

## Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

### ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LEPROSY AFFECTED PERSONS & THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS

1. Q1 Are you aware of the principles and guidelines for elimination of discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members adopted by the United Nations general assembly in December 2010 (resolution 65/215)? If yes, how did it come to your attention? What are the reasons?

Yes the ministry of health aware of the principles & guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against Patients affected by Leprosy & their family members through WHO guidelines for years (2011-2015).

2. Q2 what mechanism has the government put in place to disseminate the principles and guidelines to its citizens? E.g. translation into national and local languages; media; or any other mechanism?

- The government used media to increase community awareness about the disease and to disseminate the principles and guidelines to its citizens
- The leprosy control department at the MOHP visits the patients homes for health education and enlighten them about the disease
- In order to reduce stigma and discrimination a combination between dermatology and leprosy clinics is done; these clinics contain posters and brochures about leprosy to ensure general awareness for all visitors.

3. Q3 Has the government adopted any policies, action plans or taken any other measures to promote awareness rising of issue of discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members? If so, please provide details on measures taken?

MOHP through the national leprosy control program held many meetings all over the year in all governorates that contain

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leprosy patient to help in rehabilitation of leprosy patients and their families through:

- 1- Community leaders meeting to increase community awareness of the disease to ensure its curability and ensure that the treatment is for free and once the patient is under treatment the disease is not infectious.
  - 2- periodic training for leprosy clinic workers (doctors, nurses, social workers) to ensure early detection to eliminate any possible discrimination
  - 3- Involvement of NGOs in leprosy related activities including rehabilitation of leprosy patients and their families.
4. Q4. What action has your government taken to modify, repeal or abolish discriminatory laws, policies or practices, including terminating forced segregation, in order to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members?

In Egypt no forced segregation is applied. Regarding accommodation, Leprosy affected people has the freedom to live wherever they want.

5. Q5. Are those affected by leprosy and their family members being consulted with and/or actively participating in the decision making that deal with matters related to them ?

They are consulted with the participating in the decision making that deal with matters related to them including treatment and how to deal with their family members and any one in contact with them.

6. Q6. Do persons affected by leprosy enjoy the following rights fully and equally with others :

Rights been enjoyed: (✓) citizenship; (✓) obtaining identifies documents;  
(✓) right to vote; (✓) right to stand for elections;  
(✓) right to serve the public

7. Q7. Do persons affected by leprosy enjoy equal rights with others with regard to the following ?

Equal rights: (✓) work, (✓) education, (✓) establishing a family;  
(✓) access to public places, (✓) access to cultural and Recreational facilities; (✓) access to places of worship

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8. Q8. What actions have been taken to promote and protect the human rights of (a) women; (b) children; (c) the elderly; (d) members of other vulnerable groups, who have or have had leprosy, as well as their family members? Please provide details

In all leprosy related services, equality is an asset for all gender including women, children, elderly and members of other vulnerable groups, who have or have had leprosy; they are provided medical services equally.

And to promote their human rights Community meetings are held all over the year to ensure and increase community based rehabilitation (CBR). (For the patients, their families and community) and to increase Community awareness about leprosy (its curability, availability of free treatment and reduction of stigma).

Also workshops and meetings for community leaders and NGOs members to provide leprosy patients in need with a monthly financial support

To:

Enable them to depend on themselves and achieving self esteem and enhancing their basic needs and thus quality of life. (Starting a small projects and their acquaintances school payment).

9. Q9. Has your government drafted and/or adopted a national action plan to implement the principles and guidelines? If yes, please attach a copy. Has your government established a national committee? If yes, please provide details as to its mandate, size and composition of its members?

Our action plan is adopted by leprosy control department at MOHP through:

- 1- Community awareness about leprosy (its curability, availability of free treatment and reduction of stigma).
- 2- Current home visits to increase health education for patients and their families.
- 3- Community meetings are held all over the year to ensure and increase community based rehabilitation (CBR). (For the patients, their families and community).
- 4- surveillance system is periodically done for all detected patients and their family members and for defaulter patients to complete treatment on time.

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 مكافحة الأمراض الجلدية  
 و البهايمية  
 و أمراض المناعة الذاتية

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**10.Q10. What major obstacles, if any, has your government faced in the implementing the principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against affected by leprosy and their family members?**

Despite of all actions been taken by MOHP still stigma is partial obstacle.

**11.Q11. In your view, what follow up mechanisms should be put in place at the international level to effectively implement the principles and guidelines?**

- Support the national Leprosy Rehabilitation program.
- More support for leprosy related activities.
- More involvement of NGOs in leprosy related activities
- Increasing community awareness by increasing community meetings which include social insurance workers, religious figures, public figures and those whom can help elimination of stigma from leprosy patients and their families and aid in rehabilitation of them.

**12.Q12. Are there any best practices that you can share with us regarding actions taken to eliminate discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members?**

1. Workshops and meetings for community leaders and NGOs members to provide leprosy patients in need with a monthly financial support

To:

- Enable them to depend on themselves and achieving self esteem and enhancing their basic needs and thus quality of life.
- Encourage the patients to complete their MDT (multi drug thereby) and comply with other leprosy control activists to avoid any disability that lead to discrimination.
- Ensure regular treatment and patients' compliance.

2. Periodic training for leprosy clinic workers for early detection of disease thus reduce any possible discrimination and ensure that patients has the best care at physiotherapy , ulcer and wound care .

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