



Medact is a membership organisation that brings together the health community to work for a safer, fairer, better world – in which everyone can truly exercise their human right to health.

We recognise that health and well-being throughout our lives aren't just about individual bodies, diseases, and health conditions; rather, they are shaped by the social, economic and physical conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age. We know these social determinants of health are driven by political and economic systems that dictate how power and resources are distributed; and which have the capacity to create and exacerbate not only deepening social inequality but wider threats to health such as climate change, violent conflict, and human rights abuses.

We believe the health community has incredible potential to challenge these political and economic systems, and drive progressive social change.

We organise campaigning across four broad and inter-connected programme areas:



Peace & Security



Climate & Environment



Economic Justice



Human Rights

Our members are made up of a range of health workers including nurses, doctors, midwives and clinical researchers – brought together by a shared vision of a safer, fairer, better world.

We put movement building at the centre of our organisational purpose, working with a diverse set of partners including NGOs, grassroots groups, professional bodies and academic institutions in order to realise change.

Our funding is based on membership subscriptions, individual donations and support from grant-making foundations. The financial support of members is especially vital to help us stay independent and retain our critical campaigning voice.

To find out more about Medact membership, please visit medact.org/membership

Medact,
The Grayston Centre,
28 Charles Square,
London N1 6HT,
United Kingdom.

+44 (0)20 7324 4739 | office@medact.org | www.medact.org

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Message from the Chair

As the repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic continue to echo around the world, we are all coming to realise that things will never be quite the same again. The disruption has been deep and pervasive. Norms have been shifted. Beliefs rocked. Governments have stumbled. Systems strained. So many mistakes; so many lessons learned. We have all been shaken.

But the mayhem has also highlighted real opportunities for a new, better normal. The chance for a radical reboot. In the UK, as elsewhere, the pandemic has brought home the fact that there are so many existential threats to health equity. It has revealed with crystal clarity that we need a more holistic understanding of human rights, economic success, and peace and security than the narrow approach often taken by national governments, including our own.

Hence Medact's focus on tackling 'the big stuff' – the inequities and injustices that arise from climate change, armed conflict, divisive economic policies and barriers to public services. And our ability to punch above our weight, with visible impact even in these turbulent times, is a testament to our dedicated members and hard-working office team.

Medact's Board of Trustees has worked closely to support Sophie and the team in responding to the new challenges and opportunities opened up

by the Covid crisis. We have provided a flexible governance environment to allow for revised plans and objectives. There have been great difficulties and frustrations – but also notable successes outlined by Sophie overleaf.

There have also been changes to the Board. This year we say farewell to trustees Sridhar Venkatapuram and Dan Flecknoe, and thank them for their many important contributions in recent years. We have warmly welcomed Annabel Sowemimo, Tom Wakeford, Anne Schulthess and Lisa Murphy, who have already helped to steer us through these strange times.

Yes, the entire world has been shaken. But our commitment to energising the health community to campaign for a world where everyone can truly exercise their human right to health is totally unshaken, and we very much look forward to working with you over this next year.

Professor Alan Maryon-Davis
Chair, Board of Trustees



Members gathering for 2019 AGM, before attending demonstrations at the DSEI arms fair



Protesting NHS charging policies outside NHS England in October 2019



Director's report

What a year this has been. When we wrote our Operational Plan in the winter, none of us expected the year to look and feel the way that it has.

It has been deeply moving for me to see the continued engagement and commitment of Medact's supporters and members to stepping up the fight for health equity in this uncertain time. And I've been impressed and not a little awed by the way staff coped with working under lockdown. For a team which enjoys each other's company so much, it has been extremely hard being stuck at home - but we've found ways to make each other laugh and collaborate well online.

In the midst of a crisis which has demanded so much from health workers, we've been doing all we can to provide a welcoming home for the progressive health community. Much of our work has changed - both in its format, and the content and strategies behind campaigns. But our principles remain the same and the injustices we seek to challenge have if anything become even more pronounced.

We've focused on trying to help members and supporters stay connected online; and funnelling the energy and concerns of health workers into positive campaign action. The numbers of people engaging with our work throughout the pandemic, and the feedback we've been receiving, suggests we're getting many things right. (And we love receiving feedback - please keep it coming!)

Although we had to postpone our conference, the team worked together to conceive and design a fantastic event. That hard work has allowed us to run some great online sessions, and we know we have a ready-made gathering for whenever it's possible to bring the UK health community together again.

In our climate work we've drawn even more Royal Colleges into the fight against fossil fuels, and enjoyed supporting the student climate strikers. Following the launch of *The Marmot Review: 10 Years On*, we organised hundreds of health workers to call for a Health and Well-being Budget, and the Economic Justice working group has gone from strength to strength ever since.

In May, in the midst of lockdown, we brought out research with partners around the impact of coronavirus on migrant access to healthcare, which appeared on Channel 4 News. And in June, we launched our major new report into the impact of the Prevent Duty in healthcare, which was well-received within the health community and without, garnering significant media coverage. We were excited also to launch the Medact Research Network, which over 100 health workers have already joined.

Our team has continued to grow with our increasing activity. In December we gained Siddhartha, who works with members and supporters to campaign on economic justice issues, and Aiyana, who supports the team across all of our work. In April, Rob joined, to organise the health community on climate justice. We bid a sad farewell to Deirdre, our Climate & Health Campaigner — but we are recruiting for someone to replace her as this report goes to press, so I hope you'll have a chance to meet them soon!

Looking to the future, planning our work is more complicated than it felt before. But in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis there is a renewed chance to build a healthier, safer, and more just world. Health workers have a stronger voice than ever, and an even greater part to play in the campaign for this world. So this year, a major focus will be on uniting the health community to call for an economy and a society which truly centres public health and health equity. I do hope you'll be involved!

Sophie Neuburg
Executive Director

Responding to coronavirus

The pandemic has been an unprecedented public health emergency, demanding so much of so many, and stretching many of our societal systems to breaking point. For us it has above all thrown into such stark relief the depth of pre-existing health inequities in our society — both in the UK and across the world.

At the same time, we have seen incredible kindness and energy as communities come together in the face of this crisis. And we have witnessed the commitment and determination of health workers both to meet immediate health challenges, and to seize this moment to challenge the structural inequities that are compounding the harm caused by the pandemic.

The evolving nature of the situation has made planning our work difficult — but we are adapting as best we can in the ways we work.

A key priority for us has been to maintain and develop our existing networks: supporting groups to meet and organise online; and providing spaces

for the health community to connect and think at a time when both have been difficult. It has been very important for us to listen as carefully as we can to the experiences, needs and priorities of members and supporters to inform how we respond.

Since the spring, our campaigning around the pandemic has primarily focused on coalescing calls for a just public health response, encompassing broad protections for all those who stand to be harmed, both by the virus and the accompanying economic fallout.

