



Healthcare is a human right Patient Solidarity Day

From: the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) and Malta Health Network (MHN)

For release – preferable around the 5 December

Patients declare that 'healthcare is a human right' worldwide

On Saturday 5 December, patients from across the world will join together to celebrate Patient Solidarity Day and declare that healthcare is a human right.

The **World Health Organization** states that every person has '*the right to the highest attainable standard of health*'. This is supported by the International Human Rights Framework, a body of international law that outlines and upholds the basic rights of every person. Patients taking part in Patient Solidarity Day will stand up for their rights and call for healthcare providers to respond.

The Malta Health Network, has decided to join the campaign for the first time this year to raise the awareness that access to health care is not a commodity for everyone all over the World. Often on a national level we speak of lacks and rights however one must also remember the brothers and sisters in various countries all over the world, even in developed countries who have limited or no access to adequate health care. These may be due to various reasons including financial barriers and racial or discriminatory issues.

Kawaldip Sehmi, CEO of the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations, said:

'All of us should have access to the healthcare we need: good quality, affordable care without fear of discrimination. Healthcare is a human right for all. We call on individuals, organizations and institutions to ensure that health systems are designed and services delivered to meet the needs of patients.'

Patient Solidarity Day has steadily grown since being launched by the Morris Moses Foundation in 2011. Last year's event, coordinated by the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations, marked the first year as a global campaign and saw 80 organizations from 32 countries take part. This year's theme continues the legacy of previous years by raising awareness around the rights of patients and placing them at the centre of healthcare. Leading patients' groups from six continents will host a range of events to raise awareness among the public and will urge decision-makers to respect, protect and fulfil patients' rights at every level of care.

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About MHN

Malta Health Network has joined IAPO in January 2015. During this year MHN has also elected a new board for the coming 3 years. The new board is composed of Mr Anthony Guillaumier (Chairperson), Mr Mark Miceli Farrugia (Vice-Chairperson), Ms Gertrude A. Buttigieg (Hon Secretary), Mr Demis Cachia (Treasurer), and Ms Caroline Attard, Mr Moses Azzopardi, Dr Christine Baluci & Dr Ray Galea (Members).

The Malta Health Network was set up in 2007 with the aim of representing in Malta, in the EU and internationally, the interests of patients and the health of the community, developing better coordination, collaboration and capacity building through exchange of best practice among Health Non Governmental (NGO) 'not for profit' (NPO) Organizations and Patient Representation Groups (PRGs). MHN is independent of the Government of Malta and of any political party or organization. The Network Currently started off with 20 funder member organisations and currently counts over 30 organisations. It supports initiatives to protect patients' health and is active in promoting The European Charter of Patients' rights. MHN participates in consultation session related to health and patient issues, has regular communication with local health Authorities and gives a voice to member organisations as need arises. Contact MHN on info@maltahealthnetwork.org

About IAPO

The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) is a unique global alliance representing patients of all nations across all disease areas. It works to promote patient-centred healthcare around the world. With over 250 members, IAPO represents an estimated 365 million patients. Find out more about Patient Solidarity Day at www.patientsolidarityday.org or contact Ian Ford, IAPO Communications Officer, at ian@iapo.org.uk . Find out more at www.iapo.org.uk.

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