

3rd October 2023

Dear Mr. Higginson,

I am writing on behalf of the Fondation Raoul Follereau to express our support for your documentary film SHUDDHI. The moving testimonies presented in the film reflect our daily reality. Leprosy is frequently linked to a battle of the past, yet this film helps demonstrate that the fight is far from over, emphasizing the imperative need to persist in our efforts.

SHUDDHI offers a poignant and poetic glimpse into the reality faced by some individuals affected, by Hansen's disease. That reality still exist in many countries all over the world, a reality we fight against every day along with our various partners and especially our local partners. The latter are at the forefront of the fight against leprosy, playing a vital role in supporting Hansen's disease patients. One of our founder's goal was to inspire people to take action. He created World Leprosy day, which remains an event of great mobilization each year, during the last weekend of January. This movie takes part in the same awareness process that the Fondation Raoul Follereau perpetuates: a process that makes the unseen seen and try to restore the inherent humanity to those who have been stripped of it.

The Fondation Raoul Follereau pursues the path set out by its founder, fighting against leprosy while also tackling its cause and consequences. In our efforts to realize these objectives, we place individuals, regardless of their background or religion, at the forefront. We prioritize comprehensive actions aimed at providing care, facilitating education, training, and reintegration. For seven decades, our foundation has been committed to this mission, thanks to the unwavering support of a generous community that includes donors, partners and volunteers. Although our priority countries are in Africa, we acknowledge that SHUDDHI beautifully aligns with our shared aspiration to live in a leprosy-free world.

As the Fondation Raoul Follereau, we want to thank Mr Higginson for his dedication to raising awareness about leprosy. May his film reach countless hearts and minds, sparking conversations and fostering understanding about leprosy and its impact on people and communities.

Sincerely,

Yann De Rauglaudre

Director of Development and Communication at the Fondation Raoul Follereau


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