

Conference on the Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health

The UN Special Rapporteur and the Role of the Health Sector

London , 25-27 September 2008

On 25-27 September 2008, the International Federation of Health and Human Rights and the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex is organising a conference on the right to the highest attainable standard of health.

The British Medical Association has kindly agreed to host the conference that will take place in central London .

This year Paul Hunt's second and final term as UN Special Rapporteur on the right to the highest attainable standard of health will come to an end. It is expected that a new Special Rapporteur will be appointed in June and that s/he will take over from Paul Hunt in August. For this reason, the September conference is especially timely and we very much hope the new Rapporteur will attend and participate.

The conference will have a particular, but not exclusive, focus on the role of health workers. For example, it will re-examine the indispensable role of health workers in relation to the right to the highest attainable standard of health. Also, how can the right to the highest attainable standard of health assist health workers? How can they be involved in the missions of the UN Special Rapporteur?

Thanks to the work of countless organisations and individuals throughout the world, the 'health and human rights movement' has made significant progress in recent years. But progress has not been rapid enough and enormous challenges remain. One of the aims of the conference is to review progress and obstacles - and to discuss future strategies and developments.

More information will follow - for now, please place these dates, 25-27 September 2008, in your diary!

Please also circulate this message in your network.

Best wishes,

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IFHHRO Coordinator

Paul Hunt

Human Rights Centre

University of Essex