

Update from the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group on Recent Developments

Thomas Mueller

Co-Chair Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group (**DICG**)

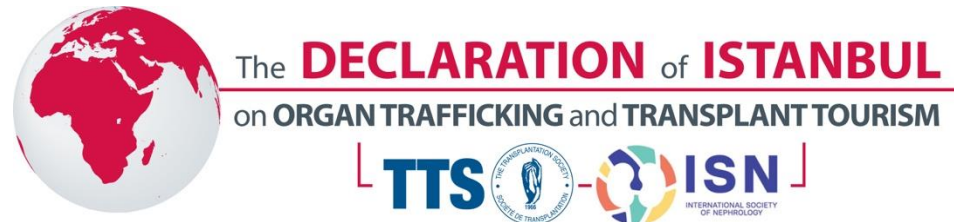
Community of Parties

to the Council of Europe Convention against trafficking in human organs

(Santiago de Compostela Committee=

7th Plenary Meeting

16-17 October 2025, AGORA, Room G04, Palais, Room 2



Medlead-Mediheal scandal

Impact of the Media and response in Kenya

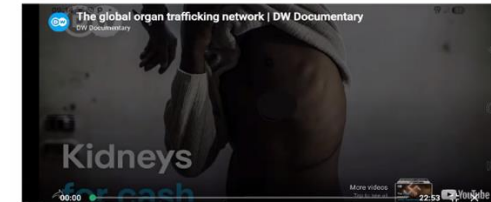
Spiegel report on organ trafficking
- 12th April 2025



Die Nieren-Connection

ORGANHADEL: Deutsche lassen sich gegen Geld in Afrika Nieren einpflanzen, die Organspender sind oft bitter-arm. Hinter dem illegalen Geschäft steckt ein Israel, den die Behörden seit Jahren suchen.

DW documentary exposes Mediheal – 12th April 2025



Monday April 14th
2025

National News

Harvesting Kenya Renal Association last year called for suspension of operating licences for alleged unethical practice

State investigation implicates Mediheal in organ trafficking

Kenya Blood Transfusion and Transplant Service has found 'suspicious activity' after probing 272 kidney transplants

BY LINDA MURRAY

A state investigation into organ trafficking in Kenya has found 'suspicious activity' after probing 272 kidney transplants performed last year. The Kenya Blood Transfusion and Transplant Service (KBTS) has found 'suspicious activity' after probing 272 kidney transplants performed last year. The investigation is part of a broader effort to address the growing organ trafficking industry in Kenya.

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TENDER NOTICE

Tender announced for the construction of a new building for the Ministry of Health. The tender is open to all registered contractors in Kenya.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Directors of the Ministry of Health is hereby notified that the tender for the construction of a new building for the Ministry of Health has been awarded to the successful bidder.

17th April 2025



Ministry of Health
@MOH_Kenya

Health CS Hon. Aden Duale Orders Immediate Suspension of Kidney Transplant Services at Mediheal Group of Hospitals

Nairobi, 17 April 2025 – The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Hon. Aden Duale, EGH, has directed the immediate suspension of all kidney transplant services at Mediheal Group of Hospitals until further notice. This follows serious allegations of malpractice and ethical violations related to transplant procedures at Mediheal Hospital – Eldoret, as outlined in the Ministry's earlier press release dated Tuesday, 15 April 2025.

Addressing the media at Afya House today, Hon. Duale emphasized the Ministry's commitment to protecting patient safety and restoring public trust in Kenya's healthcare system.

