

PAL care- International Hospice Day in Egypt  
Professor Abbas Shouman speech

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

It's such a pleasure to welcome Hospice Egypt team and my dear friend Professor Mounir Farag whom I know since many years and met him during several international events, and I am happy I know him because he is Egyptian and very well-known and respected in the international forums where we have met, especially in 2017 in the Vatican during the elaboration of " Charter Palliative Care for Adults, Religions together ". This charter is very important. We highlighted that a person has the right for life and for help and support whatever the medical expectations are regarding the continuity of his life. We have agreed on that all religions and faiths, which were represented during the event, we should not intervene to end a human life, even if doctors admit that there is no hope for the patient. We are pleased of this agreement which respect the human life because religions and beliefs respect the human life. Religions aim, like in Islam, is to protect the human life, and that is a common aim among all religions.

Today, we live in a materialistic society and everyone is seeking the material profit whether in the medical field or other fields. However, here we can see a team, who provides care and support without seeking any benefits, and trying to reach out to all patients in need. They signed many protocols with Egyptian universities and organizations to provide care for terminally-ill patients, offering them and their families company, social and medical services until death. They also continue to offer support after patient's death for his family in order to help them overcome this hard situation.

I would like to admit that Islam support anyone who offer support and help to any human being regardless his religion, culture, beliefs or belongings, as a human being he has the right for receiving care and palliative care during the time of suffering.

Today, I am happy to celebrate with Hospice Egypt team the international day for Palliative Care and I hope that all parties and everyone to support this team in order to continue to offer the human services to everyone who is in need. I hope to see this team going to serve in every part of the country, that's why we should support them for better results and for a better society for our children and future generations as we wished for our parents.

Thank you and welcome to Al Azhar Al Sharif. We pray for you and for your work.

*Tran scripted and translated by:*

*Dr. Sandra Azab*

*Researcher Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life*