



**The
Haemophilia
Society**

123 Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7HR

Telephone: 01-928 2020
Fax: 01-620 1416

PRESS RELEASE

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MPs RALLY TO HELP PEOPLE WITH HAEMOPHILIA AND HIV

Twenty-eight MPs, drawn from every party, answered a cry for help from people with haemophilia and HIV last night (November 21).

They have formed an ALL Party Group for Compensation for those with haemophilia who have been infected with HIV from contaminated blood products.

And they have pledged to take the case for an out of court settlement for those affected direct to the new Secretary of State for Health, William Waldegrave.

The MPs rallied to the call for help from the Haemophilia Society which was anxious that the case for an out of court settlement was not swept under the carpet.

"Despite overwhelming support for the case, decisions by those who could stop the anguish of those affected were not being taken," said the Society's General Secretary David Watters.

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"That, combined with the ministerial changes at the Department of Health has put the whole momentum of an out of court settlement in danger.

"We called on MPs of every party to come to our aid to renew the plea for an out of court settlement and they have responded magnificently."

The All Party Compensation Group will be chaired by Tory MP Patrick Cormack with MPs Alf Morris (Labour) and Rosie Barnes (SDP) as Vice-Chairmen.

Patrick Cormack, in setting out the group's action plan said, "We are not asking the Government to admit legal liability - in this case we want it to quantify its moral responsibility."

At a special meeting in the House of Commons the MPs responded to the Haemophilia Society by pledging urgent action to take the case to the Secretary of State.

"This struggle for an out of court settlement is vital for those people and their families who have been placed at the centre of the worst medical disaster this country has known in recent times," said David Watters.

"Waiting for a court settlement would mean watching time run out for some of those concerned. The All Party Group has given us the new energy and hope that we needed."

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For further information:

Steve Weaving/Wendy Hext

Tel: GRO-C

Graham Barker
Director of Services and Development