



Greater Involvement of People with Tuberculosis

We, people with tuberculosis (TB, TB-HIV, DR-TB) and former patients, our families, friends and allied organizations, recognize

- that some two million of our peers die each year from TB, an infectious disease declared 'curable' nearly fifty years ago;
- that the TB pandemic constitutes a threat to humanity and that its spread is affecting all societies;
- that it is hindering social and economic development, in particular of the worst affected countries, and increasing the disparities within and between countries;
- that poverty and discrimination are contributing factors in the spread of the pandemic;
- that tuberculosis inflicts irreparable damage on families and communities, and affects all people without distinction;
- that it not only causes physical and emotional suffering but is often used as justification for violations of human rights of people with tuberculosis;
- that 'TB Control' has meant that patients have not had a say in their tuberculosis treatment, nor accessible information about it;
- that people with TB have not participated in healthcare decisions that impact on their lives and those of their families;
- that the inefficiency of 'control' is being challenged by the approach of TB Care and Prevention, centering on the needs of patients and their community, in close collaboration with local health service providers;
- that effective TB Care and patient empowerment are inseparable, and must be an integral component of comprehensive national approaches, as outlined in the WHO Stop TB Strategy for 2006-2015;
- that top-down words about 'engaging affected communities' are vague and meaningless, and serve to marginalize patients struggling to empower peers to be at the center of both care and community mobilization;
- that new local, national and international patient-powered organizations are emerging, with the majority stakeholding and leadership held by people who have been through TB treatment;
- that patients have the right to develop an accountable system of representation through transparent elections to assure that the mandate comes from peers on the 'bottom', not professionals at the 'top'.

We solemnly declare

- our commitment to make the fight against TB a priority, and to mobilize all of society - the public and private sectors, community-based organizations and people living with TB in a spirit of true partnership;
- our determination to ensure that all patients are able to realize the full enjoyment of their fundamental rights, and uphold their responsibilities, without distinction and under all circumstances, as outlined in the *Patients' Charter for Tuberculosis Care*;
- our appreciation for the intergovernmental, national, non-governmental and community-based organizations that practice subsidiarity, passing authority downward towards the most affected people with TB and their organizations.

We undertake to

- protect and promote the rights of those with TB through the social and legal environment, by transparent and accountable ways and means;
- promote and advance the rights of people with TB and their non-governmental and community-based organizations in the formulation and implementation of public policies;
- support and promote accountable representation for / by patients on decision-making bodies, with mandates from other patients;
- advocate and establish equal protection under the law for persons with TB with regard to access to health care, employment, education, travel, housing, social welfare and all other relevant pursuits.

We are resolved to

- support the greater involvement of people with TB through initiatives to strengthen the capacity and coordination of patients and their community organizations. By ensuring their full involvement in the common response to the pandemic at all levels, from local to global, these 'empowerment drives' will stimulate the creation of supportive political, legal and social environments;
- encourage a global TB Care initiative so as to reinforce the national capability of countries, especially those in greatest need, to ensure access to patient-centered TB care, as defined by the *International Standards for Tuberculosis Care*, including social support services, essential drugs, diagnostics and dignity.

We call upon all peoples, organizations and authorities to support this declaration for Greater Involvement of People with Tuberculosis (GIPT) and to take all steps possible to implement these principles on all levels of the effort to Stop TB.

www.worldcarecouncil.org/content/greater-involvement-people-tb-gipt