

**The Right Honourable Sir Anerood JUGNAUTH, GCSK, KCMG, QC**  
**Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius**  
**Prime Minister's Office**  
**New Treasury Building**  
**Intendance Street**  
**Port Louis**

Port Louis, 07 October 2015

Right Honourable Prime Minister,

**Re: Call for the resignation of Honourable Anil K. Gayan as Minister of Health and Quality of Life**

PILS has taken cognizance of a public declaration made by Honourable Anil K. Gayan, Minister of Health and Quality of Life at a political rally of the *Muvman Libérateur* in Rose Hill on Thursday 1 October 2015 to the effect that his decision to stop the methadone substitution therapy was motivated by the fact that 300 patients under methadone treatment had voted for Honourable Rajesh Bhagwan of the *Mouvement Militant Mauricien* at the recent general elections.

Right Honourable Prime Minister we are deeply concerned that a Minister responsible for the health of citizens would go so far as to admit that a decision concerning a matter of Public Health and which has an incidence on the health of thousands of Mauritian citizens has been dictated by mere political motives.

We are further concerned that a Minister of the Republic would go so far as to publicly undermine the sacrosanct secrecy of the vote at a political meeting in an attempt to justify a decision which is discriminatory, which defies all medical and scientific evidence and which has been vastly disapproved by methadone patients and their families, experts, social workers and the public in general.

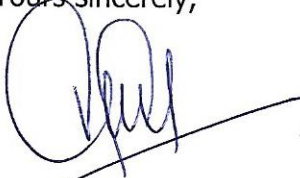
Right Honourable Prime Minister, as you may be aware, methadone is a WHO Essential List medicine, the efficacy of which is backed by 50 years of medical research with proven results in many countries as the most effective treatment for people with opiate dependence.

Unfortunately, this is not the only occasion where Honourable Gayan has acted in complete disregard to people having an opiate dependence since the beginning of his mandate as Minister of Health and Quality of Life. He has in fact consistently shown his stubbornness in trying to curtail harm reduction treatment which has shown effective results in the past years. Despite the fact that all the medical and scientific evidence and supporting documents have been made available to the Minister, we are appalled that all his decisions have been made without any consultation and contrary to established medical and scientific best practices.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, in making the above declaration, Honourable Gayan has overstepped all permissible limits and your intervention is now desirable to restore faith and confidence in your Government's decisions on issues of Public Health.

We are thus appealing to you, Right Honourable Prime Minister, in the interest of the health of fellow Mauritian citizens, to request Honourable Gayan to step down as Minister of Health and Quality of Life.

Yours sincerely,



**Nilen Vencadasmy**



**President of Prevention, Information et Lutte contre le Sida (PILS)**

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