

**Press release on behalf of Keep Our NHS Public - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Keep Our NHS Public Hosts Major sell-out Event TONIGHT Challenging Anti-Migrant Myths and Calling for Real Solutions to the NHS Crisis**

National campaigning organisation, Keep Our NHS Public (KONP) [1], will bring together leading voices from health, politics, trade unions, and anti-racist organisations for a major public discussion pushing back against the growing wave of anti-migrant rhetoric used to distract from the real causes of the NHS and social care crisis. This sold out event will be held this evening (Thursday 20th November) at 6.30-8pm at St Anne's Church, 55 Dean Street, Soho, London, W1D 6AF. [2]

We have spaces for members of the press/media. If you would like to attend, please register your interest in advance by contacting us at the details below.

Headline speaker Zack Polanski, Green Party Leader and one of the most widely recognised progressive political figures in the UK today, will join a line-up of frontline staff, MPs and campaigners to examine how migrant scapegoating is being used to mask the NHS workforce and funding crisis. Zarah Sultana, an Independent MP who also has progressive views including on the NHS and racism, will join Zack on the platform.

Political narratives blaming migrants for pressures on public services continue to spread across both the far right and the mainstream. KONP argues that these narratives sow division while obscuring the long-term causes of NHS decline, including understaffing, privatisation, and chronic underinvestment. Migrant workers themselves have played - and continue to play - a vital role in sustaining health and social care.

Despite public expectations for change, the current Labour Government has yet to set out a clear, credible plan to rebuild the NHS. This event provides a platform to discuss genuine solutions and to challenge rhetoric that harms communities and distracts from urgent policy failures.

### **Speakers include:**

Zack Polanski – Green Party Leader (Headline Speaker)

Zarah Sultana MP – Your Party

Dr Tony O'Sullivan – KONP Co-Chair

Dr Andrew Meyerson – NHS A&E Doctor and Campaigner

Samira Ali – Stand Up To Racism

Obi Amadi – Unite the Union, Health Sector Equalities Lead

Adekunle Akinola – UNISON Mental Health Nurse and Overseas Nurses Network

Sybil Msezane – Care Worker, Pan African Workers Association  
Ed Harlow – NEU Vice President

**Zack Polanski, Green Party leader, said:**

*“The NHS is in crisis because of politicians who’ve spent fifteen years underfunding, understaffing, and undermining it. Migrants aren’t the cause of the issues in our health service, they’re the backbone of it. Migrant NHS staff care for us, they keep the system running, and they deserve gratitude, not scapegoating. If we want an NHS that thrives, we need to confront the lies head-on and hold the real culprits — successive Conservative and Labour ministers — to account.”*

**Dr Tony O’Sullivan, Co-Chair of Keep Our NHS Public and retired Consultant Paediatrician, said:**

*“Our country has a human rights obligation to treat migrants with dignity and respect. We have a great debt to the tens of thousands of migrant workers who help provide NHS and social care. We thank all the refugees who have contributed so much to our society after making a home here. We view with disgust attempts across the spectrum from this government to Reform UK to cast migrants as second class human beings and to blame them for all our ills. It is privatisation, underfunding and outsourcing that has harmed the NHS. Not migrants. It is deliberate neglect of GP services, mental health, dentistry, maternity services for 15 years that endangers people’s lives and leaves 7 million on waiting lists. The NHS is in crisis and migrants are not to blame.”*

**[ends]**

Spokespeople are available for broadcast interview. Contact Samantha Wathen, Press Officer for Keep Our NHS Public [press@keepournhspublic.com](mailto:press@keepournhspublic.com) or Call/WhatsApp: 0777 6047472

**Notes to editors**

1. Keep Our NHS Public is an independent organisation campaigning for a properly funded and fully publicly owned NHS: [www.keepournhspublic.com](http://www.keepournhspublic.com)
2. Further details on the event can be found here:  
<https://keepournhspublic.com/event/nhs-in-crisis-migrants-not-to-blame/>