We have at the same time been adapting existing projects to the new world we find ourselves in. We have also produced a number of outputs relating existing work areas to the pandemic, including a report on migrant access to healthcare during the pandemic; and several blogs exploring intersections between existing campaigns, the pandemic, and responses in the UK and globally.

Challenging systemic oppression

2020 has also been defined by the surging momentum of the Black Lives Matter movement across the globe — challenging enduring systemic racism in our society.

In the health space, the disparities in impacts of coronavirus on communities of colour have been a striking recent example of how intertwining injustices unfold.

At Medact, we see challenging systemic racism as a core component of a number of our work areas — including our campaigning to end migrant charging in the NHS, and to centre voices from the Global South in our work on climate change.

But this year has challenged us to think about what more we must do to deeply embed anti-racist principles in our work and our movement; and to ensure we are always challenging, not reinforcing, the systems and power structures which lead to oppression of people because of their identity or background.

Over the past couple of years, we have engaged in a series of external “anti-oppression” trainings as a staff team, which have informed our efforts to recognise and change the ways in which Medact as an organisation reflects and recreates systemic oppression in wider society. We have been developing an Anti-Oppression Strategy to guide this work.

So far, this has led to changes in our recruitment processes in an effort to make them more accessible. It has also prompted consideration of how to overcome barriers to greater diversity in our membership; how to ensure principles of anti-oppression are embedded in the design of our campaigns; and how to make our work more accountable to the people most affected by the issues we work on.

We are committed to continuing this work and recognise that we have a lot more to do.

“HEALTH JUSTICE” CONFERENCE

It seems a lifetime ago now, but much of the first part of the year was spent developing the conference we had planned for 2020, *Health Justice*. By March, we had sold the tickets, and just about finalised a fantastic programme of speakers, panel discussions and workshops across the two days of the event. We were set to explore the interlinked societal and political structures which damage health across all our work areas; and the ways health workers can use their social mandate to drive change.

As concerns grew around the first cases of coronavirus in the UK, we decided the safe and sensible thing to do was to postpone the gathering. At the time, this was a difficult decision — but in the fullness of time it would have been made for us as the trajectory of the pandemic worsened.

We were obviously incredibly disappointed not to be able to go ahead. More than anything, we were sorry not to have the opportunity for members to gather to meet, share ideas, inspire and energise one another. It has been too long since our last conference, back in 2017, and too many new members (and staff) haven't yet had this opportunity.

We want to make sure to carry forward the energy that was building around the event. We hope to be in touch with members as soon as we can about a rescheduled date — though when this will be, who can say.

We are greatly indebted to Rachel Piper for all of her incredible efforts in organising the event — and really hope she will be able to join in the future to see the fruits of this labour!



Measuring engagement

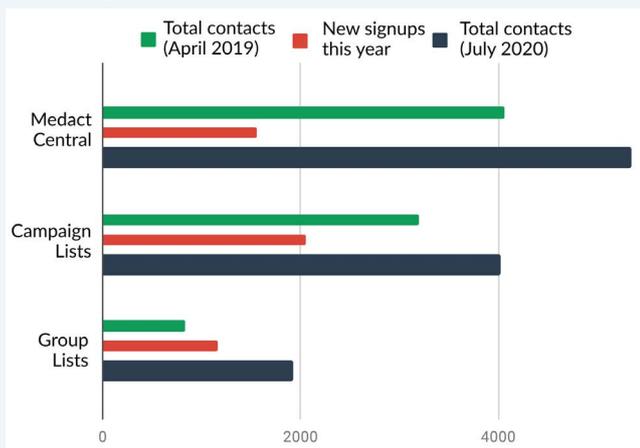
Events

700+ attendees came to
19 events we ran this year

We also supported member groups to meet regularly offline and online through the year.

Email lists

More people than ever are subscribing to our email lists to receive updates about Medact, our campaigns and from our member groups.



	New sign-ups	Total contacts
Central Medact list	1556	5350
Campaign lists	2056	4025
Member group lists	1164	1929
Total contacts across all lists		7368

Social media



@Medact

6.6k followers in July 2020

up from **4.7k** in July 2019

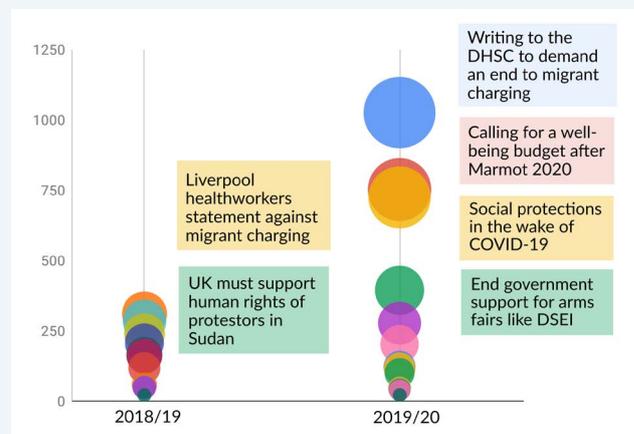
Online actions

3032 people took action with us online this year, with a total of

3891 signatures across

21 petitions and open letters.

This is up from 1530 people in the previous year.



Over 1000 people wrote to the DHSC calling for an end to migrant charging in the NHS.

Over 700 people signed our calls for a well-being budget in light of Marmot 2020, and for broader social security measures to protect public health in the wake of COVID-19.

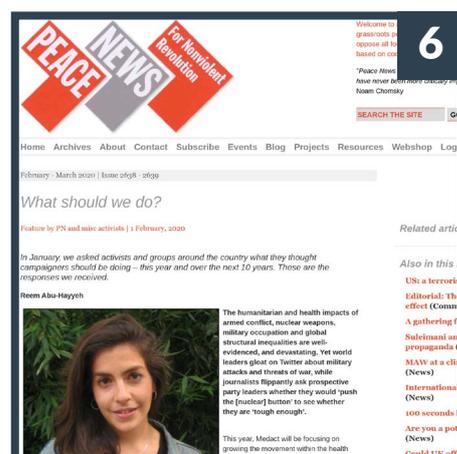
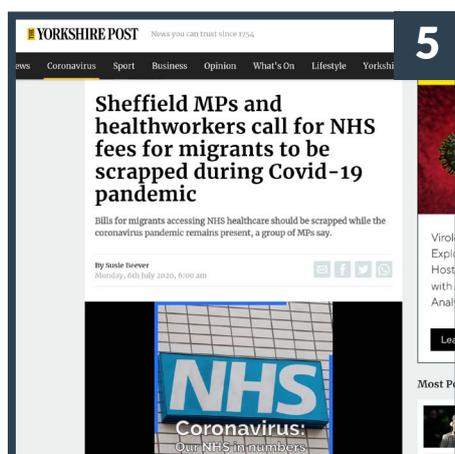
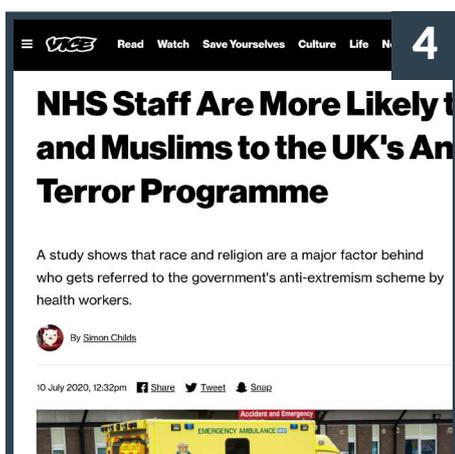
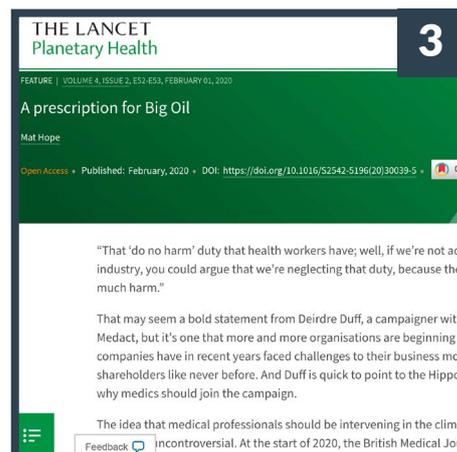
Nearly 400 people signed our letter protesting the DSEI arms fair in London in September 2019.

