

9 April 2020

Re: The European Medical Profession and Covid-19

Dear Presidents

I write to you as Chair of Council of the British Medical Association (BMA), which represents all doctors and medical students in the UK, and which is a proud member of each of your organisations.

It is with deep sadness and horror that we have noted the, official, toll of nearly 100 doctors in Europe who have lost their lives to Covid-19. Accordingly, and with the actual total likely to be much higher, I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to all concerned, on behalf of the British medical profession. Our thoughts are with the loved ones of these doctors and we send a message of solidarity to those brave and committed colleagues who continue to battle the pandemic that is facing our profession and continues to spread across the continent.

Recognising their bravery, we welcome your [joint efforts](#) to ensure that “governments...support and protect healthcare professionals fighting Covid- 19” by ensuring that “staff must be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and... be regularly tested, regardless of reported symptoms or exposure.”

Unfortunately, despite such efforts, many more of our colleagues are likely to perish in the coming months. Indeed, I am sad to report that we have just learned of the 8th such fatality in the UK. That the majority of those perishing in our country began their medical careers elsewhere demonstrates both the global nature of our profession, and the vital role that non-UK qualified doctors play in delivering healthcare in our NHS.

Their sacrifice cannot be forgotten. As such, we are considering how best to commemorate these heroes within the BMA and would propose that we jointly examine how best to develop this idea into a suitable European memorial in recognition of those doctors who fall in our profession’s fight against Covid-19.

Whilst all our energies are obviously directed elsewhere at present, we look forward to working with you on this once the pandemic has receded sufficiently.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chaand Nagpaul'.

Dr Chaand Nagpaul CBE, Chair of BMA UK Council