



Patient Solidarity Day

One voice. United. Universal.

From: The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) and ADD YOUR ORGANIZATION'S NAME

For immediate release – ADD RELEASE DATE

Title: Patient Solidarity Day 2014

IAPO is proud to announce the celebration of **Patient Solidarity Day 2014 on 6 December 2014**. Patients' organizations all over the world will stand together to call for universal health coverage. High quality, equitable and affordable healthcare is nothing more than a dream for so many people around the world. This needs to change. We call for a world where patient-centred healthcare is a reality and all people can have fair and impartial access to quality healthcare.

On Patient Solidarity Day 2014, patient advocates – regardless of disease or condition, geographic location, or socio-economic status – will join together to highlight the important issues for patient-centred healthcare, and the need for all patients to access equitable, high quality and affordable healthcare. This will include activities ranging from marches, workshops and dance shows to hospital visits and free health screenings.

Kin-ping Tsang, Chair of IAPO, stated that 'IAPO is excited to celebrate Patient Solidarity Day this year. Every patient should have access to the healthcare they need. Our members and patients from across the world will unite on 6 December to call for universal health coverage. There has never been a better time to speak up and put patients at the centre of healthcare.'

IAPO congratulates all our members and partner organizations in their support of this important day. We are delighted that celebrations will be going on around the world to highlight the need for patient-centred healthcare. Our members are dedicated to this cause, and we commend them on their hard work and actions to amplify patients' voices.

Patient Solidarity Day was initiated by the Morris Moses Foundation in Kenya in 2011. IAPO members felt the importance of engaging in the day, as it directly supports our vision and mission of ensuring patients are at the centre of healthcare systems. Support for the Day has grown over

the past few years, and 2014 is our biggest year yet, with members around the world uniting together!

Jo Groves, Chief Executive Officer, IAPO, feels *'Patient Solidarity Day is an opportunity to raise awareness and support for patient-centred healthcare. We know that patient-centred healthcare will significantly improve health systems and most importantly improve patient's journeys so that they have a better quality of life. This is a critical time for us to ensure that the patient voice is central to the post-2015 development agenda and the achievement of Universal Health Coverage.'*

IAPO is a unique global alliance representing patients of all nations, across all disease areas. We work to promote patient-centred healthcare around the world. With over 240 members, it is estimated that IAPO represents nearly 365 million patients.

For all information about Patient Solidarity Day, visit our website:

<http://www.patientsolidarityday.org>. Keep up with news and events by following [@PatientSolDay](#) on Twitter, use the #PSD2014, and 'Like' the [Patient Solidarity Page](#) on Facebook.

ENDS

For further information, please contact: Megan MacGarry, Senior Membership Officer: +44 20 7250 8279 and email: megan@iapo.org.uk