To address the matter comprehensively, the CS announced the appointment of a

From the December 2023 report

Report by the Independent Investigative Committee and further actions

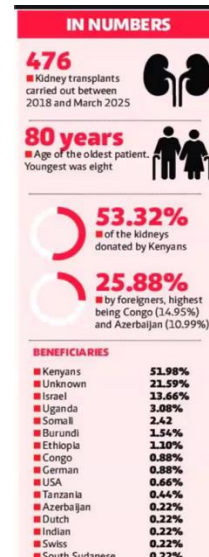
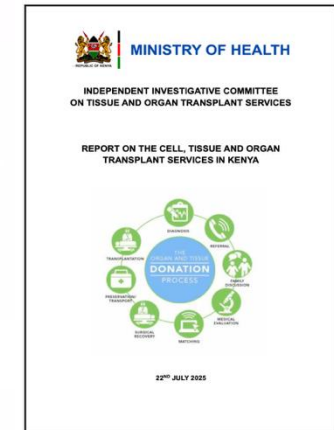
Independent Investigative Committee on Tissue and Organ Transplant Services formed



23rd April 2025



The IICTOT report submitted on 22 July 2025

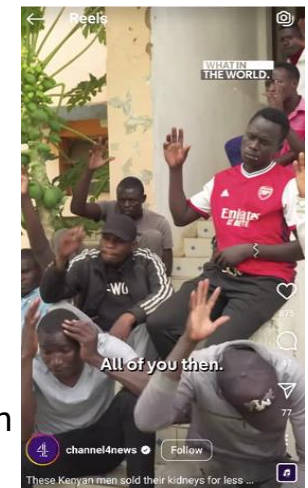


Donor and Recipient Nationalities

Donor Country	% Donors	Recipient Country	% Recipients
Kenya	53.32%	Kenya	51.98%
Congo	14.95%	Unknown	21.59%
Azerbaijan	10.99%	Israel	13.66%
Israel	—	Uganda, Somalia	5.5%
Others	20.74%	Ethiopia, Congo, German, Tanzania, US, Azerbaijan, Dutch, Swiss, Indian, South Sudanese, Others	7.27%

Ongoing

- work on legal loopholes
- post-donation care of Kenyan donors
- legal case against CEO Mishra et al
- presentation at Kenyan Renal Association
- supporting Kenyan colleagues & showing and enforcing International impact

