THE DECLARATION OF DUBLIN, IRELAND

Surviving childhood cancer can be a lifelong challenge, regardless of geographical, religious, ethnic, financial and cultural backgrounds. We, the global CCI Survivors Network, ask medical and psychosocial professionals and all other stakeholders to acknowledge the challenges and needs of survivors.

Survivors of childhood cancer may develop medical and psychosocial late effects that severely impact their quality of life. Therefore, comprehensive long-term follow-up care is essential. We ask that adequate long-term follow-up clinics are established, where survivors can have access to personalized follow-up care. We ask for more research on late effects so that survivor care services can be improved.

Inadequate transition from childhood cancer care to adult medical care can result in a lack of knowledge and understanding of the impact and consequences of childhood cancer by the treating health professional(s). It is essential that these health professionals have a thorough understanding of the needs of cancer survivors. We request for full disclosure and sharing of our medical history and potential risks to our current and future health.

We emphasize the importance of trustworthy and empathetic psychosocial support during and after treatment. We ask all involved with our long-term care to be forthcoming and honest with us and to take our issues seriously.

In some countries, survivors are stigmatized and experience discrimination. We ask for equal opportunities in society including, but not limited to, education, employment and insurance.

Although cancer is a major cause of death amongst children around the world, it is important to convey to the general public that childhood cancer is often curable and that the survivors’ population is increasing globally each year. We urge you to work with us to educate the general public in order to dispel misconceptions and myths about childhood cancer.

With the support and commitment of all stakeholders, childhood cancer survivors can be actively engaged in society and live their lives to the fullest.

Dublin, October 18th 2016