



## CHAI-Kochi declaration

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We, the participants the National Health Convention of the Catholic health Association of India (CHAI) 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 India<sup>1</sup>,
- that the world health assembly in 2014<sup>2</sup> 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 2015<sup>3</sup> 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

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

<sup>11</sup> [http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/03/05/pope\\_francis\\_we\\_must\\_not\\_abandon\\_the\\_elderly/1127144](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

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

<sup>33</sup> [http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/03/05/pope\\_francis\\_we\\_must\\_not\\_abandon\\_the\\_elderly/1127144](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/03/05/pope_francis_we_must_not_abandon_the_elderly/1127144) accessed on 05 Septem 2017