



Pontifical Academy for Life



## PALLIATIVE CARE: EVERYWHERE & BY EVERYONE

Palliative Care in every region.  
Palliative Care in every religion or belief

Rome February 28<sup>th</sup> - March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

# White Paper for Global Palliative Care Advocacy

PAL-LIFE experts advisory group  
of the Pontifical Academy for  
Life, Vatican City

Presented by  
**Carlos Centeno**  
**Liliana de Lima**



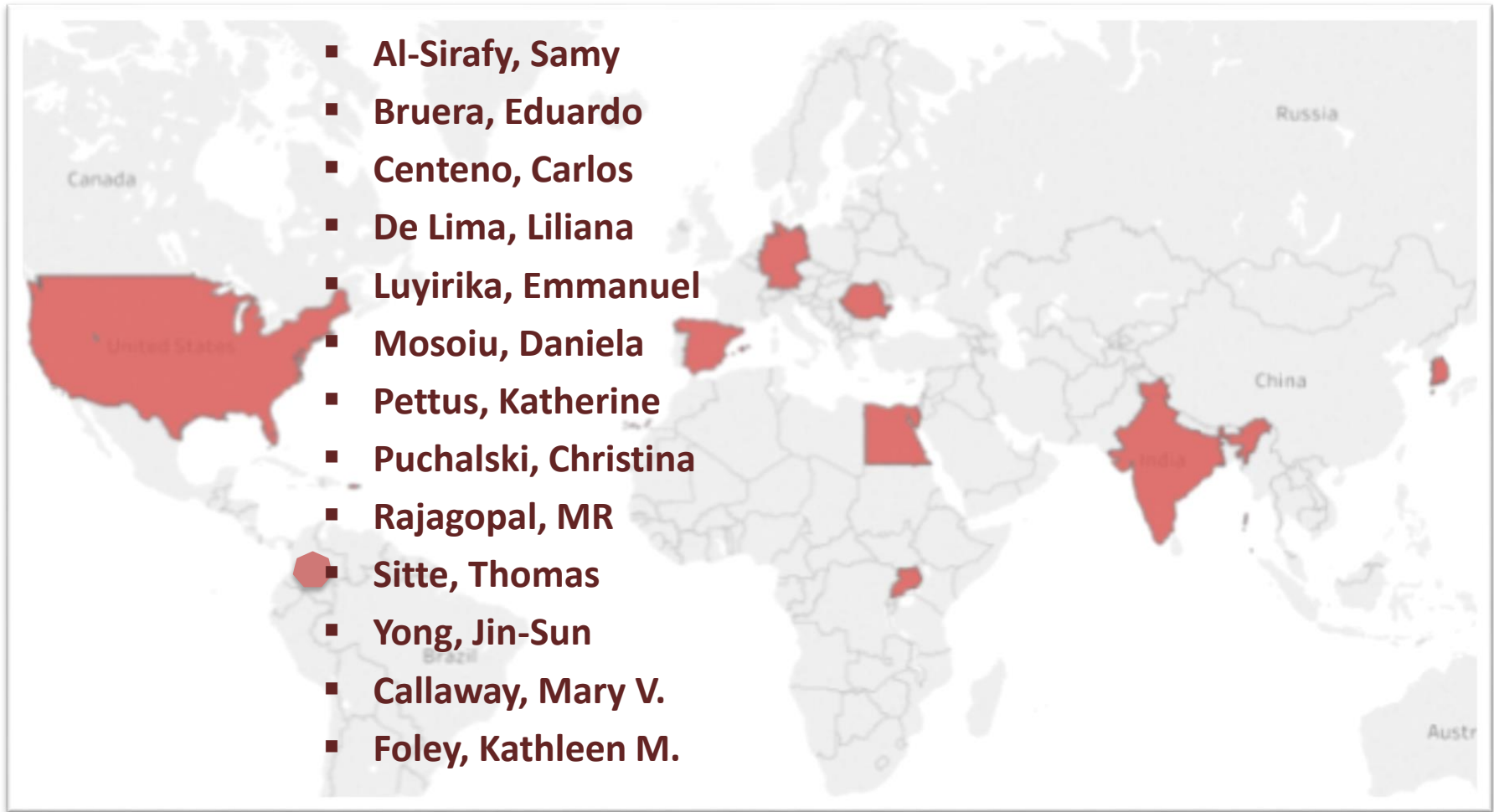
# What is it the PAL-LIFE group?

