**ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LEPROSY AFFECTED PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS**

**Questionnaire for**

**STATES/NHRIs**

**BACKGROUND**

In its resolution A/HRC/29/5, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to undertake a study which reviews the implementation of the principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members, together with the obstacles thereto, and to submit a report containing practical suggestions for their wider dissemination and more effective implementation and to submit a report at its thirty-fifth session.

The resolution also requests the Advisory Committee, in its elaboration of the report, to take into account the views of Member States and as appropriate relevant international organizations, including the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant special procedures, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), and non-governmental organizations, as well as the work done on the issue by relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates.

In this context, the Advisory Committee decided, at its fifteenth session held in August 2015, to establish a drafting group in charge of the preparation of this study.[[1]](#footnote-2)The drafting group elaborated the hereunder questionnaire in order to seek the views and inputs of States and NHRIs. The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect information in order to identify the current state of implementation of the Principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members (the Principles and Guidelines); how the Principles and Guidelines apply to different situations in different countries, especially the good practices that may be shared; and what are the major obstacles to their implementation, including views on how best to further strengthen the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines.

**1.** Are you aware of the Principles and guidelines for the 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?If not, what are the reasons?

Yes, we are clearly aware of the rules and principles by attending international conference and national meetings related to such matter.

**2.** 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 disseminate the laws via the national medical system. They arranged classes and campaigns in order to improve the people’s knowledge of leprosy and to make people understand that leprosy is curable.

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

There is a national target program approved by the government anually. The affact of this program covers 63 provinces in Vietnam. One of the aims of the program is to raise the awareness of leprosy to the peopleas well as spreading knowledge about the transmission of leprosy and the elimination of discrimination of people affected by leprosy and their families.

**4.** What actions 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? Is freedom to choose where to live ensured for persons affected by leprosy and their family members?

Since 1982, there were modifications in the policies for leprosy patients. The patients have the option to be managed and treated in their households under the monitor of primary heath care services instead of being isolated in specific zones.

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

They are welcome to recieve consultations from proffesionals in different matters related that concerned them.

**6**. Do persons affected by leprosy enjoy the following rights fully and equally with others(please check where applicable):

(x) citizenship;

(x) obtaining identity documents;

(x) right to vote;

(x) right to stand for elections;

(x) right to serve the public in any capacity;

( ) others? please specify.

**7.** Do persons affected by leprosy enjoy equal rights with others with regard to (please check where applicable):

(x) work;

(x) education

(x) establishing a family;

(x) access to public places, including hotels, restaurants; and buses, taxis, trains and other forms of public transport;

(x) access to cultural and recreational facilities;

(x) access to places of worship;

( ) others?

**8**. What actions have been taken to promote and protect the human rights of

Human rights of women, children, the elderly are promoted and protected by different non-government organisations and associations such as the Vietnam Association of the Elderly, UNICEF, FHI, etc. As for people affected by leprosy and their families, they only receive support from Vietnamese government.

(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.

**9**. 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.

Not yet planned.

**10.** What major obstacles, if any, has your Government faced in implementing the Principles and Guidelinesfor the eliminationof discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members?

The most critical issue the government has faced is the lack of support from other organisations because they no longer invest in researching the disease as the number of patients has decreased over the years and it has become an old disease.

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

From my perspective, it is important to establish communications and update information on areas that are affected by leprosy in the world. In addition, we should provide support to developing countries to obtain better results.

**12**. 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?

Diffretiate prejudice about leprosy by taking these actions:

* Promote and improve the education about leprosy.
* Raise the awareness of leprosy to the people.
* Arrange media meetings with the participation of the patients and their family members.
* Encourage the participation of reputated people, experts and national leaders in such occasions.

**Deadline for submission of responses:**

All parties are encouraged to submit their responses via email or fax as soon as possible but no later than **30 June 2016** to:

**hrcadvisorycommittee@ohchr.org**[Subject: HRCAC Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy]

or

Secretariat of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

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Thank you in advance for your contribution.

For more information about the Advisory Committee, please visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/HRCACIndex.aspx>

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1. A/HRC/AC/15/L.3 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)