



The Raoul Follereau Foundation (Malta) - The Order of Charity  
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RAOUL FOLLEREAU FOUNDATION (MALTA): NGO NO. VO/0980

# Order of Charity Newsletter

## EDITORJAL

### X'hini l-Karita?

Karita tfisser mhabba moghtija lil haddiehor speċjalment dawk li huma fil-bzonn u tista tigi moghtija b'hafna modi.

Minn tifla zghira, il-kelma karita, kont nismaghha f'hafna postijiet bhall-iskola, d-dar, fil-familja u anke mal-hbieb. Imma xi tfisser sewwa sew il-kelma karita? Karita' tfisser li taghti xi haga lil haddiehor minn qalbek u bi mhabba u minghajr ma tistenna xejn lura. Minhabba li gejt introdotta ghal karita minn eta' verament zghira mill-genituri, din ghallmitni l-imhabba li taghti lil xi hadd fil-bzonn b'hafna modi. Anke minn eta verament zghira kont naf li nista nghin lil haddiehor. L-iskola konna nigbru flus biex nghinu l-Istituti tal-orfanatrofji, nghinu studenti li ma setghux jixtru l-uniformi, kotba, pitazzi etc.. u anke wkoll dawk li lanqas bicca hobz ma kien ikollhom x'jieklu fil-waqfa tal-brejk minhabba li l-familja ma kienetx possibli li toffri bicca hobz kuljum ghal uliedha biex johduha magghom l-iskola. Aktar minn hekk, karita ukoll kienet tfisser li tghin lil xi hadd minn shabek tal-klassi fil- *homework*.

### Inside this issue:

Editorjal	1
Leprosy survivor, Rachna Kumari: "Every person has the right to live life with dignity"	2
The story of Ajay	3
Forgotten but not gone: COVID-19 focus poses new	4
The story of Ludimila	5
Leprosy postage stamps	6
Cont....	7
Kif tista int tghin ix-xoghol tal-Ordni tal-Karita	8

Il-karita, bhal ma hu msemmi qabel, ma tfissirx biss li taghti il-flus. Karita tista tfisser li taghti ftit minn hinek jew xi affarijet minn tieghek lil dawk fil-bzonn.

Dan jista jinghata direttament jew saħansitra lil xi ghaqdiet tal-karita. Kultant jgħidu li l-karita tibda d-dar. Dan ifisser li taghti karita fi hndan il-familja jew f'pajjizek. Hemm diversi forom ta karita, bhall-għoti ta' ikel jew htigijiet oħra bħal hwejjeġ, kura tas-ħaħħa, u kenn. Tista wkoll iżżur prigunieri jew nies li jgħixu d-dar bhal anzjani, u anke li taghti edukazzjoni lill-orfni, l-karita tista tkun ukoll billi taghti donazzjoni lil diversi riċerki, bħal fondi ta' riċerka dwar il-kanċer jew fondi oħra ta mard rari.

Fl-aspetti reliġjużi hemm ukoll it-talb għall-benefatturi. Illum il-ġurnata, ħafna Fondazzjonijiet qed jitwaqqfu għal skopijiet ta Karita. Dawn jistgħu

jinġabru f'forma ta' donazzjonijiet permezz ta' attivitajiet ta' ġbir ta' fondi jew donazzjoni onlajn. Dawn l-istituzzjonijiet imbagħad iqassmu donazzjonijiet monetarji lit-tipi differenti ta' karità jew ikel mill-*Food Bank* għal dawk li huma verament fil-bżonn. Tista' tagħmel karità anke barra minn pajjizna wkoll. Hafna zaghzagħ, illum, jitighlu ukoll bhalha missjunarji għal xi jiem f'xi pajjiz tat-tielet dinja fejn jagħtu ftit minn hinhom għal dawn dawn il-persuni li huma l-ifqar fost il-fqar. Mill-esperjenza nista' nqiegħid li titla' biex tagħti dak li tista', imma fil-verità, tinzell hafna mogħbbija lura b'dak li jagħtuk huma. Il-ferħ tagħhom, avolja foqra hafna, jitrasmettuh lilek li qed tghin, u tinzell lura mimlija b'kuragg biex tghin aktar!

Lesti li nqiegħid u nagħtu xi ftit minn dak li għandna ahna? X'tahsbu?

***Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you.***

Mother Teresa

***Qatt tharsu lejn in-numru ta' nies li ha tghinu. Għin persuna waħda kull darba u dejjem ibda mal-persuna l-eqreb tiegħek***

Dame Elizabeth Cassar

Membri tal-Ordni ta' San Lazzru

**Leprosy survivor, Rachna Kumari: "Every person has the right to live life with dignity"**

"My story is filled with trauma, pain and depression. Yet it is also filled with happiness and success." At the age of 24, Rachna Kumari was diagnosed with one of the world's most stigma-

tised diseases, leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease. Her life took another cruel turn when not long after her diagnosis, her husband passed away. She was shunned by his family, and forced to live almost in isolation from relatives and from the community. For fear of infecting her two children, she left them with her parents to seek work in a bigger city. After eight years, Rachna was finally cured. But her battle with the disease was emotionally and physically traumatising, not dissimilar to the stories of thousands of others. Rachna is from India, where the number of cases is the highest in the world. In 2017, around 126,000 new cases were reported in the country. "I suffered social exclusion, stigma and discrimination. It was harrowing. I went into depression and lost the will to live."

Leprosy is a chronic disease which mainly affects the skin, peripheral nerves, the mucosa of the upper respiratory tract and the eyes

Around the world, there are an estimated 200,000 people diagnosed with leprosy each year. Most cases occur in India, Brazil and Indonesia.

After her eight-year battle with leprosy, Rachna was finally cured at the age of 32. She now lives with her parents and two children in Bihar.

Today, her aim is to help other people affected by the disease and campaign for their rights. She works at the Leprosy Society's Munger Referral Centre in Bihar, and is a member of the State Forum of Leprosy Affected People. She also sits on the Advisory Panel of the International Federation of Anti Leprosy Associations, where she addresses policy makers.

Rachna is continuing the fight against stigma and discrimination. "Seeing the women suffer is heart-breaking, but in my own way I try to make them stand strong and independent."

She says much more effort needs to be put into awareness raising on the fact the disease is treatable and curable in order to reduce discrimination.

"There is so much to work to be done," she

says. "After all, every person has the right to live life with dignity."

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2019/07/leprosy-survivor-rachna-kumari-every-person-has-right-live-life-dignity>



## The story of Ajay

Ajay was banished from his village and now lives in a leprosy colony with his family. He is worried about the future of his son. His son doesn't have leprosy, but he too faces discrimination.

"When I was only fifteen years old, leprosy changed my life. I discovered a strange spot on my skin. I thought it would disappear with time. But it only got worse. After a while, I also lost sensitivity in my hands and feet.



My family and the other villagers kept me at a distance. They would keep staring at my deformed hands and feet. They were afraid that they too would become affected with leprosy. My mother was the only one who didn't mind touching me and caring for me.

But then, suddenly my mother died. I didn't know what to do without her. Everyone else

loathed my presence; there was not a soul willing to help me. I felt so helpless and lonely that I decided to leave my village. Afraid of all that lay ahead of me.

It was only then that I went to see a doctor. He told me I had leprosy. He gave me medicines and treated the many wounds and ulcers I had contracted. 'You will find a leprosy colony in Amroha,' he told me. 'You can live there.' And so I did. Where else could I go?

NLR taught me how to best care for my wounds to prevent permanent disability

My wife, son, and I live an isolated life at the colony, together with about 30 other families. I barely have the money to provide for my family. Every day, I try to collect a few rupees begging. I don't have a choice. Because of my deformities, nobody wants to employ me.

To provide for my family, I am forced to beg in the streets

My greatest worry is the future of my thirteen-year-old son Shivkumar. He doesn't have leprosy, but he faces discrimination all the same. There's a chance he will never get married. People don't want the child of a person affected by leprosy. They simply won't accept a marriage like that. This is why we need help. To give my son a better future."



<https://nlrinternational.org/stories-of-patients/ajay/>

## Forgotten but not gone: COVID-19 focus poses new risks to 'invisible' leprosy sufferers

JAKARTA/KUALA LUMPUR

First it was the neighbours who started avoiding Indonesian food hawker Titi Amaliyah. Then regular customers stopped buying her traditional noodle snacks when word spread that she had been diagnosed with leprosy.

Since her diagnosis last year, Amaliyah and her family have been dependent on her husband's income from odd jobs, which has dwindled due to the coronavirus pandemic. With three children, they are struggling to put food on



the table. "It's a mental burden for me and it affects my family's income," said Amaliyah, 44, who is being treated for the age-old disease that can be cured with a combination of drugs. "I just want the red spots on my skin to disappear," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from Indonesia's central Java island, looking to the days when she can be accepted by her close-knit community again.

Amaliyah is one of thousands of Indonesians living with leprosy, a disease caused by bacte-

ria spread through droplets from the nose and mouth that causes nerve damage and lesions on the skin.

It often carries a stigma that pushes sufferers to live on the margins of society, while fears of economic and social exclusion mean many do not get tested or treated. Indonesia reported more than 17,000 new cases in 2019, the third highest in the world after India and Brazil, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). And as affected countries focus on combatting COVID-19, health experts fear leprosy is being pushed further to the margins.