- **An advisory group of the Pontifical Academy for Life (PAV)**
- **Mission: to inform, offer guidance and advice in promoting and advancing Palliative Care globally**
  - According with the mission of the PAV to promote care for human life, recognizing the dignity in all persons regardless of their condition, diagnosis or prognosis



# Members of PAL-LIFE group

13 palliative care experts and advocates, all regions, backgrounds, and religious or spiritual beliefs



# When did it all started?

1<sup>st</sup> meeting  
Rome, April 2017

1. A basic PC **strategy for the PAV**
2. The writing of a **White Paper** for Global PC Advocacy
3. A big event in the Vatican was also proposed





# More info...

JOURNAL OF PALLIATIVE MEDICINE  
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## Letter to the Editor

### “PAL-LIFE Project: International Advisory Working Group on Diffusion and Development of Palliative Care in the World” — First Meeting Report

Nunziata Comoretto, MD, PhD

**T**HE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY FOR LIFE (Vatican City) has recently launched a new Project on the care for the dying, called “PAL-LIFE: International Advisory Working Group on the Diffusion and Development of Palliative

health systems, is considered an important step on to urge member states to develop PC policies (M. Rajagopal).

The biggest obstacle to the development of PC programs globally is the lack of awareness of their existence and spec-

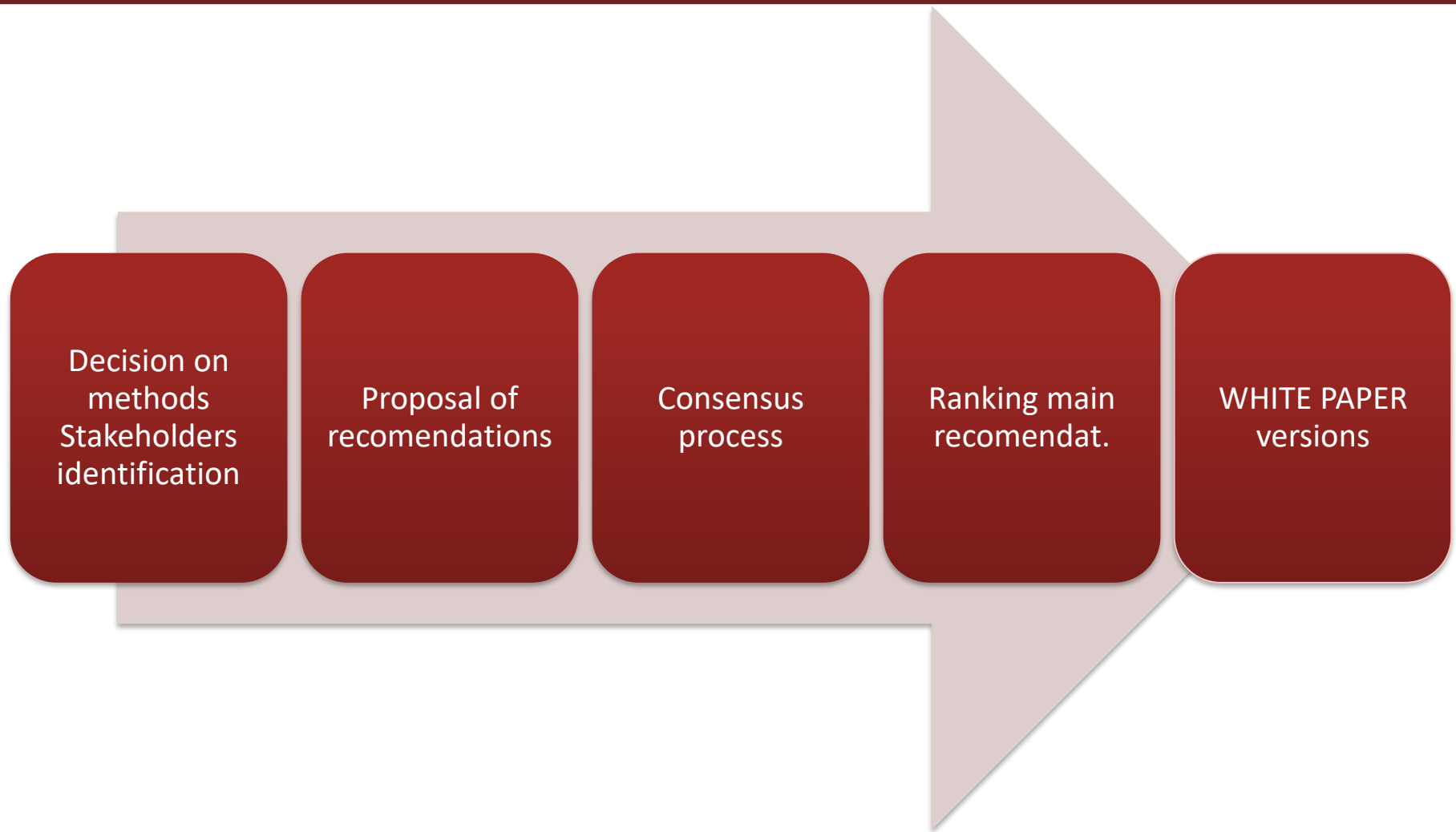


# What is it the White Paper?

The White Paper represents a **position statement** of the Pontifical Academy of Life and aims at presenting the most important **recommendations for the diverse stakeholders** groups involved in global PC development.



# How was the White Paper developed?



Working mainly by e-mail and using ATLANTES Research Group, University of Navarra as the Research central office

# Results

- **13 stakeholder groups were identified**
- **43 recommendations were formulated**
- **The ad hoc group considered all of them of the highest importance**
- **The highest recommendation (per each stakeholder) was selected as MAIN REC. for the brief version**





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## PAL-LIFE Advocacy Group Palliative Care around the World

