

# Press Release

## For immediate release

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South African Institute of Race Relations  
*The power of ideas*

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#### **The IRR puts its case against NHI to the South African Pharmacy Council**

Efforts to stop the government's National Health Insurance (NHI) proposal will succeed if the fight is taken beyond parliamentary processes into the waiting rooms and doctors' practices, and the offices of leading healthcare stakeholders, across the country.

With this in mind, the IRR today met with the leadership of the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) to hand over a memorandum to Amos Masango, the organisation's Registrar, as well as the names of 45 000 South Africans who support the IRR's alternative healthcare proposal. This follows allegations of an SAPC directive to its members to pledge their support for NHI. The IRR thanks the SAPC for today's constructive engagement on the matter of universal healthcare, and appreciates the council's clarifying its position in saying that it did not and will not coerce anyone into supporting any political position.

The IRR will continue making it clear that people working in the medical and healthcare sector should not be bullied into supporting destructive government policy by their professional bodies. The IRR cautions that organisations which do so, can expect fierce opposition.

The IRR will also be taking its campaign opposing NHI further by addressing letters to important bodies representing the medical profession in South Africa, cautioning against allowing their members to be bullied by a government hell-bent on implementing a destructive policy, despite all the evidence which shows it will simply not work.

The IRR will continue to make sure that ordinary South African voices, including those of nurses, doctors, pharmacists and patients, are heard. Already 45 000 have said 'No' to NHI and 'Yes' to the IRR's alternative proposal, which can be read [here](#).

South Africans who would like to support the IRR's alternative proposal to healthcare and add their voices to the 45 000 who have already spoken up can do so [here](#).

**Ends**