

## **Ritherdon & Co Ltd. support international charity Lepra during COVID-19 crisis**

Lepra, an international leprosy charity working in India, Bangladesh, Mozambique and Zimbabwe has been affected during the global COVID-19 crisis.

The pandemic has been particularly difficult for those dealing with leprosy, living in cramped conditions with no access to healthcare facilities, nutritious food or adequate sanitation.

Charities have been disproportionately affected throughout the pandemic, with many struggling to continue fundraising activities under lockdown conditions. Charities, like Lepra, rely on donations and corporate support to continue delivering lifesaving treatment and support to those most in need.

Ritherdon & Co Ltd., a corporate partner, have supported us during the pandemic, ensuring that we can continue helping those in need.

Geoff Prescott, Chief Executive of Lepra in the UK says, "At times like this, we are expecting a huge growth in prejudice. When people turn inwards, they often become quite insular and prejudices are stoked. Therefore, people with leprosy will catch COVID-19, but also extra prejudice.

People with leprosy are already marginalised from health services. We expect this to worsen with a COVID-19 diagnosis."

Our corporate partnerships remain vital year round, but especially during times of such global instability. We are lucky to receive such support from Ritherdon & Co Ltd. and look forward to continuing our relationship.

We are always seeking new partnerships, with the view to changing lives and moving a step closer to a day when leprosy is no longer a public health issue. Please contact [lepra@lepra.org.uk](mailto:lepra@lepra.org.uk) if you are interested in supporting us.

## ENDS

### For more information, please contact:

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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 people around the world. While leprosy can affect anyone, it particularly affects people who are already vulnerable for reasons of poverty, education, culture or other risk factors. Left untreated, leprosy can cause life-changing disabilities and attracts terrible prejudice and discrimination. **But there is a cure.**

Lepra works to beat leprosy in India, Bangladesh, Mozambique and Zimbabwe 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](http://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/>