



Miss Bisi Adewale (Ghana)

*Access to palliative care: a
universal right for cancer patients
in Ghana*



Access to palliative care: A universal human right for cancer patients in Ghana

Presented

by

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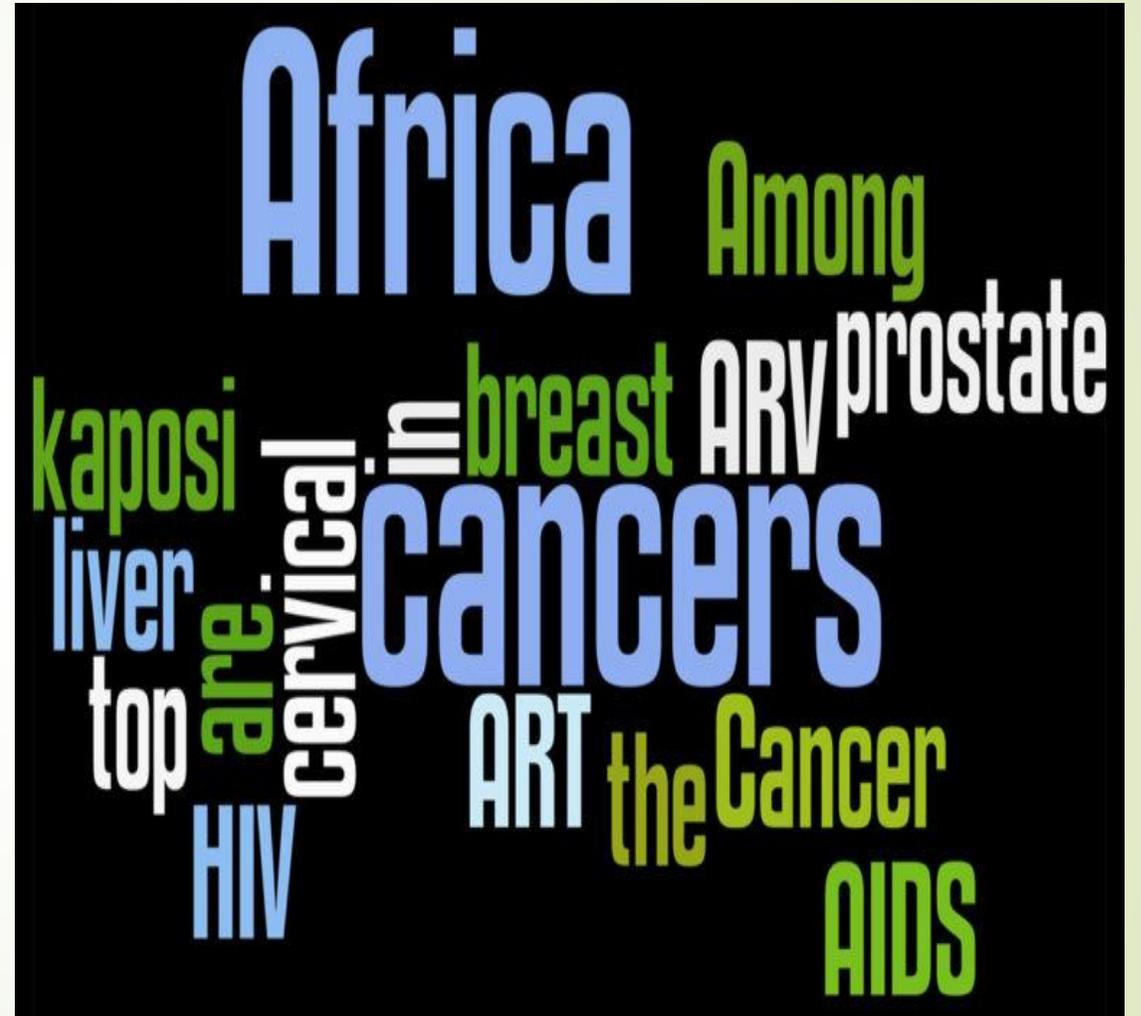
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Outline

- Aim
- Background
- Cancer care in Ghana
- The Palliative Care Approach
- Why the need for Palliative Care
- Declaration on Rights to Palliative Care
- Whose responsibility is it?
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgement





Goal of this presentation

- ▶ To explore the need for the implementation of a well-integrated palliative care program into the Ghanaian health care system.
 - ▶ To discuss access to palliative care as a human right in Ghana.
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....My Story....



Background

- ▶ Palliative care needs will continue to increase because of the escalating burdens of non-communicable and aging populations globally (WHO, 2017).
- ▶ Globally, poverty and inequity in the health systems have deprived many of their right to quality palliative care, particularly at the end of life (Knaul et al., 2018).
- ▶ 40 million people are in need of palliative care globally with majority (78%) located in LMIC (WHO, 2018).
- ▶ **Access to palliative care is an urgent humanitarian need for persons diagnosed with cancer and their families** (WHO, 2015).

