

April 2019

LEPRA WELCOMES JAYASHREE KUNJU ON HER VISIT TO THE UK

International charity, Lepra, is delighted to be welcoming Jayashree Kunju, Vice Chairman of trustees of LEPRA Society India on her upcoming visit to the UK. Jayashree is visiting the UK to work within a Temporary Expert Group (TEG) to produce updated ILEP Guidelines against prejudice, helping to make positive steps in stopping the extreme prejudice and discrimination people with leprosy face.

30 years ago, Jayashree was diagnosed with leprosy, and prior to her diagnosis she had confidence in herself and a bright future ahead of her. Following her leprosy diagnosis, her life completely changed. Jayashree was lucky to have the support of her family however she still suffered from anxiety and fear because of the discrimination and prejudice surrounding the disease. When Jayashree was cured of leprosy, she was determined to help others suffering from the disease.

Jayashree is a member of a number of organisations, including Lepra, working to raise awareness about leprosy, with a vision to beat the disease. Jayashree is passionate about changing the perception of leprosy, and stopping prejudice and discrimination.

Jayashree said, “My vision is to create a world where people no longer fear leprosy and the prejudice and discrimination towards to disease disappears, so that we can bring justice to all of those who have suffered”.

You can learn more about Jayashree’s story here: <https://www.lepra.org.uk/jayashrees-story>

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Notes for Editors

About Lepra and leprosy

Lepra is a UK-based international specialist charity that has been working to beat leprosy since 1924. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became Patron of Lepra in 1952, shortly after the death of her father King George VI, who had been Lepra's Patron since the charity was founded in 1924.

Leprosy affects over 7 million of the most vulnerable people in the world, causing life-changing disabilities and attracting terrible prejudice and discrimination. **But there is a cure.**

Lepra works to beat leprosy in India, Bangladesh and Mozambique by finding, diagnosing and treating people affected by the disease. By raising awareness, pushing for early detection and supporting people living with disabilities caused by leprosy, Lepra works towards a day when this disease no longer destroys lives.

Last year, the charity reached 301,000 people through diagnosis, treatment and care. It reached a further 1.7 million 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/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/lepra/>