

Leprosy and Human Rights

SYMPOSIUM ON LEPROSY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Principles and Guidelines for the
elimination of the discrimination
against peoples affected by leprosy
and their family members

Thursday 18 June 2015

Maison de la paix, Auditorium Ivan Pictet
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2, Geneva

A collaborative event by:



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PROGRAMME

08:00	Symposium registration: tea/coffee
08:45	Guests move into the Ivan Pictet Auditorium
09:00	Film: <i>Leprosy in Our Time</i>
09:12	Tâmara Biolo Soares , Moderator, introduces the proceedings
09:15	Video message from Ban Ki-moon , Secretary- General, United Nations
09:18	Opening of symposium and keynote address: Yohei Sasakawa , Chairman, The Nippon Foundation, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination and Japanese Goodwill Ambassador for the Human Rights of People Affected by Leprosy
09:30	Video message from Dr Margaret Chan , Director General, World Health Organization (WHO)
09:35	Remarks by representative of Permanent Mission of Japan to International Organizations in Geneva: Ambassador Ms Misako Kaji
09:45	Remarks by Professor Ilona Kickbusch , Director of the Global Health Programme, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
10:00	Photo session and Coffee break
10:30	Current status of leprosy and elimination as public health programme in the world: Dr Pemmaraju Venkata Ranganadha Rao, Global Leprosy Programme, WHO
10:45	Panel discussion 1: Sharing life histories of leprosy- affected people and situation in their countries Facilitator: Dr P K Gopal (IDEA-India) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paulus Manek (PerMata, Indonesia)• Lee, Kil Yong (Korea Federation of Hansen Associations)• Naima Azzouri (Association Accompanying People Affected by Leprosy, Morocco)• Jaime Garzon (Corsohansen, Colombia)• Wu Yao Qiang (HANDA, China) Discussion and questions from the floor
12:10	Facing up to the Principles and Guidelines: Report delivered by Professor Shigeki Sakamoto , Doshisha University, Japan
12:15	Implementing the Principles and Guidelines – a sustainable mechanism for the future: Report delivered by Professor Barbara Frey , Director Human Rights Programme, University of Minnesota and member of the International Working Group
12:30	Lunch

14:00	Dr Vesselin Popovski , Moderator, introduces the second part of the programme
14:05	<p>Panel discussion 2: Our concerns – the views of leprosy-affected people on implementing the Principles and Guidelines in the future</p> <p>Facilitator: José Ramirez, Jr. (IDEA-USA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vagavathli Narsappa (APAL, India) • Chanyalew Hibstu (ENAPAL, Ethiopia) • Kofi Nyarko (IDEA-Ghana) • Valdenora Rodrigues (MORHAN, Brazil) • Celerino Estrella (CLAP, Philippines) <p>Discussion and questions from the floor</p>
15:30	<p>Panel discussion 3: Expected roles of key players – “What can we do?”</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr Yozo Yokota, President, Centre for Human Rights Education and Training, Japan, and Chairperson, International Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Hughes (International Bar Association, London) • Dr Mousa Burayzat (Commissioner General, Jordan National Centre for Human Rights) • Imeru Tamrat Yigezu (Member, UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee) • Professor Etsuko Kita (Chairperson, Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation) • Mr Jan van Berkel (President, International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP)) • Dr Otmar Kloiber (Secretary-General, World Medical Association) • Ms Catherine Panchaud (International Council of Nurses)
16.45	Coffee break
17.15	<p>Approval of Geneva Resolution on Leprosy and Human Rights: Resolution read by José Ramirez, Jr.</p>
17.45	Close of symposium: Tatsuya Tanami , Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation, and member of the International Working Group
18.00	Cocktail Reception (hosted by The Nippon Foundation)

FURTHER INFORMATION

Leprosy is one of the oldest diseases known to humankind. Long feared for its disfiguring effects, it is now fully curable with multidrug therapy, a treatment introduced in the 1980s. Today, the annual number of new cases reported worldwide is below 250,000. With early diagnosis and treatment, the disease leaves no trace.

However, deep-rooted myths and misconceptions about the disease mean that people affected by leprosy, and even their families, continue to suffer discrimination in many parts of the world. Leprosy is not just a health issue; it is also an issue of basic human rights.

In December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted Resolution A/RES/65/215, which calls for eliminating discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members. Accompanying the resolution are principles and guidelines for achieving this objective.

The Symposium on Leprosy and Human Rights – the fifth and final symposium in a series covering Asia, the Americas, Africa, the Middle East and now Europe – is co-hosted by the Nippon Foundation, a private foundation based in Japan, and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. It will bring together legal and human rights experts, representatives of international organizations such as the World Medical Association (WMA), International Bar Association (IBA), International Council of Nurses (ICN), International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP), as well as people affected by leprosy, to discuss plans of action to be taken by states and other stakeholders in order to implement the principles and guidelines.

A keynote address will be given by **Mr Yohei Sasakawa**, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, who has made the elimination of leprosy and related discrimination his life's work. He is also WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination and Japanese Government Goodwill Ambassador for the Human Rights of Persons Affected by Leprosy. **Professor Ilona Kickbusch**, Director of the Global Health Programme, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, will also address the symposium. People affected by leprosy and representatives of their associations from Brazil, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Morocco, the Philippines and South Korea will attend and share their experiences and expertise with the audience.