

FIREWALL and HEALTH

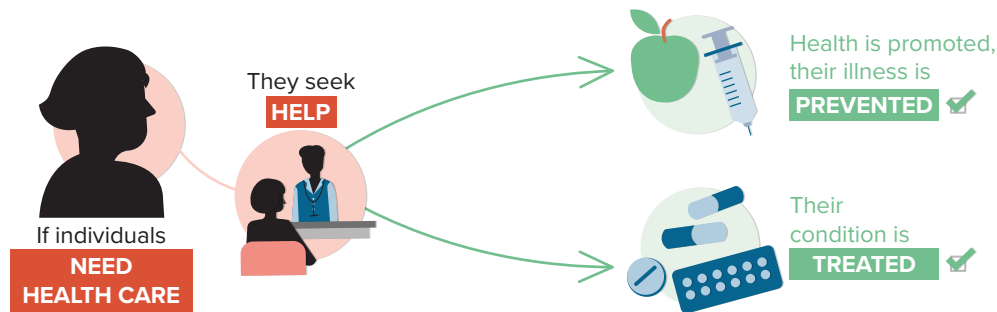
Creating safe spaces, addressing health inequalities



Health systems are NOT WORKING FOR ALL

Health inequality due to immigration status AFFECTS LIVES

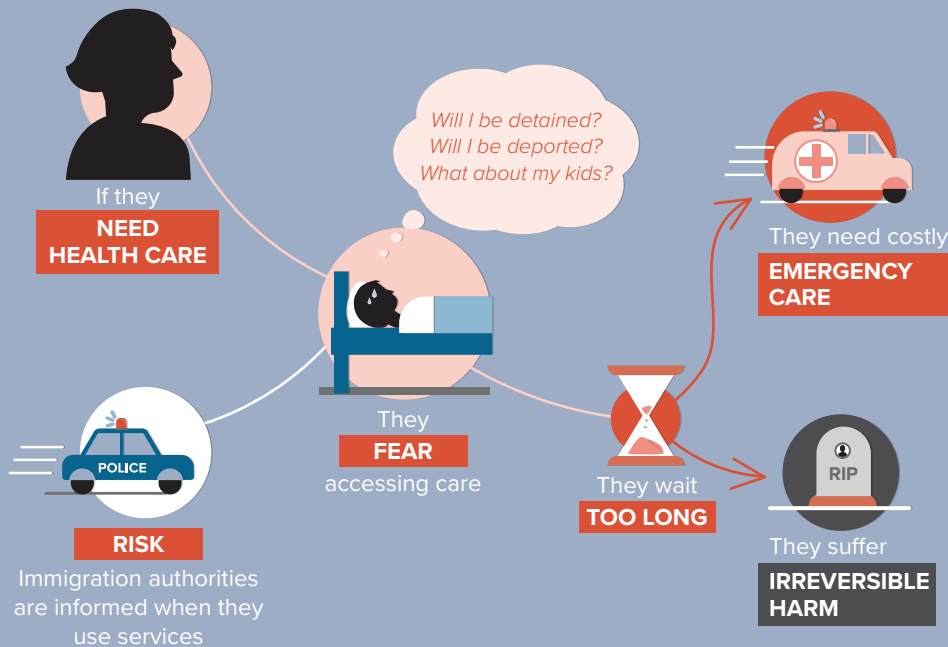
How should the health system work?



Throughout my pregnancy, I did not visit a doctor. I was afraid because I was undocumented. So I continued my work as a cleaner. I went to the hospital only when the pain was unbearable....The labour was already advanced. There was so much blood....I had a caesarean section, but the baby did not survive. I have a photograph of her. I named her Claire. I stayed in the hospital for two weeks. During that time, nurses and doctors told me I'm in the country "illegally" and should be reported. A short time later, the police came and said that I must leave the country.

Based on: PICUM (2016) Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights of Undocumented Migrants

What happens to people **without a valid residence permit** (undocumented migrants)?



