

**Proclamation of Pain Treatment and the Application of
Palliative Care as Human Rights**

May 22, 2008

Latin American Societies dedicated to the Study and Treatment of Pain and Palliative Care gathered in the City of Panama,

Aware that, during the course of their lives a vast amount of human beings unnecessarily suffer pain conditions for which there are viable treatment alternatives and for which capability exists to reduce or eliminate suffering,

Deeply concerned with the lack of appropriate attention to pain treatment and its relation to other physical, psychic and social conditions to a vast amount of human beings and their mourning families during the process of dying,

Alarmed that many nations around the world have not properly studied nor objectively defined chronic pain as an urgent public health problem,

Profoundly worried that in many nations around the world many human beings and their mourning families are partially or completely abandoned during the process of dying,

Lamenting that the end of life palliative care has not yet achieved universal availability which merit as indispensable elements in the process of dying with the dignity which corresponds to all human beings,

Convinced that all humans are born equal in dignity and rights without distinction of any sort (including ethnicity, color or origin) have the right to live and die with dignity,

Ratifying our beliefs in Human Rights and in the principles of dignity and value of the human person as well as social justice as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights, International Agreements on Human Rights, the constitution of the World Health Organization and other related organizations,

Aware that contributions to the advancements in science and technology make possible for human beings to live and die with dignity,

Wishful of promoting human rights of all humanity and of eliminating obstacles for their maximum fulfillment,

Recognizing that many resources currently available for providing to social progress and respect to human dignity are dedicated to war and destruction,

Persuaded that by means of collaboration of the signing states of the United Nations Organization it is possible to extol the most sacrosanct principles of human dignity and to struggle against diverting human resources for destruction and war and instead forward the protection of these principles.

Knowing of the solemn compromise of the Members of the United Nations in taking joint and separate action in order to promote the highest standards of life as well as protection and extolment of human dignity,

Noting that the Right to Pain Treatment and to Palliative Care are implicit inside multiple other pronouncements and rights promulgated by different bodies and organisms of the United Nations, as in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights itself, the Letter for Children's Rights, Women's Rights and many other Rights proclaimed, as well as in the constitution of the World Health Organization and in Comment 14 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Emphatically affirming the importance and transcendence that the individual and explicit proclamation of these rights have by themselves to attain the relevance merited in order to appropriately protect human dignity,

Remembering that on August 21, 2001 an Initiative was sent to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Hon. Kofi Annan in which it was asked that the Treatment of Pain and Palliative Care be considered as a fundamental and inalienable Human Right,

Noting with satisfaction that these concepts -born in indigenous Latin American soil and this Latin American initiative before the United Nations were immediately supported by each and every one of the Latin American Associations dedicated to the treatment of pain and the application of palliative care, and immediately afterwards by European and American organizations such as the World Society of Pain Clinicians, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the World Institute of Pain and tens of thousands of human beings around the world, as well as finally in the year 2004, by the International Association for the Study of Pain and afterwards, by means of writings from some of their Members published in world literature, we can express that there is a Universal Consensus for its final proclamation by the only organization with recognized jurisdiction in Human Rights, the United Nations Organization,

Attesting that on February 1, 2008 the Initiative was again sent to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Hon. Ban Ki-Moon, drawing attention to his call of "dignity and justice for all" and to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Hon.

Louise Arbour, in which it was asked that on the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 2008 be it solemnly proclaimed by the dignitaries pertinent to the United Nations the support to the Principle which contemplates that the Treatment of Pain and the Provision of Palliative Care to all members of a human family be recognized as a fundamental and inalienable right.

Taking into consideration that once these fundamental aspects for the preservation of human dignity are recognized as Human Rights, mechanisms for their applicability will become available in such a way that the elements of justice and dignity that they promote will reach all of humanity with more readiness,

We solemnly pledge our deep conviction of the necessity that these aspects with deep implications for adequate protection of human dignity be quickly and properly recognized and proclaimed by Authorities from the United Nations Organization as fundamental and inalienable Human Rights:

Article 1.

The member associations of the Latin American Federation for the Study of Pain, their branches dedicated to Palliative Care and the Foundation for the Treatment of Pain as a Human Right, will conduct a promotional campaign of these aspects amongst all members in each of their respective countries, simultaneously requesting that on December 10, 2008, on behalf of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights be it solemnly proclaimed by pertinent dignitaries from the United Nations the support to the Principle which contemplates that the treatment of pain and the provision of palliative care to all members of the human family be recognized as fundamental and inalienable human rights.

Article 2.

The member associations of the Latin American Federation for the Study of Pain, their branches dedicated to Palliative Care and the Foundation for the Treatment of Pain as a Human Right, will publish in all media in its reach this Proclamation and will conduct a promotional campaign of these aspects among all members in every country.

Article 3.

The Latin American Association for the Study of Pain, their branches dedicated to Palliative Care and the Foundation for the Treatment of Pain as a Human Right, will publish this Proclamation in all public media in its reach and disposition and will request its related Associations (WIP, WSPC, ALCP, EFIC, IASP and others) to collaborate in their respective communication channels.

Article 4.

The Latin American Association for the Study of Pain, their branches dedicated to Palliative Care and the Foundation for the Treatment of Pain as a Human Right, will translate this Proclamation into English, French, and Chinese in order to increase accessibility.

Article 5.

The signing Associations and the Foundation for the Treatment of Pain as a Human Right, will conduct the necessary formalities in its reach to adhere Sanitary, Political and Diplomatic Authorities in their respective countries as means to gain the needed recognition and to allow this proclamation to achieve its most cherished goals.

Article 6.

The Directorate of the The Latin American Federation for the Study of Pain, in accordance with the Foundation for the Treatment of Pain as a Human Right, will send a copy of this Declaration annexed to an agreement petition for the Representatives of the nation members of the United Nations Community.

Article 7.

The Directorate of the The Latin American Federation of Associations for the Study of Pain, in accordance with the Foundation for the Treatment of Pain as a Human Right, will send a copy of this Declaration annexed to an agreement petition to all Associations worldwide and individuals in its reach with interest in this humanitarian endeavor.

Article 8.

The Directorate of the The Latin American Federation of Associations for the Study of Pain, in agreement with the Foundation for the Treatment of Pain as a Human Right, will send a copy of this Declaration annexed to an agreement petition and request for promotion to all members of the diverse organisms of the United Nations which have a relation with the discussion, proclamation, and implementation of Human Rights.

Article 9.

The Directorate of the The Latin American Federation of Associations for the Study of Pain, in agreement with the Foundation for the Treatment of Pain as a Human Right, will send a copy of this Declaration and an agreement petition to the main religious leaders of the world as well as persons of renown artistic, political or international recognition in its reach who may collaborate in the promotion and achievement of the objectives of this humanitarian endeavor.

***Solemnly signed** on May 22, 2008 in the City of Panama by Representatives of the 19 Chapters of the Latin American Federation of Associations for the Study of Pain (FEDELAT): Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela and present witnesses.*