



What is the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance?

The Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance (WPCA) is an alliance of national and regional hospice and palliative care organisations. It is a global action network designed to focus exclusively on hospice and palliative care development worldwide.

Vision: A world with universal access to quality palliative care

Mission: To foster, promote and influence the delivery of affordable, quality palliative care

Why is there a need for the WPCA?

Hospice and palliative care is still unavailable to many of those in need, especially in the developing world. Only 15% of the world's countries have hospice and palliative care that is integrated with general healthcare. Over 100 million patients and family carers need palliative care annually, and at best the WPCA estimates that only 7% receive it.

Hospice and palliative care associations worldwide have formed the WPCA to meet this need. The WPCA will provide a representative voice to promote hospice and palliative care on the international stage.

How is the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance structured?

The WPCA is a registered UK charity.

The Board of Trustees is an international board with worldwide representation (see below). WPCA activities are managed by a number of workgroups chaired in different national associations and with members from around the world, as follows:

- **Advocacy** – Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, Canada;
 - World Hospice Palliative Care Association sub group, France
- **Education and Training** – Hospice Palliative Care Association, South Africa
- **International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN)** – Hospice Palliative Care Association, South Africa
- **Policy** – African Palliative Care Association, Uganda
- **Quality and Standards** – National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, USA
- **Research** – Palliative Care Australia

What has the WPCA accomplished so far?

The WPCA has held three summits bringing together representatives from regional and national associations worldwide. These events have facilitated the sharing of learning and knowledge around the national development of hospice and palliative care and contributed to the strategic development and work plan of the WPCA.

These summits took place in The Hague, The Netherlands, 2003, Seoul, Korea, 2005 and Nairobi, Kenya, 2007, coinciding with the regional association conferences.

The WPCA has also successfully undertaken/is undertaking the following activities:

Advocacy

- Organised the annual World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (World Day) each year since 2005, with approximately 70 countries around the world taking part.
- Highlighted palliative care at the last two international AIDS conferences including large symposiums.
- Delivered workshops on advocacy capacity in various locations including the Montreal Palliative Care Conference and the Asociación Latinoamericana de Cuidados Paliativos conference.

Education and training

- Developed an online foundational course in palliative care.
- Developed a survey document to be used to create a database of palliative care training programmes.
- Endorsed a publication on how to develop palliative care entitled [Palliative Care Toolkit – Improving care from the roots up in resource-limited settings](#).

International Children's Palliative Care Network

- Appointed a full-time Information Officer.
- Developed a website (www.icpcn.org.uk) and a quarterly newsletter.
- Produced the [ICPCN charter on the rights of children with life-limiting conditions](#) for World Day 2008. This was translated into 21 languages and distributed internationally and on the website.
- Developed a strong network with 199 individuals and 120 organisations from 35 countries at present.

Policy

- Agreed membership and terms of reference for the policy group.
- Developing the framework for how to present policies.
- Developing a template for WPCA policy documents including guidance on what is to be circulated to trustees.
- Policy statements relating to the definition of palliative care and the relation of palliative care with health systems, human rights and gender issues are currently being developed.

Quality and standards

- Developed a directory of national palliative care standards.
- A comprehensive online Palliative Care Association Toolkit has been created for three levels of association development:
 1. new associations
 2. mid-level associations
 3. mature associations.
- Developing a database on palliative care quality measurement initiatives.

Proposed research work group

The WPCA Board approved setting up a work group to help guide policy-making and for building and sharing research capacity. Future activity may include an international journal with free online access.

Why become a member of the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance?

There are several benefits to being a member of the WPCA:

- Benefit from the collective strength of the membership.
- Participate in building an international voice for hospice and palliative care that can advocate for the needs of our patients and providers with international organisations including the World Health Organization, Global Fund, UNAIDS, and international funders.
- Share in the ownership of the WPCA:
 - power to nominate and elect to the Board;
 - power to nominate to the working groups.
- Access the resources of the WPCA to support the national development of hospice and palliative care.
- Network with hospice and palliative care leaders throughout the world.
- Develop skills in national development including leadership, education and training, fundraising, advocacy, communication, organizational development, and quality and standards.
- Share expertise and learning with other national hospice and palliative care associations.

Why do we need the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance?

There is a lot to do to support the development of hospice and palliative care worldwide. Increasingly the importance of national hospice and palliative care organisations is being recognised in supporting this development.

The WPCA seeks to support the development of all regional and national associations while providing a strong, collective global voice on hospice and palliative care.

How much will membership cost?

Membership is free to qualified organizations.

Will the Board of Trustees be directly elected by members?