### The global situation

It is estimated that over 40 million people currently require palliative care every year, and this is expected to grow due to population ageing, the global prevalence of Non-communicable diseases, and the persistence of other chronic and infectious diseases worldwide<sup>1</sup>.

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### PAL-LIFE project

The Pontifical Academy for Life (PAV) has identified the **Palliative Care movement** as the most humane response to the needs of seriously ill and dying children, adults, and fragile elders, to ensure that they are cared for until the end. In 2017, it launched an international project called "PAL-LIFE: International Advisory Working Group on Diffusion and Development of Palliative Care in the World"<sup>2</sup>.

13 THE PAL-LIFE CREATED  
THE AD HOC GROUP  
COMPOSED OF 13 PC  
LEADERS

- 1 World Health Assembly Resolution WHA 67/19 throughout the Life Course.
- 2 Nunziata Comoretto, "PAL-LIFE Project: Interim Report on the First Meeting Report", jpm.2017.02377.



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## Selected Recommendations for the Stakeholders

### POLICYMAKERS

Policymakers must recognize this societal and ethical value of PC and modify the existing structures, policies and outcome measures of healthcare to allow universal access to PC for all patients with progressive chronic diseases before death.

### UNIVERSITIES (ACADEMIA)

All universities engaged in formation of healthcare workers (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, chaplains, etc.) should include basic level PC training as mandatory undergraduate coursework.

### PHARMACISTS

Pharmacists should work to provide efficient mechanisms for extemporaneous compounding of nonstandard dosage forms, and should find ways to make them available and accessible for the patient, especially when there are no generic/cheaper formulations available in the country.

### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIETIES

Professional associations and societies should also support the advocacy role and the domestication of regional and global policy frameworks and declarations such as the 2014 WHA PC Resolution, Universal Health Coverage, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Non-Communicable Diseases declaration.

### PHARMACEUTICAL AUTHORITIES

Morphine is the preferred medicine for moderate/severe cancer pain control and should be made available, especially the immediate-release oral one. Other opioids are helpful, but should not replace morphine.

