

Shree Narendra Modi,
Honourable Prime Minister
7 Lok Kalyan Marg
New Delhi
110011

3rd March 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Ukraine crisis and Indian medical students

Namashkar.

As you will be aware, Russia's war on Ukraine over the last week has resulted in one of the most devastating humanitarian man-made crises that we have witnessed in recent times. Our organisation, the British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (BAPIO), has had a long and deep interest in supporting medical students and doctors of Indian origin in the UK as well as in India, and our attention is now drawn to the emerging crisis to scores of medical students who are being forced to emigrate out of Ukraine. Indeed, as has been reported by the international press, the official spokesperson for India's ministry of external affairs, Arindam Bagchi, announced the death of Naveen Shekharappa a final year medical student from the southern state of Karnataka who was reportedly outside a grocery store to collect food when the administrative building in Kharkiv was bombed.

There must be many stories of this kind that have not yet reached us because the focus has been on the mass Ukraine population.

Our organisation is therefore concerned to help in any way possible. We have experience in charitable causes; most recently we garnered support from our members and the NHS in the UK during the Covid India appeal, which resulted in donations of medical equipment and food being distributed to various parts of India. Therefore, we would be only too pleased to work with the local embassy in Ukraine and neighbouring countries as well as the Indian Ministry of External Affairs to ensure any medical student caught in the crisis has the support needed, which could be food, essential equipment, and medical supplies which we would try and source and raise funds for.

President: Dr Ramesh Mehta, OBE
Secretary: Prof Parag Singhal

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BAPIO



@BAPIOUK

Please do give our contact to the necessary personnel dealing with this crisis, as we would be privileged to serve in any way possible.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Mehta", enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Dr. Ramesh Mehta, OBE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JS Bamrah", enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Dr. JS Bamrah, CBE

cc: High Commissioner HE Gaitri Issar Kumar, India House, London WC2B 4NA