

YOUR NAME
YOUR ADDRESS

MONTH DATE YEAR

Re: use of the word "leper"

Dear XXXXXXX,

American Leprosy Missions works to cure and care for people with leprosy, and is committed to bringing an end to this ancient disease. One of its aims is to work towards a goal where the word "leper" is not used by media outlets or condoned by media channels.

American Leprosy Missions advocates for the term "people affected by leprosy" to be used instead. The word "leper" is derogatory, outdated, and is associated with someone who has been rejected, ostracized or regarded as an outcast.

People affected by leprosy continue to be stigmatized by their communities, and the word is often used to refer to them in a negative way. They have spoken about how the word "leper" makes them feel:

"It really hurt me."

"The word carries ugliness and portrays me as unlovable."

"It doesn't define who I am."

I hope that you will reconsider usage of the word "leper" and join with American Leprosy Missions to defend the rights and dignity of people who are often the poorest of the poor and unable to speak up for themselves.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

For more information about the work of American Leprosy Missions, please visit www.leprosy.org.

Sincerely,