



**- Panel Two -
Our health is not for sale:
Privatisation and the right to health**

For over fifty years, access to health services has been a human right. This principle is reflected in the constitutions of many countries. But despite significant improvements, particularly in industrialised countries, we remain very far from ensuring the human right to health for all.

While few disagree with the objective, the creeping hegemony of market logic has undermined the realisation. The myth that we cannot afford more investment has driven cuts in funding and the introduction of user fees. This and other forms of marketisation widen health inequities. Over 150 million people are pushed below the poverty line annually due to out of pocket health expenses.

PPPs and privatised services bleed money from the health care system into corporate coffers. Large insurance and health corporations lobby governments while Big Pharma manipulate trade and intellectual property rules to protect their monopoly profits. The ability to respond to crises is compromised, particularly in fragile health systems, as demonstrated during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

The recommendations of the United Nations ComHEEG in 2016 demonstrate that investment in health care is good for the economy. The conclusions of the ILO Tripartite meeting in 2017 identify the need to avoid the projected shortfall of 18 million health workers globally by 2030. Both require that we improve financing, employment and working conditions in the health services.

PSI has responded by launching its Human Right to Health Campaign in 2016. Because universal health care is not a dream. Because there is more than enough wealth in the world to achieve it. Because what is lacking is the political will and our task must be to create it.