

# CAMPAIGN AGAINST HATE SPEECH

ದೈಷದ ಢಾತುಗಲ ವರುದ್ಧ ಜನಾಂದೂಲನ



**Letter condemning abusive and communal hate speech by Dr. Aarti Lalchandani which violates principles of medical ethics and discriminates against Muslims**

06.06.2020

On 31st May 2020, Dr. Aarti Lalchandani the Medical officer of the Govt Hospital (Medical College Kanpur, UP) was caught on camera making derogatory, hateful statements that were intended to vilify and dehumanise the Muslim community by falsely attributing the Covid19 pandemic to them. The doctor was candidly caught saying *“We are exhausting our resources on Jaamatis. Paying their hotel bills that run in lakhs. If it was not for them then there would be no cases. We are using 100 kits on them a day. If they weren’t there we wouldn’t need the kits at all.”* On being asked *“what should be done with the Jamaatis”*, she responds stating *“Please don’t leak this - They should be put in jails. The medicines are being wasted on them. More than the medicines the kits are being wasted on them. With the use of sticks they should be put in solitary confinement instead we are putting them in quarantine. There should be an order passed stating no resources should be wasted on the Jaamatis. They should be put in jungles in dungeons. They are terrorists. They are the reason for the spread. They will be the reason for the financial emergency.”*<sup>1</sup>

At a time when the world is battling the spread of coronavirus which has been recognized as a pandemic by the WHO, viewing patients from the lens of religion by a doctor to determine who should be given treatment is criminal. The coronavirus has taken lives of 6075 persons in India<sup>2</sup> and such statements are

<sup>1</sup> Video can be found at <https://youtu.be/zvDvF-Ck7sE>, reported by NDTV at <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/coronavirus-on-camera-up-doctors-hate-rant-against-islamic-sect-members-2238882>, reported by The Hindu at <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/kanpur-medical-college-principal-allegedly-says-jamaat-members-are-terrorists-should-be-placed-in-solitary-confinement/article31719553.ece>, fact checked by Alt News at [https://www.altnews.in/verification-speech-targeting-muslim-community-by-kanpur-medical-college-principal/?utm\\_source=website&utm\\_medium=social-media&utm\\_campaign=newpost](https://www.altnews.in/verification-speech-targeting-muslim-community-by-kanpur-medical-college-principal/?utm_source=website&utm_medium=social-media&utm_campaign=newpost)

<sup>2</sup> The number is underreported.

fueling another communal virus pandemic. This pandemic calls for a responsive health system that will rise to the occasion to control the spread of the infection and to ensure that people receive adequate, comprehensive and ethical healthcare. This includes treatment, diagnosis, preventive efforts and counselling that is inclusive and non-discriminatory. In light of the critical times, healthcare workers have a heightened responsibility towards the patients and society at large. In such difficult circumstances the comments of Dr Aarti Lalchandani's are unacceptable and irresponsible violating medical ethics and humanitarian principles.<sup>3</sup>

By making statements such as throwing the Jamaatis in the dungeons, solitary confinement, use of stick to put them in jail, the doctor is advocating for torture, inflicting of both mental and physical trauma which is in violation of Human Rights.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, such action by a doctor in a government hospital that is required to provide care and treatment to all citizens, is criminal in nature specifically when the Government has issued statements of ensuring no stigma against the victims of corona. Calling the Jamaatis as terrorists is baseless, propagating enmity on religious grounds and in violation of Section 153A. Additionally, the doctor is in clear violation of Sec 188 of the Indian Penal Code as the doctor has ignored the directions of public officials to not stigmatise victims of the virus. Being in a position of power as the principal of a Government hospital, this discriminatory mindset can trickle down to the rest of the staff and also lead to overt and covert exclusion of Muslim patients who have as much of a right to healthcare as other citizens. We have observed this with other medical conditions like HIV, tuberculosis, leprosy etc., that targeting and stigmatizing communities leads to lesser reporting and prevents good public health interventions to control the spread of disease.

We vehemently condemn the statements made by her. They are unprofessional, uncouth, derogatory, divisive and in violation of the tenets of equality propounded in our Constitution. We demand that she be dismissed from services as she is a danger to the patients. Further, we demand the Medical Council of India to take cognizance of this matter and initiate disciplinary proceedings

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<sup>3</sup> B. Duty and Responsibility of physician in general, 1.1.2 of the Code of Medical Ethics Regulation 2002

<sup>4</sup> 6.6 Human Rights, Code of Medical Ethics Regulation, 2002

against her. There is also an urgent need for the Medical council, the Nursing council and all other allied professional bodies putting out strong statements against any form of discrimination, stigmatisation, negligence, denial of care based on the religion, caste, gender, occupation or geographical location of patients. We also demand that the medical fraternity condemn this action in order to restore the faith of the common man in the doctors.

