

## Health Systems Thematic Circle

This thematic circle has a wide-ranging focus, and its work in these broad areas has been divided into six sub-themes: [privatisation](#), [resistance to privatisation](#), [corporate watch](#), [innovative attempts in PHC](#), [Health Workers Day](#), and [health rights](#).

### 1. Privatisation

The 4<sup>th</sup> Peoples Health Assembly in Dhaka heard reports that many countries use privatisation and commercialisation of health care services as strategies for achieving universal health coverage (UHC), despite evidence that these policies negatively affect health outcomes. The privatisation sub-group will document the failures of these strategies by gathering evidence on the failures of health insurance schemes, privatisation, and public-private partnerships to provide equitable healthcare, diminish health inequities, and improve social determinants of health. It will do so by building a repository of articles, reports, case studies and testimonies on privatisation efforts – both in the form of state funded health insurance schemes and in the form of PPPs and outsourcing; and by encouraging and building capacity for documentation and studies on the outcomes of PPPs and privatisation efforts

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[Resources on privatisation](#)

[News and updates from the privatisation sub-group](#)

### 2. Resistance to privatisation

Privatisation of healthcare often faces considerable resistance from people's movements and local communities. There is a need to actively document and share these stories of resistance and learn from them, and to build solidarity with such struggles. The resistance to privatisation sub-group will take up this work.

[Resources on resistance to privatisation](#)

[News and updates from the resistance to privatisation sub-group](#)

### 3. Corporate Watch

PHM recognises the growing power of corporate capital in healthcare. The corporate healthcare industry's search for higher and higher profits distorts the growth of the entire sector and adversely influences health policy making in its own favour. It seeks to continuously undermine the health sovereignty and security of nations. There are few if any academic institutions or government bodies that watch these bodies, and even less that do so from the view point of safeguarding people's health. This sub-group therefore aims to establish a corporate watch initiative on healthcare across global regions, in partnership with other networks doing similar work.

[Resources on Corporate watch](#)

[News and updates from the Corporate Watch sub-group](#)

### 4. Innovative Attempts in PHC (Community Health Approach)

There are many examples where good progress has been made in promoting community health and implementing healthcare services on the basis of a primary healthcare (PHC) approach. There is a need to document positive experiences in organization of health care services and primary health care. Many people working in these programs are active in the people's health movement or would like to get involved further. This will also help to inform and encourage younger activists to join the movement for health for all.

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[Resources on PHC](#)

[News and updates from the PHC sub-group](#)

### **5. Health Workers Day**

The health system needs to protect health workers adequately so that they can provide care for people. In solidarity with health workers we propose a 'Health Workers Day', a day on which health workers and health movements come together to expose issues affecting the health workers such as contractualisation, lack of benefits, etc. The Health workers day will also build on the theme that the rights of the community to better healthcare and the rights of health workers for better terms of employment are inter-linked and the movement to attain these mutually supportive rights must be integrated. We propose to have 'Health Workers Day' on November 15<sup>th</sup> as it will give us time to prepare. The build-up to the day is as important as the day itself. At PHA4 there was some discussion whether we should resolve on observing the health workers day annually at this stage or after observing the day once in the coming year.

[Resources on Health Workers Day](#)

[News and updates from the Health Workers Day sub-group](#)

### **6. Health Rights (United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)**

The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) monitors progress on the international covenant on these rights. We propose to use the instruments available under CESCR to understand the progress being made on health rights in different nations and to strengthen people's action for health rights. Nation states present progress reports to CESCR every four years. Civil society and academic groups present shadow reports that lead to recommendations of the UN Committee to these nations. PHM can contribute to shadow reports in order to shape the committee's recommendations, but also to ensure that once given, democratic forces within government and in civil society can leverage these recommendations.

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[Resources on health rights](#)

[News and updates from the health rights sub-group](#)