

## DECLARATION

### **ACCESS TO MEDICALLY NECESSARY HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR REFUGEES IS ESSENTIAL**

In Lisbon, the “Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM)” declares: “*EU Member States must give refugees access to medically necessary primary and secondary healthcare in cases of acute and serious chronic diseases regardless of their status. Refugees must be able to see a doctor, to receive medical screenings and to get prescriptions for necessary medicines.*”

AIM is an organisation based on mutual values: Solidarity, Not-for-profit-orientation and Universal access to healthcare. AIM believes that health is not a commodity like the others and that people are in the centre of the healthcare system. These values are rooted in the origin of the mutualist movement in the 19<sup>th</sup> century where people chose to go together and create health funds for their own protection. Mutual societies in Europe fight to preserve these ideas.

Nowadays, a lot of people have to flee from their homes and come to Europe for their safety. AIM stresses that also these people should be able to count on these values such as access to healthcare as already written in the Convention relating to Refugees from 1951 and its protocol from 1967.

#### **AIM recommendations**

- **Refugees, even when they are not lawfully in the European Union, must have access to healthcare services in all European countries in solidarity.**
- **Refugees must be able to see doctors and receive the necessary medicines. Refugees must be entitled to the benefits in kind which become necessary on medical grounds during their stay, taking into account the nature of the benefits and the expected length of the stay.**
- **The member states of the United Nations have to provide the necessary financial tools to the UNHCR, to enable a human life in the refugee camps in Lebanon, Turkey and the Middle East.**

#### **AIM concludes:**

**On request of their governments, AIM members should assist by providing their expertise and by organising the necessary healthcare for refugees in their country alongside the state.**

*Lisbon, 19 November 2015*

The *Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM)* is an international umbrella organisation of not-for-profit healthcare mutuals and health insurance funds in Europe and in the world which operate on the basis of solidarity.

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