



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF PSORIASIS ASSOCIATIONS

Stockholm, Sweden, July 2, 2014

### **Regarding the case of Rev. Magnolia Mendoza vs airline Cebu Pacific Inc.**

#### **Background:**

The International Federation of Psoriasis Associations, IFPA, recently learned that the discrimination case of the Rev. Magnolia Mendoza versus the airline carrier Cebu Pacific, filed in August 2010, has been judged in support of the plaintiff. In March 2010, the Rev. Mendoza was denied boarding a flight with the above-mentioned airline, given as cause her medical condition, the noncommunicable, inflammatory disease psoriasis. The check-in personnel requested a medical certificate, which the Rev. Mendoza did not have in her possession at the time and which, it has since been shown, is not even required for psoriasis according to the airlines' own manual.

#### **The global psoriasis community shows its support**

IFPA, along with a number of member organizations from all over the world, issued statements and sent letters during the process, to show the Rev. Mendoza support in this issue, strongly objecting to any form of discrimination, especially against persons suffering from psoriasis and/or psoriatic arthritis and other noncommunicable diseases.

IFPA also stressed the importance of airlines, and other passenger transportation services, collecting the correct information regarding medical conditions to prevent unfortunate situations such as this.

Lars Ettarp, President of IFPA, comments:

"The Rev. Magnolia Mendoza is an ordained minister and professor at the Siliman University Divinity School, and a highly respected member of the psoriasis community in the Philippines. IFPA has from the beginning followed this important case with great interest, as it shows how psoriasis as a disease, on its own, can lead to people being stigmatized and discriminated against. This was a clear case of a person looking different, due to her medical condition, and being mistreated because of it. IFPA and all our member organizations wish to congratulate the Rev. Mendoza on the positive outcome of this process, and thank her for the courage and fortitude she has shown, together with our Philippine member association, PsorPhil, in driving this case and not accepting being treated with anything but respect and common decency."

In the recent WHO psoriasis resolution, the issue of stigma and discrimination against people with psoriasis is highlighted and the WHO member states encouraged to "engage further in advocacy efforts to raise awareness regarding the disease of psoriasis, fighting stigmatization suffered by those with psoriasis". The resolution can be downloaded here:

[http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA67/A67\\_R9-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA67/A67_R9-en.pdf)

#### **About IFPA**

The International Federation of Psoriasis Associations (IFPA) is the non-profit umbrella organization for the majority of psoriasis associations from around the world. Today IFPA has 50 member associations covering all regions of the world. IFPA unites psoriasis associations so that their global campaign for improved medical care, greater public understanding and increased research will improve the lives of the more than 125 million people who live with psoriasis and/or psoriatic arthritis. You can read more about IFPA, our members and our activities on our website [www.ifpa-pso.org](http://www.ifpa-pso.org).



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