

Focus on Compassion

Enhancing Access to Palliative Care Worldwide

Collaborating for Global Impact

Building Momentum at the APCA Conference in Botswana



Building on the momentum that began in Dublin with the *Collaborating for Global Impact* workshop earlier this year, Global Partners in Care (GPIC), in partnership with Elea Institute, brought the initiative to Botswana through a dynamic pre-conference workshop at the [8th International African Palliative Care and Allied Health Services Conference](#).



Participants enthusiastic about embracing the process of human-centered design.

More than 40 participants – including GPIC partners, regional representatives and palliative care leaders from across Africa and around the world came together to refine, test and advance the project concepts that emerged from the May 2025 [Dublin meeting](#). The workshop represented a key milestone in GPIC's ongoing efforts to foster collaboration, test ideas in diverse contexts and strengthen a global network united by a shared vision for advancing palliative care.



GPIC partners from Island Hospice and Healthcare in Zimbabwe receive certificate of appreciation from GPIC in honor of our 25th anniversary.



GPIC Advisory Council member, Dan Maisson, and Elea Institute COO, Candace Mayer, speaks with conference attendees at the GPIC booth.

Beyond the workshop, GPIC organized and participated in several key engagements throughout the APCA conference. The GPIC Partner Breakfast brought together more than 20 partner programs from 10 countries to celebrate collaboration and highlight impact. This included representation from US partner, Hospice of Michigan, providing the opportunity to further develop the relationship with their partner, Palliative Care Association of Malawi, who was also in attendance.

One partner noted the value of this engagement, *"Attending the 8th African Palliative Care Conference has been such a valuable opportunity. I was able to build new networks, meet like-minded friends from across the globe, and take away insights that I'll bring directly into our partnership work."*



GPIC CEO, John Mastrojohn III, addressing the Ministers of Health delegations during a meeting ahead of the conference.



APCA recognized GPIC for 20 years of outstanding partnership.

As a long-standing APCA partner, GPIC was invited to represent development partners at the Ministers of Health meeting preceding the conference. CEO John Mastrojohn III and Executive Director Lacey Ahern delivered remarks highlighting the importance of partnership, innovation and the integration of palliative care into national health agendas.

After the conference, Mastrojohn said, "GPIC extends its sincere gratitude to APCA for hosting a transformative and inspiring conference in Botswana. The spirit of collaboration that emerged in Gaborone fostered meaningful engagement and renewed our collective commitment to advancing palliative care globally. We are eager to build upon this momentum and continue working to create lasting impact for patients and families around the world."

[Read the full article](#)

Palliative Care Global Action Forum, Dubai

Hosted by [St. Jude Global](#) and the [World Health Organization Working Group on Palliative Care](#), the [Global Action Forum for Palliative Care](#) brought together leaders, experts and partners from 23 countries in Dubai on September 8. The event convened 42 participants from WHO Collaborating Centres, civil society and global organizations, each committed to strengthening leadership and coordination to expand access to palliative care for all people living with serious illness.



Participants engage in an activity establishing that we are stronger together.



GPIC executive director, Lacey Ahern, facilitating discussion with the Advocacy workstream of the WHO Working Group.

The forum focused on shaping a shared vision for equitable and compassionate palliative care worldwide. Guided by human-centered design, participants co-developed projects in four work streams – **Country Support, Advocacy, Research, and Technology** – to drive practical, collaborative action over the next year. **Lacey Ahern**, GPIC executive director, co-facilitated the Advocacy Workshop, helping to design strategies that elevate the global voice for palliative care.

Speakers highlighted the power of **collective and compassionate leadership**, emphasizing the importance of "grit... with gratitude." In closing reflections, participants recognized that expanding access to palliative care remains a "wicked problem," one that demands inclusive, adaptive and ethical leadership. Each attendee shared a personal commitment to keep the momentum going.

