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30 April 2020

Dear Friends, Brothers and Sisters,

We are sending greetings to all our members in local forums and action groups, trade union retired members' associations and other affiliated organisations at this time of great uncertainty for all of us and our families; we thank you all for your support and determination to stand up for the basic human and democratic rights of today's and tomorrow's pensioners.

The NPC's Declaration of Intent agreed on 14th June 1979 still holds good today: *"This Convention declares that every pensioner has the right to choice, dignity, independence and security as an integral and valued member of society"*. This Declaration has even greater significance today with the coronavirus crisis.

The NPC has fought long and hard for a National Care Service, free at the point of delivery, paid for through general taxation, like the NHS. We have always demanded proper recognition of the skill and dedication of professional health and care workers as well as campaigning for the rights of family carers. Now this pandemic brings into sharp relief the inadequacies of the care system – made worse by ten years of government cuts – and the correctness of our stand.

Right now, we want adequate protection equipment for all key frontline workers and screening tests for all; we want a promise of safe long-term care for all frail elderly and disabled people.

Our postal workers are still working, and our emails are still being delivered so, despite the problems of self-isolation, we can let our Members of Parliament know our concerns and our demands, and then send a copy of that letter/email to the NPC so that we can keep a record of our members' activity during the lockdown.

Once again – our greetings and our thanks,

Yours sincerely



Ron Douglas
NPC President



Frank Cooper
NPC President (2005-2013)