

1st Symposium on “Leprosy and Human Rights: Principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members”

February 1, 2012
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

RESOLUTION

The first symposium on Leprosy and Human Rights: Principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members;

Recalling that General Assembly resolution of A/RES/65/215 of December 2010 encourages Governments, relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, other intergovernmental organizations and national human rights institutions to give due consideration to the Principles and Guidelines for the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and Their Family Members (hereinafter referred to as P&G) in the formulation and implementation of their policies and measures concerning persons affected by leprosy and their family members.

Recalling further that the P&G declare that States should promote, protect and ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedom for all persons affected by leprosy and their family members without discriminating on the grounds of leprosy.

Having reviewed in particular, the following issues related to persons affected by leprosy and their family members as laid out in the P&G:

- 1) Abolish existing laws, regulations, policies, customs and practices that discriminate directly or indirectly;
- 2) Guarantee equal and effective legal protection;
- 3) Support reunification of families separated in the past as a result of policies and practices;
- 4) Identify persons living in isolation or segregated from their community and provide social support;
- 5) Allow people to continue to live in the leprosariums and hospitals that have become their homes, if they so desire;
- 6) Provide opportunities for education and jobs;
- 7) Abolish the usage of discriminatory language;
- 8) Encourage participation in public, cultural, and recreational activities;
- 9) Provide for the early detection of leprosy and ensure prompt treatment; and
- 10) Create or design a committee that includes persons affected by leprosy to address activities relating to the human rights of persons affected by leprosy and their family members,

Having agreed unanimously to coordinate their efforts and action in view of Sections 13 and 14 of the P&G which is recommending States to formulate policies and plans of action to raise awareness throughout society and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons affected by leprosy and their family members,

- 1) Requests States particularly in Americas region to implement actions recommended in Sections 13 and 14 of P&G;
- 2) Recommends to establish a working group to discuss and formulate plans of action and a mechanism to monitor actions taken by the States and other actors; and
- 3) Entrusts The Nippon Foundation to take a lead role in considering the above matters.