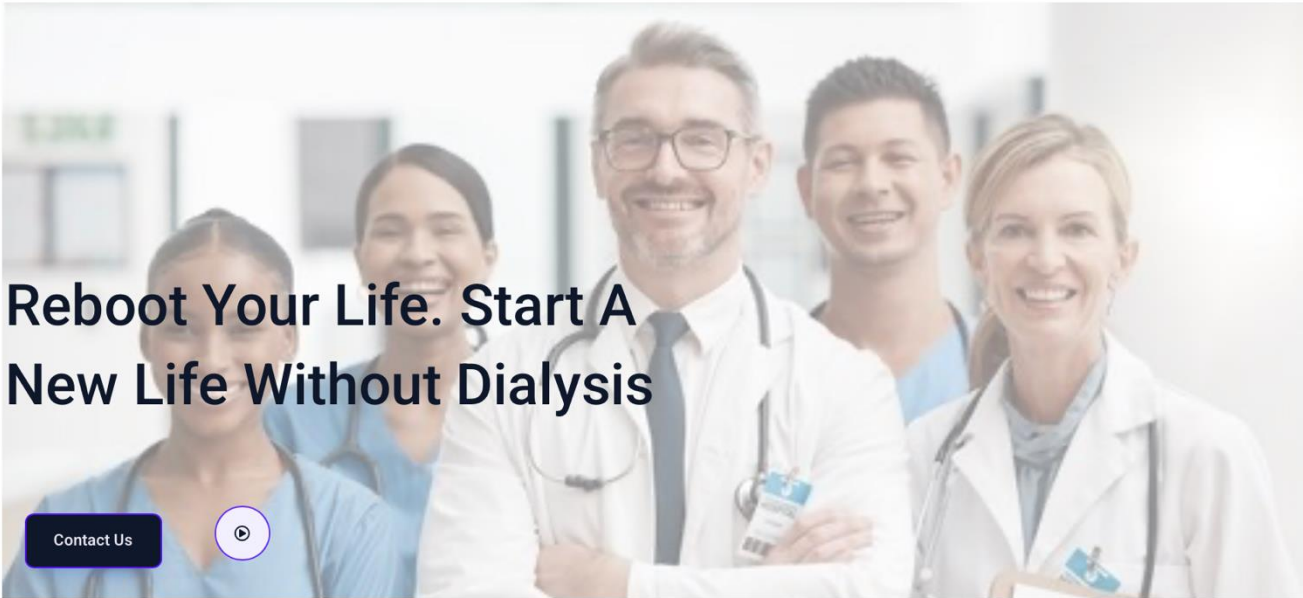


In Europe ...

Medlead website accessed Oct 09, 2025



- ABOUT US
- OUR BENEFITS
- OUR TASK
- DIALYSIS OR KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION
- OUR PATIENTS
- FAQ
- CONTACT US
- BLOG
- PRICING AND LOGISTICS



Reboot Your Life. Start A
New Life Without Dialysis

Contact Us



15+

Years of experience

97%

Transplant success rate

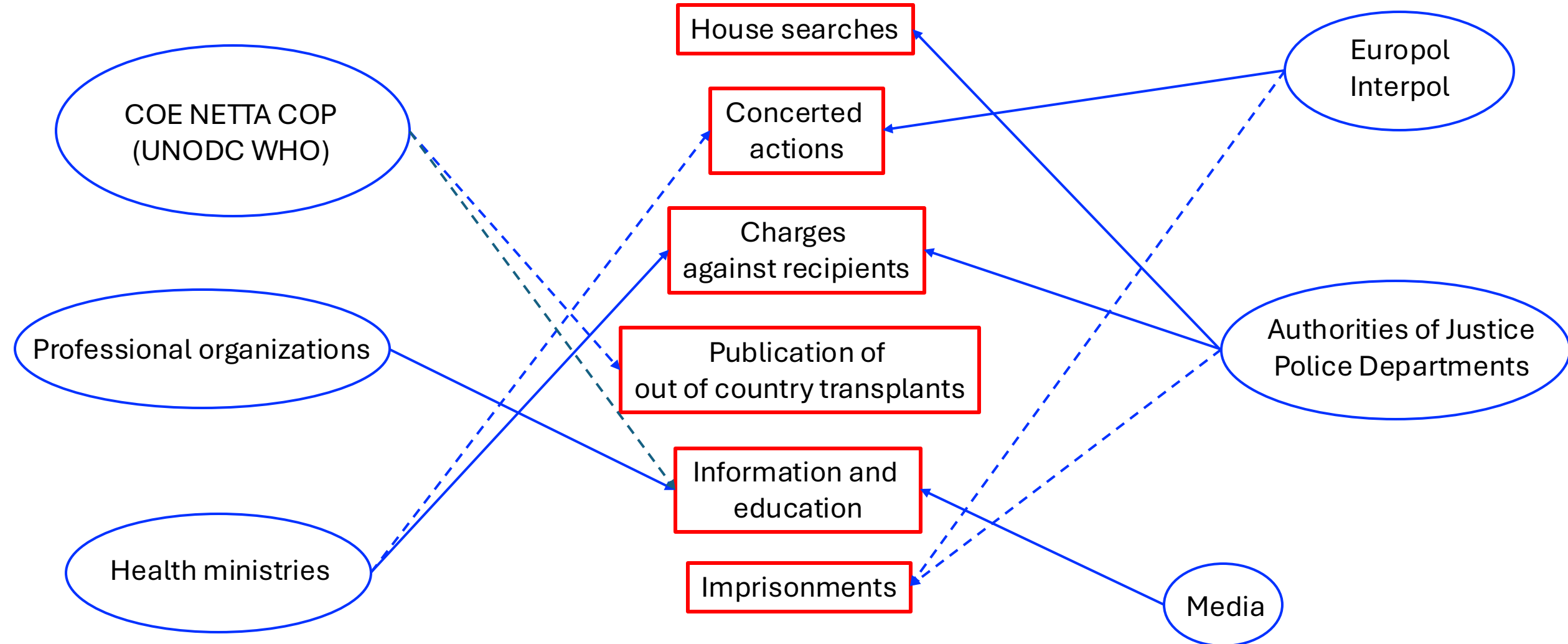
1,000+

successful kidney transplants

30days

For a kidney transplant

However, it is definitely moving into the right direction ...



