



## Access to Health Care for Vulnerable Migrants – What needs to be done?

The health charity, Medact, as part of coalition of voluntary groups, is leading a campaign aimed at protecting the rights of the most vulnerable migrants needing health care. The campaign is concerned about government plans to restrict access to NHS primary health care for migrants\*

The group is also currently gathering support from MPs for an Early Day Motion.\*\*

On **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December**, there will be a meeting in Parliament to provide an opportunity for campaign supporters to meet with MPs to discuss the future of health care for vulnerable migrants.

The meeting will start at 6:00 pm and finish at 8:00.

Speakers include:

Jon Cruddas, MP

Dr Sally Hargreaves - Research Fellow, International Health Unit, Imperial College

Dr Angela Burnett – GP, Medact

Rayah Feldman – community based campaigner for migrants' rights.

Susan Wright – Director, Medecin du Monde UK

A migrant health service user

Chair: Wayne Farah – Newham Primary Care Trust

The meeting will also launch a new book, *Access to Health Care for Undocumented Migrants in Europe*, published by PICUM – the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants.

For further details or to register, contact.

email [access@medact.org](mailto:access@medact.org) tel. 020 7324 4739

[www.medact.org](http://www.medact.org) for information

---

\* See the Home Office strategy paper, *Enforcing the Rules – a strategy to ensure and enforce compliance with our immigration rules*, March 2007 for details of these proposals.

\*\*This is the text of the Medact sponsored Early Day Motion (proposed by Neil Gerrard MP):

That this House notes the commitment by the Home Office and the Department of Health to a joint review of overseas visitor access to the National Health Service, now due for publication in December 2007; recalls the findings of the Joint Committee on Human Rights' Tenth Report of Session 2006-07 that the current arrangements for overseas visitor access deny healthcare to vulnerable individuals, including asylum seekers and their children, resulting in various breaches of the European Convention on Human Rights; applauds the Trade Union Congress's NHS Together campaign to defend the achievements of the free NHS; and supports the charity coalition campaign co-ordinated by the charity Medact against any measures that would compel general practitioners, and other primary care staff, to be forced to charge refused asylum seekers or other vulnerable foreign nationals for NHS care.