

Rohini Peris, President and CEO of the Environmental Health Association of Canada, introduced a collaborative video featuring key milestones and calls to action from leaders of MCS organizations worldwide. She explained that Multiple Chemical Sensitivity involves severe physical reactions to airborne chemicals, making workplaces, homes, and public buildings inaccessible to many. The United Nations Commission on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' explicit inclusion of this condition in its human rights and disability feedback to Canada was significant. While Canada has expanded conversations across government and medical departments, individuals still face major roadblocks in daily life. Ms. Peris emphasized that because environmental accessibility affects people everywhere, international teamwork is necessary to connect science and human rights.

In France, Pascale Poupin, President of SOS-MCS, shared that her organization received a major national health endorsement from the government, allowing them to officially sit on national health committees and help shape public policy. However, French doctors still do not officially recognize the condition in their medical manuals, which slows down professional training and leaves patients fighting for proper diagnoses.

Meanwhile, Anabel Tenorio from Spain, President of CONFESQ, announced two major achievements: more than half of the country's regional communities have adopted official hospital care protocols for these patients, and a brand-new national guide was published to teach employers how to safely adapt workplaces. Even with these wins, Spain faces a big hurdle because the condition lacks an official code in international medical classification systems, leading many to incorrectly dismiss it as a mental issue.

In Italy, Francesca Romano, President of AMICA, highlighted a breakthrough national study revealing that over five percent of the population shows symptoms compatible with MCS, proving it is a widespread public health issue rather than a rare disease. Unfortunately, Italian hospitals still lack fragrance-free policies, and the medical community remains largely unaware of chronic chemical toxicity.

Nikki Greenham, President of MCS-Aware, United Kingdom, noted a clear rise in public inquiries and awareness regarding how everyday scents impact human health. Her charity has expanded its printed and digital resources, but she stressed that a lack of formal recognition within the UK healthcare system still forces patients to navigate complex medical and social support networks entirely on their own.

In Denmark, Ulla Bach Agerup, president of MCS-Foreningen, shared a practical victory: several hospitals have put up posters asking people to avoid using perfumes, and a primary school established a perfume-free policy to protect a teacher living with the condition. However, Danish general practitioners rarely know about the existing diagnostic code, making patient referrals very difficult.

Representing Scotland, Janice Foster, a researcher, discussed her work on assessing buildings and making spaces inclusive. Her institution started using fragrance-free cleaning products on

campus and integrated the issue into its sustainability goals. Still, she noted that the lack of formal government recognition continues to fuel social exclusion.

In the United States, Maureen Bonetti celebrated a historic milestone: the American Medical Association formally adopted a policy recognizing that chemical exposures can severely limit major life activities, and they are now encouraging healthcare facilities to go fragrance-free. The downside is that policy is currently ahead of practice, as a lack of enforcement makes these initiatives highly inconsistent.

In Japan, Kato Yasuko explained that they are creating a specialized guidebook to help home-care nurses understand how to provide fragrance-free personal care. This is a critical need, as many caregivers currently refuse to treat these patients due to a total lack of awareness about the dangers of chemical vapours.

In Australia, Melissa Maurer highlighted that the capital territory legally declared the right to a clean and healthy environment, and another state launched a formal inquiry into clean indoor air. Unfortunately, these actions haven't yet created system-wide changes, leaving patients to fight expensive legal battles individually to get basic accommodations.

Finally, Heidi Wagner, president of MCS-Rosenheim, from Germany, spoke about a milestone international survey detailing how fragrances force individuals into isolation. Germany still has a severe shortage of knowledgeable doctors, making international collaboration between patient groups vital for sharing solutions and strength. The video concluded with a unified message from all participants: clean air is a universal right and a fundamental part of human dignity.

Ultimately, this global update highlights a shared struggle where foundational progress is consistently hindered by a lack of formal medical coding and regulatory enforcement. By uniting these international voices, the video underscores that environmental accessibility requires a coordinated global effort to transform these hard-won milestones into reliable, actionable, everyday protections.