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Friday 09
October
2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HATS ON for Children's Palliative Care Campaign 2026

Press release date - Every year the International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) makes a global call to raise awareness of the world's most seriously ill children. The **#HatsOn4CPC** campaign this year falls on 09 October 2026. This is a day of action to show your support for these children and their families and shine a light on the need to end the inequity of children's palliative care provision around the world.

According to ICPCN's research, it is estimated that more than 21 million children need palliative care globally, but only 5% of the children who need this care can access it.

The **#HatsOn4CPC** campaign aims to provide a united voice for better care for families including through advocating for national policies that include a child's right to have access to quality palliative care. ICPCN members and supporters around the world will hold events and proudly wear their hats to demonstrate the many ways that families and professionals care for children with life-limiting conditions and to show their support for the world's children living with palliative care needs.

"We are delighted to have the **#HatsOn4CPC** campaign again this year. We want to celebrate how far we have come in developing palliative care for children, but also to raise awareness of the many gaps that exist in various areas. Let us come together to raise awareness and advocate for better palliative care services as we try to achieve equity across the world." – Prof. Julia Downing – CEO, ICPCN.

In **<insert city or country>**, **<insert your event>** will be taking place to promote palliative care for children. The event **<insert details and make sure you highlight the most important or compelling part of your event>**.

"Quote." Your Institution Director

This year is special because we are calling for better care for these seriously ill children and their families as part of a global campaign Close the Gap: Palliative Care for Children, Everywhere. We want to put a spotlight on this campaign, led by ICPCN in partnership with the WHO convened Palliative Care Working Group, which calls for urgent action to ensure every child can access the care they need, wherever they live.





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The Close the Gap campaign is calling for:

- Children's palliative care to be integrated into health systems.
- Sustainable education and training for the workforce.
- Access to essential medicines and treatments to relieve pain and suffering.
- Families to know their rights and have their voices heard.
- Greater awareness and stronger evidence about children's palliative care.

Children's palliative care improves quality of life by managing pain and other symptoms and supporting children and families emotionally, practically and spiritually. It can begin at diagnosis and alongside other treatments. **It is not giving up on a child.**

Children's palliative care is achievable, affordable and essential. Every child deserves comfort, dignity and quality of life, regardless of where they live.

Put your hat on. Raise your voice. Help Close the Gap.

ENDS





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Notes for editors:

What is HATS ON for CPC?

The second Friday in October, which this year falls on Friday 09th October 2026, is a day for raising international awareness of the need for children's palliative care and the work of children's palliative care (CPC) services worldwide. The annual campaign is known as HATS ON for Children's Palliative Care with the hashtag #HatsOn4CPC.

Who is the International Children's Palliative Care Network?

The International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) is a global network of organisations and individuals and the only international charity dedicated to securing the right of at least 21 million children worldwide living with incurable, life-shortening, and life-threatening conditions to receive palliative care. Please find out more about ICPCN on our website <https://icpcn.org/about-icpcn/>

Why do we need Hats on for CPC campaign?

There are still far too many children that are unable to access this essential service, especially in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). We cannot achieve universal health coverage without palliative care, which is also a key component of the right to health and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal for good health and well-being.

Children's palliative care

Palliative care for children is the coordinated response to the medical, social, emotional, and spiritual suffering of children with life-limiting conditions and their families. Those eligible for this specialised care include children with cancers and other non-communicable illnesses that are life-threatening, children living with HIV and AIDS, children with certain congenital and genetic conditions, and children living with rare diseases for which there may be no name and no known cure.

Care can, and should, be provided from the time of diagnosis or soon after as it addresses not only physical distress but also emotional and social issues that often accompany such a diagnosis. It aims to provide the child and family with a support system, allowing them the best possible quality of life for as long as possible.