Membership

113 new members in the last 12 months

906 members total in July 2020

Medact in the media



1 "Healthcare workers should call for a health centred budget"

– BMJ Opinion, 6th March 2020

Economic Justice Campaigner Siddhartha on how we should respond to the findings of the Marmot review.

2 "Migrants in UK fear charges for NHS virus treatment, say charities"

– Channel 4 News, 5th June 2020

TV news coverage on the launch of our joint Patients Not Passport report into migrants' access to healthcare during the coronavirus crisis.

3 "A prescription for Big Oil"

– Lancet Planetary Health, February 2020

Climate & Health Campaigner Deirdre sets out the case for health institutions to divest from fossil fuels, starting from the Hippocratic oath.

4 "NHS Staff Are More Likely to Refer Asians and Muslims to the UK's Anti-Terror Programme"

– VICE News, 10th July 2020

An example of coverage of the launch of new Medact report into the Prevent counter-extremism duty in the NHS.

5 "Sheffield MPs and healthworkers call for NHS fees for migrants to be scrapped during COVID-19 pandemic"

– The Yorkshire Post, 6th July 2020

Members of Medact Sheffield work with local MPs on a call to scrap migrant healthcare charges.

6 "What should we do?"

– Peace News, February–March 2020

Peace & Security Campaigner Reem profiled on her vision for the future of Medact's peacework.

"That 'do no harm' duty that health workers have; well, if we're not addressing the fossil fuel industry, you could argue that we're neglecting that duty, because the companies are doing so much harm."

– Climate & Health Campaigner Deirdre Duff, featured in Lancet Planetary Health

Arms, conflict & militarisation

- In September 2019, we co-ordinated an open letter to the UK Secretary for International Trade calling for an end to government support for arms fairs such as the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI), and the granting of arms export licences to countries such as Saudi Arabia. The letter was signed by over 270 health workers, some of whom then joined us to protest outside DSEI itself on the day of our AGM.
- A new Arms & Militarism Group came together following our work around DSEI, and has been working on a project to platform the first hand accounts of healthcare workers on the frontline of conflicts globally.
- Following the outbreak of coronavirus, we have published a new series of blogs to highlight the impacts of geo-political conflict on countries' abilities to mount effective public health responses. Peace & Security Campaigner Reem looked at the impact of legacies of war and occupation in Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Gaza; while Campaigns Assistant Aiyan considered the effect of trade sanctions on responses in Iran, Gaza, Venezuela and Cuba.
- We also organised a well-attended webinar on arms industry diversification in the context of coronavirus. The event featured a broad panel of experts making the case for a 'just transition' from destructive industries such as the arms trade to sustainable industries that promote peace and global health. Since the event, we have created new links with trade unions, civil society and local government, to better understand how Medact can be most effective helping campaigning in this space.



At a follow-up event to DSEI protests, we heard about the links between health and the arms trade from Syrian dentist Rita Dayoub, Sudanese psychiatrist Dr Sara Beleil, and Campaign Against the Arms Trade's Ann Feltham



AGM 2019

We organised our 2019 AGM Weekend in September to coincide with protests against the Defence and Security Equipment International at the Excel Centre in London.

Attending the protests on Saturday was followed by a well-attended training day for group co-ordinators and campaigners at the office on the Sunday.

Nuclear weapons

- In January 2020, we wrote to the UK Foreign Secretary to call on him to de-escalate the increasing tensions between Iran and the US after the assassination of Iranian general Qassem Soleimani.
- Members of our Nuclear Weapons Group contributed to a special issue of our journal, *Medicine, Conflict and Survival*, on the Treaty for Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (“the ban treaty”). The special issue has subsequently been published in book form.
- With the support of members of the Nuclear Weapons Group, we co-ordinated a travel bursary for two students to represent Medact at the 2020 IPPNW World Congress, which was scheduled to take place in Mombasa, Kenya in May. While the congress sadly had to be postponed, we very much hope to still be able to send a representative or two when new dates are confirmed.
- We are in the process of writing a briefing paper on the health and humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons, in order to encourage medical bodies to take a stand against nuclear weapons.



PREVENTING NUCLEAR WAR

THE MEDICAL AND HUMANITARIAN CASE FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Edited by

John Loretz, Marion Birch and Leo van Bergen



Preventing Nuclear War: The Medical and Humanitarian Case for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, published by Routledge.

Climate & health

- In the past year we have had two more successes in our long-running campaign to encourage health institutions to divest from fossil fuels: with the Royal College of Psychiatrists committing to divest, and the Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health strengthening their previous commitment to include indirect investments.
- We also worked with Royal College of General Practitioners to stop an 'Oil & Gas UK' conference being held on its premises on climate grounds; and have been supporting members to spark further fossil fuel divestment campaigns in a number of other institutions, including the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Midwives.
- We helped mobilise networks within the health community to support the ground-breaking student climate strikers in September 2019, and to encourage MPs with a health background to support the Divest Parliament initiative.
- Since the arrival of coronavirus we have run a number of well-attended webinars on the public health arguments for a Green New Deal. We have also convened a new Climate & Health Group, which in turn has been developing a strategy for adding the health voice to calls for a Green New Deal.
- Our Dorset and Yorkshire groups have been building their campaigns to get their local pension funds to divest from fossil fuels; and we have been working with Medact groups including Bristol and two newer groups in Liverpool and the East Midlands to look at campaigning on the Green New Deal locally.



