

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

We stand in solidarity with all those taking action to secure better pay, conditions, and the survival of the NHS. Everyone must ensure pay rises with inflation, real terms cuts are rolled back, safe staffing levels are guaranteed, and that NHS staff can do the work they love without sacrificing their own health.

United in the face of division

In July 2023, the Government announced plans to fund its insulting 6% public sector pay offer through substantial rises to visa costs and almost doubling the Immigration Health Surcharge. These are unjust, discriminatory charges targeting migrants, forcing families to pay tens of thousands in fees on top of the taxes they pay. It will price many out of being able to afford a visa, forcing them into living undocumented and further into poverty and exploitation.

All workers deserve decent pay, safe working conditions and protection against bosses seeking to take advantage of us. Public sector workers deserve pay rises, but we strongly oppose any decision to fund this on the backs of migrant workers. This blatant attempt to sow division within the labour movement, and our communities, is a threat to us all.

Thousands of workers have taken a stand, backed by their unions, including the BMA, NEU, PCS and GMB, and over 60 migrants' rights organisations. We must remain united in the face of racist divisive attacks. An injury to one is an injury to all.

Charges for NHS care, hospitals sharing data with the Home Office, and these increased visa fees are all part of the Hostile Environment immigration system. They are being deployed in the NHS and across our public services in a direct attack on all of us - a clear attempt to make us pay the price for decades of Government underfunding and pay cuts.

Omisha's Story

Omisha was 10 months old when she was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. She needed a liver transplant and several rounds of chemotherapy. The NHS saved her life. Omisha was born in 2019 in Britain, but because of her parents' immigration status, she was charged £76,000 for her care. The hospital sent debt collectors to chase her family for payment and reported the debt to the Home Office, who refused her mum a visa because of their NHS bill.

Omisha and her family are campaigning for justice for Omisha, and for everyone charged for their NHS care. The campaign has succeeded in regularising Omisha and her family's immigration status, and getting the hospital to put the debt on pause. But the bill still remains on her family's record, the hospital can still pursue them for the money if their circumstances change, and the debt could affect her dad's next visa application.



THE NHS IS UNDER THREAT

- **Cuts to pay**
- **Unsafe staffing**
- **Health workers forced to be border guards**
- **Some patients and NHS staff charged for care**



Hostile immigration policies have been forced on the NHS by the Home Office. They are an attack on all of us, undermining the trust between health workers and patients, sowing division in our communities and threatening the founding principles of the NHS.

The NHS was conceived as a universal service, available to all who need it, regardless of ability to pay, or where a person is from. But underfunding and the creeping privatisation of services is stretching these principles to breaking point. Britain's hostile immigration system means the NHS has started charging some patients for care, with health workers and NHS staff tasked with checking patients' eligibility. This is laying the groundwork for widespread charging, putting profit before patients and threatening the foundations of the health service.

Across the country health workers, migrant communities, patients, and community campaigners are standing up and taking action to end border controls in the NHS, under the banner of Patients Not Passports.

We must unite our struggles to save the NHS.

Here's how you can get involved:

- ▶ **Sign up to hear more about the campaign**
patientsnotpassports.co.uk/join
- ▶ **Come to a New Joiners meeting**
patientsnotpassports.co.uk/new-joiners
- ▶ **Bring forward a motion against NHS charging to your union branch and region**
tinyurl.com/UniteMotion
- ▶ **Support Omisha - sign her petition**
change.org/JusticeForOmisha



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