. Nicholas Glasgow          | Bayero University, Nigeria<br>Vice-Chancellor<br>Prof. Attahiru Muhammad Jega                    |
| University of Belgrade, Serbia<br>Rector<br>Prof. Dr. Branko Kovacevic  | Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel<br>President<br>Prof. Rivka Carmi   | The University of Bristol, UK<br>Vice-Chancellor and President<br>Professor Eric Thomas                      | University of Bucharest, Romania<br>Rector<br>Prof. Dr. Ioan Panzaru                                    | Cairo University, Egypt<br>Rector<br>Prof. Dr. Hossam Kamel                                      |
| University of California, Los Angeles, USA<br>Chancellor<br>Dr. Gene D. Block                                 | University of California, San Diego, USA<br>Chancellor<br>Dr. Marye Anne Fox   | The University of Cambridge, UK<br>Vice-Chancellor<br>Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz                       | Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Turkey<br>Rector<br>Prof. Dr. Ali Akademir                           | University of Cape Coast, Ghana<br>Vice-Chancellor<br>Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang            |
| Cardiff University, UK<br>Vice-Chancellor<br>Dr David Grant   | Charles University, Czech Republic<br>Rector<br>Prof. RNDr. Václav Hámpl   | Chiang Mai University, Thailand<br>President<br>Prof. Dr. Pongsak Angkassith                                 | University of Chile, Chile<br>Rector<br>Prof. Victor L. Pérez Vera                                      | The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China<br>Vice-Chancellor and President<br>Prof. Joseph Sung |
| Chulalongkorn University, Thailand<br>President<br>Prof. Pitom Kamolratanasakul                               | University of Coimbra, Portugal<br>Rector<br>Prof. Fernando Jorge Rama Seabra Santos   | Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia<br>Rector<br>Assoc. Prof. PhDr. František Gašár                  | Le Conservatoire de Paris, France<br>Director<br>Mr. Bruno Mantovani                                    | University of Copenhagen, Denmark<br>Rector<br>Prof. Ralf Hemmingsen                             |
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| Makerere University, Uganda<br>Acting Vice-Chancellor<br>Prof. Venansius Banyamureeba                         | University of Malawi, Malawi<br>Vice-Chancellor<br>Dr. Emmanuel Fabiano  | The University of Malaysia, Malaysia<br>Vice-Chancellor<br>Prof. Ghazali Jassim                              | The University of Manchester, UK<br>President and Vice-Chancellor<br>Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell      | Massey University, New Zealand<br>President<br>Prof. Steve Maharey                               |
| El Colegio de Mexico, Mexico<br>President<br>Dr. Javier Garcíadiego   | Monash University, Australia<br>Vice-Chancellor and President<br>Prof. Ed Byrne  | University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria<br>Rector<br>Prof. Dr. Werner Hasitschka             | University of Nairobi, Kenya<br>Vice-Chancellor<br>Prof. George Magoha                                  | Nanjing University, China<br>President<br>Prof. Chen Jun   |
| National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece<br>Rector<br>Prof. Demosthenes N. Asimakopoulou        | National Taiwan University, Taiwan<br>President<br>Dr. Su-Chen Lee   | National University of Singapore, Singapore<br>President<br>Prof. Tan Chorh Chuan                            | University of New South Wales, Australia<br>President and Vice-Chancellor<br>Prof. Frederick G. Hillmer | Newcastle University, UK<br>Vice-Chancellor<br>Professor Chris Brink                             |
| University of Oslo, Norway<br>Rector<br>Prof. Ole Petter Ottersen   | Oxford Brookes University, UK<br>Vice-Chancellor<br>Professor Janet Beer   | University for Peace, Costa Rica<br>Rector<br>Mr. John J. Maresca  | Peking University, China<br>President<br>Prof. Zhou Qifeng  | University of the Philippines, The Philippines<br>President<br>Prof. Emerinda R. Roman           |
| Polytechnic University of Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso<br>President<br>Prof. Hamidou Boly                     | Pontifical Gregorian University, Italy<br>Rector<br>Fr. François-Xavier Dumortier, S.J.                                      | Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan<br>President<br>Prof. Shun Korenaga                               | The Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia<br>Rector<br>Prof. Lav Chhiv Eav                           | Ruhr University Bochum, Germany<br>Rector<br>Prof. Dr. Elmar W. Weiler                           |
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| Sokoine Agricultural University, Tanzania<br>Vice-Chancellor<br>Prof. Gerald C. Monda                         | The University of the South Pacific, Fiji<br>Vice-Chancellor and President<br>Prof. Rajesh Chandra                           | Sun Yat-sen University, China<br>Vice-Chancellor<br>Prof. Daren Huang  | The University of Sussex, UK<br>Vice-Chancellor<br>Professor Michael Farthing                           | The University of Texas at Austin, USA<br>President<br>Dr. William Powers, Jr.                   |
| The University of Toronto, Canada<br>President<br>Prof. David Naylor  | University of Traditional Medicine, Myanmar<br>Acting Rector<br>Prof. Dr. Than Maung   | The Fletcher School, Tufts University, USA<br>President<br>Dr. Lawrence S. Bacow                             | Uppsala University, Sweden<br>Vice-Chancellor<br>Prof. Anders Hallberg                                  | Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Vietnam<br>President<br>Prof. Mai Trong Nhiuan               |
| Waseda University, Japan<br>President<br>Prof. Kaoru Kamata   | The University of the West Indies, Jamaica<br>Vice-Chancellor<br>Prof. E. Nigel Harris                                       | University of the Western Cape, South Africa<br>Rector and Vice-Chancellor<br>Prof. Brian P. O'Connell       | World Maritime University, Sweden<br>President and Professor<br>Dr. Björn Kjerfve                       | Xinjiang University, China<br>President<br>Prof. Tashpolat Tiyp                                  |
| Yale University, USA<br>President<br>Dr. Richard C. Levin   | York University, Canada<br>President and Vice-Chancellor<br>Dr. Mahmoud Shoukri  | Yunnan University, China<br>President<br>Prof. He Tianchun   | Yanbian University, China<br>President<br>Prof. Dr. B. B. Bhattacharya                                  | Yunnan University, China<br>President<br>Prof. He Tianchun                                       |