Arrest of Boris Wolfman, Oct 03, 2025

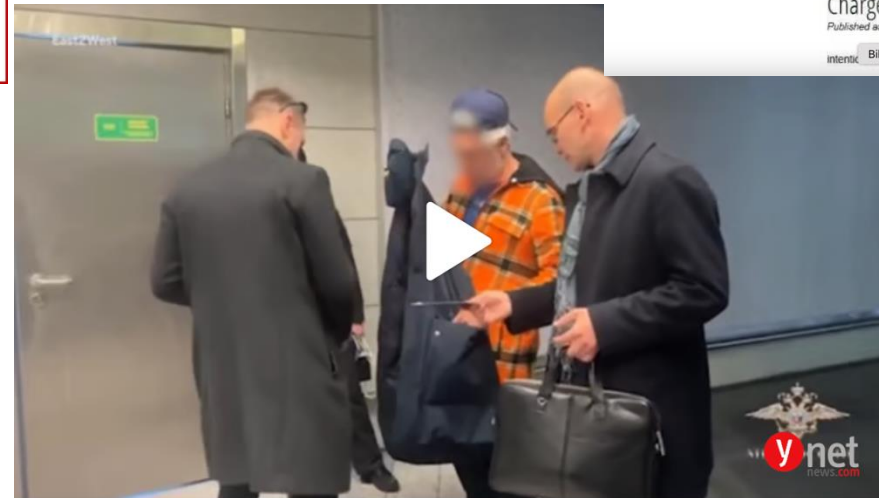


VOLFMAN, BORIS
Wanted by **Russia**

Identity particulars	
Family name	VOLFMAN
Forename	BORIS
Gender	Male
Date of birth	11/03/1984 (41 years old)
Place of birth	Uzbekistan
Nationality	Israel

Details	
Language(s) spoken	English

Charges	
Published as provided by requesting entity	
intoxic	Bildschirmfoto
ive injuries, human trafficking	



Boris Wolfman's arrest

BUT

Labor migration and organ harvesting – fake or reality ???