Supporting the student climate strikes in September 2019

Economic justice

- Well aware of the level of interest from members in furthering Medact's work on Economic Justice issues, we were very pleased to secure funding for a dedicated staff member to lead on this over the course of the year. Given how the year has played out, we don't know what we would have done without all that Siddhartha has brought to the role.
- The publication of the Marmot 10 year review in February provided a springboard for an initial campaign action in which we mobilised over 600 health workers to support [a call for the government to produce a well-being budget centring the health of people and planet](#) — rather than economic growth as represented by GDP.
- The importance of rethinking how we organise our society in these terms has been underlined by the arrival of the pandemic. As the UK situation worsened, we drew up an [open letter setting out a broad range of social protection measures we thought necessary to protect the livelihoods of those most at risk from both the virus, and its economic fallout](#).
- We have also worked with members on an epidemiological briefing showing links between housing insecurity and COVID-19 risk, which we submitted to the Housing, Communities and Local Government inquiry. We subsequently used this research to support housing groups and unions to call for greater protection for renters and those experiencing homelessness.
- Our new Economic Justice & Health member group is now working on taking forward our campaigning for a just response to the coronavirus — aiming to highlight the evidence of the dual benefits of economic and health protection that reduce that impact of the virus and the deepening economic crisis.

Our open letter calling for a suite of measures to protect public health in the wake of the pandemic has now been signed over 800 times

The screenshot shows the Medact website with a dark navigation bar at the top containing the Medact logo and menu items: About Medact, Our Work, Publications, Get Involved, and Events. The main content area features a large heading: "To fight this pandemic, we must radically re-imagine public health...". Below this is a light blue box containing the text of an open letter, including the recipients (TO: the party leaders, CC: all MPs), the purpose of the letter, and a list of demands under the heading "Secure Housing": Rent amnesty, End of evictions, and Support to self-isolate safely. To the right of the letter text is a white box with a form to sign the letter, with the heading "To add your name to the letter please fill out the form below:". The form includes a "Title" dropdown menu (currently set to "- None -") and a "First Name*" text input field.

Access to healthcare

- We are now supporting 15 groups around the country to work on the Patients Not Passports campaign — organising events, open letters, and actions, meeting with MPs and building coalitions in their local communities.
- We've been working with Migrants Organise to support a man called Simba — who was charged over £100,000 for treatment after having a stroke — to launch the “Justice for Simba” campaign, to raise awareness about his situation and call for the scrapping of NHS charging regulations.
- In October 2019, we worked with Docs Not Cops and Keep Our NHS Public to co-ordinate national direct action to mark the two-year anniversary of the introduction of upfront charging. Events included a cordon at the entrance of the NHS England office in South London; and rallies at hospitals in Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Lewisham, and East London.
- Through the coronavirus crisis we've been helping co-ordinate calls for an end to NHS charging in light of the pandemic. We co-hosted an open letter with the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and Liberty, which was signed by over 60 other organisations; we worked with Migrants Organise to get 60 cross-party MPs to support the call; and have since launched a 38degrees petition calling for an end to charging which has now received almost 30,000 signatories.

Action outside NHS England marking the two-year anniversary of the introduction of upfront charging for NHS care



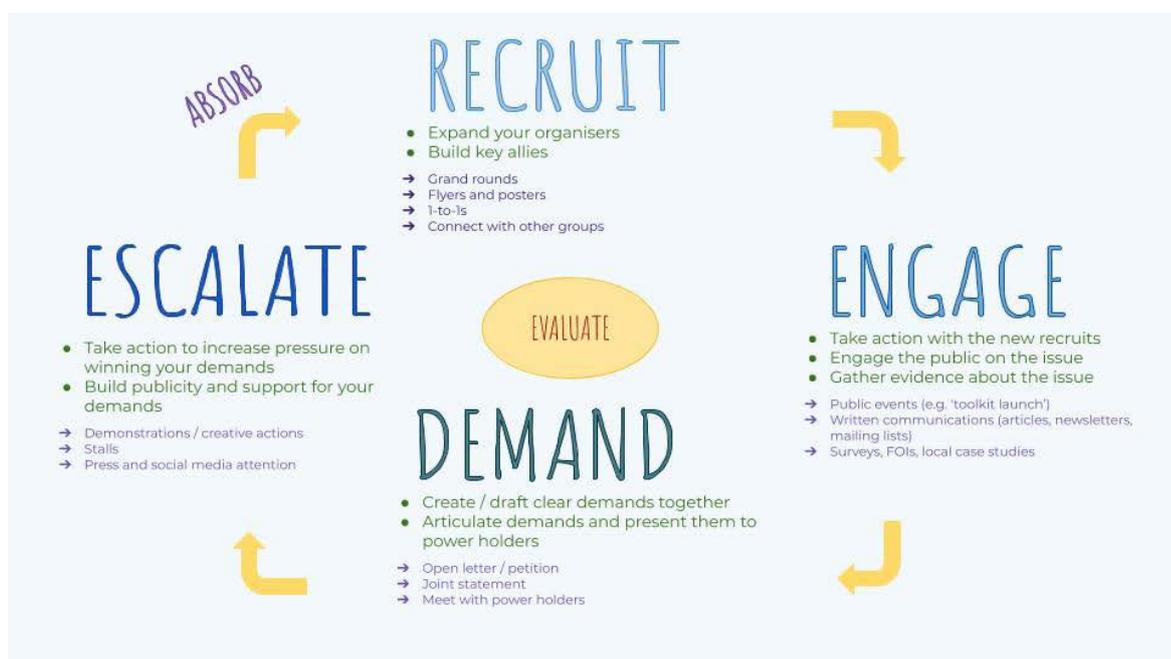
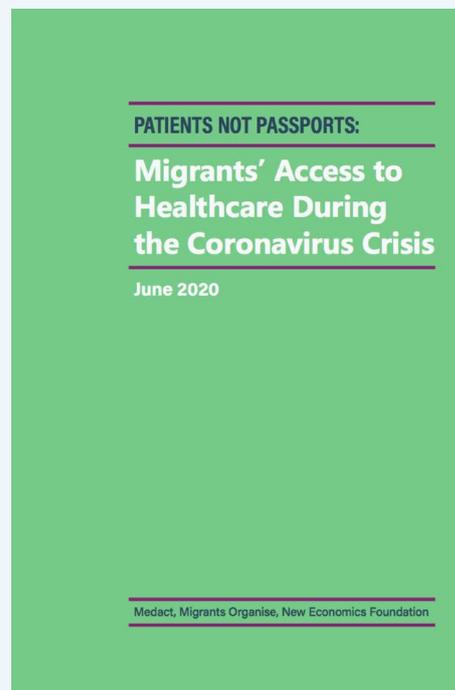
PUBLICATION: *Migrants' Access to Healthcare During the Coronavirus Crisis*

We expected that the coronavirus crisis would amplify the harmful impact of the Hostile Environment on migrant and BAME communities' ability to access healthcare. This fear was borne out by the story of Elvis, a man who died at home with coronavirus symptoms after being too afraid to seek care because of his immigration status.

