



## LEPROSY AND HUMAN RIGHTS: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

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17<sup>th</sup> International Leprosy Congress,  
Hyderabad, India



## Key Universal Rights

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Article 25 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) asserts:

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well being of himself and his family including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.”



## Key Specific Rights

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UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (2006):

A major new international legal instrument with a greater focus on inclusivity in development



## BROADER RIGHTS

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The human rights that pertain to people affected by leprosy should not be seen as relating *only* to *health* or *disability*.

People affected by leprosy have the same human rights as all people.



## ICESCR

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Perhaps the most appropriate instrument to utilise remains the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)

- Almost all the articles of this Covenant can be seen to remain unfulfilled for people who have been affected by leprosy.



## International Covenant

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- Self determination, economic and social and cultural rights, right to work and fair remuneration, protection of the family, adequate living standards, physical and mental health, education, participation in cultural life, benefits of scientific progress.



## Strategies

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Specific practical strategies are needed to promote the obligations of States to respect, protect, fulfil and promote the rights enshrined in this Covenant and other appropriate conventions.



## Possible Strategies

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- Better use of media and language
- Legislative reform
- Working together



## RIGHTS BASED DEVELOPMENT

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- All these strategies must be geared towards making rights based development more inclusive *for all*
- They will require each and every one of us to act locally in our own contexts but also globally in the wider context of human rights *for all*



Thank You

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‘In nature there’s no blemish but the  
mind;  
none can be called deformed but the  
unkind.’

William Shakespeare