

Press Release

For immediate release

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South African Institute of Race Relations

The power of ideas

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Zille at Parliament tomorrow for NHI handover – IRR

Helen Zille, Senior Policy Fellow at the Institute of Race Relations (IRR) and former Premier of the Western Cape, will tomorrow deliver to Parliament the names of 40 000 South Africans who support the IRR's alternative proposal to solve the country's healthcare crisis.

This is part of the IRR's campaign to promote an alternative to the government's National Health Insurance (NHI) proposal, which in its current format is unaffordable, will reduce South Africans' healthcare options and outcomes, and likely trigger an exodus of health professionals. It will also fail to solve the existing crises in many government healthcare facilities. At the end of last month, for instance, it was reported that Charlotte Maxeke Hospital in Johannesburg had to cancel all non-emergency surgery because the facility had run out of basic medical supplies. The IRR has documented many of the failings in the public healthcare system in a report which can be accessed [here](#).

The IRR's [solution](#) calls for increased public-private partnerships, an end to cadre deployment, and strict accountability for poor performance. The IRR also calls for

increased access to private healthcare through allowing low-cost medical schemes and primary health insurance. What should also be considered is the compulsory membership of medical schemes for all employed people. This would help spread the risk for private insurers, and people on lower incomes could have this subsidised by their employers, who would in turn receive a tax break. The use of vouchers should also be considered.

The IRR will also be making a submission to Parliament on NHI before the 11 October, which members of the public will also be invited to endorse.

Tomorrow's handover details:

Venue: Parliament

Time: 11 am

Date: 2 October 2019

Ends