

Press Release

FROM EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR PALLIATIVE CARE

EUROPEAN PALLIATIVE CARE DAY - 15 JUNE 2023

Palliative Care is an approach that provides specialised medical care to patients with life-limiting illnesses. It focuses on managing symptoms, improving the quality of life, and providing emotional and spiritual support to patients and their families. The European Parliamentary Assembly recognises that palliative care is fundamental to human dignity and a component of the human right to health.

The most recent data available for the European region estimates that annually 4.4 million people in Europe need palliative care ([EAPC Atlas of Palliative Care in Europe 2019](#)). As populations age and the burden of non-communicable disease increases, the need for palliative care will also grow.

We know that there are inequalities in the provision and quality of palliative care across Europe. Many European countries do not have palliative care included in national policy or equal access to essential medicines used in palliative care. There are also differences across Europe in the education and training available for the healthcare workforce. These disparities mean that vulnerable people and their families who are living in Europe with a life-limiting illness are experiencing preventable and unresolved suffering.

European Palliative Care Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of palliative care and to highlight the need for increased access to palliative care services which has **two aims**:

1. Highlight palliative care as being fundamental to the provision of universal health coverage with the general public, professionals and policy makers.
2. Support improved health literacy about palliative care among the public, patients, professionals and policy-makers.

The **campaign began** in early May 2023, in collaboration with our members in the EU Member states. A communications and messaging campaign has been through digital media,



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building up to our celebration of European Palliative Care Day on 15th June, which is also the opening day of the 18th EAPC World Congress on Palliative Care in Rotterdam. Our colleagues in France, members of the French Society for Palliative Care (SFAP), are also attending their national conference in Nantes on this day.

Through this campaign we aim to engage our members and European citizens. We want to improve the understanding and awareness of palliative care, highlight good practice and promote activism within individuals to advocate for this very important aspect of care.

The EAPC, as a European membership organisation support our members within 23 of the 27 member states, we're very aware (as are our members) of the huge discrepancies in service provision throughout the countries and we believe this campaign will help to highlight this and help to influence policy for improvement.

Further Information:

<https://eapcnet.eu/EU-palliative-care-day/>



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