

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are a group of UK doctors.

We are writing to you today to tell you about EveryDoctor, a new non-profit membership organisation for doctors which aims to overhaul the broken system we work within. Our profession desperately needs change.

EveryDoctor will focus on the following things.

- We challenge misleading media messaging about health, doctors, and the NHS.
- We run campaigns advocating to improve UK doctors' working conditions (and the conditions for their patients).
- We seek to unify UK doctors and engage with all medical institutions in order to change the culture within UK medicine.

We are contacting your medical institution along with others, to ask you to become part of our movement. We would like to meet with you at the earliest opportunity.

The UK medical profession is in a state of emergency.

Working conditions are dire and doctors are burnt out. We're excessively criticised in the media, let down by trade unions and stretched beyond capacity due to the consequences of £40bn in NHS austerity cuts by the Government since 2010.

Our patients aren't safe and we're not safe either.

This incredibly stressful situation has caused many doctors to practice abroad or leave medicine altogether. As a result, UK doctors are under more pressure than ever before.

What are the problems we're facing?

1. We don't have the staff or resources to take care of our patients safely.
2. The devastating impact of public sector cuts leads to patient safety issues.
3. When resources are low, the likelihood of human errors occurring increases. If you're doing the job of three doctors, the strain is enormous. We're all humans and in situations like this we all make mistakes. But in medicine, those mistakes can cost lives.
4. Morale is at rock bottom and doctors are leaving the profession in droves.

As well as the manifold external pressures exerting their influence on our profession (NHS cuts, media criticism), UK medicine has an internal culture of sexism and racism which isn't spoken about honestly and isn't being properly tackled.

- We know that there is a significant gender pay gap within medicine.¹
- We know that a contract was imposed on junior doctors in 2016 which discriminates against women.²
- We know that there is currently a 4.9% ethnic pay gap between White and BME consultants.³

In 2019, this is a shameful state of affairs.

Doctors are continually denigrated in the media too and our institutions do not advocate for us effectively.⁴

But things are changing; doctors are no longer willing to stay silent.

Dr Julia Patterson (EveryDoctor Lead) founded “The Political Mess”. It is the largest facebook group for all UK doctors. There are almost 25,000 members, and between 12-15000 doctors check in online each day.

On 14/02/19 we ran a quick straw poll in The Political Mess on the views of UK doctors and the results were shocking.

97.5% of 201

respondents said that they did not feel adequately advocated for by their trade union.

74% of 171

respondents reported that they did not feel represented in the media and elsewhere by their Royal College.

100% of 232

respondents told us that they did not feel supported in their work by the GMC.

These figures are stark; things need to change immediately.

As such, our first task is to meet with the leaders in as many UK medical institutions as we can. The EveryDoctor team would like to meet with you as a matter of urgency, to discuss your thoughts about the current state of UK medicine, and to discuss an immediate plan to start turning things around. We want positive change; to work in a profession which we’re proud of. We hope you agree.

We look forward to receiving your response,

The EveryDoctor team.

Dr Julia Patterson, Dr Rishi Dhir, Dr Jessica Potter,
Dr Georgina Wood, Dr Alan Courtney,
Dr Chinedu Nwokoro, Dr Stella Johnson



everydoctor.org.uk

[@EveryDoctorUK](https://twitter.com/EveryDoctorUK)

¹ **Financial Times, May 2018:** <https://www.ft.com/content/29fb6794-6035-11e8-9334-2218e7146b04>

² **The Telegraph, April 2016:** <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/the-new-junior-doctors-contract-is--blatantly-sexist---so-why-do/>

³ **The Guardian, September 2018:** <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/sep/27/black-medics-in-nhs-paid-thousands-less-than-white-medics>

⁴ **The Sun, September 2018:** <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/uknews/7311077/nhs-struggling-snowflake-docs-jobs/>