



Globally empowered patients: Power through Knowledge Patient Solidarity Day

Embargoed until: Saturday 2nd December 00.01

From: European Headache Alliance and the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO)

Patients unite in a call for global empowerment

On Saturday, 2nd December, patient advocates from across the world will rally together to mark the annual Patient Solidarity Day. As a movement, they will be united in a call for global patient empowerment, achieved through knowledge.

Prominent patient organizations across the world are expected to join forces on Saturday to raise awareness of the need for, and benefit of, empowered and informed patients. The campaign, run by the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO), urges decision-makers to demonstrate their commitment patient empowerment.

Knowledge is at the very core of what constitutes successful and effective patient empowerment. The extent to which a patient is empowered depends on access to clear, useable information and the ability to accurately assess the credibility of this information. Through the right kinds of knowledge, patients are empowered to exercise their right to become active partners in shaping healthcare.

Patient Solidarity Day, which takes place every year in December, is a day for patient advocates, regardless of disease or condition, geographic location or socio-economic status, to join together in highlighting a key global issue facing patient communities. The Day is a reminder of the global voice that patients have and must use for the benefit of the health system. Around the world, patient advocates mark Patient Solidarity Day by holding a wide range of advocacy activities such as social media debates, marches, health screenings and public talks.

Jolanta Bilinska, IAPO's Chair, said:

"This Patient Solidarity Day advocates across the world stand united in a call for global patient empowerment. By being informed and empowered patients we are exercising our rights to be partners in shaping our own healthcare. Empowered patients mean healthy healthcare systems."

Patient Solidarity Day was initiated by the Morris Moses Foundation in Kenya in 2011. IAPO members felt the importance of engaging in the day, as it directly supports our vision and mission of ensuring patients are at the centre of healthcare systems. Support for the Day has grown over the past few years. 2017 is expected to be the biggest year yet for Patient Solidarity Day, with advocates around the world standing together in a call for globally empowered patients.

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Notes to editors



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1. For more information please contact info@europeanheadachealliance.org
2. For further information about Patient Solidarity Day, visit our website:
<http://www.patientsolidarityday.org>.

Social media

- Thunderclap: <https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/63955-patient-solidarity-day>
- Twitter: @PatientSolDay #PSD2017
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/patientsolidarityday>

About EHA- European Headache Alliance

- The EHA represents Migraine , Cluster and other headache disorder patient organisations across Europe, aims to create a European society which respects , understands and recognises Migraine, Cluster and other headache disorders, to build up healthcare systems in which patients are well informed and to have equal access to appropriate diagnosis and treatment. To create a Migraine community capable of recognising the condition without feeling stigmatized.
- Next 21st March 2018 we are organising the Cluster Headache Day at the European parliament, lets raise awareness and convince the key opinion leaders of the importance of this condition and the disadvantages that this condition entails.

About the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO):

- IAPO is a unique global alliance promoting patient-centred healthcare worldwide
- IAPO almost 270 members spanning 70 countries and 50 condition areas
- IAPO's vision is that patients throughout the world are at the centre of healthcare
- IAPO is committed to building cross-sector alliances and ensuring that patients play an active role in decision-making processes in healthcare by working collaboratively with key stakeholders, including medical and health professionals, policy-makers, academics, researchers and industry representatives.



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