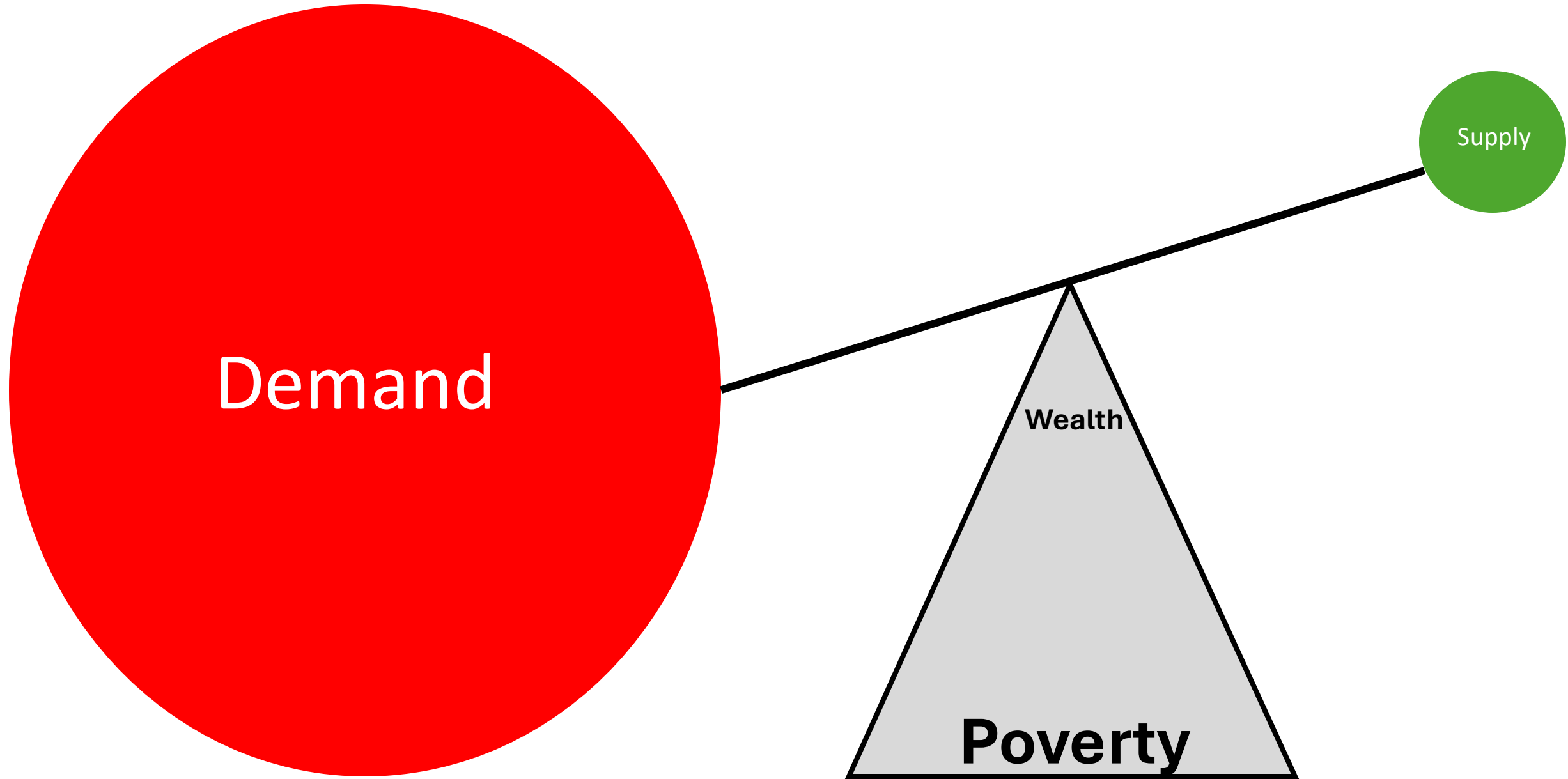


Outside a domestic-work training center in Kampala, Uganda, last year. Remittances from foreign workers are a significant source of income in the country.



At the Nairobi airport in Oct 2024, the return of for Ms. Kimani in a coffin, who died while working in Saudi Arabia.