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.

|   |   |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <b>World Medical Association</b><br>President<br>Dr. José Luiz Gomes do Amaral                            | <b>Order of Physicians of Albania</b><br>President<br>Dr. Din Abazaj                | <b>American Medical Association</b><br>President<br>Dr. Peter W. Carmel                          | <b>Australian Medical Association</b><br>President<br>Dr. Steve Hamblinton    | <b>Austrian Medical Chamber</b><br>President<br>Dr. Walter Dornier                     |
| <b>Azerbaijan Medical Association</b><br>President<br>Dr. Naiman N. Safarov                               | <b>Association Belge des Syndicats Médicaux</b><br>President<br>Dr. Lemlye Rikland  | <b>Associação Médica Brasileira</b><br>President<br>Dr. Flávio de Araújo Cardoso Filho           | <b>Canadian Medical Association</b><br>President<br>Dr. John Haggies          | <b>Chinese Medical Association</b><br>SG and Vice-President<br>Dr. Liu Yanfei          |
| <b>Federación Médica Colombiana</b><br>President<br>Dr. Sergio Isazahr Izaza                              | <b>União Médica Nacional, Costa Rica</b><br>President<br>Dr. Alexis Castillo Quiroz | <b>Conseil national de l'ordre des médecins de la cote d'Ivoire</b><br>President<br>Dr. Aka Kroo | <b>Danish Medical Association</b><br>President<br>Dr. Mads Koch Hansen        | <b>Royal Dutch Medical Association</b><br>President<br>Dr. A.C. Heuwerhulst Kousman    |
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# 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 stigmatizing 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 stigmatizing 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.

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President  
Japan

Tokyo Bar Association  
**Yoshifusa Saito**  
President  
Japan

Amsterdam Bar Association  
**G. J. Kemper**  
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Ukraine

Law Association of Zambia  
**James Banda**  
President  
Zambia

Launched in London, United Kingdom, on 24 January 2013, Global Appeal 2013 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. This year's Appeal is being made in partnership with the International Bar Association—the global voice of the legal profession.

# GLOBAL APPEAL 2014

To end stigma and discrimination against people affected by leprosy

2014

National human rights  
organizations

Jakarta, Indonesia

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.

