WHAT IS THE GLOBAL VWD CALL TO ACTION?

What is VWD?

It is estimated that **up to 1% of the world’s population has von Willebrand disease (VWD)**, but because many people have very mild symptoms, only a small number of them know they have it.

People with VWD have a problem with a protein in their blood called **von Willebrand factor (VWF)** that helps control bleeding. When a blood vessel is injured and bleeding occurs, VWF helps cells in the blood, called platelets, mesh together and form a clot to stop the bleeding.

People with VWD do not have enough VWF, or it does not work the way it should. It takes longer for blood to clot and for bleeding to stop.

What is the Global VWD Call to Action?

The Global VWD Call to Action is an **act of solidarity** amongst WFH national member organizations (NMOs) to recognize VWD and break the stigma and isolation that can exist for people living with VWD. It promotes **adequate care and treatment** for people with VWD.

Since the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) unanimously adopted the Global VWD Call to Action in 2018, **visibility and recognition has increased worldwide**.

DID YOU KNOW?

- VWD is the most common type of bleeding disorder
- VWD affects men and women
- Research has shown that as many as 9 out of 10 people with VWD have not been diagnosed
- VWD is usually inherited and is passed down from either parent. VWD can also occur due to a spontaneous change in the VWD gene before the baby is born

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
elearning.wfh.org/elearning-centres/vwd/
or www.wfh.org/VWD
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO SIGN ON TO THE GLOBAL VWD CALL TO ACTION?

The Importance of joining this global initiative

The Global VWD Call to Action is a call to unite in raising awareness and taking steps to support and improve the lives of those living with VWD. 45 NMOs have already signed on!

Actions you can take after signing on

- Broaden the mission of your organization to include VWD
- Organize events with patients and families
- Include VWD in your organization’s advocacy efforts
- Lead outreach campaigns in different areas of your country
- Write articles in your newsletter, blog, website, or social media pages on VWD
- Provide orientation and accompaniment to VWD patients and families

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