

**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



International Union Against  
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease  
Health solutions for the poor

## **The 49th Union World Conference on Lung Health to be held in The Hague in 2018**

The 49<sup>th</sup> Union World Conference on Lung Health will focus on human rights when it comes to The Hague, The Netherlands, 24-27 October, 2018.

The conference theme will be Declaring Our Rights: Social and Political Solutions highlighting the essential need for a human rights approach and greater political commitment to eradicate TB and reduce the global threats of tobacco use, air pollution and other lung diseases.

In the announcement at the closing session of the 48th Union World Conference in Guadalajara, José Luis Castro, Executive Director, The Union, said: "It is truly fitting that, in 2018, our world conference will be hosted by The Hague, a city with a historic tradition of campaigning for social justice.

That 1.8 million people die each year from tuberculosis (TB) – a curable disease - is an affront to basic human rights. There is no more appropriate place than The Hague to communicate this point to the world, and demand urgent action."

The Hague and KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation will host the 49th Union World Conference on Lung Health, 24-27 October, 2018 in The Netherlands.

"TB is more than a clinical condition," said Kitty van Weezenbeek, Executive Director, KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation. "TB thrives where rights do not. People everywhere, no matter who they are, have the right to prevention, treatment and care for TB. We need to accelerate the introduction of new tools and shorter injectable free regimens to reduce suffering and death from drug-resistant forms of TB. The Netherlands has unique expertise and an innovation track record in this field, and the Union World Conference is the perfect platform to share and exchange that knowledge."

As the city of peace and justice, The Hague provides a unique environment to link science, human rights and international policy in the design of public health responses.

A statement from the Municipality of The Hague said: "We are very proud to host this conference, which is perfectly aligned with the international image of The Hague as the city of peace, welfare and justice."

The Union World Conference on Lung Health is the world's largest gathering of clinicians and public health workers, health programme managers, policymakers, researchers and advocates working to end the suffering caused by lung disease, with a focus specifically on the challenges faced by the low- and middle-income countries. Of the 10 million people who die each year from lung diseases, some 80 percent live in these resource-limited countries.

**More details:**

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**Social media:**

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#UnionConf  
#DeclareOurRights

**About The Union:**

The Union is a global scientific organisation with the mission to improve health among people living in poverty. We do that by conducting scientific research, working with governments and other agencies to translate research into better health for people around the world, and delivering projects directly in the field. The Union is made up of a membership body of people around the world who help to advance our mission, and a scientific institute that implements public health projects within countries. For close to 100 years, we have been leaders in the fight against some of the world's biggest killers, including tuberculosis, lung diseases and tobacco use.

**About KNCV:**

KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the fight against tuberculosis (TB), the deadliest infectious disease in the world. By developing, testing, evaluating and scaling up country specific, patient and community centered TB strategies and interventions we work to impact public health and save lives.

KNCV was established in 1903 by civil society organizations. Presently our team includes over 400 professionals, working from a central office in The Hague, The Netherlands, and country offices in Africa and Central and South East Asia.

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