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Independent Human Rights  
Commission  
Afghanistan

**Dr. Mizanur Rahman**  
Chairman  
National Human Rights  
Commission  
Bangladesh

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Ministra-Chefe  
Secretaria de Direitos  
Humanos da Presidência  
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Human Rights  
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Chief Commissioner  
Ethiopian Human Rights  
Commission  
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Public Defender  
(Ombudsman)  
Office of Public Defender  
of Georgia  
Georgia

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Equal Opportunities  
Commission  
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National Human Rights  
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National Human Rights  
Commission  
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Northern Ireland Human  
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People's Advocate  
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Rights and Good Governance  
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Office of the Ombudsman of  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Trinidad and Tobago

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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

2015

International Council of  
Nurses  
Tokyo, Japan



*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.

|  |   |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
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| <b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b><br>Czech Association of Nurses                                   | <b>DENMARK</b><br>Danish Nurses' Organization                   | <b>DOMINICAN REPUBLIC</b><br>Asociación Dominicana de Enfermeras Graduadas                       | <b>EAST TIMOR</b><br>East Timor Nurses Association   | <b>ECUADOR</b><br>Federación Ecuatoriana de Enfermeras/os                          | <b>EGYPT</b><br>Egyptian Nurses Syndicate                                | <b>EL SALVADOR</b><br>Asociación Nacional de Enfermeras de El Salvador  | <b>ERITREA</b><br>Eritrean Nurses Association                            | <b>ESTONIA</b><br>Estonian Nurses Union  | <b>ETHIOPIA</b><br>Ethiopian Nurses Association                                | <b>FIJI</b><br>Fiji Nursing Association   | <b>FINLAND</b><br>Finnish Nurses Association                           | <b>FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA</b><br>Association of Nurses and Midwives of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | <b>FRANCE</b><br>ANFIDE                                  |
| <b>GAMBIA</b><br>Gambia Nurses & Midwives Association                                  | <b>GERMANY</b><br>DBK - Bundesverband                           | <b>GHANA</b><br>Ghana Registered Nurses Association  | <b>GREECE</b><br>Hellenic Nurses Association   | <b>GRENADA</b><br>Grenada Nurses Association                                       | <b>GUATEMALA</b><br>Asociación Guatemalteca de Enfermeras Profesionales  | <b>GUYANA</b><br>Guyana Nurses Association                              | <b>HAITI</b><br>Association Nationale des Infirmières Licenciées d'Haïti | <b>HONDURAS</b><br>Colegio de Profesiones de Enfermería de Honduras                | <b>HONG KONG</b><br>College of Nursing Hong Kong                               | <b>HUNGARY</b><br>Hungarian Nursing Association   | <b>ICELAND</b><br>Icelandic Nurses Association                         | <b>INDIA</b><br>Indian Nursing Council  | <b>INDONESIA</b><br>Persatuan Perawat Nasional Indonesia |
| <b>IRELAND</b><br>Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation                               | <b>ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN</b><br>Iranian Nursing Organization | <b>ISRAEL</b><br>National Association of Nurses in Israel  | <b>ITALY</b><br>Consociazione Nazionale delle Associazioni Infermiere-Infermieri                         | <b>JAMAICA</b><br>Jamaica Nurses Association of Jamaica                            | <b>JAPAN</b><br>Japanese Nursing Association                             | <b>JORDAN</b><br>Jordan Nurses and Midwives Council                     | <b>KENYA</b><br>National Nurses Association of Kenya                     | <b>KOREA</b><br>Korean Nurses Association  | <b>KUWAIT</b><br>Kuwait Nursing Association                                    | <b>LEBANON</b><br>Order of Nurses in Lebanon  | <b>LESOTHO</b><br>Lesotho Nurses Association                           | <b>LIBERIA</b><br>Liberia Nurses Association  | <b>LITHUANIA</b><br>Lithuanian Nurses Association        |
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| <b>RUSSIA</b><br>Russian Nurses Association  | <b>RWANDA</b><br>Rwandan Nurses and Midwives Association        | <b>SAMOA</b><br>Samoa Registered Nurses Association, Inc.  | <b>SAO TOME &amp; PRINCIPE</b><br>Associação Nacional dos Enfermeiros e parterios de São Tomé e Príncipe | <b>SENEGAL</b><br>Association Nationale des Infirmières d'Etat du Sénégal (ANIDES) | <b>SERBIA</b><br>Association of Health Workers of Serbia                 | <b>SEYCHELLES</b><br>Nurses Association of the Republic of Seychelles   | <b>SIERRA LEONE</b><br>Sierra Leone Nurses Association                   | <b>SINGAPORE</b><br>Singapore Nurses' Association                                  | <b>SLOVAKIA</b><br>Slovak Chamber of Nurses & Midwives                         | <b>SLOVENIA</b><br>Nurses and Midwives Association of Slovenia                            | <b>SOLOMON ISLANDS</b><br>Solomon Islands Nurses Association           | <b>SOUTH AFRICA</b><br>Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa (DENOSA)   | <b>SPAIN</b><br>Consejo General de Enfermería de España  |
| <b>SRI LANKA</b><br>Sri Lanka Nurses Association                                       | <b>ST. LUCIA</b><br>St. Lucia Nurses Association                | <b>ST. VINCENT &amp; THE GRENADINES</b><br>St. Vincent & The Grenadines Nurses Association (SVG) | <b>SURINAME</b><br>Suriname Nurses Association   | <b>SWAZILAND</b><br>Swaziland Nursing Association                                  | <b>SWEDEN</b><br>Swedish Association of Health Professionals             | <b>SWITZERLAND</b><br>Association Suisse des Infirmières/Infirmiers     | <b>TAIWAN</b><br>Taiwan Nurses Association                               | <b>TANZANIA</b><br>Tanzania National Nurses' Association                           | <b>THAILAND</b><br>Nurses Association of Thailand                              | <b>TOGO</b><br>Association nationale des Infirmières/ères du Togo                         | <b>TONGA</b><br>Tonga Nurses Association                               | <b>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</b><br>Trinidad & Tobago Registered Nurses Association   | <b>TURKEY</b><br>Turkish Nurses Association              |
|  |   |  |  | <b>UGANDA</b><br>Uganda Nurses & Midwives Union                                    | <b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b><br>Emirates Nursing Association              | <b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b><br>American Nurses Association          | <b>URUGUAY</b><br>Colegio de Enfermeras del Uruguay                      | <b>ZAMBIA</b><br>Zambia Union of Nurses Organization                               | <b>ZIMBABWE</b><br>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



