



17<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## **The Right to Avoid Unnecessary Suffering and Pain**

Press Release by Malta Health Network on the Occasion of European Patients' Rights Day

It totally unacceptable that vulnerable patients end up being the victims of industrial actions ordered by Union/s, stated the Malta Health Network (MHN), representing 40 voluntary organisations with the aim of promoting the health-related interests of patients. MHN strongly supports the statement issued by the Commissioner for Health, Mr Charles Messina who describes such actions as inhumane (message by [Commissioner for Health](#)).

MHN is aware that such situations arise from time to time in various state run and non-state-run hospitals and care residences. On the day when MHN joins other European health-related organisations to raise awareness on European Patients' Rights Day, we appeal to the involved Union/s and hospital authorities to seek to find agreements over their disputes without incurring additional burdens on patients.

The patients are helpless and vulnerable and have no choice but to be dependent on help for their basic needs. It is unfair and unjust to try to resolve issues using such persons who cannot fight back and who do NOT have any alternatives available to them in such situations. They are the people who are still suffering the most from COVID situation and this is a terrible last blow for them. Thus, we appeal for the respect of patients' rights as described in the [European Charter of Patients' Rights](#) especially the Right to avoid unnecessary suffering and pain.