



CHAI-Kochi declaration

We, the participants the National Health Convention of the Catholic health Association of India (CHAI) in collaboration with Pontifical Academy for Life and Pallium India at Kochi, Kerala, India on the 23rd and 24th of September 2017,

finding

- that there is a huge burden of unrelieved pain and suffering associated with life limiting diseases in India,
- that palliative care can effectively relieve most of such suffering,
- that palliative care is relatively inexpensive and affordable,
- that minimum standards for care delivery have been defined by a national working group in India¹,
- that the world health assembly in 2014² asked all member countries of the United Nations to integrate palliative care in to their health systems, and
- that Pope Francis in his address in Vatican radio on 05 March 2015³ exhorted health care professionals to ensure provision for palliative care for the needy.

unanimously declare that

- providing palliative care is a moral and ethical imperative for all health systems,

and by

- exhort all member institutions of CHAI to work together to ensure availability of quality palliative care as part of their health care delivery, by:

- establishing palliative care facilities with emphasis on care at home supported by home visit teams and by outpatient and inpatient services as required, with participation of the community;
- ensuring education of medical, nursing and ancillary staff, students and volunteers in the science and art of palliative care; and
- ensuring uninterrupted access to affordable palliative medicines including oral morphine for pain relief

¹ <http://www.jpalliativecare.com/article.asp?issn=0973> accessed on 05 Septem 2017.

¹¹ http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/03/05/pope_francis_we_must_not_abandon_the_elderly/1127144 accessed on 05 Septem 2017 1075;year=2014;volume=20;issue=3;spage=201;epage=207;aulast=Rajagopal;type=3

² <http://apps.who.int/medicinedocs/en/d/Js21454zh/> accessed on 05 Septem 2017.

³³ http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/03/05/pope_francis_we_must_not_abandon_the_elderly/1127144 accessed on 05 Septem 2017