*柴田 剛介*  
Kosuke Shibata  
2015 JCI Japan President



*笹川 陽平*  
Yohei 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  |
| JCI Croatia   | JCI Cyprus    | JCI Czech Republic | JCI Democratic Republic of the Congo | JCI Denmark     | JCI Djibouti | JCI Dominican Republic | JCI Dutch Caribbean | JCI Ecuador         | JCI Egypt             | JCI Estonia        |
| JCI Finland   | JCI France    | JCI Gabon          | JCI Georgia                          | JCI Germany     | JCI Ghana    | JCI Greece             | JCI Guinea          | JCI Haiti           | JCI Honduras          | JCI Hong Kong      |
| 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



*岩川 尚平*

Mr. Yohei Sasakawa

Chairman,  
The Nippon Foundation



2017

Inter-Parliamentary Union  
New Delhi, India

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

Vice-President  
of the Executive Committee  
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(United Kingdom)

IPU Vice-President  
Mr. E. Ethuro  
(Kenya)

IPU Vice-President  
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IPU Vice-President  
Mr. K. Kosachev  
(Russian Federation)

IPU Vice-President  
Mr. A. Lins  
(Brazil)

IPU Vice-President  
Mr. S. Suzuki  
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Mr. R. del Ficchia  
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Ms. A. Habibou  
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(Islamic Republic of Iran)

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(Namibia)

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Mr. N. Schrijver  
(Netherlands)

