

GLOBAL APPEAL

to End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy



Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is an infectious bacterial illness that primarily affects the skin and peripheral nerves. Although it is curable, persons affected by leprosy and their families continue to face stigma and discrimination in many parts of the world.

Addressing the misconceptions that perpetuate this injustice requires the transformative power of education. Education plays a crucial role in shaping the values of future generations, and the right to quality education is a precondition for equity, inclusion and social justice.

As the global voice of teachers, Education International is committed to advancing education that fosters critical thinking, challenges prejudices and eliminates all forms of discrimination, within schools and across society.

Equipping teachers and education personnel with accurate knowledge of leprosy and supporting them to share this information with students can help reduce fear and misunderstanding. Such education also fosters empathy and strengthens respect for human rights.

Schools also serve as vital community hubs for health promotion and disease prevention. Promoting awareness and screening can help to identify early signs of leprosy, enabling timely treatment and reducing the risk of disability and stigma.

Education trade unions also have a vital role to play. Through training, campaigns and collaboration with health and education authorities, unions can empower educators to become champions of inclusion and health.

As educators, we will use our collective voice to promote knowledge, empathy and action, working toward a society in which the dignity of all individuals is upheld.



Mr. Mugwena Maluleke
President, Education International



Mr. Yohei Sasakawa
WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination



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“ Signed on behalf of EI and its 377 member organisations representing 33 million educators in 180 countries and territories. ”

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