

Manifesto for a Human Rights Based Medicine

After the International Workshop “Building Medicine in Africa. Principles and Strategies” hosted at San Servolo Island, Venice, Italy, on May 14 -15, 2008 and in accordance with the spirit and the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stating that

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” (art.1)

“Everyone has the right...to medical care” (art.25)

“ The recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world” (*Preamble*)

We hereby declare

the “Right to be Cured” as a basic and inalienable right belonging to each and every member of the human community.

We therefore advocate

the implementation of health systems and projects solely devoted to preserve, extend and improve the life of the people in need and based on the following principles:

Equality

Every human being has the right to be cured regardless his economic and social condition, gender, race, language, religion and opinions. Standards of health care, set by the progress of medical knowledge, must be delivered equally and without discrimination to all patients.

Quality

High quality health systems must be based on community’s needs, up to date with the achievements of medical science, and not oriented, shaped or determined by lobbies and corporations involved in the health industry.

Social responsibility

Governments must have the health and well being of their citizens as their priority, and allocate adequate human and financial resources. The services provided by health systems and humanitarian projects in the health sector must be accessible to and free of charge for all.

As Health Authorities and Humanitarian Organizations

We recognize

EQS (Equality, Quality, Social responsibility) based health systems and projects as respectful of human rights, appropriate to develop medical science and effective in promoting health by strengthening and generating human, scientific and material resources.

We commit

To plan and develop **EQS** based policies, health systems and projects.

To cooperate among us to identify common needs in the health sector and design joint programmes.

We appeal

To other Health Authorities and Humanitarian Organisations to sign this Manifesto and to join in promoting an **EQS** based medicine.

To donors and to the international aid community to support, fund and participate in designing and implementing **EQS** based programmes.