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

## 171 MEMBER PARLIAMENTS OF IPU

|                                     |                          |                         |  |                                |                        |                                       |                                     |                |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Afghanistan                         | Albania                  | Algeria                 | Andorra                                      | Angola                         | Argentina              | Armenia                               | Australia                           | Austria        | Azerbaijan                               |
| Bahrain                             | Bangladesh               | Belarus                 | Belgium                                      | Benin                          | Bhutan                 | Bolivia<br>(Plurinational State of)   | Bosnia and<br>Herzegovina           | Botswana       | Brazil                                   |
| 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<br>Republic of Korea |
| Democratic Republic<br>of the Congo | Denmark                  | Djibouti                | Dominican<br>Republic                        | Ecuador                        | Egypt                  | El Salvador                           | Equatorial<br>Guinea                | Estonia        | Ethiopia                                 |
| Fiji                                | Finland                  | France                  | Gabon  | Gambia                         | Georgia                | Germany                               | Ghana                               | Greece         | Guatemala                                |
| Guyana                              | Guinea                   | Guinea-<br>Bissau       | Haiti  | Honduras                       | Hungary                | Iceland                               | India                               | Indonesia      | Iran<br>(Islamic Republic of)            |
| Iraq                                | Ireland                  | Israel                  | Italy  | Japan                          | Jordan                 | Kazakhstan                            | Kenya                               | Kuwait         | Kyrgyzstan                               |
| Lao People's<br>Democratic Republic | Latvia                   | Lebanon                 | Lesotho                                      | Libya                          | Liechtenstein          | Lithuania                             | Luxembourg                          | Madagascar     | Malawi                                   |
| Malaysia                            | Maldives                 | Mali                    | Malta  | Mauritania                     | Mauritius              | Mexico                                | Micronesia<br>(Federated States of) | Monaco         | Mongolia                                 |
| Montenegro                          | Morocco                  | Mozambique              | Myanmar                                      | Namibia                        | Nepal                  | Netherlands                           | New Zealand                         | Nicaragua      | Niger                                    |
| Nigeria                             | Norway                   | Oman                    | Pakistan                                     | Palau                          | Palestine              | Panama                                | Papua<br>New Guinea                 | Paraguay       | Peru                                     |
| Philippines                         | Poland                   | Portugal                | Qatar  | Republic of<br>Korea           | Republic of<br>Moldova | Romania                               | Russian<br>Federation               | Rwanda         | Samoa                                    |
| San Marino                          | Sao Tome and<br>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<br>Arab Republic             | Tajikistan               | Thailand                | The former Yugoslav<br>Republic of Macedonia | Timor-Leste                    | Togo                   | Tonga                                 | Trinidad and<br>Tobago              | Tunisia        | Turkey                                   |
| Uganda                              | Ukraine                  | United<br>Arab Emirates | United Kingdom                               | United Republic of<br>Tanzania | Uruguay                | Venezuela<br>(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

2018

Disabled Peoples'  
International  
New Delhi, India

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,

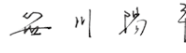
we will share knowledge and experience with persons affected by leprosy.

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 Burkinabè des  
Associations pour la Promotion  
des Personnes Handicapées  
(FEBAH)

DPI Burundi,  
Union des Personnes  
Handicapées du Burundi  
(UJHB)

DPI Cameroon,  
Plateforme Inclusive Society for  
Person with Disabilities  
(PISPWD)

DPI Cape Verde,  
Associação Caboverdana 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 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<br>Afghanistan  | ICC<br>Albania   | ICC<br>Argentina | ICC<br>Armenia      | ICC<br>Australia      | ICC<br>Austria                 | ICC<br>Bahrain               | ICC<br>Bangladesh                         | ICC<br>Belgium    |
| ICC<br>Bolivia      | ICC<br>Brazil    | ICC<br>Bulgaria  | ICC<br>Burkina Faso | ICC<br>Canada         | ICC<br>Chile                   | ICC<br>China                 | ICC<br>Chinese Taipei<br>Business Council | ICC<br>Colombia   |
| ICC<br>Costa Rica   | ICC<br>Croatia   | ICC<br>Cuba      | ICC<br>Cyprus       | ICC<br>Czech Republic | ICC<br>Denmark                 | ICC<br>Dominican<br>Republic | ICC<br>Ecuador                            | ICC<br>Estonia    |
| ICC<br>Finland      | ICC<br>France    | ICC<br>Georgia   | ICC<br>Germany      | ICC<br>Greece         | ICC<br>Guatemala               | ICC<br>Hong Kong             | ICC<br>India                              | ICC<br>Indonesia  |
| ICC<br>Iran         | ICC<br>Ireland   | ICC<br>Italy     | ICC<br>Japan        | ICC<br>Jordan         | ICC<br>Kenya                   | ICC<br>Kuwait                | ICC<br>Lebanon                            | ICC<br>Luxembourg |
| ICC<br>Macao        | ICC<br>Macedonia | ICC<br>Malaysia  | ICC<br>Mexico       | ICC<br>Monaco         | ICC<br>Morocco                 | ICC<br>Netherlands           | ICC<br>New Zealand                        | ICC<br>Nigeria    |
| ICC<br>Norway       | ICC<br>Pakistan  | ICC<br>Panama    | ICC<br>Paraguay     | ICC<br>Peru           | ICC<br>Philippines             | ICC<br>Poland                | ICC<br>Portugal                           | ICC<br>Qatar      |
| ICC<br>Saudi Arabia | ICC<br>Serbia    | ICC<br>Singapore | ICC<br>Slovakia     | ICC<br>Slovenia       | ICC<br>South Africa            | ICC<br>Spain                 | ICC<br>Sri Lanka                          | ICC<br>Sweden     |
| ICC<br>Switzerland  | ICC<br>Syria     | ICC<br>Thailand  | ICC<br>Turkey       | ICC<br>Ukraine        | ICC<br>United Arab<br>Emirates | ICC<br>United<br>Kingdom     | ICC<br>United States                      | ICC<br>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.

