WPCA advocacy guidance for national associations and palliative care leaders for implementation of the resolution

In May 2014, government health officials from around the world adopted the first ever stand alone palliative care resolution at the World Health Assembly. We now need action.

First steps:

1. Read the palliative care resolution. If you have any questions or doubts about the content, contact the WPCA with your questions (info@thewpca.org)
2. Bring together allies in your country who support the implementation of the resolution to agree the advocacy strategy and what the priorities are in your country or setting
3. Find out, if you do not know already, the contact person for the Ministry of Health on palliative care
4. Write to the Minister of Health requesting a meeting on plans for the implementation of the resolution.

Prior to the meeting:

5. Ensure that you are clear who will be at the meeting and find out as much as possible about their knowledge and experience of palliative care.
6. Go to the meeting with a colleague or influential individual who understands the issue e.g. academic,
7. Prepare your 2 page briefing this should include:
    - Status of palliative care in your country (include atlas and your own figures)
    - Major challenges affecting palliative care provision in your country for adults and children. This should include:
        a. National policies
        b. Education of health care workers
        c. Availability and accessibility of opioid
        d. National level funding for palliative care
    - Existing commitments to palliative care by your government including NCDS political declaration and access to palliative care indicator, HIV political declaration, National health policies, Universal health coverage etc.
    - Make recommendations on what is needed from MOH to implement resolution
8. Take applicable, persuasive and supporting documents e.g. WHO guidelines, Global Atlas, Resolution
9. Highlight that reporting back on the resolution will happen in 2016 so action is urgent.

At the meeting:

10. Offer external support to implement the resolution through your own agencies and other groups (e.g regional associations, WPCA) through technical assistance and support.
11. Secure commitment to action from Ministry of Health with timelines
12. Arrange follow up meeting and set timelines for follow up actions

Following the meeting:

13. Write up notes from the meeting and share with those present to ensure actions are agreed
14. Send letter of thanks to attendees outlining key action points agreed
15. Contact the WPCA, EHospice, and other partners, to inform about your advocacy.
16. Timetable future advocacy opportunities including World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

Contacts for further information and support and to be directed to technical assistance:
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