

The Union's response to the open letter by [José Luis Castro](#) (Executive Director of The Union), Mach 12, 2015:

Dear Mike and colleagues,

Thank you for voicing your concerns as laid out in your open letter to The Union, "*Retiring stigmatizing and criminalizing language from the global TB discourse*".

The Union fully acknowledges that some of the terms that have been used for many years to describe TB activities can serve to stigmatize people affected by TB. Ultimately the responsibility for providing TB effective and high quality treatment and care falls on the healthcare system, not on individuals impacted by the disease. The article you referenced in your letter, published in the IJTL, which calls for non-stigmatizing, non-criminalizing, patient-centered languages includes as co-author a member of The Union's senior management team.

The Union is committed to communicating in a manner that embodies respect for all people affected by TB. We will include guidance and a [link](#) to the Stop TB Partnership's language guide in our abstract submission guidance for our conference participants. We have also shared your letter with the Editors in Chiefs of our journals, [International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease](#) and [Public Health Action](#), and will pursue appropriate language guidance.

Thank you.

José