



MEDIA RELEASE

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EBOLA: A CALL TO ACTION FOR ALL HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN THE UK.

A roadshow and national call to action will begin next week to appeal for more assistance from health workers across Britain to help in the fight against Ebola in Sierra Leone. The national call-out is targeted at all those with relevant skills including NHS workers, the self-employed and agency nurses.

The call to action comes as Britain carries out national exercises to prepare emergency services and health workers for any outbreak here, the World Health Organisation warns of potentially 10,000 new cases each week in the affected countries and international health experts scramble for new treatments and vaccines.

The UK has taken responsibility for leading the international community's medical response in Sierra Leone, the US in Liberia and France is responding to the crisis in Guinea, but the situation is far from being under control.

"Children are not going to school; doctors and nurses are dying, and non-Ebola illnesses are adding to the toll of death and suffering due to further weakening of the healthcare system in the country," said Ernest Bai Koroma, President Republic of Sierra Leone.

The Sierra Leone Diaspora UK Task Force in collaboration with SLWT and TOSHPA, are starting a national roadshow on Monday 20 October to help mobilise a team of volunteers to help fight the epidemic:

"There will soon be an additional and urgently needed 700 Ebola treatment beds in Sierra Leone provided by the UK Government but they will be of no value if they are not adequately staffed. Please be a part of making a difference by volunteering to work in those facilities. Please register with UK-Med now to join the fight to save lives," says Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Chair SLWT.

The Roadshow will begin in London on 20 October at the Royal Society of Medicine and on 23 October 2014 at the University of Manchester. Other locations and full details of the meetings in the UK can be found at www.info@slwt.org.

The Royal Commonwealth Society is also supporting the drive to combat Ebola in West Africa. Director of the RCS, Michael Lake said that the Commonwealth needs to combine resources and support efforts to fight this deadly outbreak: “The RCS, through our branches and networks has distributed calls for assistance, but also basic information for the public on the facts on Ebola, including key steps that residents can take to avoid infection. Awareness of the disease and how it’s transmitted is crucial in containing the outbreak.”

Media enquiries re Roadshow; +447760261 688

SLWT: info@slwt.org

TOSHPA: info@toshpa.org.uk

RCS: Carolyn Jack +44 2037274300