

MEDIA RELEASE: For Friday 17th May 2019

Campaign for face equality ‘becomes a global movement’ with the first International Face Equality Week

The Moebius Syndrome Foundation is pleased to announce a week of awareness-raising events, media coverage and social media activity begins around the world today to promote ‘Face Equality’ – the fair treatment of people with facial and body differences and the elimination of disfigurement discrimination.

The many NGOs and NFPs that are members of Face Equality International, the new alliance representing people with disfigurements, will be holding Face Equality Days in their own countries and regions – starting with the Sunshine Welfare Foundation co-ordinating activities in Taiwan, and the Moebius Syndrome Foundation in the United States, on 17th May.

Dr James Partridge OBE, founder and Director of Face Equality International says:

“Wherever they live in the world, people with disfigurements – whether from cleft lip and/or palate, birthmarks, burns, acid violence, facial paralysis like Bell’s palsy, skin conditions such as psoriasis and vitiligo or after facial cancer – are disadvantaged by the way they are received. They experience isolation, bullying, ridicule and staring in public, low expectations in school, problems getting work and harassment in the workplace, abuse on social media and stereotyping in the media and films.

“The first International Face Equality Week demonstrates that the campaign for Face Equality has become a global movement. We aim to tackle three problems commonly associated with disfigurement – ignorance, fear and unwitting prejudice – by celebrating the achievements and ambitions of people with disfigurements and by bringing the disadvantages they face to public attention. Our growing movement demands respect and fair treatment for everyone, backed up by effective anti-discrimination protection in every country.”

NGOs and NFPs that are participating in the International Week include the Moebius Syndrome Foundation, Smile Train, the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors and FACES in the US, the European Cleft Organisation, the Smile Foundation in South Africa and Changing Faces in the UK.

[A full list of Members of Face Equality International is here:

<https://faceequalityinternational.org/thealliance/>]

For more information, please contact Dina Scalone, Executive Director at Dina@moebius syndrome.org

For more information about the Moebius Syndrome Foundation, please visit www.moebius syndrome.org

Follow hashtag #FaceEquality2019 on social media