### MASS MEDIA

Mass media should be involved in creating a culture of understanding around advanced illness and the role of PC throughout the illness.

### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

WHO Member states should develop policies and procedures to implement WHA Resolution 67/19 as an integral part of their strategies to implement Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, paying specific attention to the needs of children and older persons.

### RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS, SPIRITUAL GROUPS

Religious leaders and organizations should advocate for the inclusion of spiritual care in PC on the local, state and country levels. They should ensure developing of professional spiritual care providers or chaplains and ensure their sustainability in all health settings.

### HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE CENTRES

Every Hospital and Healthcare Centre should ensure affordable access to basic PC medicines, particularly to opioid medicines like Morphine which is in the essential medicines list of WHO.

### PATIENTS & PATIENTS' GROUPS

PC patients need a health literacy campaign to integrate PC for all serious or life limiting diseases.

### HEALTH CARE WORKERS

All healthcare workers engaging in PC should receive certification appropriate for one's profession and degree of involvement in palliative care, while actively participating in ongoing education to develop competences required for certification.

### PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS & CHARITIES

PC individuals and organizations must engage, educate and advocate for philanthropic organizations and charities to support PC development and implementation. Recommended areas of funding should include PC education and training of all health care professionals, revising government health policy to include PC, making pain relieving medicines available, raising public awareness about the need for PC, model service delivery at home, in hospital and hospices.

### PROF. ASS. & SOCIETIES OTHER THAN PC

To encourage human rights organizations to take into account existing declarations and to implement strategies whose aim is advancing PC development worldwide within the Human Rights framework.

## Recommendations to Stakeholders

### Summary



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# Recommendations to stakeholders

## Polcymakers

Recognize the societal and ethical value of Palliative Care and modify the existing health care structures, policies and outcome measures to ensure access to universal access to PC for all patients in need.



# Recommendations to stakeholders

## Universities (Academia)

All universities offering degrees in healthcare related fields, should include mandatory palliative care courses as part of the undergraduate curricula.

## Pharmacists

Pharmacists should be able to prepare compounded opioid formulations, and find ways to make them available and accessible for the patient, especially for children, the elderly and when there are no generic/cheaper formulations in the country.



## Professional Associations & Societies

Become effective advocates and work with their governments in the process of implementing international policy framework, including Conventions, Resolutions and Declarations in their countries.

Examples:

WHA PC Resolution (2014), Universal Health Coverage, the Sustainable Development Goals and the WHO Roadmap on Non-Communicable Diseases

# International Organizations

International organizations should encourage WHO Member states to develop policies and procedures to implement WHA Resolution 67/19 as an integral part of their strategies to implement Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, paying specific attention to the needs of children and older persons.



# Recommendations to stakeholders

## Religious Institutions and Spiritual Groups

Advocate for the inclusion of spiritual care in PC on the local, state and country levels.

Ensure development of professional spiritual care providers or chaplains and **their employment stability** in health settings.



## Hospitals and Health Care Centres

Every hospital and healthcare center should ensure affordable access to palliative care medicines included in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines, particularly to opioid analgesics such as morphine.



# Recommendations to stakeholders

## **Patients and Patients' Groups**

There needs to be a health literacy campaign to increase the understanding of PC and their role in the decision making process for all patients with palliative care needs and their families.



# Recommendations to stakeholders

## Healthcare Workers

Healthcare professionals working in PC should receive appropriate certification while actively participating in continuing education to maintain the adequate competency levels.

## Philanthropic Organizations & Charities

Philanthropic organizations and charities should support PC development and implementation.

Recommended areas of funding include:

- Increase in PC education and training of all healthcare professionals,
- Adequate policies revising government health policy to include PC,
- Improving availability and access to opioid analgesics
- Raising public awareness about the need for PC, and service delivery at home, in hospital and hospices.



## Recommendations to stakeholders

### **Other Non-Palliative Care Professional Associations & Societies**

To encourage human rights organizations to take into account existing declarations, and implement strategies whose aim is advancing PC development worldwide within the Human Rights framework.



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# THANK YOU!