Background

- ▶ Cancer cases are increasing annually in Africa, and expected to grow by 400% in Africa over the next 50 years (Ntuzimira et al., 2014).
- ▶ Lack of palliative care causes unnecessary suffering and pain, reducing the quality of life for both patients and family caregivers (Ntuzimira et al., 2014).
- ▶ Anticipated growth of cancer morbidity and mortality calls for the need for a well integrated palliative care in LMIC particularly Africa (Hannon et al., 2016).

Cancer and Palliative Care in Ghana

- ▶ Ghana is located in West Africa and among the LMIC with limited knowledge, and access to palliative care.
- ▶ Approximately 22,823 new cancer cases are reported annually in Ghana (GLOBACON, 2018), with most cases reporting late.
- ▶ Cost of cancer treatment is expensive in Ghana, with minimum coverage from National Health Insurance.
- ▶ Only two well organized palliative care teams in Ghana, operating in isolation.

The Palliative Care Approach



Improves the quality of lives using a multidisciplinary team approach.



Starts early and provides the patients and their families some hope.



Delivery can be done both in an institution and in the community.



Why the need for Palliative Care in Ghana

- ▶ Persons diagnosed with cancer and their family members are:
 - ▶ Devastated with no existing support services.
 - ▶ Deprived of their right to quality care.
- ▶ Persons diagnosed with cancers develop their own coping strategies and experience severe pain and suffering at the end of life.
- ▶ Family members are solely responsible for the care of their relatives.



Declaration on Rights to Palliative Care

- ▶ “All State parties to the present covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health” (**United Nations [UN]**, 1966, Article 12.1).
- ▶ **The Cape Town palliative care declaration in November, 2002:** “Palliative care is the right of every adult and child”. **African Palliative Care Association** continues to highlight this right.
- ▶ **African Ministers of Health (signatory) to** “strengthening palliative care as a component of comprehensive care throughout the life course in Africa” (Hospice and Palliative Care, 2016).

Declaration on Right to Palliative Care

- **Universal Health Coverage:** Persons in need of palliative care must be able to access it and ensuring UHC at all levels of care is vital to achieving **SDG's** by 2030.
- The **Lancet Commission** declared that access to palliative care and pain medication is a human right, which has been ignored by many health care systems (Knaul et al., 2018).

Challenges in the Implementation of Palliative Care

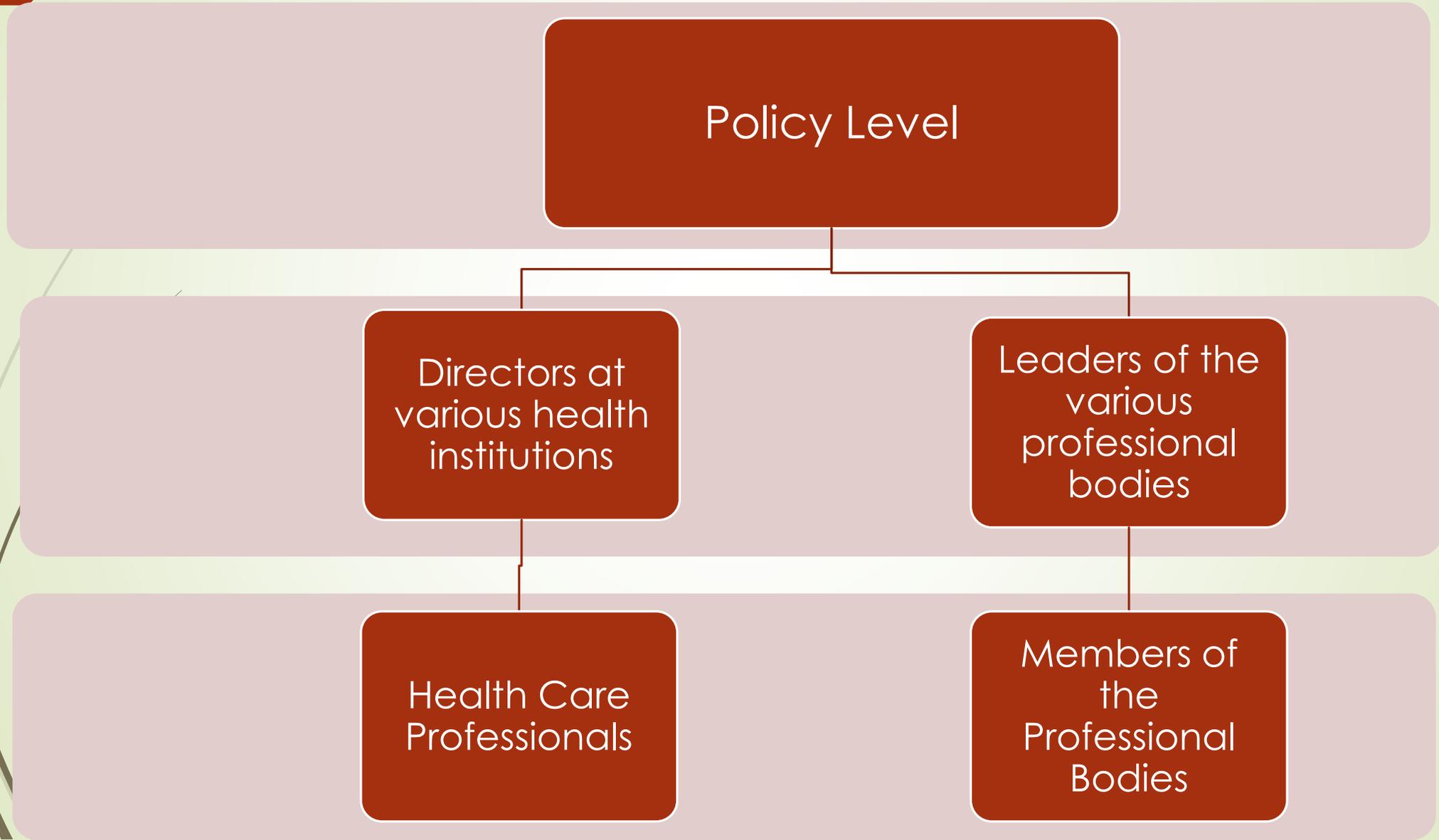
Globally:

