

HINDUSTANI WORKERS ASSOCIATION (U.D.)

Hindustani Mazdoor Sabha Estd 1938

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17th November 2005

Mr David Roberts
Chief Executive
University Hospitals Coventry & Warwickshire NHS Trust
CV2 2DX

Dear Mr Roberts,

You will accept we have patiently awaited your response to our letters dated 5th July and 29th July 2003 (enclosed). We would be grateful if you would kindly give a detailed reply by return.

We increasingly received reports from fearful doctors, nurses and others of **Racism at University Hospitals Coventry & Warwickshire NHS Trust**, when the study by the BMA in June 2003 found "*Racism is rife in the health service and even seen as acceptable*" and the mirror newspaper reported "**NHS is Racist**" on 24th June 2003. We raised serious concerns about racism at our Trust directly with the Chairman, Mr Stoten, on 26th June and 5th July 2003 (enclosed). After ignoring our letters he told us that concerns about racism at our hospitals was beyond his remit and that he had passed our correspondence to you for a response. You have ignored this matter for over 2 years.

About 20 years ago Coventry suffered racial rioting that involved deaths. Those at the heart of the community know of the underlying discrimination, and racial, cultural and religious tensions that exist. It comes as no surprise to us that gangs could catalyse hostility on the streets of Birmingham, which tragically ended in the shameful loss of life, when our public establishments, such as the NHS, oppress and disenfranchise ethnic minorities and blatantly discriminate against them.

We are aware of **at least three** senior doctors in the Heart Department recently making formal complaints about racism. Yet none appear to have had satisfactory investigation or resolution. In contrast one of the complainants, Dr Raj Mattu, has been treated distinctly differently to the white doctors and managers against whom complaints are made, and suffered discriminatory suspension that **you** have now maintained for four years.

Dr Mattu was suspended after being accused of bullying. Yet when 3 non-white senior doctors in the Heart Department make similar complaints, and also accusations of racism, you suspend none of the white doctors and managers involved. The same contrasting inaction took place when four heart surgeons complained of victimisation and intimidation against a white doctor and a senior manager. Forgive us for thinking that your actions appear to sanction the situation and that you seem to have less regard for the well being of non-white doctors.

It is well known that the Chief Executive and Chairman have openly declared that they want to get rid of Dr Mattu and also destroy his career altogether, and Mr Robinson MP accused Mr Stoten of a smear campaign. You also look as though **you** are determined to get Dr Mattu guilty of something.

Could you please also confirm that shortly before the start of the recent inquiry into Dr Mattu you added extra allegations against Dr Mattu for the Inquiry panel?

Yours sincerely,

Mr Dilbagh Singh Gill

CC: Trust Board, NHS Executive, SHA, Equal Opportunities Commission, Mr T. Philips, Ms. S. Chakrabarti, MPs