

# To defend the NHS, support migrant workers and patients

The NHS has just seen the worst winter crisis on record, with patients stranded outside hospitals in ambulances and untrained medical students drafted into shifts in A&E. The crisis underlines the truth of the warnings of striking junior doctors in 2016: this regime is Not Fair, and Not Safe.

We all know that many parts of the ruling class want rid of the NHS. A long-term strategy of privatisation, neglect and deliberate mismanagement has gone hand in hand with attacks on NHS staff and racist scapegoating of migrants – all to facilitate an agenda of transforming healthcare into a cash-cow for wealthy capitalists.



Last year the government began forcing NHS staff to check migrants' papers. This doesn't just contradict the basic principles of healthcare – leaving migrants too afraid to seek medical care for serious illnesses - it also costs the NHS money and resources. Any struggle to save the NHS will have to be a struggle for migrants' rights - including NHS workers who are denied the very treatment they provide.

Though the Junior Doctors didn't win, their strike showed clearly what we're up against, and what kind of organisation we'll need. Groups like Docs Not Cops are organising migrant solidarity among NHS workers and patients; campaigns such as Keep Our NHS Public are fighting the government cut by cut. Labour has made strong arguments in defence of the NHS – but their actions don't match, with the June 2017 manifesto costings proposing yet more cuts. To protect our healthcare we have to rely on a united working class – migrant and non-migrant – inside and outside the NHS workforce.

For more info:

<https://keepournhspublic.com/>  
[www.docsnocops.co.uk/](http://www.docsnocops.co.uk/)

From our website: "The Secret Life of the NHS"  
<https://www.rs21.org.uk/2016/01/11/the-secret-life-of-the-nhs>

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