

PRESS RELEASE HAEMOPHILIA ACTION UK AND INDEPENDENT CAMPAIGNER COLETTE WINTLE

PARLIAMENTARY COMMONS DEBATE/HAEMOPHILIA/CONTAMINATED BLOOD 14TH OCT 2010

Haemophilia campaigners Carol Grayson (Haemophilia Action UK) and Colette Wintle (Independent Campaigner) welcome the historic debate in the House of Commons on 14th October regarding Haemophiliacs/Contaminated Blood.

In 1996 Haemophilia Action UK set up a campaign initiative to fight for compensation on a parity with haemophiliacs in Ireland for all UK haemophiliacs infected with HIV and hepatitis C through NHS blood products. Lord Winston described this as “the worst medical treatment disaster in the history of the NHS” 4,670 haemophiliacs were infected and over 2,000 have since died leaving behind many affected families. Historically females with a bleeding disorder, carers, partners and the bereaved, predominantly female have not been supported adequately financially. We recently met with Under Parliamentary Secretary of State Anne Milton to call now for gender justice.

Campaigners themselves refer to this tragedy as the “Haemophilia Holocaust” as this was a largely avoidable tragedy with a history of serious safety violations, unethical experimentation and withholding of key information/evidence. Below are a series of articles on this issue published in Ctrl.Alt.Shit

<http://www.ctrlaltshift.co.uk/article/blog-carol-grayson-long-overdue-apology-haemophiliacs-part1>

<http://www.ctrlaltshift.co.uk/article/blog-carol-grayson-exclusive-gender-justice>

<http://www.ctrlaltshift.co.uk/article/blog-carol-grayson-bloody-success>

<http://www.ctrlaltshift.co.uk/article/feature-when-disaster-not-disaster>

Carol Grayson and Colette Wintle also called for a full and open public inquiry in the early 1990s into how haemophiliacs came to be infected with blood borne viruses but this request was repeatedly refused by successive governments. A privately funded public inquiry was set up by Lord Archer of Sandwell who echoed our calls for compensation on a parity with Ireland in recommendation 6h of the Archer Report. We now ask the Coalition government to fully implement the recommendations of Lord Archer which also include provision of comprehensive care and treatment plus a legislative body to include haemophiliacs in the decision making process. In addition we ask for an official public apology to the haemophilia community in acknowledgement of damage and suffering. To that end we support the following motion put forward by Geoffrey Robinson MP for Thursday's debate:-

Mr Geoffrey Robinson

That this House recalls that the catastrophic problems of infected blood supplied by the NHS date back to the 1970s and 1980s, infecting 4,670 patients and causing what Lord Winston described as the worst treatment disaster in the history of the NHS; notes that successive administrations only very partially responded to this catastrophe by setting up and funding The MacFarlane Trust, The Skipton Fund and The Eileen Trust; regrets, however, the previous Government's refusal to accept the principal recommendation of the Independent

Public Inquiry into the supply of contaminated NHS blood to haemophilia patients, chaired by Lord Archer and established and financed by private initiative and funds, relating to compensation for the victims and set out in paragraph 6(h) of chapter 12 of the Archer Report; further notes that earlier this year the Government's reasons for rejecting this recommendation were challenged successfully in the High Court, which quashed the Government's decision; believes that this ruling constitutes an appropriate moment for the present Government, which bears no responsibility for the inadequate and misjudged policies of successive previous administrations, to extend an apology to the surviving 2,700 sufferers, their families and the bereaved; and calls on the Government to alleviate their intense hardship and suffering by accepting and implementing the recommendations of the Archer Report despite the intense financial pressure on the public purse at this time.

Press Inquiries please contact

Carol

Grayson http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/PO/experts/Health_and_Wellbeing.aspx

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(Widow of a haemophiliac who died due to being infected with HIV/HCV through NHS treatment)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUDG9kPo2M4>

Colette Wintle

Tel: **GRO-C**

(Female haemophiliac infected with hepatitis C)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsFN9xpS_w