29th May 2018
The Doctors’ Association UK Letter of Support for Dr. Nnaemeka Chidumije

Dear Mrs. May,

We, The Doctors’ Association UK, and the undersigned wish to urgently bring to your attention the concerns of our colleagues regarding the treatment of a UK doctor who has been unfairly victimised by the Home Office. We believe his unjust treatment is a direct result of the indiscriminate immigration caps currently affecting tier 2 migrants.

Dr. Nnaemeka Chidumije was employed as a junior doctor undertaking core surgical training until this year and has completed a significant part of his postgraduate medical training here in the UK. Having worked with him for some 18 months, his colleagues adamantly testify to the strength of his character and devotion to his work, both of which were apparent in the exemplary care he consistently provided to his patients in Cumbria and the North East of England. Suffice it to say, he was an invaluable asset to his team and the NHS, and the passion for his job was at once self evident and inspiring.

In February 2018 following the separation from his British wife, Dr. Chidumije was advised by the Home Office to return to Nigeria to apply for conversion of his spousal visa to the tier 2 highly skilled migrant category. However, his subsequent visa application has been inexplicably rejected four times, resulting in the premature suspension of his training as an NHS surgeon and his career being arrested. Despite completing all required competencies and excelling in his work, he is at imminent risk of losing his training number.

The NHS has rightfully invested heavily in the training of this doctor, given his dedication and considerable natural ability. Our immigration policy is failing to recognise this contribution of the future potential of this exceptional individual, thus actively contributing to denying patients the fruits of his labour. Mr Mike Bradburn, Head of the School of Surgery, shares our frustration at the waste of talent and impact on this individual, and our concerned colleagues have contacted the office of Mr Ian Mearns MP as well the MP for Dr, Chidumije’s constituency to bring this to their attention.

We implore you to intervene in this case urgently to ensure Dr. Chidumije is fairly treated and that we do not lose such a valuable professional at a time when his department and the NHS is short staffed.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Neil Tiwari, MBBS, MRCEM,
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Co-Editor, The Doctors’ Association UK