With Migrants Organise and the New Economics Foundation, we set out to document what was happening. We surveyed over 70 support workers, from 50 organisations across the country and found:

- Migrants are not coming forward for care because of widespread fear and mistrust resulting from Hostile Environment policies, both before and during the pandemic
- The coronavirus 'exemption' from charging and immigration checks is not working — people are still being asked to show their passports for coronavirus treatment, and migrants are often too fearful to present for treatment
- Migrants are facing a wide range of additional barriers to accessing care during the pandemic — including language and digital exclusions

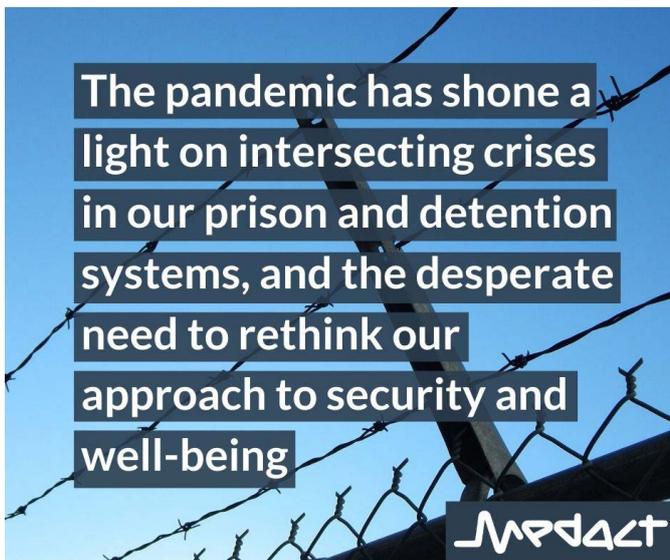
The report was covered by Channel 4 news, referenced in the Independent Sage Report on disparities in the impact of COVID-19, and written about in a HuffPost article by a member of Birmingham Docs Not Cops.



Our new "Campaign Cycle" tool — developed with groups to help them plan which actions to take at different stages of their campaigns

Securitisation of health

- The past year has seen further development of a growing body of Medact work around the links between health, policing, and securitising policies. We see this work as crucial to shift political and popular understandings of 'security' through hard enforcement measures to one that centres health and well-being.
- We have published a series of pieces on related issues over the course of the year, covering: the health impacts of Tasers, and racial disparities in their use; the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak on people held in UK prisons and immigration detention centres; and the increased powers given to the police in the Coronavirus Act.
- We joined civil society coalitions to call on the government to save lives during the pandemic by reducing the number of people in prisons, young offender institutions, secure training centres and immigration detention centres; and to demand that the upcoming Independent Review of the Prevent counter-terrorism programme is held in a transparent and accountable way.
- We completed and released our new Medact report — [False Positives—the Prevent counter-extremism policy in healthcare](#) — which examines the impact of the Prevent duty in healthcare settings.
- A new Medact group is now forming to work on issues relating to the Securitisation of Health, including the Prevent duty in healthcare settings. If you're interested in getting involved with this work, please [join our Securitisation of Health mailing list!](#)



Graphic publicising a recent blog by Campaigns Assistant Aiyana Maharasingam on the response to coronavirus in UK prisons and detention centres

PUBLICATION: *False Positives—the Prevent counter-extremism policy in healthcare*

Our latest Medact report, published in July 2020, brings together over a year's worth of research into the impacts of the Prevent counter-extremism duty in healthcare.

It contains evidence that:

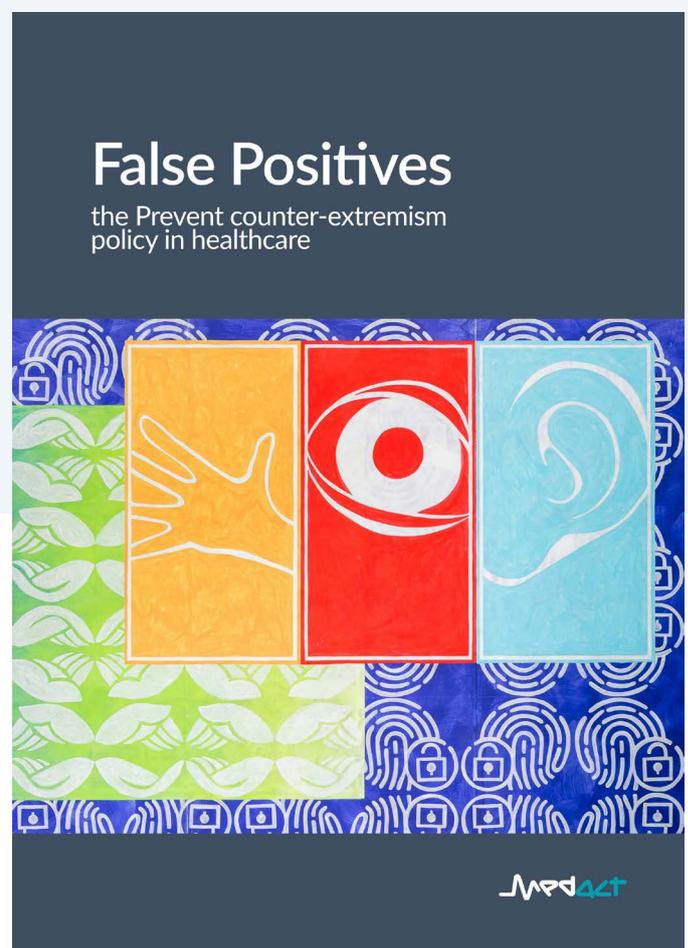
- Prevent referrals damage the physical and mental health of individuals, their families and wider communities in multiple direct and indirect ways;
- Prevent referrals may be harming vulnerable people rather than safeguarding them — especially in cases of people with mental health conditions;
- the Prevent duty in the NHS can undermine patient confidentiality, and so harm therapeutic relationships;
- the impacts of Prevent in the NHS are experienced disproportionately by people from ethnic and religious minorities, meaning the policy risks exacerbating racialised health inequalities.

The report launch was covered extensively, with pieces in *The Guardian*, *the British Medical Journal*, *The Independent*, *VICE News*, *the Islington Gazette*,

and a BMA blog by Medact Manchester member Piyush Pushkar.

Over 100 people attended a successful online launch event, with speakers including Dr Mayura Deshpande of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Dr Tarek Younis of Middlesex University, Rosalind Comyn from Liberty and Medact Research Manager and author of the report Dr Hilary Aked.

Following the launch there has been significant interest in developing campaigning and advocacy work around the report's findings.



An audio recording of the report launch is available to [listen back on the Medact podcast](#)



Meet our movement

Medact members come from all corners of the health community — and include clinicians, nurses and public health practitioners, as well as economists, health journalists and social scientists who work in health. They are brought together by a shared commitment to health justice.

Thusiyan Nandakumar is a GP and Global Health enthusiast



I am a GP based in North-West London, the current Editor-in-Chief of the Tamil Guardian (a prominent news website that covers Tamil and Sri Lankan affairs) and a Global Health enthusiast.