- Conflicts regarding what a good death means (McIlfatrick et al., 2013).
- Lack of funding, cultural beliefs on end of life, lack of awareness on palliative care, and restrictive policies on access to opioids and other medications (African Palliative Care Association (APCA), 2018; Ntizimira et al., 2014; Ojimadu & Okwuonu, 2015; Syed, Almas, Naeem, Malik, & Muhammad, 2017).

Ghana:

- Nationwide access to opioids, scarce resources, and limited health care professional education, and public awareness on palliative care (Edwin et al., 2016; Opoku, Benwell, & Yarney, 2012).

Whose responsibility is it?



Voice for the Voiceless



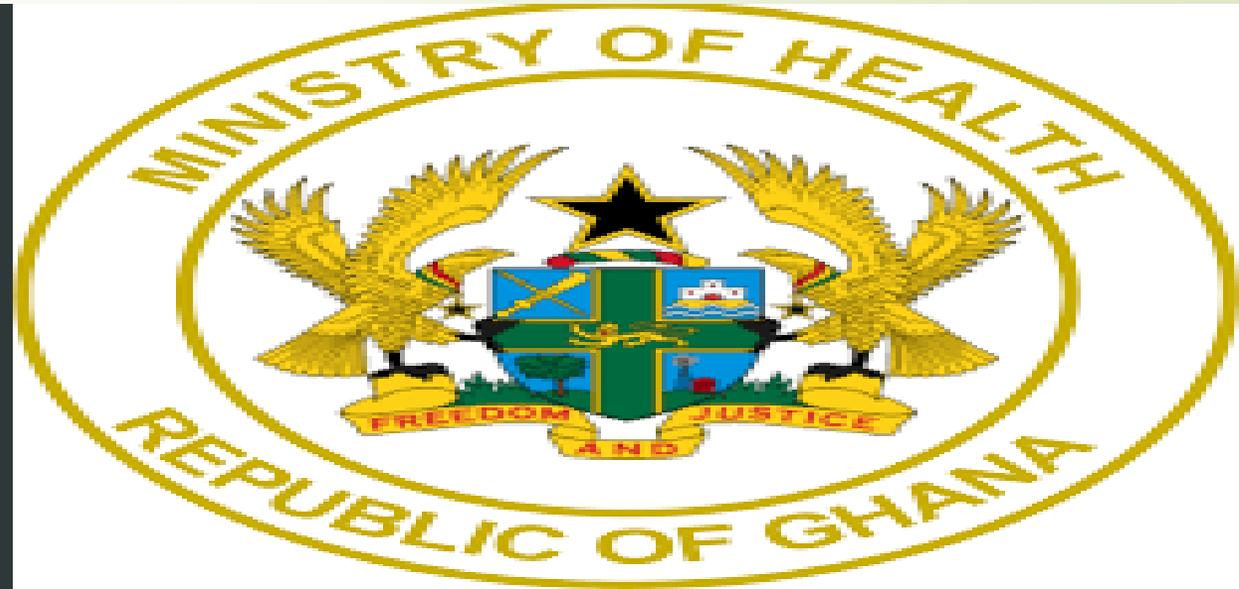
Conclusion

Let's make change
happen.



PALLIATIVE
and
END-OF-LIFE
CARE

*A palliative approach to care across the continuum:
Providing the right care, in the right place, at the right time.*





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