



**WHASS2 Statement of the International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC)  
and the Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance (WHPCA)**

**Non-State Actors in Official Relations with WHO**

**The IAHPC and WHPCA recommend** that the **Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies (WGPR)** broaden its perception of the potential benefits of a new instrument for strengthening pandemic preparedness and response to include *the equitable delivery of palliative care* at all levels of the healthcare system, from community to tertiary.

1. The ongoing pandemic is revealing shortcomings in all member states' health systems in this area, reflecting both training deficits in basic palliative care practices for primary and critical care practitioners, as well as national shortages of palliative care specialists and essential palliative care medicines. Health professionals treating COVID patients and communicating with their loved ones consider colleagues with palliative care training very valuable assets to their interdisciplinary response and preparedness teams.
2. The agreed language to include our request in the framework exists.
  - a. [WHA 67/19](#), unanimously approved in 2014, URGES Member States: (1) to develop, strengthen and implement, where appropriate, palliative care policies to support the comprehensive strengthening of health systems to integrate evidence-based, cost-effective and equitable palliative care services in the continuum of care, across all levels, with emphasis on primary care, community and home-based care, and universal coverage schemes.
  - b. Both the Astana Declaration on Primary Healthcare (2018) and [UN Resolution 74/2](#) Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage (2019) recognize palliative care as an essential service in the spectrum from prevention through rehabilitation.
3. Our organizations' staffs and global membership are ready and willing to collaborate with the Working Group to develop the appropriate language and recommendations. Our national experts and professional associations are also prepared to support their governments as accredited civil society partners in the implementation of technical and normative elements of the proposed binding instrument.

Integrating palliative care, *alongside* equitable access to countermeasures such as vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, will avert an enormous amount of preventable suffering and strengthen the resilience of the health workforce as a whole.

**November 23, 2021**