



The **DECLARATION** of **ISTANBUL**  
on **ORGAN TRAFFICKING** and **TRANSPLANT TOURISM**



### **DICG Statement in Support of the WHO**

The Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group (DICG) has noted with concern the decision by President Donald Trump to suspend United States of America (USA) funding of the World Health Organisation (WHO). The Declaration of Istanbul (DoI) is a direct result of a call from the WHO to take measures to protect the poor and vulnerable from transplant tourism and to address the broader problem of international trafficking of human organs and tissues. The DoI is one of many positive examples of the vital role that the WHO has played in protecting vulnerable people and ensuring system-level response to care for all persons around the world.

In the current global crisis, the WHO is uniquely placed to coordinate the global response to the Covid-19 virus that do not respect national borders. De-funding is a choice the USA or any government can legitimately make, however, the abrupt withdrawal of support due to unjustified and political reasons during a global is unethical as it would cost lives and cause unnecessary harm.

The DICG stands with the WHO and reiterates the need for a global health agency, now more than ever.