

# Focus on Compassion

Enhancing Access to Palliative Care Worldwide

## Expanding Access to Palliative Care Through Advocacy, Education and Partnership

Since the start of the Center for Hospice Care's (CHC) [partnership](#) with the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) in 2008, training nurses in palliative care has been a priority. As of 2018, it was estimated there were fewer than 200 clinical palliative care practitioners available to care for an estimated 255,000 patients in need. According to the 2017 Lancet Commission [report](#), "*Alleviating the access abyss in palliative care and pain relief – [is] an imperative of universal health coverage,*" yet only 11% of those who need pain control and palliative care in Uganda can access it.



In 2010, CHC and PCAU began providing scholarships for nursing students to complete a one-year diploma in clinical palliative care (DCPC) course offered at the Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care in Africa (IHPCA), a private institution recognized by the Ugandan government. From 2010-2018, CHC and PCAU supported 62 students. These skilled providers have certainly helped alleviate the access abyss to palliative care in Uganda, but both partners wanted to do more to expand access.



In 2019, due to the tireless efforts of PCAU, the government started an [Advanced Diploma in Palliative Care Nursing \(APDCN\)](#) at its largest nursing school, Mulago School of Nursing and Midwifery (MSNM). As part of a large government institution, the ADPCN course accommodates larger numbers and at lower cost for students. CHC and PCAU supported 25 students in the inaugural class in 2019. The pandemic lockdowns impacted recruiting and retention for a few years. The 2023 ADPCN cohort included 21 students from 18 districts of Uganda that have limited or no palliative care services. This year's admissions are underway and not counting these, CHC and PCAU have trained 111 palliative care providers in Uganda.

[Read more of this story.](#)



## Celebrating Social Workers!

World Social Work Day is **19 March 2024**. This year's theme, "**Buen Vivir: Shared Future for Transformative Change**" emphasizes the need for social workers to adopt innovative, community-led approaches grounded in indigenous wisdom and harmonious with nature. Read more about the theme and history of #WSWD2024 [here](#).

In the US, the month of March is dedicated to celebrating social workers. GPIC joins our US partner organizations in recognizing the crucial support social workers bring to palliative care teams! We also extend that **THANK YOU to all social workers who provide support to palliative care patients and families!**



## True Colours Trust Grants Now Open

The **True Colours Trust** Palliative Care Development in Africa Programme for Small Grants call for applications is now open. Proposals are due **31 March**. Visit the [APCA website](#) for more information.

## APCA's 2022-2023 Annual Report

APCA is a close, strategic GPIC partner and our strong relationship mutually supports both organizations. Read about the significant progress APCA has made towards their 2020-2030 strategic goals in their recent [annual report](#).



[www.africanpalliativecare.org](http://www.africanpalliativecare.org)

## Palliative Care at IHPBA World Congress 15-18 May 2024

African Palliative Care Day at the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (IHPBA) will be held in Cape Town, South Africa – the first time it will be held in Africa. Register to join!



## Be a Global Development Consultant in Palliative Care

Atlantes Global Observatory of Palliative Care has launched a new free online training opportunity. Learn more [here](#). Registration is open for African countries.

**Help us spread the word!  
Follow us on social media and  
share our story with your  
networks.**



## Supporting Access to Palliative Care Throughout the Circle of Life

Since 2017, we have been an affiliate of Center for Hospice Care (CHC), which was one of just two programs honored with the [American Hospital Association's 2023 Circle of Life Award](#). The award recognizes organizations that are developing innovative approaches in their delivery of palliative and end-of-life care. The award selection committee specifically cited Global Partners in Care's commitment to enhancing access to palliative care in low-resource settings as a highlight.

GPIC supports committed individuals and organizations working on the front lines in palliative care. By making grassroots connections, building relationships and collaborating with our colleagues in the broader global palliative care community, we advance innovative approaches to ensure continuity of care and support for the most vulnerable patients.

We are only able to further this work because of the generosity of donors like you. Please consider helping us support our partners and collaborators who provide palliative care throughout the circle of life. **Thank you for being a part of this important work!**

**Support Global Partners in Care**

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