An Indonesian woman affected by leprosy holds up a blister pack of drug in South Sumatra, Indonesia. Photo courtesy of NLR International

Leprosy is one of the oldest known diseases, affecting the poorest and most marginalised communities.

Millions have been cured since 1981 with a multidrug therapy and the number of cases worldwide has plummeted from a total of 10-12 million in the mid-1980s to about 200,000 new cases each year now. But it still exists in more than 100 countries, and millions live with its effects.

Leprosy is one of the neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) that affect more than 1.7 billion people in some of the world's poorest countries. These diseases disable and disfigure sufferers, often leaving them isolated and unable to earn a living, but they can be treated.

On Saturday, the WHO will mark World NTD Day after launching a roadmap setting out global targets to tackle 20 of the diseases including leprosy by 2030.

The roadmap comes amid concerns that the pandemic is hampering efforts to tackle NTDs like leprosy, which health advocates say could

be a ticking health time bomb for Indonesia, a country of 270 million where access to healthcare was challenging even before.

"We believe there will be a large-scale transmission in the coming two to five years," said Indonesian leprosy survivor Paulus Manek, who heads Permata, a charity helping sufferers.

Manek said local health facilities were overwhelmed, causing delays in accessing medicines, and COVID-19 movement restrictions had prevented his charity from operating. Indonesia has more than a million coronavirus cases. "We're not going all out to prevent leprosy; the contacts are not traced. Even though the government has good regulations in place, enforcement on the ground is patchy," said Manek, 40.



NLR Indonesia, a non-profit organisation that works with Indonesia to eliminate leprosy, said officials had introduced solutions including prescribing medications for a longer period than the usual one month.

But it said detection of new cases in 34 districts it works in had fallen 40% in the first six months of last year compared to 2019, suggesting resources to trace and spot new patients had been shifted elsewhere.

"These are not just worries. If we compare the data... this shows the efforts have gone down last year although this is inevitable due to COVID-19," said Asken Sinaga, NLR Indonesia's executive

director. "We hope the government can keep its attention on leprosy despite its current priority on COVID-19.

"The awareness on leprosy is low in Indonesia and there is widespread stigma. Some doctors are not aware leprosy is still an issue in Indonesia and they don't know how to diagnose it," Sinaga added.

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210127090019-8euey>

## The story of Ludimila

"Oziris only realised that something was wrong when his earlobes, hands, and feet started to swell. His friends bullied him and called him Fofão. It's the name of an ugly doll with strange body measurements appearing in an old Brazilian children's television programme.

My mother took my brother to the hospital, but the doctors didn't know what it was. She continued searching and left no stone unturned. But it took them months to find a doctor who recognised the symptoms. Oziris had leprosy. Immediately, the doctor set him up for treatment. But it



was already too late: the strength in his hands had disappeared.



At the self-care group, my brother learns how he can best deal with his disability

Everyday tasks have become a struggle to Oziris. Writing, buttoning up his clothes, and opening pots and bottles, to name just a few examples. It leaves me sad, and I help him wherever I can. At the self-care group, he learns how he can best deal with his disability. Every day he trains his hands. Still, my mother is deeply troubled about his future. How will he earn a living if he cannot work with his hands?

A few months after my brother's diagnosis, a white spot emerged in my face. My mother was concerned about it, so we went to see the same doctor. He concluded straight away: I had leprosy too and needed to start treatment immediately. The news was heavy on my mother. Now, two of her children had fallen ill. Fortunately, I was diagnosed in time.

The most important thing is that I have been spared disfigurements. I am so relieved about that

The spot in my face completely disappeared, but the most important thing is that I have been spared disfigurements. I am so relieved about that. Still, I didn't tell anyone at school about my disease. I'm afraid that, just like my brother, I will be bullied. I want to prevent this because I like school. My dream is to become a lawyer because I want to help other people.

<https://nrinternational.org/stories-of-patients/ludimila/>

### Leprosy postage stamps



#### INDIA 1973 DR HANSEN-CENTENARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF LEPROSY BACILLIS MNH BLOCK OF 4 STAMP

<https://www.indphila.com/product/india-1973-dr-hansen-centenary-of-the-discovery-of-leprosy-bacillis-mnh-block-of-4-stamp/>



#### INDIA 1984 XII INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY CONGRESS MNH BLOCK OF 4 STAMP

<https://www.indphila.com/product/india-1984-xii-international-leprosy-congress-mnh-block-of-4-stamp/>



### Brazil 1954 Leprosy Research - Obligatory Tax

[https://www.stampsfromtheworld.co.uk/wiki/Brazil\\_1954\\_Leprosy\\_Research\\_-\\_Obligatory\\_Tax](https://www.stampsfromtheworld.co.uk/wiki/Brazil_1954_Leprosy_Research_-_Obligatory_Tax)



## Il-bank tiegħek fil-qalb tal-komunità

L-HSBC huwa l-bank li jinsab fil-qalba tal-komunità tiegħek. B'għarfien internazzjonali u esperjenza lokali, aħna nistgħu ngħinuk tiegħu hsieb aħjar il-finanzi tiegħek. Il-fergħat tagħna huma miftuħin kuljum f'diversi lokalitajiet madwar Malta u Għawdex, b'xi whud mill-fergħat joffru wkoll servizz ta' filgħaxija.

