



SHOPPING FOR ORGANS:

The impact of the global trade in human organs

Monday 2nd November 2009, 3:30-5:30pm
House of Commons, Westminster

A practice widely accepted around the world, organ transplantation is an effective therapy for end-stage organ failure. Access is determined by various factors such as cost of health care, the level of technical capacity and perhaps most important availability of organs.

However, demand outstrips supply by far due to, even in developed countries, a combination of socio cultural, legal and other factors. With a shortage of indigenous 'supplies' of organs, a fact which is universally recognised, the international organ trade has emerged to plug the gap.

This trade, politely known as "transplant tourism", sets in motion a circulation of organs which flows from South to North; from the third world to the first; from the poor to the rich, from female to male bodies.

Without doubt the ethical, social and political implications of this form of human trafficking are profound. What are the human rights implications of this world-wide search for organs? What kind of moral code do 'kidney hunters', transplant traffickers and clients try and hold to?

In terms of global policy, despite the seminal foundations laid out by the 2008 Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism which calls for transparent regulatory oversight with international accountability, there is still much to be done particularly in terms of action from the transplant and medical communities.

What are the next steps which need to be taken? How can the Declaration help to shape and influence national and European policy on this issue? Is regulation that seeks to serve the needs of both buyers and sellers really going to be effective?

Hosted by **Shailesh Vara MP**, BioCentre invites you to this afternoon symposium which will seek to explore these questions with the participation from leading experts in the field.

Speakers include:

- ⊙ **Professor Nancy Scheper-Hughes**, University of California at Berkeley, USA
- ⊙ **Dr. Adamos Adamou**, former MEP
- ⊙ **Triona Norman**, Head of Policy, Organ and Tissue Transplantation, Department of Health
- ⊙ **Adrian McNeil**, Chief Executive, UK Human Tissue Authority

RSVPs are required. Please include your name and the organisation that you represent in your response. There is no charge for the event.

To RSVP: **e:** info@bioethics.ac.uk | **t:** 0207 227 4706 | **w:** www.bioethics.ac.uk

SHOULD I BE ALLOWED TO BUY YOUR KIDNEY?

WANTED: "Kidney Donor—healthy, white male/female 25-40, non-smoker, blood group O positive. Donor Suitably Rewarded Reply—Box 202".

FOR SALE: "I, Manuel da Silva, 38, unemployed sugar cane worker, father of three hungry children, am willing to sell any organ of which I have two, and the immediate removal of which will not cause my immediate demise" - *Diario de Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil*

Source: Scheper-Hughes (2008), *The Last Commodity: Post Human Ethics Global (In)Justice and the Traffic in Organs*, p.20