

Declaration following the Ukrainian-French Seminar (14-15 September 2007, Kiev)

Following the France-Ukraine conference* on “the legal framework for patients' rights and security and the organization of palliative care: the right to dignity” held in Kiev on 14th and 15th September 2007, we solemnly declare:

The promotion of patients' rights and security in Ukraine must integrate the control of physical pain and mental suffering into any approach to patient care, especially for patients at the end of life.

As pain control is a condition for all other forms of supportive care (social, psychological, spiritual or religious care), legislation and a legal framework permitting the use of analgesics and all forms of morphinic substances is not only essential but paramount.

We undertake:

- through work on existing French and Ukrainian legal instruments,
- by encouraging public debate,
- by setting up a pilot scheme in a Ukrainian health-care establishment,

to ensure progress in Ukraine so that the basic human right to pain control can be exercised, thus permitting the implementation of all other forms of supportive care (social, psychological, spiritual or religious care).

This declaration is signed by the members of the All-Ukrainian Council for patients' rights and security and by the French delegates to the conference.

Translated from French by Liz Muller

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