

MÉDECINS DU MONDE 世界医生组织 DOCTORS OF THE WORLD منظمة أطباء العالم LÄKARE I VÄRLDEN MEDICI DEL MONDO ΓΙΑΤΡΟΙ ΤΟΥ ΚΟΣΜΟΥ DOKTERS VAN DE WERELD MÉDICOS DO MUNDO MÉDICOS DEL MUNDO 世界の医療団 ÄRZTE DER WELT दुनिया के डॉक्टर MÉDECINS DU MONDE 世界医生组织 DOCTORS OF THE WORLD منظمة أطباء العالم LÄKARE I VÄRLDEN MEDICI DEL MONDO ΓΙΑΤΡΟΙ ΤΟΥ ΚΟΣΜΟΥ DOKTERS VAN DE WERELD MÉDICOS DO MUNDO MÉDICOS DEL MUNDO 世界の医療団 ÄRZTE DER WELT



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## Moving forward together

### Suggestions from the Doctors of the World UK conference

In Birmingham and in London, conference attendees had a balance of speeches and workshops. And at the end of the day, the following steps were discussed:

- Raising the issue of migrants' access to health and countering the misinformation that is circulated. This is possible through the following:

Letters to MPs

Letters to the Secretary of State for Health, Department of Health, and Chief M.O.

Letters to the opposition (highlighted by Evan Harris)

Letters to the editor (newspapers and medical journals)

Comments submitted to online articles and blogs

- When trying to get patients registered with a GP, be armed with reference to authority (the provision in the relevant GP contract, the statements of the RCGP, BMA and GMC)  
**Action: Doctors of the World UK to upload these documents onto our website for easy reference**
- When trying to get patients registered, try to avoid temporary registrations since patients can be suddenly dropped off the list. And the process of temporary registration does not entitle them to an NHS number – which is a very useful thing for individuals to have.
- Read the government's White Paper on Public Health, and respond to the consultation. Urge any organisation you are a member of to do the same.

#### Of particular interest to medical professionals

- When seeing a patient about whom inquiries about eligibility are being made, it is important to make a treatment plan first. The clinical assessment and subsequent treatment plan must be a central part of the process.
- While decisions are being made by the commissioning consortia, it is vital to be part of the process in order to highlight issues relating to migrant access to health – which could very easily be forgotten.

Action: Doctors of the World UK to prepare a briefing pack for use in meeting with consortia

- When there is an incident of non-adherence to clinic governance - e.g. allowing an administrative decision to trump a clinical decision about treatment suitability – fill out an incident report. This triggers the authority’s responsibility to investigate, which is key to their action.
- Document and fight any decision which undermines a GP’s discretion to register any patient. This includes *PCT guidance, pressure from the shared business services or counter-fraud offices or Spine refusals.*

Action: GPs to forward examples to Doctors of the World UK as well as your Local Medical Committee.

Action: Doctors of the World UK to provide support, as well as compiling examples.

#### Of particular interest to students

- Since students are required to perform clinical audits, it was suggested that they work with practitioners and NGOs to identify ways of focusing these audits in order to produce evidence which could be used to influence policy.

Action: Doctors of the World UK to liaise with Medsin contact, in order to outline proposal.

Action: GPs - please contact Susan Wright if you are interested in participating.

#### Of particular interest to NGO activists

- Evan Harris outlined key issues to bear in mind, when lobbying for policy change:

Immigration caps can be a lightning rod for public outcry, enabling the government to introduce policies which are favourable to vulnerable migrants.

Greater opportunity for evidenced-based policy – since the coalition is forced to negotiate agreements on difficult policy issues they are forced to rely more and more on evidence. Supply them with data and case studies which illustrate the benefits of a policy which helps migrants access health care.

Don’t overlook the need to influence the opposition party.

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