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**Prime Minister Boris Johnson**  
**10 Downing Street**  
**London**  
**SW1A 2AA**

23 April 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

**RE. UK support for countries experiencing worsening COVID-19 crisis**

As Chair of the British Medical Association's UK Council, I am writing to call on you to take urgent action to support and aid countries currently tackling a worsening COVID-19 crisis.

Global health leaders at the World Medical Association have today unanimously passed an emergency motion, proposed by the BMA, expressing deep concern at the alarming and worsening COVID crisis in India, Brazil and other countries. It calls on the international community and governments to urgently prioritise support and aid to the worse affected nations, including oxygen, drugs, vaccines, PPE and other equipment as needed. As Prime Minister, I urge you to take action to ensure the UK Government plays a leading role in providing this support.

Across the world, healthcare workers have put their lives at risk to care for patients and protect their communities. In the midst of reports of healthcare systems buckling under the pressure of surges in COVID-19 cases, as well as hospital bed and oxygen shortages, it is vital that we support our international colleagues as they face huge challenges in maintaining healthcare systems in such harrowing conditions.

The current COVID-19 pandemic is a lesson in the shared vulnerability of our global society. This unprecedented challenge calls for global solutions and international collaboration in recognition that no country will be safe from COVID-19 until all countries have the necessary resources to fight the virus.

Your commitment to donate over half the UK's vaccine surplus to poorer countries at the G7 leaders meeting earlier this year was a welcome recognition that finding a way out of this pandemic is very much a global effort. However, significant extra support including oxygen, drugs, vaccines, PPE and other equipment is needed now to address the current crisis that India, Brazil and other countries are facing.

In the year of the UK's G7 presidency, we must lead the way in showcasing the importance of global solidarity in tackling the pandemic and leverage the UK's health and biomedical expertise for the global good. I urge you to act to ensure that in the fight against COVID-19 no country and no healthcare worker is left behind.

With best wishes



**Dr Chaand Nagpaul CBE**  
BMA council chair