Reading an intercalated BSc in Global Health during university helped me discover a new field in which I could combine my passion for human rights advocacy with my role in medicine.

Since then I have spoken and taught on conflict and its health impacts at several universities, as well as advocating for the protection of human rights at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva and capitals around the world.

As healthcare workers we are uniquely placed to understand and advocate on behalf of those who have been deeply impacted by social inequalities in the UK and around the world. Our voices matter and we must make them count.

Alison Reid is a midwife campaigning for the Royal College of Midwives to divest from fossil fuels



I am a midwife and birth educator working in a Continuity model of care in Lothian. I have been concerned about our unsustainable lifestyles for as long as I can remember.

I became involved with local environmental groups many years ago and first heard of Medact via the Friends of the Earth Divestment Campaign. Medact's Climate Campaigner Deirdre helped me put together a Divestment from Fossil Fuels proposal to my union and professional body, the Royal College of Midwives.

The babies of today are facing an ever more uncertain future so I'm hopeful that they will make the move towards Intergenerational Justice and join the growing cohort of professional bodies and institutions who have divested out of fossil fuel companies and into cleaner ones.

Medact is an opportunity for health workers to bring issues of environmental harm and social justice into the mainstream, it has too often in the past been marginalised and seen as something that only a minority are concerned about.

Charlie Wilkinson is a medical student and member of the new Medact Sheffield group



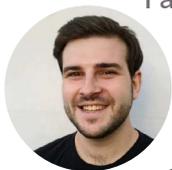
I'm a medical student who has just finished my first year. Before joining Medact Sheffield I had experience with climate activism and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. When we first launched we decided

to concentrate on migrant access to health to start, which is an area I was completely unfamiliar with. The more I learnt about how many barriers exist between migrants and their human right to health in the UK, the more strongly I felt

that the hostile environment must end.

As a group we recently worked with three Sheffield MPs to release a statement demanding an end to all charging in the NHS during the COVID-19 pandemic. We got some good press coverage, and members of our group appeared on local radio and TV. I'm looking forward to working with Medact throughout the rest of my time in university and further into the future!

Daniel J Carter is a Research Fellow and member of the Economic Justice working group.



I am presently a Research Fellow in Social Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where I work on the social and structural drivers of infectious disease. My research examines how social protection programmes might impact on diseases like HIV and TB – and now COVID-19. Seeing how governmental policy has failed to protect socially vulnerable communities and racialised communities during the pandemic – choosing instead to shift the blame onto individuals – led me to start translating research into action with Medact.

Because class, race and their intersections all influence the inequitable distribution of housing in the UK, housing was a natural entry point for examining the impacts of COVID-19 and arguing for a more sustainable approach to the pandemic.

Together with colleagues from the London Renters' Union, we undertook an investigation to examine how poor housing could impact all aspects of COVID-19 and its response, combined with a statistical analysis of local authority housing data demonstrating the close association between poor housing and COVID incidence. This work was turned into both an op-ed and a submission to Parliament.

Alongside others from the Economic Justice working group, we are preparing another parliamentary submission examining the response to the pandemic, and calling for a more socially just approach in their ongoing short and long term policy. Medact offers an important avenue for academics in the medical field to turn their research skills into documents that have demonstrable social justice impacts.

LJ Smith is a Respiratory Consultant and member of Medact London



As a Respiratory Consultant in South London my day-to-day practice constantly shows me the impacts of the wider determinants of health. Many of my patients live in poverty and poor quality housing, with high exposure to air pollution. They live in environments which do not support healthy lives, and are then told that their illnesses are due to 'lifestyle choices'. I sometimes feel helpless when faced with the consequences of multiple deprivation, knowing that prescribing drugs will do little to improve someone's quality of life – and what would really help is wealth redistribution and societal change.

I'm currently focusing my attention on the new Climate & Health Group, and working on the Economic Justice campaign with Medact London. I have had great support and inspiration from members of the Climate & Health Group, who have helped set up a Sustainability Committee and Green Champions group at my Trust.

I volunteer at a foodbank so I've watched the massive rise in demand with the introduction of Universal Credit and now the effects of COVID-19. In Medact London we are shocked by the high prevalence of food poverty in London, the number of children living in food-insecure households, and the lifelong impacts of food insecurity and malnutrition. The National Food Strategy is due for publication any day and we're excited to bring the health voice to campaign on Food Insecurity, at a time of local and national focus.

“Medact is a beacon of hope for me, where I find like-minded health workers who feel a responsibility to use our privileged voice to advocate for change.”

Local groups

Medact local groups provide spaces for health workers around the UK to connect with like-minded individuals, and to develop and run localised campaigns

Medact Scotland

Medact Scotland have been making links between the climate emergency and militarisation. They have continued their involvement in the Don't Bank on The Bomb Scotland project, promoting the DBOTB Scotland divestment guide. They also formed new connections with Glasgow's Docs Not Cops and the emerging Healthy Recovery and Build Back Better campaigns.

Medact Liverpool

Medact Liverpool relaunched in 2019 with a divestment campaign — supporting local Divest Parliament campaigners, and targeting the local council pension fund for divestment. They recently hosted a webinar on “Health and The Green New Deal”.

Medact Manchester

Medact Manchester have mostly worked on issues around access to healthcare for migrants, systematic inequalities, and racism within the NHS more broadly. In light of the BLM movement they are planning more work tackling racism within the NHS.

Medact Birmingham

Medact Birmingham were looking forward to coming along to the conference in Birmingham before we had to postpone! They are planning to run some educational social events such as film screenings whenever it is safe to do so again.

Medact Bristol

Medact Bristol have continued their Clean Air Campaign on air pollution, which has received lots of great press coverage. They have also been working closely with Bristol Patients Not Passports on an access to healthcare campaign, and meet regularly for a book club.

Medact Dorset

Medact Dorset have been focused on their Fossil Free Health divestment campaign. They have targeted the Dorset County Pension Fund, getting featured in local press. They have been working with our Climate and Health Organiser Rob to build their ongoing strategy.

Medact Tyneside



Medact Tyneside holds monthly meetings and continues to have an anti-nuclear weapons focus, for example through writing to their MP about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and involvement with IPPNW.

Medact Yorkshire



Medact Yorkshire have been working on Divestment campaigns targeting two pension funds — North Yorkshire and East Ridings. They have also held a talk with speakers from the Climate Psychology Alliance and have produced a report on “Greening the NHS” about sustainability in local health care.

Medact Sheffield



As a new group, Medact Sheffield, have got started with a Patients Not Passports campaign. They have targeted Sheffield MPs with a letter voicing concerns about the current NHS charging regulations, and were recently featured on BBC Radio Sheffield.

Medact East Midlands



Medact East Midlands is our newest group, with its first meeting taking place in June 2020! Its members are currently establishing their focus and working out which campaigns they'd like to take forward.

