

## Merseyside Action for Migrant Healthcare



“We are not immigration officers” says Merseyside hospital consultant.

Staff from NHS hospitals in Merseyside will deliver a petition by 9 am on Wednesday 17th June calling on Merseyside NHS Trusts to **stop charging migrants for healthcare**. Staff and campaigners have also produced a short video online.

“We are not immigration officers,” says Consultant Microbiologist Dr Jonathan Folb, “we are trained to treat patients, but the Hostile Environment is interfering with our work to deliver care.”

**Merseyside Action for Migrant Healthcare** has won support from Liverpool MPs Kim Johnson, Dan Carden, Paula Barker and Ian Byrne.

The petition, signed by staff and hundreds of Liverpool residents, highlights that with COVID-19, “Anyone can be infected or infect others. Everyone is part of the community at risk. Everyone must now feel confident to seek treatment as needed and to aid in tracing contacts of anyone identified as infected with the virus.”

Although COVID-19 testing and treatment is free, the test can fail to detect the disease, and patients may have other health problems whose treatment is not free. Long before COVID-19, women were missing antenatal appointments to avoid being charged or reported to the Home Office. Some have even died in childbirth as a result.

This call for action on migrant health comes amid national controversy over disproportionate deaths from COVID-19 amongst BAME communities in the UK and widespread anti-racist protests as part of the international Black Lives Matter movement.

A significant proportion of NHS staff are from overseas and have been affected by COVID-19 in large numbers,” says Infectious Diseases Registrar Dr Chinenye Ilozue . “We are asking NHS Trusts on Merseyside to do the right thing.”

### **Our demands:**

- End the Hostile Environment to Fight the Pandemic
- Take Down All Hostile Publicity
- Let People Know that Treatment is Free
- Suspend the NHS Charges
- Stop Reporting Debt to the Home Office

Video: <https://tinyurl.com/yate785n> or <https://youtu.be/XL3K2xOUIaY>

**Petition:**

[https://secure.avaaz.org/en/community\\_petitions/liverpool\\_university\\_hospitals\\_liverpool\\_womens\\_me\\_coronavirus\\_end\\_the\\_hostile\\_environment\\_to\\_fight\\_the\\_pandemic/details/](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/community_petitions/liverpool_university_hospitals_liverpool_womens_me_coronavirus_end_the_hostile_environment_to_fight_the_pandemic/details/)

Social Media:

Twitter @ActionMigrant

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Merseyside-Action-for-Migrant-Healthcare-104357017993151](http://www.facebook.com/Merseyside-Action-for-Migrant-Healthcare-104357017993151)

#PatientsNotPassports

#ScrapMigrantCharges

#EndHostileEnvironment

#BLM