



## British International Doctors' Association Ltd

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### **Newsletter Issue 5, 22nd May 2020**

Dear Members,

Hope you and your family are well.

We wish to update you with the recent events and proposals.

#### **1. Scrapping of Annual Surcharge for overseas Healthcare workers.**

We welcome the decision of the government to remove the NHS Annual Surcharge for health professionals and care workers. BIDA has been campaigning to the government to scrap the surcharge for all Health care workers right from the beginning of the pandemic for their selfless dedication in fighting this war against Covid-19.

Dr Chandra Kanneganti, Chairman of BIDA had appeared on ITV News channel 4 weeks ago and reiterated the enormous contribution of the international healthcare workers to the NHS. He also pointed to the Guardian newspaper 4 days ago the stark truth that BAME doctors have been disproportionately getting ill and to pay for the same service that they are putting their lives at risk for doesn't seem fair. It was justified that the surcharge was scrapped for all NHS overseas workers.

We have shown our gratitude and have written to the Press. This humane decision would give renewed enthusiasm to enable all of those out on the doorsteps every week to clap and cheer with even greater enthusiasm than before.

2. **Proposal for Review of Independent Leave of Residence (ILR) for HCWs from overseas.**

We have requested the Secretary of State, Home Office, Ms Priti Patel to consider our proposal to review their policy for ILR regulations for all HCWs. The proposal is that all overseas HCWs (in particular doctors and nurses) be considered under the category “Global Talent”. This proposal would lead to consideration of ILR after serving the NHS for 3 years. This accelerated settlement would go a long way at a time when the NHS desperately needs to alleviate continual and chronic staff shortages.

3. **BIDA Covid-19 Fund**

Just a reminder that our fundraising page is still open (see link below) and although we have raised close to £15,000 we need to keep the momentum going to help our colleagues, some of whom would be in dire need.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bida>

We would also like to reiterate that the BIDA organisation is here to help in this time of the Covid-19 crisis. Please do not hesitate to get in touch via email if you have any relevant issues/concerns and we will do our utmost to help.

Stay safe

**BIDA National Office Bearers**