



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

September 2, 2020

Statement of NSA in Official Relations re 70th [session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe \(virtual\)](#)

**Delivered on video by Dr. Lukas Radbruch
Chairman, IAHPC Board of Directors**

Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen

Re Agenda Item 4. The European Programme of Work (2020–2025) – “United Action for Better Health in Europe”

The [International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care](#) (IAHPC)’s vision is a world free from health-related suffering. Our many members in the EURO region were gratified to learn that WHO Europe will support member states to “mainstream the care from clinical prevention through early detection and screening, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care to meet the needs of people with communicable and non-communicable diseases.”¹ Our members will be standing by to assist governments in their capacity as experts, educators, and key civil society informants.

As you are aware, the WHO report [Delivering NCD services in a Time of COVID 19](#) revealed deeply disturbing deficits in continuity of services, including palliative care and access to controlled medicines. The EURO region has the collective resources to address this quantum increase in severe health related suffering by building back better with integrated primary palliative care per the 2018 Astana Declaration. By adopting WHA 73/1, member states committed to including palliative care into their national responses and to ensure appropriate workforce education aligned with the updated [WHO Guidance on Clinical Management of COVID19](#).

The [Joint Statement](#) on access to internationally controlled medicines during COVID-19 pandemic issued by WHO in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) on August 14, 2020 is a key document supporting the integration of palliative care into the COVID-10 response. The statement cited the ethical imperative for member states to ensure that all people in all countries of the world and particularly in the EURO region, can access essential medicines during the pandemic.

This statement is also endorsed by the Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance and the European Association for Palliative Care.



¹ “EUR/RC70/11: United action for better health in Europe European Programme of Work, 2020–2025



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