Medact Oxford



Medact Oxford relaunched with a Patients Not Passports campaign in late 2019. They have been building local connections and running trainings on NHS charging for junior doctors across Oxfordshire.

Medact London



Medact London holds regular group meetings to plan their economic justice campaigning. They have shown solidarity with housing campaigns such as Focus E15 and are looking to campaign more on Food Justice.

Medact Brighton



Medact Brighton relaunched recently with a Patients Not Passports campaign. They had been planning a movement building event this year to convene community organisers working on migrant health across Brighton, which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to coronavirus. Since this setback they have been working to adapt their plans to more online work!

Issue groups

Climate & Health Group

Medact's Climate & Health Group is a new issue group aimed at building Medact's public health call for climate justice. Currently, the group is working on a strategy to encompass our work around fossil fuel divestment, combating air pollution and advocating for a Green New Deal.

Economic Justice Group

Our Economic Justice & Health Group is a new group to develop projects to work towards an economic system that is centred on improving the well-being of people and the planet. Group members are interested in issues such as labour rights, housing, public services, macroeconomic policies, and mutualism / localism initiatives that can benefit public health and provide economic security for all. Currently we are focusing on furthering Medact's campaigning for a "just response" to the coronavirus crisis.

Arms & Militarism Group

Our Arms and Militarism Group develops projects that advocate for the protection of the health and well-being of people living in conditions of war and armed conflict, to promote conflict prevention, justice and peace, and to raise awareness of and bring the health voice to campaigns against the UK's role in the global arms trade.

They are currently planning work to raise awareness of attacks on healthcare workers in conflict.

Migrant Solidarity Group

Our Migrant Solidarity Group develops projects to defend access to healthcare rights for refugees and migrants, and informs civil society about existing rights and barriers to accessing healthcare. Current projects include:

Royal College Surveys — working with a number of Royal Colleges to survey their members about their knowledge of NHS charging and the impact it's having on their practice.

Detention Audit — supporting a joint project between Helen Bamber Foundation and Forrest Medical Legal Services to audit the notes of people held in immigration detention, to check for bad practice and failures in detention health services.

Nuclear Weapons Group

Our Nuclear Weapons Group is made up of members working to bring a powerful health voice to calls for nuclear disarmament.

In the past year members have been encouraging their local councils to endorse the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) through the Nuclear Free Local Authorities initiative; working to get resolutions to endorse the TPNW to the next BMA Annual Representatives Meeting; and speaking at numerous events on the medical arguments for nuclear disarmament.

The NWG has also worked with Medact Scotland to support a Scottish Don't Bank on the Bomb campaign and report, urging Scottish institutions to divest from nuclear weapons companies.

Medact Research Network



This year saw the launch of our new Medact Research Network, which aims to use the wealth of expertise in our membership and supporter base to enhance the work we do by facilitating collaborative research, while also enabling skills and knowledge to diffuse throughout the movement

Following an initial online launch — attended by nearly 100 people — we've split off into clusters corresponding to each of Medact's programme areas, and held separate planning meetings to get to know each other, share ideas and take projects forward.

So far, the Economic Justice cluster has begun planning an incisive policy brief; several members of the Peace and Security cluster will be working on a Medact contribution to Global Health Watch 6; and the Access to Healthcare cluster are considering a number of potential research projects to explore the impacts of NHS charging policies.

Team hellos & goodbyes



Siddhartha Mehta is our new Economic Justice Campaigner

I came to Medact after a long meandering journey through homes in India and Aotearoa New Zealand. Before arriving in the UK, I worked as a civil servant in Auckland's Public Health Unit alongside volunteering on a successful campaign for climate justice. As a public health professional, I was able to work on strategies to address the inequalities found in the social determinants of health. As a campaigner, I was able to learn and understand the effectiveness of organising people to drive systemic change. Together, these experiences have shaped my understanding of what needs to change to secure a future that is better for public and planetary health; and of how to bring about that change.

Like other health workers, I have found a home for this work at Medact. It is a privilege to be part of an organisation founded on the principles of health justice; that advocates for the changing fundamental conditions that allow people to live fulfilling, sustainable lives free from harm caused by poverty, war and pollution.



Rob Abrams is our new Climate & Health Organiser

Hi everyone! I am the newest member of the Medact team — joining just at the beginning of lockdown after finishing a role as Activism Coordinator at Unlock Democracy. I cut my teeth as an organiser for Wales & the South West in the People & Planet network, and have since built up around a decade of experience in various climate justice groups, fighting for fossil fuel divestment, opposing large extractive projects and standing in solidarity with indigenous and frontline communities. I was attracted to the role at Medact by the organisation's systemic approach to climate issues focused on health justice, as well as its reputation for inspiring and principled action. I'm really looking forward to working with all of you in the coming months to further develop our climate work, particularly with regard to the Green New Deal and the upcoming CoP26 climate talks.



Aiyan Maharasingam is our new Campaigns Assistant

I joined Medact in December after working for an MP for the previous two years. What stood out to me when I applied was the willingness of the organisation and its members to campaign on issues that many politicians do not feel comfortable speaking out on — be that migrant access to health care or ending the country's harmful dependence on nuclear weapons. It's been great to be part of the Medact team — providing campaigns and operational support and developing the skills and experience in this hands-on role.



Goodbye — & thanks! —to **Deirdre Duff**, our outgoing Climate & Health Campaigner

I've had an incredible couple of years working with Medact. I'm deeply grateful to the amazing team, members and supporters who make Medact "Medact". I'm leaving with so many fond memories and will miss you all. Sending lots and lots of thanks, warm wishes and a big "good luck" for the future!



...and to **Rachel Piper**, who joined the team as Interim Movement Builder over the past year

In summer 2019, I joined the team as Interim Movement Builder to cover Becky's parental leave. I was drawn to Medact because of its refreshing structural analysis of the determinants of health, and the way the organisation supports local groups of health workers to campaign on issues they care about. It's been wonderful to work with dedicated health workers across the country and watch the groups thrive. I'll definitely stay in touch!



Welcome back to our Movement Builder **Becky Daniels**

So much has changed in the time that I have been on parental leave! It's been wonderful to see many familiar and new faces at our online events, and inspiring to see how many of you have taken part in calling on our government to respond to and rebuild from coronavirus in a way that reimagines our economic and social systems. I look forward to continuing to support our movement to take action and figure out how we can best work together to call for change in these times.

Treasurer's report

I am pleased to report continued success in our efforts to sustainably grow the resources we have to bring to bear on our work.

In purely monetary terms, expenditure in our last financial year (February 2019 to January 2020) was £394,012. This represents an increase of £149,229 on the previous year, though it is important to note that £80,082 of this increased expenditure is made up of additional grant funds disbursed to partner organisations for joint projects – £69,148 is the “real” increased expenditure on the charity's own operations.

