**Social Discourse Improves with Uncomfortable Collaboration**

**Improving Health Inequalities for All**

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"Meet the malady on its way." ~ Persius (A.D.c 58)

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There are times when we as humans don’t like each other, for whatever reason, be it, culture, creed, moral, integrity, religion, opinion, ethical values, code of conduct, alternative views, political agendas, and or just good old-fashioned professional oppositional stances. I get that, I get that at times, we fall in and out of communication. That said, any social discourse that particularly pertains to Health Inequality MUST and NEEDS to have ALL parties sit at the table.

An open democratic society with a large margin of appreciation (The UK), who legislates or applies human rights must and should ensure that Health Principles are legally applied when making robust and rigorous fiscal decisions.

Sitting in the uncomfortable chair at the resolving table, is challenging, but not insurmountable, as when no progress is made and further discourse continues, causing continued ineffective rhetoric.

Effective Cross-Party Collaboration with all oppositions, has proved by historical reference, that it is indeed this, that facilitates mediated resolve for the betterment of the populace, thus reducing inequality. When the opposition withdraws from open constructive communication, discussing cost benefit analysis models using early intervention strategies, to reduce inequalities, it only serves to highlight their inability or rational for seeking change.

Why is it then that the Marmot Review 10 years on highlights that, ‘in England, health is getting worse for people living in more deprived districts and regions, health inequalities are increasing and, for the population as a whole, health is declining’*[Health Institute of Inequality]*?

The ‘Inequality Gap’, in particular, Education and Health, ([‘Fair Society, Healthy Lives’](http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review)) is now so wide, that even the UN Rapporteur highlighted in his Report, (2019) that the UK’s austerity programme has increased the Health Inequalities to such an extent, that he recommended that [it] amend its fiscal budget with immediate effect. The Conservative Government, refused to acknowledge his report, why? The evidence is a plenty, even so, evidenced in the KidzIndex (May 2019) that the UK ranked ***last***, 182/182 of all UN ratified countries, in terms of Domain 5 (Enabling Environments for Children’s Rights.)

Children are the future, thus health inequality needs to be resolved at the grounding level, to break the inequality cycle. As education is a part of ‘The Health Principles’, we must look at ways of challenging ill made Governmental decisions based on political funding restrictions. As a public Health PhD Student, I have used various ways to link principles of health, and as education, is very much a part of the social / wider determinants of health, we as professionals, must empower each other to ensure that the following are referenced when setting achievable goals or supporting the deprived communities:

*Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. " - WHO*

1. Look at social & wider determinants of health when setting up rigorous pathways for Children’s Health and Education in particular those with SEND.

2) ‘Employ’ Marmot Ambassadors within Educational Institutions.   
3) Empower Children and Young People to use their Voices for progressive change within their

communities and educational institutions.



STUDENT VOICE or Marmot Ambassadors - What is it and how can you get Student Voice up and running in your School?

“Student Voice is a very important part of school life because it provides opportunities for all Children and Young People to take on roles of responsibilities and to get involved in real decision making. Student voice also provides opportunities for students to develop leadership skills, becoming more confident participants in the wider world (social and wider determinates). It is also about staff and pupils working together (effective collaboration), developing positive working relationships to improve the school as a learning community. Students must strategically plan, support and drive student voice forward to ensure that it is relevant to young people and achieves success through hard work and great effort. (M Boller)

The Student Action Teams train future school leaders but most notably have also been invited into many schools around the UK to train other students in the art of leadership and advocacy. Michaela Boller and her Team at JR Community School, were nominated and awarded with a Team London Award for volunteering and JR community school, went on to win Pearson’s School of the Year 2018, which highlights why Children and Young People need and must be included, in the above-mentioned uncomfortable collaboration.

We only need to be reminded that the Government’s first duty is to ensure ***all*** of its citizens are safe from harm, *Primum non nocere*, and if the Government is causing undue / avoidable harm, by virtue of not implementing the Health Principles [1946], then why is [it] not held to account, especially when [it] continuously allows Health Inequalities in the postmodern austerity era.