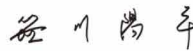
ITUC supports the efforts of persons affected by leprosy who want to earn a living.

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](http://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.

# 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.

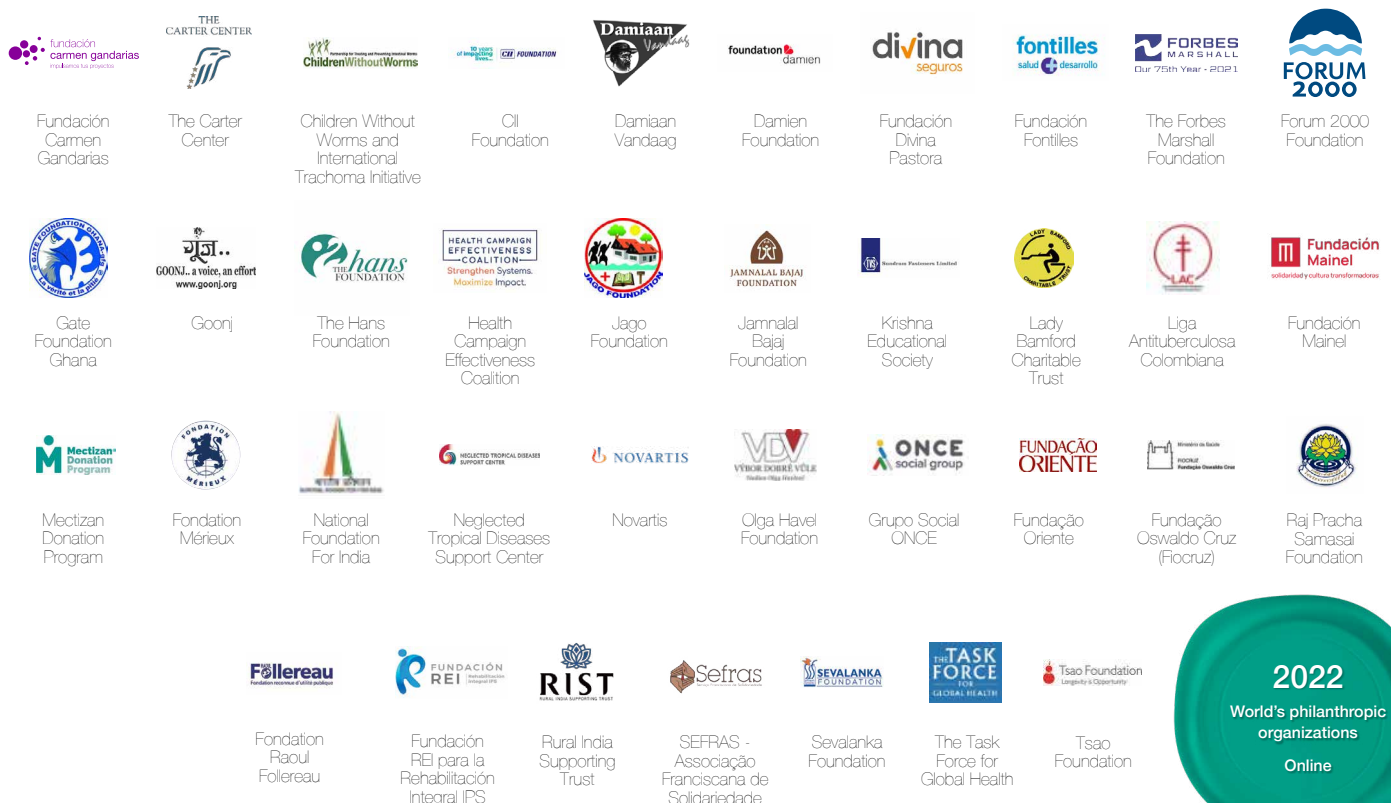
As foundations, we are committed to contributing to the public good.