**Endorsements**

1	Zoya	Engineering manager
2	Zainab Sulaiman	
3	Zahida Tahseen	Designer
4	Zafar Abbas	Service
5	Yeukai	CAR
6	Yaser	Consultant
7	Vivek	IISER Mohali
8	Vishakha	Student
9	Vinay Sreenivass	Advocate
10	Vidya Dinker	Citizens Forum for Mangalore Development
11	Veena Shatrugna	Independent Researcher
12	Vasundhara Rangaswamy	Microbiologist
13	Vandana Prasad	Independent Researcher
14	Umm Aatif	Home-maker
15	Ujwal Kp	Individual
16	Thaiseer	The Human Collective
17	Tarique	IT professional
18	Tanzeem Iqbal	Job
19	Tanvi Avasthi, RN	Campaign Against Racism/Nurse
20	Tanveer	Doctor
21	Tahir	Associated with welfare party
22	T Jayashree	Filmmaker
23	Syed Tousif Masood	Naavu Bharatiyaru
24	Syed Ishaq Ul Haq	Civil Engineer
25	Syed Ibrahim	Pouring the poison in nation
26	SYED ABDUL SATTAR	Professional
27	Syed	Doctor
28	Swathi	Researcher
29	Swaliha Asiya	Content Strategist
30	Surbhi Shrivastava	Researcher
31	Sunita Bandewar	Pune
32	Sunil	Director
33	Sumithra	Researcher
34	Sumita Kumar	Analyst
35	Sulakshana Nandi	
36	Suhel Khan	Techpreneur
37	Sudha N	Independent
38	Srishti	Digital marketing
39	Soundarya Iyer	Researcher
40	Sneha Rajaram	Writer
41	Shibu Varkey	Ophthalmic Surgeon
42	Shehnaz khan	Teacher

43	Shazin Siddiqui	The Human Collective
44	Shashidhar VB	Lawyer
45	Shams	Consultant
46	SHAHZEB KHAN	Service
47	Shahid Husain	WFM
48	Shabana Sultan	Homemaker
49	Senthil	Teacher
50	SEKAR PANDIAN	Business
51	Sayyed Mohammed Arshad	Software Engineer
52	Savitha	Faculty
53	Sameer	The Human Collective
54	Samar Nadeem Khan	Health Activist
55	Saleha Tahseen	Trainer
56	Sajid	Engineer
57	Sabina Basha	Retired
58	Rumana	None
59	Rosamma Thomas	Journalist
60	RENU KHANNA	JSA
61	Reena Johnson	Teaching
62	Ravi G	Disability Rights Activist
63	Ravi Duggal	Researcher
64	Ratul Biswas	Service personnel
65	Rasheed Usmani	Entrepreneur
66	Ramneek Singh	Playwright
67	Rahamat	Consultant
68	radha holla	Independent researcher
69	R Srivatsan	Researcher
70	Pushpa S	Swaraj Abhiyan Activist
71	Priti Turakhia	Self
72	Praveen Kolluguri	india
73	Pratik Mishra	PhD student
74	Prasanna Saligram	Public Health Researcher
75	Pramod PC	Engineer
76	Persis Ginwalla	Individual
77	Omar Farook	The Human Collective
78	Noor	United religions initiative
79	Nizamuddin	Fraternity Movement Karnataka
80	Nithin	Student
81	Nikita Islam	Doctor
82	Nazima	Homemaker
83	Nazim Khan	IT Professional
84	Navaid Alam	The Human Collective
85	Nasir NG	The Human Collective
86	Nasar	Self employed
87	Nagaragere Ramesh	People's Democratic Forum

