

## Saturday 3rd JUNE 2017 – International Vaccine Injury Awareness Day

PARENTS will demonstrate outside the Houses of Parliament on 3<sup>rd</sup> June to raise awareness about the life-altering injuries caused by vaccination.

People in cities across 10 other countries will join Britain on Saturday to protest the injustices surrounding vaccine injury. The London action will take place from **12-2pm in Old Palace Yard, Westminster**.

Nearly 1000 victims in Britain have been awarded more than **£74 million** by the Government. A financial payout confirms under UK law that an individual was **60% or more disabled** by a vaccine.

Severe disabilities caused include: brain damage, seizure disorders, deafness, Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). In comparison, the US Government has awarded \$3.6 billion to victims of vaccine-injury. <http://www.nvic.org/injury-compensation.aspx>

A claimant found to be disabled by less than 60% – a child deaf in one ear, for example, as the result of a vaccination – receives no compensation. And a one-off payment for successful claims is now set at £120,000 in the UK, which in many cases is not enough to provide the care needed.

### Struggle for compensation

Jackie Fletcher's son Robert, now 25, was severely brain damaged by the MMR when he was 13 months old. He was developing normally until receiving the combined measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. He suffered a severe adverse reaction and now cannot stand or speak, except to say "Hi Mummy" and "Hi Daddy".

Mrs Fletcher said: "Robert had his first seizure 10 days after the vaccine. It led to a long-term seizure disorder that damaged his brain. He's 25, but mentally he's like a 14-month-old. He's in a wheelchair, can't walk or feed himself, has severe epilepsy, ulcerated and inflamed oesophagus and he's still in nappies because he's doubly incontinent."

The Fletcher's early attempts to get compensation were dismissed, despite strong evidence that Robert was healthy and reaching all his developmental targets before his MMR - and despite no other explanation for his severe symptoms.

In 2010 – **18 years after their initial claim** – with the help of a barrister, a solicitor, two medical reports and a neurologist, the Fletchers finally received an award of £91,500 for Robert's devastating injuries.

Mrs Fletcher now runs Justice Awareness and Basic Support (JABS), which provides information and support about vaccine safety.

She added: "Parents are told that vaccines are safe and side effects are rare, but they are not. Vaccines are introduced to the NHS schedule based on inadequate trials that are too small in number and too short in duration. The real trial begins when they're introduced into the population."

In 2015, Josh Hadfield, then 10 years old, from Frome in Somerset, was awarded £120,000 after he was left severely disabled by narcolepsy triggered by the swine flu vaccine. The ruling paves the way for a class action suit of nearly 100 victims of the Pandemrix vaccine, which was given to about 6 million people in Britain between 2009-10.

## HPV Injured daughters

Freda Birrell, Chair of the UK Association of HPV-Injured Daughters (HVID) said **444 young women** have contacted her organisation for support after the HPV vaccine. Some of the reported symptoms include: serious chronic fatigue, extreme disruptions in the menstrual cycle, convulsions, seizures, paralysis and breathing difficulties.

She said: "What's frightening is the symptoms don't seem to stop, they change and some become more severe. The HPV vaccine is having devastating effects on their minds and bodies in the form of **serious autoimmune and neurological problems**."

"The NHS has no idea how to treat these girls, and doesn't want to link their injuries and symptoms with a vaccine so they label our children with having mental health issues."

Mrs Birrell added: "Their parents trusted the medical authorities and doctors when they told them the HPV vaccine was safe, effective and the best thing they could do for their child. When it goes wrong, those same doctors and authorities abandon them."

## YellowCard: unreported injuries

Even licensed vaccines have only been tested on a relatively small number of patients over a limited time. That is why all adverse reactions to vaccines should be reported using the government's vaccine and medicines injury reporting system, the **MHRA's YellowCard**. The yellow form can be provided by a GP or pharmacist, or via the MHRA website.  
<https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

**A study carried out by the MHRA found that less than 10 per cent of adverse reactions are reported under the Yellow Card system.** Further, the MHRA does not follow up on the majority of vaccine injury reports so the full extent of the damage is unknown. For example, none of the HPV-injured young women in the HPV Injured Daughters group have been contacted.

