



Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance written statement for RC69

Accelerating progress towards healthy, prosperous lives for all, increasing equity in health and leaving no one behind in the WHO European Region

Provisional agenda item: 5c

The Worldwide Hospice and Palliative Care Alliance calls on WHO Europe and member states to acknowledge and to address the major inequity in access to palliative care services across Europe and the fact that millions of people suffering from serious conditions are being left behind.

The need for palliative care will affect all of us at one time or another, yet it is a topic that few wish to discuss. For that reason, policy development, budgeting and implementation of needed and essential palliative care services has been inadequate and slow. The result is that millions of people continue to suffer.

Those who are marginalised or vulnerable such as children and older people, as well as people with disabilities, LGBT, prisoners, sex workers, and drug users are even more likely not to be able to access the palliative care that they need. Inequity in access to quality palliative care is a serious problem both within European countries and across them.

The WHPCA requests that WHO Europe:

1. Supports Member States to understand and act on the serious inequities relating to palliative care access.
2. Ensures that guidance provided to member states on policy options for universal and targeted policies both within the health sector and intersectorally includes adequate focus on the huge inequities in palliative care.
3. Ensures palliative care experts are included in the multidisciplinary health equity alliance of scientific experts and institutions that is being developed to implement this resolution.