GPIC is honored to be part of this global movement and inspired by the vision and collaboration driving it forward. The forum was another opportunity to strengthen partnerships, build on the GPIC work started in Dublin earlier this year, and advance meaningful progress together. There is still much to be done – but by joining forces and learning from one another, we can achieve greater impact for patients, families and communities around the world.

Read [ehospice](#) for more on the Palliative Care Global Action Forum.

Celebrating Compassion

World Hospice and Palliative Care Day and #HatsOn4CPC

Every year, World Hospice and Palliative Care Day (WHPCD) unites the global community to champion universal access to palliative care. The 2025 theme, "Achieving the Promise: Universal Access to Palliative Care," calls on all stakeholders – governments, advocates, communities and families – to turn this promise into action. This year, a range of events and voices rose around the world, each contributing to the shared movement toward equity, dignity and care for all who face serious illness.



#HatsOn4CPC in South Africa (PatchSA Facebook)



Walk for palliative care in Kenya (KEHPCA Facebook)

In South Africa, Palliative Care for Children South Africa (PatchSA) and Umduduzi Hospice Care for Children led a 5-kilometer Fun Walk along the Durban beachfront, encouraging participants to wear hats in solidarity with children needing palliative care.

The Kenya Hospices and Palliative Care Association (KEHPCA) marked WHPCD 2025 with an awareness walk through Embu County, hosted by the Ministry of Health – Healthy Aging, Palliative Care and Older Persons Division. This first-ever regional WHPCD walk highlighted the importance of community-based awareness and uniting local leaders, health professionals and advocates in fighting for compassionate care for all.

In India, Pallium India commemorated WHPCD through a series of community events, patient engagement activities and educational programs that reinforced their mission to make palliative care accessible across the country. Their initiatives emphasized training, awareness and advocacy for policy-level change. This promise of universal access must translate into tangible care for those affected.

[Read about more WHPCD celebrations](#)

IAHPC Manual on the Use of Essential Medicines for Adults



For World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2025, the IAHPC released a new *Manual on the Use of Essential Palliative Care Medicines for Adults*. The resource serves as a vital tool for the safe, effective and compassionate use of palliative care medications. Explore the [manual](#) to help ensure that patients and families receive informed, high-quality care.

Last Call to Register for the ICPN Conference in One Month

The 4th ICPN International Conference on Children's Palliative Care is less than a month away! The global gathering will unite leaders, practitioners, and advocates in children's palliative care to share insights, spark innovation and strengthen collaboration. Be sure to [register here](#) before November 5th.



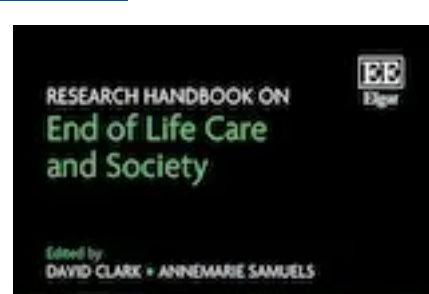
Congratulations to PCAU on their 5th National Conference on Cancer and Palliative Care



Congratulations to the Palliative Care Association of Uganda (PCAU) on a successful national conference! The event brought together stakeholders and advocates from across the country to celebrate progress and strengthen Uganda's commitment to accessible, quality palliative care. [Read the full recap](#).

Release of a new Research Handbook on End-of-life Care and Society

A new open-access *Research Handbook on End-of-Life Care and Society* highlights the human, cultural and policy dimensions shaping how we care for people at the end of life. This valuable resource encourages global collaboration and compassionate understanding. [Access the handbook and learn more here](#).



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



Support GPIC by Giving Through Your Workplace!

Global Partners in Care (GPIC) participates in federal, state, local and private workplace giving campaigns in the US, including the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). If you or someone you know is part of a workplace giving program, we encourage you to support the important work of GPIC in this way. Together, we can increase access to palliative care across the globe.

Our CFC ID is 11018.



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