Sam is an undocumented child. He and his family live in a country where all children have the right to free vaccinations. His parents would like him to be vaccinated, but they are reluctant to take him to see a health professional because they don't have confidence that health providers won't contact the police or other authorities. In the end, Sam's vaccinations are delayed and he does not have the regular medical check-ups that other children his age receive.

Based on: Nordic School of Public Health Report (2014)

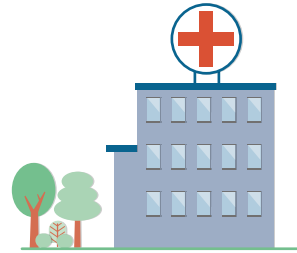
Who is an Undocumented Migrant?

Undocumented (or irregular) migrants are people who do not have authorisation to stay in the country they are in. Some entered the country irregularly. Many had authorisation at some point, and later lost it - perhaps due to an unsuccessful application for international protection, expiry or loss of a permit that is dependent on a particular job or personal relationship.



HOW CAN WE SOLVE THIS?

HEALTH CARE SECTOR



Care is provided based on need, not immigration status.



Health care practitioners pursue **medical ethics**, and are not coopted for immigration enforcement.

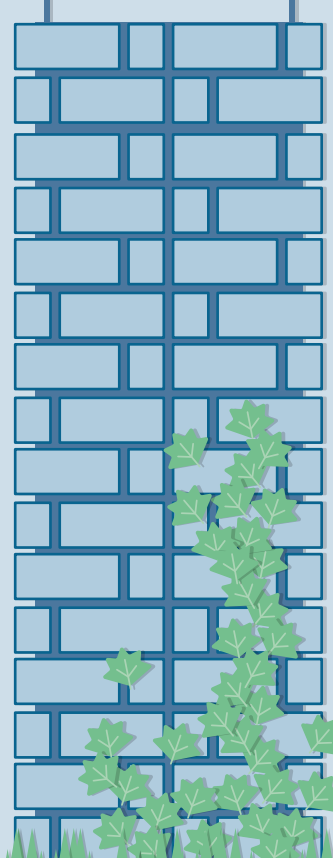


Patient data is not shared with migration authorities without consent.



All patients feel safe to seek health care.

THE FIREWALL: Clear separation of roles



MIGRATION AUTHORITIES



Authorities are trained to respect the firewall.



Immigration enforcement does **not interfere with** access to health care.



Safe spaces are respected.



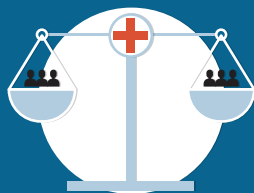
Health professionals' **independence** and patients' **privacy** upheld.

WHAT CAN WE ACHIEVE?

...for everyone's benefit



Upholding
medical
ethics



Addressing
health
inequalities



Advancing public
health goals,
including prevention



Promoting
more efficient
health systems



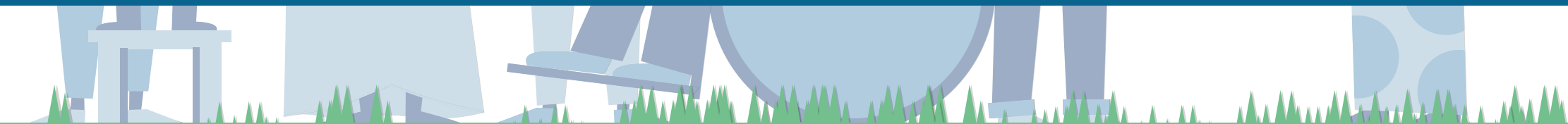
Respecting
human
rights



Fairer
migration
governance



Resisting
racism
& discrimination



LEARN AND SHARE



Find out how the
'firewall' works in
practice, and what
you can do

WWW.PICUM.ORG



+32 2 210 17 80



info@picum.org

Rue du Congrès /
Congresstraat 37-41,
post box 5
1000 Brussels Belgium



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