





Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP 10 Downing Street London SW1A 2AA

3rd June 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

We are UK based Indian diaspora, Indian Civil Society Organisations and COVID-19 survivors in India. Over the last few months, we have been horrified to see increasing numbers of friends, family members and loved ones get ill and die from the deadly second wave of COVID-19 in India. One in three of the reported COVID-19 deaths worldwide is happening in India - the country is facing a health crisis on an unprecedented scale.

While cases of COVID-19 are rising apace, vaccination efforts in India are faltering because of a severe lack of available vaccine doses in the country. Only around 10% of the population has received one dose, while just 2.5% have received both.

Last year India and South Africa proposed a waiver on Intellectual Property rights on COVID-19 health technologies to the World Trade Organisation. This waiver would allow more manufacturers globally to step up their efforts to produce COVID-19 vaccines that are so desperately needed - for India and other countries that are currently unable to vaccinate their populations.

We warmly welcome the US administration's recent announcement that they will support an intellectual property waiver to help scale up the volume of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines globally. We are pleased to see that other countries, including New Zealand, France and Spain have since followed suit.

We ask you to please urgently reconsider the UK government's stance on the issue and to support the proposal by India and South Africa to waive intellectual property rules on Covid-19 health technologies at the World Trade Organisation.

Exclusive licences like the deal between AstraZeneca and the Serum Institute in India are falling short of producing anything like the level of vaccine coverage we need to get this disease under control - either in India, or globally. Instead, pharmaceutical company monopolies are leading to

an artificial scarcity in global supply, with both India and COVAX dangerously overdependent on one supplier.

This waiver must be supported by the sharing of technology and know-how through the World Health Organisation's COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP). Together, these two initiatives can help ensure the necessary scale up of COVID-19 doses to meet global demand and end the pandemic. Will you show leadership by standing in solidarity with India at this time of need and support the TRIPs Waiver?

Yours sincerely,

Parliamentarians

Navendu Mishra MP Virendra Sharma MP Baroness Shami Chakrabarti

Civil Society Organisations

AidsHealthcare Foundation - Europe

All India National Life Insurance Employees Federation

Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR)

The AccessIBSA project

The Lady Fatemah (as) Charitable Trust

Sankalp Rehabilitation Trust

Indian diaspora in the UK

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Individuals in India

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Jitender Sharma Swati Gupta

Kalaven iyer Syed Ziaur Rahman

Manju Dhanasekar Usha Paul
Menaka Vratika Arora

Indian diaspora from other countries

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