88	N. Jayaram	Journalist
89	N Hanifi	Working
90	Munowar warsi	Marketing techno commercial rental machines & I.P.
91	Mujahid Sheik	Engineer
92	Muiz Ahmed	Lifeline foundation trust
93	Mueen Abrar	TMC
94	Mubashira	Employee
95	Mohid	Retired
96	Mohd Sarfraj	Engineer
97	Mohan Rao	Independent Researcher
98	Mohammad Iqbal	Service
99	Mohammad Farhan Shaikh	Student
100	MOHAMMAD AKRAM	Service
101	MOHAMED KHIZER	-
102	Mir Taqeeulla	The Human Collective
103	Mir	Software Engineer
104	Meraj Khan	Media Sales Manager
105	Mehdi Kalim	Human Rights Activist
106	Mayuree	Social worker
107	Maria	Independent
108	Manzar Husain	Salaried
109	Manu Chowdhuri	CIEDS COLLECTIVE
110	Mahdi Ali	Employee
111	Madhuri Krishnaswamy	Independent Researcher
112	M. Kumar	Independent Writer
113	M. A. Siraj	Journalist
114	M Shakeel Badal	The Human Collective
115	M Salim Ansari	self employed
116	Linda Sharp MD	Doctor
117	Laxmi N	Scientific Writer
118	Latifa	Movement for justice
119	Latha	Sanman society
120	Kshiraja	-
121	Khalid Qureshi	Engineer
122	Khalid	Indian Patriot
123	Khaleelullah R	Business
124	Khaiser Faiza	Social activist
125	Karan Singh Chouhan	Assistant Professor
126	Kaniz Fatima Muneeza	Public Health Expert
127	Kamayani	Researcher
128	Kabir	Accountant
129	Jyotsna Sharma	Self employed
130	Junaid	None
131	Jerald D Souza	Social activist
132	Javeed Pasha	Fruit merchant
133	Jameel Ahmed Khan	Doctor

134	Jameel Ahmed	Self employed
135	Jagrat Biswal	Software Engineer
136	Jagdish Patel	OHS
137	Istiaque Hussain	Public servant
138	Ismail khan	Student
139	Isheath Nisar	Social acitivist
140	Inamur Rehaman	Engineer
141	Imran khan	Self business
142	Ihjaz Mohamed	The Human Collective
143	Huzefa I Suratwala	Doctor
144	Huzafah Sadaf SM	None
145	Humera jabeen	Doctor
146	Hema	Professor
147	Harun Rasheed	Entrepreneur
148	Haron	Doctor
149	Hamza Mohd. Zubair	The Human Collective
150	Gunjan	NA
151	GOUSE SADAK	Employee
152	Gitanjali gupta	Housewife
153	Firdose	Home maker
154	Fayaz	No
155	Fathima Naha	Student
156	Farah Afraz	Doctor
157	Dr.Mohan Rao	Independent researcher in Bangalore
158	Dr.Antony.K.R	Public Health Consultant Kochi
159	Dr. Sylvia Karpagam	Public health doctor and researcher
160	Dr. M. Farooque	Orthopaedics Surgeon
161	Dr. Khudsia	Medical profession/
162	Dr. Charm Shakeel	Doctor
163	Dr Sushrut Jadhav	University College London
164	Dr Sharfaroz Satani	Doctor
165	Dr Rehan	Private Practitioner
166	Dr Gopal Dabade	Health Activist
167	Dr Danish Ahmed	Doctor
168	Dr Anoob Razak	Public Health Practitioner
169	Dr Afzal	Doctor
170	Dhruv Mankad	Researcher
171	Deepak Kumar	Public Health Professional
172	Deepak Joshi	Self employed
173	David Goldberg	Retired doctor
174	D. Albert, S.J.	Social activist
175	Christina	Working
176	Chinu Srinivasan	Independent Researcher
177	Chandni Ganesh	Student/Writer
178	chaand ohri	Doctor
179	Brinda Adige	Development Consultant & Activist

180	Basawa Kunale	Lawyer
181	B.Nasreen Taj	The Human Collective
182	Azhar Alam Advocate	Advocate
183	Ayesha latif	Home maker
184	Avani Chokshi	CPI (ML) Liberation
185	Aushik	IT
186	Athiya	Home maker
187	Asma khan	Teacher
188	Aslam	The Human Collective
189	Ashy	Student
190	Arun	Banker
191	Arul Anthony	Administration
192	Arshad	Engineer
193	Arati Chokshi	Citizen
194	Anurag	-
195	Antruse	Engineer
196	Anilkumar	Student (AUD)
197	Anas	Engineer
198	Amogh	Student
199	Amjad patel	Service
200	Amita Pitre	Gender and Health Professional
201	Ambar	Dentist
202	Amar Jesani	Independent Researcher
203	amar chourasiya	it professional
204	Alwyn	Researcher and Activist
205	Al Furqan trust	Trust
206	Akash Bhattacharya	Teacher, Azim Premji University.
207	Ajab Motorwala	none
208	Ahmed Saleemuddin	Engineer
209	Ahmed	Consultant
210	Ahamed	Software engineer
211	Abu khan	Student
212	Abrar Rashid	Student
213	Abeer zaini	Student
214	Abdullah	IT Engineer
215	Abdul Wasay	Software professional
216	Abdul haseeb	Engineer
217	Abbar Khalid	Student
218	Aarti Bhatt	MD
219	Aarif Malik	Communications Professional
220	Aaliya Shafi	Teacher
221	A Ahmed	The Human Collective