



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE
Advancing Hospice & Palliative Care Worldwide

IAHPC Statement to UNGASS on COVID19
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Providing Palliative Care to the Underserved Community During COVID19 in India

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NGO in Consultative Status with ECOSOC, NSA in Official Relations with WHO

Thank you for giving me the floor

I am honored to be the founder and President of CanSupport, which arose from my personal experience as a cancer survivor and as a support person for people with cancer. Almost 80% of our patients in India come to hospitals with advanced disease. Many now come with COVID and are being turned away because the hospitals are full. This is the case all over the world. Do **you** know where do desperately ill people with no resources go once treatments fail or there is no treatment at all? They go home to die a death of great suffering and indignity with no, or inadequate, support and care.

They need **palliative** care, which attends to physical, spiritual, social, and emotional pain of families and survivors. Palliative care is an essential component of primary health care and universal health coverage. The earlier it is integrated into patient care the better.

The WHO NCD diseases division has reported that palliative care services have been significantly disrupted during the pandemic. A recent survey of our membership has confirmed this downward trend, which significantly escalates serious health related suffering.

The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care encourages member states to collaborate with national palliative care organizations as key informants as they develop policies and budgets to integrate services into national responses and preparedness planning.

We remind member states of the Joint Statement issued on August 14 by the WHO, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime regarding the “ethical obligation of governments to ensure that their populations have adequate access to controlled essential medicines during the pandemic.”

Compassion is necessary but is not enough. It must be combined with the highest level of professional competence, which should be available to patients no matter who they are or where they live. CanSupport is ready to share its model with the relevant authorities to make this happen. The IAHPC and our members are standing by to collaborate with member states to integrate palliative care, an essential service to relieve health related suffering, into their COVID19 response. I thank you.