

**Press release on behalf of Keep Our NHS Public and NHS Workers Say No
- for IMMEDIATE use:**

**NHS Staff to join MPs and Campaigners today in solidarity march with
striking nurses**

Today (December 20th) marks the second strike day for NHS nurses across the country who have voted for industrial action. Grassroots campaigning organisations *NHS workers say no!* [1] and *NHS Staff Voices* (part of *Keep Our NHS Public*) [2] will take part in a solidarity march they have jointly organised. This will begin outside UCL hospital at 14:30 before proceeding to march onto Downing Street, arriving by 16:00. The march will then hear from speakers [3] including union representatives and MPs, who will outline the importance of the nurses strikes and express solidarity with NHS workers.

Alia Butt, NHS Psychotherapist and Chair of NHS Staff Voices (part of Keep Our NHS Public) says:

"The NHS is the bedrock of our country and has been consistently failed by the government which has been intentionally breaking it apart for years now. There is no better time to champion the importance of cross sector, cross union solidarity and we will be marching in support of all those taking action."

Holly Turner, nurse and member of NHS Workers Say No, says:

"NHS Workers Say No have called this demo with NHS Staff Voices to extend solidarity to all NHS Staff who are currently striking. With further strike dates due to be announced across many more trusts, the importance of cross union activity is paramount in sending a clear message to this government; we are united in our fight for pay and safety."

Jordan Riviera, Occupational Therapist and one of those speaking on the march, says:

"I am one of the many health workers who cannot go on strike at this time, even though so many of us voted yes to strike action. We want to show we support the RCN and we would give anything to be out on strike as well, because the NHS cannot keep going as it is. Staff from all the different unions and

disciplines in the NHS support the RCN, and offer solidarity because we all feel the same. There are thousands and thousands of us who voted for strike action and support the RCN.”

[ends]

For interview, further information and comment **ahead of the march** please contact Samantha Wathen, Press and Media Officer for *Keep Our NHS Public* on 0777 6047472 or email press@keepournhspublic.com

For on the day/march logistics and interviews contact Chair of NHS Staff Voices, Alia Butt on 07540344913 or email aliabutt@live.co.uk

Notes to editors

1. NHS Workers Say No is a grassroots organisation of NHS workers primarily campaigning for fairer pay and conditions <https://www.facebook.com/NHSworkersSayNo/>
2. *NHS Staff Voices* is the dedicated staff wing of *Keep Our NHS Public*, a national independent organisation campaigning for a well-funded, publicly owned and provided NHS and a National Care, Support and Independent Living Service www.keepournhspublic.com
3. Speakers will include: Kate Osborne MP, John McDonnell MP, Claudia Webbe MP, Andrew Meyerson (Junior Doctor) Alex Gordon (RMT President) Emma Dent Coad (UCLH), Ameera Sheikh (Nurse), Alia Butt (Psychotherapist and Chair of *NHS Staff Voices*) and Holly Turner (Nurse and part of *NHS Workers Say No*) Mel Mullings (RMT) Ellen Grogan (RCN) and Jordan Rivera (Occupational Therapist)