## Unjust payment system

Most vaccines are given between two and 13 months but parents cannot claim until the child turns two, so **if a child suffers an anaphylactic shock after a vaccine and dies, the parents cannot claim.**

Nearly 1000 people have been paid vaccine injury compensation yet countless others have received nothing. For example, a previously healthy girl, Jodie Marchant, was given eight vaccines at the same time without full consent of her parents. She suffered an immediate injury, **became 80% disabled and now needs around the clock care.**

Dr Peter Fletcher, ex Principal Medical Officer for the Medicines Division (now the MHRA) concluded: "Jodie's serious handicaps are causally related to vaccination." However, after 24 years the family has **still not received compensation.**

## Mandatory vaccination

Currently, UK parents have the choice to vaccinate or not, but the threat of mandatory vaccinations is increasing with newly passed policies in the United States, Australia and Italy who have made vaccines compulsory for children to attend school or are introducing fines.

In contrast, earlier this month **Sweden's Parliament rejected an attempt to introduce mandatory vaccination**, stating it would violate human rights and the Swedish Constitution.

A petition started by the European Forum for Vaccine Vigilance, (EFVV) against mandatory vaccines now has more than 50,000 signatures. Campaigners will be presenting it to the European Parliament this year.

### Vaccine Injury Awareness Day

The 3rd June demonstrations in London and in Ireland (Cork and Dublin) are being organised by the Arnica Parents Network, which has 100 UK groups and 25,000 members on facebook, and the EFVV, which has branches in 20 different countries throughout Europe.

Demonstrators will gather at 11am in Trafalgar Square, then march to Old Palace Yard outside the House of Lords, where they will protest from 12-2pm and light candles in honour of the vaccine-injured.

The Light a Candle concept was started in the Czech Republic by parents Alice Pelikanova and Václav Hrabák who had experience of vaccine injury and the lack of support from the medical profession and the state. It has been adopted by Poland, Slovenia and Holland, with Italy and Austria already staging demonstrations.

Anna Watson, founder of Arnica, said: “We are contacted by parents whose baby died from no known cause 10 days after the MMR yet there is no scientific investigation. **I hope that medical professionals, journalists and parents show respect for parents’ choice to vaccinate; it is a very tough decision.**”

Other countries staging demos on 3<sup>rd</sup> June include: Czech Republic, Ireland, France, Italy, Slovenia, Serbia, Netherlands, Poland, Uruguay and USA (California). Details of all Vaccine Injury Awareness Day actions can be viewed on [lightacandle.eu/main](http://lightacandle.eu/main)

### More information

Since the UK’s Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme started in 1979 until April 2017, 6196 victims have submitted claims for compensation – of these, 936 have been successful.

The payment scheme was set up in response to children suffering severe adverse reactions from the whooping cough (pertussis) vaccine.

The total amount paid out by the Department of Work and Pensions’ Vaccine Damage Payment to all successful claimants to-date, £74,130,000, was obtained using Freedom of Information. <https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/242813/response/599844/attach/html/2/Reply%20DE904995.pdf.html>

### Links

- Report adverse reactions to vaccinations using [yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk](http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk)
- For support and information about vaccine safety: JABS: Justice, Awareness & Basic Support; UK Association of HPV Injured Daughters on facebook; SaneVax.org and Parent’s Natural Immunity support network, Arnica ([www.arnica.org.uk](http://www.arnica.org.uk) and on facebook)
- Details about the EFVV can be found [www.efvv.eu](http://www.efvv.eu)
- The EFVV petition against mandatory vaccinations: go to [change.org](http://change.org) and search EFVV
- The London Vaccine Injury Day demonstration will take place at Old Palace Yard, Westminster, from midday on 3rd June. [lightacandle.eu/main](http://lightacandle.eu/main) and Light a Candle on facebook.
- Tags: #VaccineInjury #LightaCandle #LearntheRisk

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