

The Rt Hon Matthew Hancock
Department of Health & Social Care
39 Victoria St
London
SW1H 0EU

The Rt Hon Rory Stewart
Department for International Development
22 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EG

24 May 2019

To: The Rt Hon Matthew Hancock, The Rt Hon Rory Stewart
Per email: matt.hancock.mp@parliament.uk, rory.stewart.mp@parliament.uk

CC
Per email: specialadvisors@dhsc.gov.uk, dfidcorrespondence@dfid.gov.uk

Open Letter from 66 civil society organisations working in sub Saharan Africa regarding the UK government's opposition to increased transparency in research costs and prices for medicines

We stand in strong support of the resolution proposed by Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, South Africa and more, and endorsed by civil society organisations around the world, currently being negotiated during the World Health Assembly.

We note that the issue of excessive medicine pricing is a global crisis affecting all diseases, all health technologies, and not only Africa, but all countries around the world. Astronomical medicine prices cause avoidable suffering and death, and push health systems to their limits and millions of people into poverty.

The UK government's opposition to this resolution is in sharp contrast to its claim to act as a leader in global health. A true champion of global health would vocally support this initiative.

We support maximum transparency in the prices for medicines—transparency means our governments can negotiate fair prices rather than negotiating blindly.

We are requesting the UK government to stand in solidarity with people most at risk of suffering and death because of lack of access to medicines by abandoning your obstruction of this powerful resolution.

Sincerely,

AIDS Information Centre (AIC), Uganda

Cancer Alliance, South Africa—including:

Breast Course 4 Nurses, South Africa

Breast Health Foundation, South Africa

Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA), South Africa

Cancer Heroes, South Africa

Can-Sir, South Africa

CanSurvive, South Africa

Care for Cancer Foundation, South Africa

Childhood Cancer Foundation of South Africa (CHOC), South Africa

Hospice Palliative Care Association (HPCA), South Africa

Igazi Foundation, South Africa

Look Good Feel Better, South Africa

Love your Nuts, South Africa

Lymphoedema Association of South Africa (LAOSA), South Africa

Men's Foundation, South Africa

National Council Against Smoking, South Africa

National Oncology Nursing Association of SA, South Africa

Pancreatic Cancer Network of SA (PanCan), South Africa

People Living With Cancer (PLWC), South Africa

Pink Trees for Pauline, South Africa

Pink Phoenix Cancer Foundation, South Africa

Pocket Cancer Support, South Africa

Project Flamingo, South Africa

Rainbows and Smiles, South Africa

Reach for Recovery, South Africa

South African Oncology Social Work Forum (SAOSWF), South Africa

The Pink Parasol Project, South Africa

The Sunflower Fund, South Africa

Vrede Foundation, South Africa

Wings of Hope, South Africa

Centre for Health Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), Uganda

Centre for Participatory Research and Development CEPARD, Uganda

Coalition for Health Promotion and Social Development (HEPS Uganda), Uganda

Global Coalition of Women against AIDS in Uganda, Uganda

Health GAP

Health Rights Action Group (HAG), Uganda

Hope After Rape, Uganda

Human Right Research Documentation Centre (HURIC), Uganda
Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF), Uganda
Initiative for Prisoners Health Rights, Uganda
International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), Uganda
International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), Zimbabwe
Kampala District Forum of PLHIV Networks (KADFO), Uganda
Makerere Women Development Association, Uganda
Mama's Club, Uganda
Mariam foundation, Uganda
MATRAM-Mozambique Treatment Access Movement, Mozambique
Médecins Sans Frontières Southern Africa
National Community of Women Living with HIV, Uganda
National Forum for People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAFOPHANU), Uganda
Positive Men's Union, Uganda
Prevention Care International (PCI), Uganda
SAMASHA, Uganda
SECTION27, South Africa
Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI), Uganda
Support on AIDS and Life Through Telephone Helpline (SALT), Uganda
The Action Group for Health, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS Uganda, Uganda
Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa
Tusitukirewamu, Uganda
Uganda Health Sciences Press Association, Uganda
Uganda Network of AIDS Services Organization (UNASO), Uganda
Uganda Network on Law Equality and Ethics (UGANET), Uganda
Uganda Young Positives (UYP), Uganda
Uganda's young positive networks (UNYPA), Uganda
White Ribbon Alliance (WRA), Uganda