

MISS?NG : CAMPAIGN BRIEFING

MEDICINES

KEY MESSAGES

- **The system for developing new medicines is failing.** It limits competition and innovation, which means that vital drugs are either too expensive or simply 'missing' for the people that need them
- **We have a solution.** A World Health Organisation (WHO) working group has come up with a package of reforms that can be realised through a new global agreement
- **There is an historic opportunity for reaching this new global agreement.** Youth Stop AIDS is urging the UK Government to support these reforms at a WHO meeting in Spring 2016

WHY IS THE SYSTEM FAILING?

Millions of people all over the world don't have access to the life-saving medicines they urgently need. This is because our system for Research & Development (R&D) results in:

- **High Prices:** pharmaceutical companies have a monopoly on the new drugs they produce for 20 years, meaning they have no competition and can therefore charge extremely high prices
- **Skewed incentives:** medical research is driven towards the medicines likely to earn the most profit, meaning if the development of vital medicines is not profitable they're not produced
- **Inefficiency:** sharing of knowledge between researchers is prohibited, meaning the progress of scientific research is hindered and often duplicated

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

The World Health Organisation (WHO) created the Consultative Expert Working Group (CEWG) to seek solutions. They recommended a package of reforms that would seek to:

- **Introduce alternative incentives** to producing new medicines such as cash prizes and reduce the use of 20 year patent monopolies
- **Prioritise health research** according to need rather than profit by having WHO member states decide which areas are to be incentivised
- **Establish a pooled fund for R&D** financed by countries contributing 0.01% of GDP to ensure the R&D burden is shared

These reforms should be realised through a new, legally-binding global framework – similar to the framework for Human Rights – called **The R&D Agreement**.



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WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

Youth Stop AIDS sees the meeting organised by WHO set to take place in Spring 2016 as an historic opportunity to reach an agreement on these reforms. We will:

- **Lobby the UK Government to support the plan** for The R&D Agreement at the WHO meeting. This includes in-person meetings, letter writing and creative action aimed at MPs and MEPs
- **Campaign to raise public awareness** of the “Missing Medicines” problem. This includes local action, social media initiatives and a petition

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE 2016

February – March	Youth Stop AIDS Speaker Tour, UK-wide
9th March	MP Day of Action, London (Sign up at bit.ly/action9mar)
9th–11th March	UN High Level Panel on Access to Medicines, London
30th March	MEP Day of Action, UK-wide
April (TBC)	CEWG Meeting in Geneva
May	WHO Meeting

USEFUL CONTACTS

For policy and stuff about Youth Stop AIDS:

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KEEP UP WITH US

Facebook: fb.com/YouthStopAIDS
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