

3rd Global Forum of People's Organizations on leprosy/Hansen's disease

Letter of Commitment

Bali, July, 2025

We, the organizations of persons affected by leprosy/Hansen's disease gathered together in Bali on the 4th, 5th and 6th of July, at the 3rd Global Forum of People's Organizations on Hansen's disease facilitated by Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's disease) Initiative.

We recognize that true change must start with us — and that our strength lies in working together, raising our voices and standing in solidarity. This letter of commitment reflects our shared vision: that all persons affected by leprosy/Hansen's disease, in every country and every territory, will live with dignity, equal rights and full participation in society. And to do that, we uphold our firm determination to take direct action as given below:

- a) In our organizations, we will ensure that decisions are autonomously and independently made by persons affected by leprosy/Hansen's disease, who must be the owners of their organizations; we will also pursue leadership development with emphasis on the grassroots, effective and efficient management, transparency and accountability, needs-based programs and inclusive participation in decision-making; we will ensure internal democratic procedures and equal access to opportunities among us.
- b) In our territories of action, we will work towards restoring health, dignity, human rights and autonomy of persons affected by leprosy/Hansen's disease. After diagnosis, during and after treatment, we will accompany, support and counsel the people and their families.
- c) At the national level, we will advocate for leprosy/Hansen's disease care to be framed as a human right; for national leprosy/Hansen's disease programs to implement it effectively; for governments to accurately report on the number of new cases in country; towards the abolishment or amendment of any discriminatory legal frameworks, as well as the enactment of anti-discrimination legal frameworks; and for the implementation of oversight and complaint accessible and easy to use mechanisms. We will also mainstream legal literacy into all our activities, so that persons affected by leprosy/Hansen's disease know their rights and how to claim them. We will report every case of human rights violation to the relevant authorities and monitor the actions taken.
- d) At the global level, we will organize ourselves in an oversight committee composed by persons affected by leprosy/Hansen's disease who represent organizations of persons affected by leprosy/Hansen's disease from all regions and whose mandate will be of monitoring both national and international policies and implementation, and making governments, donors, pharmaceutical companies and intergovernmental agencies accountable.