



YOU ARE INVITED
**TO JOIN THE HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE (HD)
COMMUNITY AT THE FIRST EVER PAPAL
AUDIENCE WITH HD FAMILIES**

Pope Francis' Special Audience with the Huntington's Disease Community in Solidarity with South America

DATE: May 18, 2017

TIME: Doors open at 8 am, event starts at 10 am

LOCATION: Aula Paolo VI (Sala Nervi), Vatican City, Rome

On this day, Pope Francis will meet with families affected by Huntington's from South America – where prevalence of the disease is among the world's highest. Families from Colombia, Venezuela and Argentina will join an audience of thousands to help drive awareness of HD and to lift the stigma around the disease.

Globally, an estimated one million people are affected by this fatal genetic disorder that has no cure. Its symptoms, including involuntary movements as well as cognitive and psychiatric challenges, have forced those affected to hide the disease for fear of public criticism, discrimination and unfair treatment.

It is through the cooperation of families in the region of Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela that the Huntingtin gene was identified nearly 25 years ago, helping catalyze critical research and interventions to improve the lives of those affected by HD. However, few of these innovations have made it back to South America. The disease continues unabated globally.

On May 18, Pope Francis will send a message of hope from the Catholic Church to those affected by Huntington's disease of every faith and in every corner of the world that they are not alone. Nobody should feel shame about the existence of Huntington's disease in their family.

We hope that you will join us for what is expected to be the largest global gathering for this community. **It's time for Huntington's Disease to be Hidden No More!**

Visit HDdenmore.com to register to attend and for the most up-to-date event information.

The event is part of HDdenmore – pronounced 'Hidden No More' ('Ocultá Nunca Más' in Spanish or 'Mai Più Nascosta' in Italian) – a global initiative of HD patient advocates that aims to bring global attention to the HD community to improve the lives of those affected by HD and to mobilize action to free families from the shame associated with the disease.