

The Statement

We, thalidomide victims and representatives of thalidomide victims' associations from numerous countries, participated in an international meeting held in Tokyo, 11th October, 2004, on the occasion of 30th anniversary of the Ishizue Foundation. We have exchanged information and discussed the problem of thalidomide's return in each country. We, the undersigned, state that we have agreed the following points:

1. The reintroduction of thalidomide and the increase in its use world-wide for some diseases such as Myeloma, AIDS and Hansen's disease has increased the susceptibility of creating new victims. This has happened, disastrously, in Brazil where the drug was introduced without regulation and doctors were not advised of its risk. Consequently 120 children - a new generation- of thalidomide victims were born between 1966 and 1998. The Governments of each country should survey their population to find out whether new 'victims' exist and monitor the situation regularly.
2. The Governments of those countries that have users of thalidomide must learn the lesson from the world-wide thalidomide tragedy of the fifties and sixties. Governments should make every effort to prevent the occurrence of a new disaster by implementing a comprehensive system of vigilance and an education programme about the associated risks of using thalidomide. This should be done even if licensing for the production of thalidomide has not been granted.
3. Many victims of thalidomide (the first generation - and the new generation) have not been compensated. The Governments that have not compensated them should now make restitution and pay adequate compensation.
4. We, thalidomide victims and the representatives of thalidomide victims' associations will cooperate to prevent any new disaster and to promote the welfare of thalidomide victims throughout the world.

First proposal: 11th October, 2004

Final agreement: 5th February, 2005

The International Thalidomide Meeting 2004 in Tokyo

- Björn Håkansson (Föreningen för de Neurosedynskadade: FfdN, Sweden)
- Brian Gault (Look No Hands Ministry, Isle of Man)
- Christine Green (USA)
- Claudia Marques Maximino (ASSOCIAÇÃO BRASILEIRA DOS PORTADORES DA SÍNDROME DA TALIDOMIDA: Brazilian Association of the Victims of Thalidomide Syndrome, Brazil)
- Darren Mansell (The Thalidomide Society, UK)
- Elisabeth Ryden (Föreningen för de Neurosedynskadade: FfdN, Sweden)
- Hisashi NAKAGAWA (The Ishizue Foundation, Japan)
- Jeffrey Green (Australia)
- José Riquelme López (Asociacion de Victimas de Talidomida de Espana: AVITE, Spain)
- Kiyoshi MAMIYA (The Ishizue Foundation, Japan)
- Mercedes Benegbi (Thalidomide Victims Association of Canada: TVAC, Canada)
- Rune S. Kristiansen (The Norwegian Thalidomide Association, Norway)
- Stuart McLeod (The Thalidomide Society, UK)
- Tsugumichi SATO (The Ishizue Foundation, Japan)
- Vivien Kerr (The Thalidomide Society, UK)
- Yoshinao SHIOZAKI (The Ishizue Foundation, Japan)
- Yukari MASUYAMA (The Ishizue Foundation, Japan)