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Secretary: Dr Chris Agbo MBBS, FWACP, FHEA, MRCP, FAcadMED, MSc (Med Ed)
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MANSAG
Kemp House
152 - 160 City Road
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United Kingdom

13TH APRIL 2020

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
The Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
Email: withampp@parliament.uk

Dear Rt Hon Patel

Re :

- 1. URGENT APPEAL AGAINST THE DEPORTATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS/DEPENDANTS OF IMMIGRANT HEALTH CARE WORKERS ON TIER2 (SKILLED WORKERS) VISA WHO DIE ON THE FRONTLINE FIGHTING COVID-19**
- 2. REMOVAL OF IMMIGRATON HEALTH SURCHARGE (IHS) FOR IMMIGRANT HEALTHCARE WORKERS.**

The **M**edical **A**ssociation of **N**igerian**S** **A**cross **G**reat Britain (**MANSAG**) is a UK-registered Charity, established in 1997 exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. It is the only body representing over 5000 Nigerian Medical Practitioners and Allied Healthcare Professionals in the British Isles, with the main aims of benefitting the public in general and in particular but not exclusively, Nigerian people living in the British Isles. MANSAG is thus a representative group for healthcare workers of Nigerian origin, and we write on their behalf.

These are unprecedented times, and we would like to thank the government for its provision for the British public and its continued efforts in the fight to minimise the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

You will no doubt understand that given the rising numbers of COVID-19 related deaths, particularly amongst our Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) NHS colleagues as it is becoming evident, people are anxious and concerned for themselves and their families.



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This is particularly the case for many of our members who are working in the NHS on a visa and on whom their families depend. Their current status means that if they were to pass away whilst working on the front lines in the fight against COVID-19, their families automatically become illegal in the UK and will be deported to their home country.

As more and more colleagues on the frontline, unfortunately, pay the ultimate sacrifice, it is becoming a stark reality that any of our days could be numbered. While this is worrisome, the welfare of families left behind is a source of significantly greater concern.

We are all in this together, and it is not the British way to treat those who fall while serving this country in this manner. Therefore, we are asking for assurances that the families and dependents of immigrant healthcare workers on a visa should not be removed from the UK if they were to die while in service to the NHS.

Furthermore, with the contribution of immigrant healthcare workers to the NHS, we would like to use this time to begin a discussion about removing the immigration health surcharge (IHS). IHS is the surcharge that they have to pay to access the healthcare service, to which they already give much of their time and efforts as doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other front-line staff.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss these issues and how we can resolve them further.



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Please be assured of our most sincere regards and we look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest regards,

Ibrahim Bolaji

On behalf of the national executive team



Ibrahim I. Bolaji MBBS, PGCME, FRCPI, FRCOG, MD, LLM

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" Hard times don't create heroes. It is during the hard times when the 'hero' within us is revealed." – Bob Riley.

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Stay at home | **Protect the NHS** | **Save lives**

UK Registered Charity No. 1077899

Chizo Agwu, Treasurer • Alexander Oboh, Financial Secretary • Tonye Wokoma, Publicity and Fund Raising Secretary
Oge Ilozue, Welfare and Social Secretary • Olusina Adeniyi, Allied Health Professionals (AHP) Representative • Mike Ehima, Trainees' Representative



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