Għalhekk ejja żurna u flimkien niddiskutu l-bżonnijiet bankarji tiegħek. L-impjegati tagħna, kollha mharrġa fil-*customer service* u mmexxija minn *branch manager* b'esperjenza kbira fil-qasam bankarju jinsabu ferqana biex ikunu ta' servizz għalik.

ĊEMPEL 2380 2380  
 ŻUR [hsbc.com.mt](https://www.hsbc.com.mt)  
 MUR fl-eqreb fergħa



Approvat u mahruġ mill-HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. 116, Triq l-Arcisqof, Valletta VLT1444. 101009 – 02/2018



Nirnexxu flimkien

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[http://stlazarusmalta.org/aff\\_0oC.html](http://stlazarusmalta.org/aff_0oC.html)

The Raoul Follereau Foundation [Malta] - Order of Charity is a non-profit organisation set up in Malta in 1967 with the goal of collecting monetary support for the assistance of lepers throughout the World. It forms part of the international Raoul Follereau Foundation established in 1946 by the world famous anthropologist who died in 1977. The main aims of the Foundation are:

- to encourage social help to those suffering from leprosy;
- to ascertain that these people are treated as they should;
- to help lepers find their place in society;
- to give financial help to leprosaria and missions working with them.

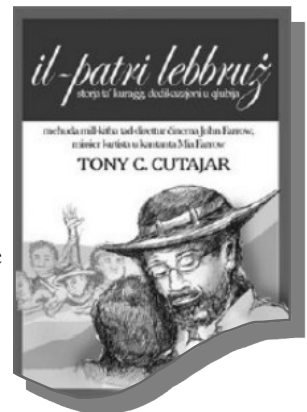


Raoul Follereau

*Help us help fight the scourge of leprosy*

## Kif tista int tghin ix-xoghol tal-Ordni tal-Karità

- Billi issir membru tal-għaqda—dan jiswa biss is-somma ta' €10 fis-sena. Li tkun membru jfisser li tircevi in-newsletter regolari b'mogħod elektroniku jew pubblikata.
- Billi tagħti donazzjoni b'kull ammont li tixtieq int. Sintendi kull donazzjoni tigi rikonnexuta b'rcevuta
- Billi tixtri il-ktieb *Il-Patri Lebbruz* li jipprezenta storja ta' kuraġġ, dedikazzjoni u qlubija tal-qaddis li gie ddikjarat il-patron tal-presuni morda bil-lebbra. Il-Patri Lebbruz Damjan ta' Molokai kien mar jahdem f'kolonja tal-lebbuzzi abbandunati minn kulhadd. Għalihom kien sacerdot, tabib, bennej, mexxej, habib, missier. Fi ftit kliem kien l-għajn tas-salvazzjoni u t-tama tagħhom. Jum fost l-oħrajn, beda l-omelija tiegħu bil-kliem: "Għez iez huti lebbuzzi..." biex hekk qasam mal-kompatrijotti tiegħu fuq il-Ġz ira ta' Molokaj, l-aħbar li hu wkoll kien ittieħed mill-marda. Miet ta' 49 sena. Huwa u gie ddikjarat qaddis sitt snin ilu mill-Papa Benedittu XVI. Il-Ktieb jinbiegħ €6.50 biss inkluss il-posta. Ibghat cekk ta' €6.50 pagabbli lill-Ordni tal-Karita.



## Offerta mill-qalb

Jiena \_\_\_\_\_ Nru tal-ID \_\_\_\_\_ li noqgħod

\_\_\_\_\_ Kodiċi Postali \_\_\_\_\_,

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ qed nibgħat cekk nru \_\_\_\_\_ bhala donazzjoni bis-somma ta':

€5  €10  €15  €20  €25  donazzjoni libera € \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ Nixtieq insir membru ta' l'Ordni tal-Karità u nibdha nircevi in-newsletter regolarment....€10

⇒ Lest nircevi in-newsletter b'mogħod elektroniku.....

⇒ Nippreferi in-newsletter pubblikata.....

⇒ Nixtieq nixtri il-ktieb *Il-Patri Lebbruz*.....€6.50