



PRESS STATEMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL CHILDHOOD CANCER DAY – 15 FEBRUARY 2011

Members of The International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organisations (ICCCPO), will be hosting numerous awareness and fundraising projects to coincide with International Childhood Cancer Day (15 February) highlighting the joint call for more support of childhood cancer by ICCCPO and World Child Cancer.

The messages will focus on and endorse the message sent to the UN by the European Cancer Patient Coalition, calling on them to recognize that prevention programmes are generally irrelevant to rare cancers and to rather focus on better support, research and treatment for these cancers – childhood cancer being an example.

Childhood cancer globally receives little attention from researchers and health authorities. Prevention of childhood cancer is not possible in almost all cases, and the many global cancer programmes aimed at prevention, are largely unrelated and irrelevant to childhood cancers. For this reason it is important that the focus be on early diagnosis, early detection, support of affected children and improved treatment – especially in the developing world which accounts for 80% of the global incidence of childhood cancer.

In the developed world children on average have a 75% chance of surviving cancer, however, the situation in low- and middle-income countries, although improving, is very different, with only 20% of those that do receive treatment surviving as appropriate treatment is not available or not affordable.

“Through the sharing of vital expertise and skills and the utilisation of valuable support from doctors and childhood cancer parent support groups in resource-rich countries, these combined efforts are already improving the support and treatment that children suffering from cancer receive”, says **Benson Pau** chairperson of ICCCPO.

“Between us, ICCCPO and World Child Cancer we are supporting projects in low and middle income countries. These projects will save children’s lives and reduce their suffering by improving curative and palliative treatment but will also build

capacity by training medics and improving facilities so that many more children can benefit in the future,” says **Gordon Morrison**, chair of World Child Cancer.

On 15th February this year, organisations from across the globe will be participating in International Childhood Cancer Day, to raise awareness of the plight of children living with cancer and the imbalances that exist between the quality of care and support provided to children with cancer in the developed world as compared to the developing world.

“It makes me feel so encouraged when I witness first hand the support that ICCCPo and World Child Cancer provides to children with cancer from my country. Were it not for the support that ICCCPo and World Child Cancer provide, the children I see would have received little to no medical treatment, no support and would die in pain and without dignity.” **Comfort** a nurse helping in a children’s cancer ward.

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Notes to Editors:

Further information about ICCCPo and World Child Cancer visit:

www.icccpo.org

www.worldchildcancer.org