

For immediate release

His Royal Highness Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, champion of people affected by leprosy, is remembered by Lepra

COLCHESTER, ESSEX - It is with great sadness and regret that Lepra has learnt of the passing of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh one of our great and most respected supporters.

His Royal Highness, has been a long standing supporter of Lepra, along with Lepra's patron Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth.

In the past His Royal Highness supported Lepra's Child Adoption Scheme sponsoring boys and girls affected by leprosy in Africa. This scheme enabled children to receive treatment and continue their education thereby enabling them to pursue independent and fulfilling lives. Lepra's Dr. Doug Coffin, writing from the Itu settlement in 1940 wrote of the Child Adoption Scheme, *"A child, if they are to grow into a normal healthy adult, free from any major complexes, needs to be brought up in the company of other children, to experience kindness from their elders, receive education and not suffer anxiety about their shelter and food."*

In 1956, during the Royal visit to Africa and as a part of their support of Lepra, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness met with many people affected by leprosy. Prince Philip visited many sick and disabled people in their homes, clinics and communities. His Royal Highness was notably warm, sympathetic and supportive of all those he met with leprosy. These included a young boy sponsored by His Royal Highness. All the children were very grateful to the Royal Family for their personal support.

His Royal Highness Prince Philip and Her Majesty the Queen also supported the building of new children's homes in Nigeria, where children affected by leprosy could live and receive treatment, care and education.

During one visit to Lepra's programmes in Africa His Royal Highness took a particular interest in the scientific advances following from Lepra's pioneering use of Dapsone as the first cure for leprosy. His Royal Highness was famously photographed peering into a Lepra microscope at the leprosy bacilli. This photograph is attached to this press release.

Lepra's longstanding and historic relationship with the Royal Family began in 1924, with the future King Edward VIII acting as a patron at Lepra's inception. Since then Lepra has had Royal Patrons and is honoured to have Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, as our patron today. We therefore wish to express our condolences to Her Majesty and extend our greatest sympathy to the Royal Family.

The passing of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh is a sad day for all of us and a great loss for the cause of leprosy.

ENDS

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Notes for Editors

About Lepra and leprosy

Our Vision - A world free from prejudice and disability due to leprosy

We are secular, open to all religions, races, classes, gender. A positive decision to favour no one and everyone. We support those who are subject to the most neglect from existing services, as well as continuing to work with those who are not specifically marginalised or ignored.

Since 1924, we prioritised being evidence-led. Being evidence-led culminated in the adoption of Dapsone after it was observed being used by veterinarians. Thus Lepra working with the Indian Government, became the first to find and use a cure for leprosy. Being evidence-led in the contemporary context, means remaining committed to doing what is best for people affected by leprosy.

Lepra works internationally across the leprosy spectrum including transmission, disability prevention and medical rehabilitation (DPMR) and advocacy. Lepra works to beat leprosy in India, Bangladesh, and Zimbabwe by finding, diagnosing and treating people affected by the disease.

Last year, the charity reached 260,893 people through diagnosis, treatment and care. It reached a further 995,659 people through health education and events to raise awareness of leprosy and other neglected diseases.

Find out more about Lepra on its website and social media channels:

Website: www.lepra.org.uk

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LepraUK>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LEPRAUK/>

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LEPRAHinA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/LepraUK/>

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