This increased capacity for expenditure translates into the continued growth in the staff team to support members in our campaigning work. A dedicated staff member to lead our Economic Justice work is both close to my heart, and extremely relevant to the situation we now find ourselves in.

This is all made possible by the securing of new grant funds, the continued support of members, and the

judicious use of the income from both these sources.

This has allowed us to build up our reserves accordingly to secure our staff and operations in the medium term, even against the potential headwinds of stagnation and recession we may suffer over the next period because of the pandemic.

This gives me the confidence to suggest it is a good time for me to hand over the reins of Treasurer, after 3 years in the role. You may have seen a call circulated for interested folk – if this could be you please do get in touch to find out more.

It only remains for me to thank all members for their support, which makes all that we do possible.

Paul Cotterill
Treasurer

Balance sheet*

As at 31 January 2020

* Accounts presented are drafts, pending approval by members at the AGM in September

	Jan 20	Jan 19
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	£ 260,057	£ 192,553
Accounts receivable	£ 1,726	£ 12,872
Gift Aid to reclaim	£ 15,268	£ 42,695
Other current assets	£ 13,258	£ 2,378
Total current assets	£ 290,309	£ 250,498
Fixed assets		
Office equipment	£ 460	£ 1,368
Total fixed assets	£ 460	£ 1,368
Total assets	£ 290,769	£ 251,867
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	£ 58	£ 9,133
Sundry creditors & accruals	£ 5,773	£ 3,748
Total current liabilities	£ 5,831	£ 12,881
Total liabilities	£ 5,831	£ 12,881
Net assets	£ 284,938	£ 238,986
Charity funds		
Core funds	£ 222,140	£ 171,828
Designated funds	£ 6,180	£ 681
Restricted funds	£ 56,618	£ 66,476
Total charity funds	£ 284,938	£ 238,986

Income & expenditure*

For the period 1 February 2019 to 31 January 2020

	Jan 20	Jan 19
Income		
Voluntary income		
Memberships	£ 64,230	£ 64,802
Appeals	£ 22,485	£ 19,051
Donations & legacy gifts	£ 31,104	£ 15,587
Gift Aid	£ 16,997	£ 34,251
Total voluntary income	£ 134,815	£ 133,692
Grants		
Core grants	£ 10,000	£ 10,000
Project grants	£ 286,780	£ 195,587
Total grants	£ 296,780	£ 205,587
Other income		
Other charitable income	£ 19,585	£ 19,184
Bank interest	£ 384	£ 42
Total other income	£ 19,969	£ 19,226
Total income	£ 451,564	£ 358,504
Expenditure		
Fundraising		
Appeals	£ 1,531	£ 1,579
Payment processing	£ 2,538	£ 2,314
Staff time on fundraising	£ 11,500	£ 7,600
Total fundraising	£ 15,569	£ 11,493
Charitable activities		
Communications	£ 2,857	£ 2,573
Events	£ 3,171	£ 4,493
Publications	£ 1,917	£ 1,201
Staff time on charitable activities	£ 211,327	£ 154,735
Staff, member & meeting expenses	£ 1,500	£ 2,901
Support for other charities	£ 2,645	£ 1,874
Total charitable activities	£ 223,417	£ 167,776
Grants to partner organisations	£ 107,569	£ 27,488
Administration & governance		
Staff training & recruitment	£ 4,663	£ 1,110
Office administration	£ 2,619	£ 3,311
Premises	£ 36,061	£ 29,957
Staff time on administration & governance	£ 11,600	£ 15,208
Finance & legal	£ 3,137	£ 3,560
Trustee expenses	£ 978	£ 88
Total admin & governance	£ 59,057	£ 53,234
Total expenditure	£ 405,612	£ 259,991
Financial year surplus/(deficit)	£ 45,952	£ 98,513

For more information about supporting Medact financially — including the possibility of making a legacy gift — please contact Sophie Neuburg on sophieneuburg@medact.org, or call the office on 0207 324 4739.

Thank yous

What we do is only possible with the support and involvement of our members, supporters, partners and funders.

Too many people play a part in Medact's work each year for us to thank everyone we should individually, but we would like to name:

Amber Holland, Guppi Bola, Rita Dayoub, Tarek Younis

A huge thanks also to all of our fantastic member groups, and their co-ordinators –who are so central to what we do.

We would like to extend our thanks all the organisations and groups we've worked with this year, including:

Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, Article 36, Campaign Against the Arms Trade, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the Centre for Health and the Public Interest, Concerned Health Professionals UK, Divest Parliament, Docs Not Cops, Eating Better, Fossil Free UK, Global Gas and Oil Network, Green New Deal UK, Health Declares a Climate Emergency, Health Poverty Action, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, the Justice for Simba campaign, Keep our NHS Public, Liberty, Medicine Conflict & Survival, Migrants Organise, the New Economics Foundation, the New Economy Organisers Network,

People's Health Movement, Resist & Renew, Students for Global Health & the Sudanese Doctors Union.

We are very grateful for the financial support received from:

The Friends Provident Foundation, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Open Society Foundations, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the Polden-Puckham Charitable Trust, the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts & the Trust for London.

And the guidance of our Board of Trustees:

Alan Maryon-Davis, Paul Cotterill, Jonathan Monk-Cunliffe, Daniel Flecknoe, Margaret Jackson, Penelope Milsom, Kitty Mohan, Lesley Morrison, Lisa Murphy, Anne Schulthess, Annabel Sowemimo, Sridhar Venkatapuram & Jeremy Wight.

Trustee attendance at Board meetings:

7th Sep – Alan, Alice (Bell), Dan, Jeremy, Penny, Margaret, Lesley, Paul, Kitty.

4th Nov – Alan, Penny, Anne, Annabel, Tom, Jeremy, Dan, Lesley, Lisa, Paul, Jonathan.

4th Feb – Alan, Paul, Lesley, Jonathan, Tom, Penny, Lisa.

26th Feb – Alan, Jonathan, Anne, Lesley, Lisa, Paul, Margaret, Jeremy, Penny, Tom.

14th May – Alan, Paul, Lesley, Jeremy, Lisa, Anne, Jonathan, Dan, Sridhar.

22nd July – Alan, Lesley, Paul, Margaret, Tom, Anne, Sridhar, Penny, Annabel, Jonathan.

Getting involved

The best way to **find out more** about Medact is by subscribing to our email list at medact.org/emails. We'll send you updates on current work and opportunities to get involved.

You can also:



Find your nearest group at medact.org/groups

We can support you to build a team of people in your area so you can tackle the issues that matter to you



See medact.org/calendar for what's coming up soon (right now all our events are taking place online, so there are many opportunities to join events without any geographic constraints!)

We'd also love to hear from you If there is a specific issue you want to work on or an idea you would like to talk to us about. You can contact our Movement Builder Becky Daniels at rebeccadaniels@medact.org



The Grayston Centre, 28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT.

) 020 7324 4739 ✉ office@medact.org 🌐 www.medact.org

Medact is an affiliate of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

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