

UKRAINIAN TB ACTIVISTS CALL FOR URGENT GOVERNMENT ACTION ON TB DRUGS

Representatives of Ukrainian organizations active in the fight to end TB called for urgent action by the country's Ministry of Health in addressing the dramatic TB situation in Ukraine, said the representatives of the organizations in a press conference held in Kyiv on 29 January 2018.

All-Ukrainian Association of People who recover from Tuberculosis "Stronger than TB", CO "Public Movement "The Ukrainians against Tuberculosis" Foundation" appealed to the Deputy Minister of Health Uliana Suprun to address the lack of new anti-TB drugs Bedaquiline and Delamanid in Ukraine.

Currently, Ukraine does not have access to newest ant-TB drugs, leaving "hundreds and thousands of citizens without cure", said Serhii Drygus, member of the All-Ukrainian Association of People who recover from Tuberculosis "Stronger than TB".

"We believe that access to new antituberculosis drugs in Ukraine and the introduction of short treatment regimens will save thousands of lives in the country."

The press briefing, organized by CO "Public Movement "The Ukrainians against Tuberculosis" Foundation", All-Ukrainian Association of People who recover from Tuberculosis "Stronger than TB" and the All-Ukrainian Coalition "Stop TB Together", addressed a number of other issues critical for improving patient-oriented TB treatment.

Activists also spoke about the necessity for patients and their families to get access to new and innovative treatment, necessity to take into account patients needs during treatment, protection of their rights. Participants shared equally daily life experiences of people affected by TB.



The press conference was attended by: Vitalii Rudenko, co-chair of the All-Ukrainian Coalition "Stop TB Together", Head of the Board of the CO "Public Movement "The Ukrainians against Tuberculosis" Foundation", Natalia Kozhan, PhD, Honored Doctor of Ukraine, Viktor Pylypenko, PhD, Head of the Board of the All-Ukrainian Association of People who recover from Tuberculosis "Stronger than TB", Olena Fedorovska, member of the Board of the All-Ukrainian Association of People who recover from Tuberculosis "Stronger than TB", Olena Ganychenko, member

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