

March actions: World TB Day

The February campaign action is to write to the new DFID Permanent Secretary about transition. However, we are also giving you advance notice of the March action, which will be on TB. This is to give you plenty of time to think through your contributions to World TB Day (24 March).

2018 – An unprecedented opportunity

World TB Day is an opportunity each year to highlight the importance of taking concrete action to fight the world's deadliest infectious disease – one that is getting even deadlier owing to increasing drug resistance.

Last year was a vital year to highlight this growing threat, and RESULTS and our allies were thrilled to see high-level political engagement, as the G7 meeting of world leaders placed TB firmly in their list of global priorities.

The announcement of the first ever UN High-Level Meeting (HLM) on TB, to be held later this year, gives us an unmissable opportunity to turn that political ambition into reality, with concrete plans, and ways to hold countries to account for reaching TB reduction targets. Without this, we risk a continuance of the current unambitious TB response, and the Global Goal on TB will be missed.

World TB Day plans and the road to the HLM

February grassroots conference call – Transition focus	Tuesday 6 February
March grassroots conference call – TB focus	Tuesday 6 March
Window to meet with your MP	1-16 March
World TB Day events	Saturday 24th March
UN High Level Meeting	TBC (hopefully September, at the UN General Assembly)

We are hoping to support the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on TB in its aim to gather cross-party support for strong UK leadership at the HLM (the date of which has yet to be confirmed). They hope to do this in the form of a sign-on letter to the Government, which will be sent on World TB Day itself (there may be an opportunity for a public hand-in). We know we have asked you to support a number of these letters in 2017. While they are convenient to ask MPs to agree to by email, and easy for MPs to do, it's really important to keep meeting them face-to-face from time to time if possible, to build a relationship. So we are asking you to visit your MP in the constituency in early March, so that they can agree to sign up to the joint letter well in time. This means:

- **Alongside the February letter-writing action on transition, if you can, please also book in a meeting with your MP about TB, perhaps at their regular surgery. [Here is a good source of advice](#) if you've not done this before. (Note: we will be asking you to talk to your MP about transition later in the year, not now.)**
- **At the meeting, explain why tackling TB matters to you. The usual action materials, including talking points, will be sent to you at the very start of the month as always. Ask them to sign the joint letter, whose text we will provide in the action materials.**
- **The March monthly grassroots conference call will be on Tuesday 6 March at 8 pm – a good chance to share your plans!**
- **As well as meeting your MP, why not start to plan a local event to mark World TB Day itself? This year, World TB Day falls on a Saturday, so it's likely your MP is in the constituency and could be invited to your event after agreeing to sign up to the letter – a potential media opportunity for them! Ideas for an event will be included in the March action materials.**

For additional information, please contact the office – contact hannah.mcleanknight@results.org.uk

Thank you for all your support for our important campaigns on transition and TB during this busy time!