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 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)*

2023

Participants and organizers of International Symposium at the Vatican on Hansen's Disease

Vatican City



**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 Lasca**  
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 Timalisina**  
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**  
Lepira, 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

# GLOBAL APPEAL 2024

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

Leprosy, a disease with ancient origins, still lingers in our world, primarily affecting countries in Asia, Africa and South America. While it is now curable, the enduring stigma and discrimination surrounding leprosy remain barriers to its elimination. Early detection and treatment can prevent physical impairment, but fear of discrimination often keeps people from seeking help. To envision a world without leprosy, we must collectively reject the discrimination that clings to this disease and reach every case. The COVID-19 pandemic made the fight against leprosy harder by disrupting country efforts to control the disease. The World Health Organization (WHO), Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) Initiative (SLI) and partners are working with countries to help rebuild these national efforts and ensure better access to care for all. Our greatest ally in this endeavour will be a well-informed public.

Here's how you can help:

- **Educate Yourself:** Learn the facts about leprosy, its curability, and the importance of early treatment and possible prevention.
- **Encourage Treatment Seeking:** If you come across a suspected case of leprosy, prompt treatment is vital. Treatment is available free of charge. Encourage people to seek help.
- **Reject Discrimination:** Treat everyone with compassion and respect, regardless of their health status.
- **Spread Awareness:** Share accurate information about leprosy and challenge stereotypes within your community.

Together, we can create a world where no one is left behind on account of a treatable disease. Let us break the chains of discrimination, work toward a leprosy-free world, and ensure dignity and care for everyone affected by this disease.



**Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**  
Director-General, World Health Organization



**Yohei Sasakawa**  
WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination  
Chairman, The Nippon Foundation

### List of WHO 23 global priority countries for leprosy where 95% of new cases were detected in 2022

Angola

Bangladesh

Brazil

Comoros

Côte d'Ivoire

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Egypt

Ethiopia

India

Indonesia

Kiribati

Madagascar

Micronesia (Federated States of)

Mozambique

Myanmar

Nepal

Nigeria

Philippines

Somalia

South Sudan

Sri Lanka

Sudan

United Republic of Tanzania



World Health Organization





# GLOBAL APPEAL 2025

to End Stigma and Discrimination against  
Persons Affected by Leprosy

January 30, 2025

Leprosy, once feared as an incurable disease, is now treatable with modern medicine. When diagnosed and treated early, it is not disabling.

Also known as Hansen’s disease, leprosy is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae* and mainly affects the skin and peripheral nerves.

Despite advances in treatment, many people with leprosy still face stigma and discrimination due to outdated stereotypes and myths. This fear of rejection often prevents people from seeking diagnosis and treatment, leaving many cases undetected.

As Ministries of Health in leprosy priority countries, we recognize that leprosy is not just a health issue—it is also a social issue. Stigma and discrimination hinder progress toward eliminating the disease and violate the rights of those affected.

We are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to healthcare services without fear of discrimination and are working toward the global goal of zero leprosy by 2030.

Together, let us raise awareness, dispel misconceptions and ensure that no one affected by leprosy is left behind.

## Endorsed by the Ministries of Health in Leprosy Priority Countries



Global Appeal 2025 coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Health Foundation’s partnership with the World Health Organization for a world without leprosy.



GLOBAL APPEAL



 Website



 Newsletter



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### Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) Initiative

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