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Dear colleagues,

You cannot fail to have heard about the High Court ruling regarding our colleague, Dr Hadiza Bawa-Garba, following the tragic death of Jack Adcock, a 6-year-old boy in 2011, and the subsequent erasure of her name from the medical register. We will not go into the details of her case; these are available on many websites. The decision to erase her name has elicited a spontaneous and impressive outpouring of widespread national professional revulsion and condemnation, with Medical Royal Colleges, professional associations, individual healthcare professionals, the public and even the Secretary of State for Health questioning the GMC's actions.

The death of a child engenders inconsolable grief for the parents, their friends and family. We cannot even begin to imagine what his family has endured over these years; we feel their loss and extend our heartfelt sympathies to them.

However, we are profoundly concerned at the scapegoating of an individual hardworking, conscientious doctor with an unblemished career before the tragic incident, for systemic failures in an underfunded and understaffed NHS Trust. A dedicated, committed, NHS junior doctor has been sorely let down, and the GMC's data repeatedly tells us the same story; doctors from BME communities fare less well when it comes to investigations and severe punitive actions. We feel the same sense of outrage and injustice that has galvanised more than 8,000 people (to date) to donate to the crowdfunding site supporting Dr Bawa-Garba.

Suffice it to say that MANSAG is solidly behind Dr Bawa-Garba in these difficult times, as we have been since we first contacted her in December 2015. We have supported her since then and will continue to do so in every possible way. We reached her recently, and she gave us an indication, going forward, as to how best we can continue to support her and her next line of action regarding erasure of her name from the medical register.

It's time to stand up and be counted for Dr Bawa-Garba. Her case brings into sharp focus, the general feeling in the profession that the GMC's organs have become anti-doctor, and that there is an urgent need for systemic failures in the NHS to be addressed rather than the scapegoating of individual doctors of any race, nationality or creed for these failures. We shall be raising these concerns at the next GMC's BME Forum meeting. We shall also be writing to Mr Charlie Massey, Chief Executive of the GMC, to inform him of MANSAG's support for Dr Bawa-Garba and requesting that they review their decision.

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