



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

September 30, 2020

The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC)  
Submission to EB SS5 Special Session of the Executive Board of the World Health  
Organization

**Agenda Items EBSS/5/2 and EBSS/5/3**

Honorable Chair, esteemed delegates of WHO member states and civil society colleagues

The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) is honored to participate in this Special Session as a Non-State Actor in Official Relations with WHO. Our focal point is Dr. Gilles Forte in the Essential Medicines and Health Products Division. Our registered delegation for this meeting includes members from Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Germany, and India.

We encourage member states reporting on WHA 73/1 at SS5 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, per [Op 7.7](#). The WHO noncommunicable 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.

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.” A summary of our recommendations for member states is found in this Briefing Note, [“How pandemics affect health systems and resource allocation: impact on palliative care.”](#)

Finally, the IAHPC has [submitted](#) a letter to the Rt. Hon. Helen Clarke, and HE Helen Johnson-Sirleaf, Co-Chairs of the [WHO Independent Panel on Preparedness and Response](#). As the panel will be updating the WHO Executive Board delegates on their work at the SS, we are requesting that the Co-Chairs mention the disruption of palliative care services and the need to integrate palliative care into all member state preparedness planning per WHA73/1. The IAHPC [Serious Health-Related Suffering Database](#) is an essential tool in this work, as it disaggregates national data by condition and consumption of opioids, which are essential palliative care medications.

**We thank you and confirm our interest to continue collaborating with the Secretariat and member states on technical and normative issues regarding integration of palliative care into pandemic response and preparedness planning.**