Members will be able to nominate and elect the majority of trustees. All nominations will need to be approved by the nominations committee before going out for election.

Who qualifies for membership?

Regional Association member	An organisation or association identified in the bye-laws
National Association member	A national organisation whose members are organisations who provide hospice and/or palliative care
National Professional Association member	A national body or association of professionals involved in hospice and/or palliative care
Affiliate member	<p>State level association An organisation or association concerned with hospice or palliative care provision in one or more states within a country</p> <p>Academic institution An academic body or institution concerned with education and/or research into hospice and/or palliative care</p> <p>Other national and international organisation An organisation or association with an interest in supporting hospice and palliative care in a country or more than one country</p> <p>Government bodies Any official governmental body interested in supporting palliative care development within its country</p>

Why is the WPCA registered in the UK?

After research and consultation, it was found that the UK has the most favourable legal and financial system for running an international network.

Where is the WPCA currently based and how is the WPCA staffed?

The WPCA is a global action network that is multi-hubbed and growing. Administrative functions are currently being managed through the Help the Hospices office in London, with support from NHPCO in the Washington DC area. The ICPCN is being managed out of South Africa.

Stephen Connor, in Washington DC, is the Senior Executive to support the development of the WPCA. Claire Morris serves as the Advocacy Officer for the WPCA based in London, and Sue Boucher is International Information Officer for the ICPCN.

The work groups are chaired by individuals from different national associations throughout the world and are administered within those national associations.

The staffing needs of the WPCA will be reviewed as the network develops.

Will my organisation be able to participate in the working groups?

The working groups encourage new members from national and regional hospice and palliative care organisations worldwide. The working groups have terms of reference and membership criteria based on skills and geographical representation.

Vacancies on the working groups will be advertised through WPCA channels of communication.

If you are interested in joining one of the working groups, please email wpc@helpthehospices.org.uk

What is the relationship between the International Association for Hospice & Palliative Care and the WPCA?

The primary membership of the WPCA is organisations, and therefore the focus of its activities will be supporting the needs of national and regional organizations to develop hospice and palliative care. The primary members of the IAHPC are individuals working in palliative care, and it has so far been largely focusing on professional issues.

The WPCA and IAHPC have a memorandum of understanding which outlines clearly the differing responsibilities and remits. The WPCA and the IAHPC will continue to work closely together to support the development of hospice and palliative care worldwide.

What is the relationship between the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance and regional associations?

All regional associations are entitled to one nominated trustee on the Board of the WPCA and are eligible to be members of the WPCA.

The WPCA will work in collaboration with and through the regional associations to maximise the provision of support to national associations and to strengthen our collective global voice.

Who serves on the WPCA Board of Trustees?

BAXTER, Sharon, MSW, MPA
WPCA Advocacy Work Group Chair
Executive Director, Canadian Hospice
Palliative Care Association, Canada

CALLAWAY, Mary, ME
WPCA Board Observer
Director, Open Society Institute, International
Palliative Care Initiative,
USA

GOH, Cynthia, MD
WPCA Co-Chair
Chair, Asia Pacific Hospice and Palliative Care
Network, Singapore

GWYTHHER, Elizabeth, MD
WPCA Education Work Group Chair
CEO, Hospice and Palliative Care Association,
South Africa

MARSTON, Joan, RN
Chair, International Children's Palliative Care
Network, South Africa

MOSOIU, Daniela, MD
Chair, Asociatia Nationala de Ingrijire Paliatia,
Romania

O'CONNOR, Margaret, PhD
WPCA Research Workgroup Chair
Chair, Palliative Care Australia;
Professor, Chair in Nursing and Palliative Care,
Australia

PALERI, Anil, MD
Honorary Secretary, Indian Association for
Palliative Care, India

PRAILL, David
WPCA Co-Chair
CEO, Help the Hospices, UK

MWANGI-POWELL, Faith, PhD
WPCA Policy Workgroup Co-Chair
Executive Director, African Palliative Care
Association, Uganda

RADBRACH, Lukas, MD
WPCA Treasurer
Chair, European Association of Palliative Care
Professor of Medicine, University Aachen,
Germany

SCHUMACHER, J. Donald, PsyD
President and CEO, National Hospice &
Palliative Care Organization, USA

Staffing

Stephen R. Connor, PhD – Senior Executive (sconnor@nhpco.org)
Claire Morris – Advocacy Officer (c.morris@helpthehospices.org.uk)
Sue Boucher – International Information Officer, ICPCN (sue@icpcn.co.za)

How will the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance communicate with its members?

The WPCA is developing its communications strategy and the website is currently under construction (www.thewpca.org).

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