

GLOBAL APPEAL 2023

to End Stigma and Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy

*Endorsed by the organizers and participants of the International Symposium
at the Vatican on Hansen's Disease "Leave No One Behind", January 23-24, 2023.*

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This year marks the 150th anniversary of Dr. G.H. Armauer Hansen's discovery of the bacillus that causes leprosy.

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, is now a curable disease.

With early detection and treatment, disability associated with leprosy can be prevented.

Multidrug therapy, the cure for leprosy, is available free of charge throughout the world.

But drugs alone are not enough to overcome social and economic discrimination.

To complete the healing process, we must cultivate the human family's innate vocation to fraternity and recognize that all human beings are brothers and sisters, equal in dignity.

Today, as the 70th World Leprosy Day, established by Raoul Follereau in 1954, approaches, we stand with persons affected by Hansen's disease.

We join them in working for a world free from the stigma associated with the disease and for an end to social injustice.

Let all of us play our part in realizing an inclusive society in which no one is left behind.

Love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:39)



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

Sarang Gayadhane

Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), India

Lucrecia Vasquez Acevedo

Felehansen, Colombia

Gladis Estela Llano Uribe

Fundación Villa Bernarda, Colombia

Dinesh Basnet

IDEA Nepal, Nepal

Jimmy Innes

Lepra, UK

Francisco Faustino Pinto

MORHAN, Brazil

Atsushi Sunami

Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

Clare McIntosh

St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

Michael Mann

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Italy

Juan Alberto López Padilla

Colombia

Laila de Laguiche

Alliance Against Leprosy, Brazil

Vanja Anea Reis Dos Santos

Brazilian Union of Women, Brazil

Marie Paulette Razazarohavana

Filles de la Charité St-Vincent de Paul, Madagascar

Anil Fastenau

German Leprosy and Tuberculosis Relief Association (GLRA), Germany

Pradeep Kumar Lama

IDEA Nepal, Nepal

Sabine Ramasinoro

Marana Center, Madagascar

Patrícia Gonçalves Soares

MORHAN, Brazil

Fabrizio Bozzato

Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

Edward N Reed

St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

Coty Jean Ibrahiman Diakite

Union Internationale Raoul Follereau, Côte d'Ivoire

Bill Simmons

American Leprosy Missions, USA

Steven Loudel Ssemwanga

Buluba Hospital, Uganda

Manfredo Radicati di Primeglio

Fondation CIOMAL de l'Ordre de Malte, Switzerland

Benedict Okoe Quao

Ghana Health Service, Ghana

Tim Hughes

International Bar Association, UK

Margarida Cristiana Napoleão Rocha

Ministry of Health, Brazil

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Niigata University, Free University of Berlin, Germany

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Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation, India

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Iñigo Lasa

Anesvad Foundation, Spain

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Concurso Nacional de Beleza, Brazil

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Martha Cecilia Barbosa Ladino

GLRA Colombia, Colombia

Geoff Warne

International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP), Switzerland

Letícia Cezar da Frota

Miss World Brazil 2022, Brazil

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Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation, Sweden

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St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

Margareth Hagen

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Marlen Eizaguirre Marañón

Anesvad Foundation, Spain

Alberto Roggi

Damien Foundation, Belgium

José Manuel Amorós Muñoz

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Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), India

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Ethiopian National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy (ENAPAL), Ethiopia

Bawani Chelliah

Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Sri Lanka

Amar Bahadur Timalisina

IDEA Nepal, Nepal

Shigeatsu Tominaga

La Fondation Franco-Japonaise Sasakawa, France

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MORHAN, Brazil

Doddy Agustinus Tumanduk

PerMaTa Indonesia, Indonesia

Clare Barton


St Francis Leprosy Guild, UK

Brent Morgan

The Leprosy Mission International, UK

David Patrick Burgess

UK



The Global Appeal is an annual event to raise awareness of leprosy and call for an end to the stigma and discrimination that persons affected by the disease continue to face. Launched in 2006 by Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination and chairman of The Nippon Foundation, the Appeal is issued every January on or near World Leprosy Day on the last Sunday of the month. Each year the Appeal receives the backing of prominent individuals and organizations who lend their voices in support of its message of inclusion. Global Appeal 2023 is the 18th in the series.