The main Problem - Organ Shortage



For every problem there is a solution



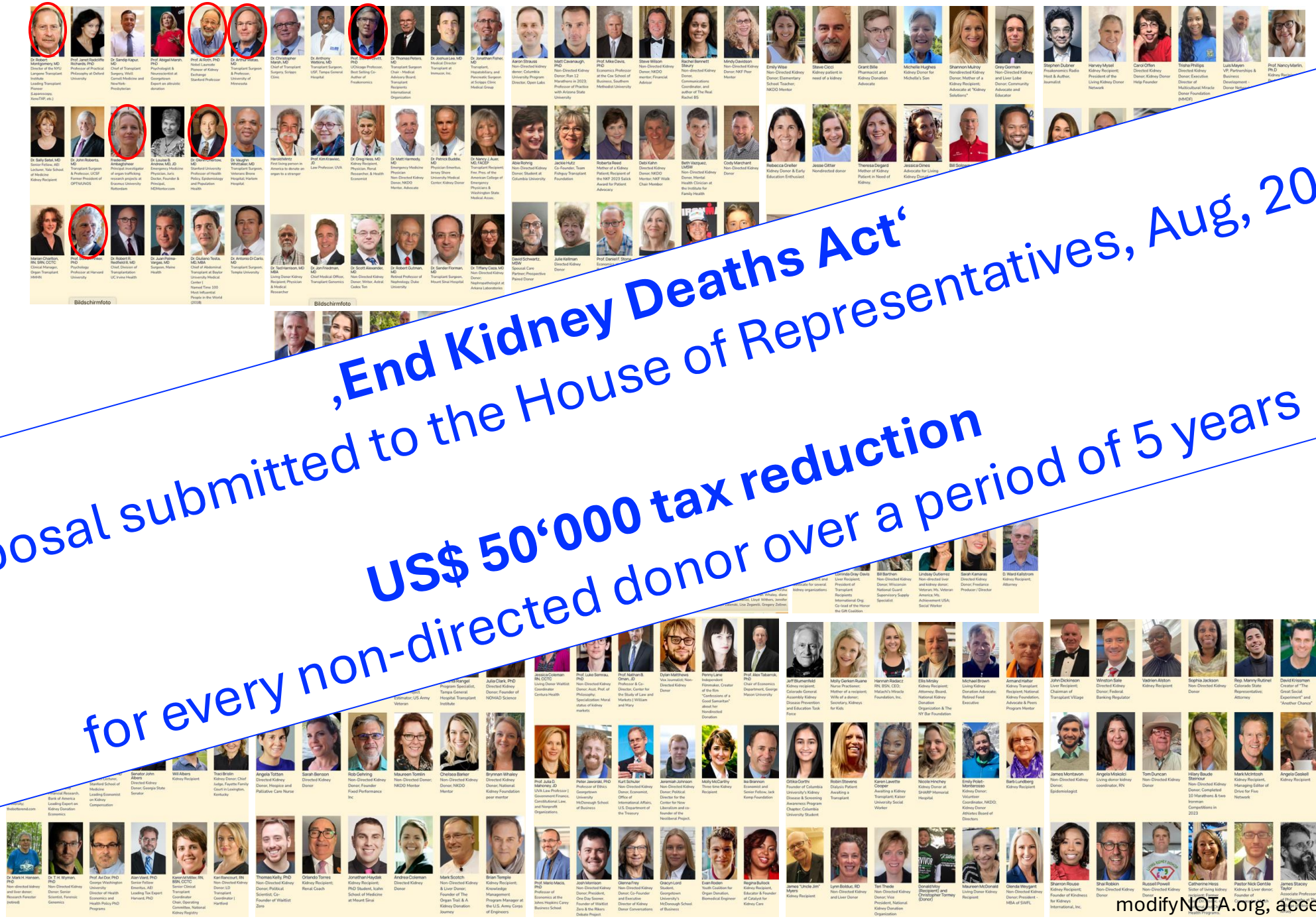
Financial incentives for donors

proposal submitted to the House of Representatives, Aug, 2024

US\$ 50'000 tax reduction

for every non-directed donor over a period of 5 years

,End Kidney Deaths Act'



bill ,**Living Organ Donor Tax Credit Act of 2023**’ submitted to the House of Representatives, Nov 03, 2023

Legislation ▾

Examples: hr5, sres9, "health care"

Q

MORE OPTIONS ▾

[Home](#) > [Legislation](#) > [118th Congress](#) > H.R.6171

Citation Subscribe Share/Save Site Feedback

All Information (Except Text) for H.R.6171 - Living Organ Donor Tax Credit Act of 2023

118th Congress (2023-2024) | [Get alerts](#)

[« Back to this bill](#)

BILL

Hide Overview ✕

Sponsor:

[Rep. Wilson, Joe \[R-SC-2\]](#) (Introduced 11/02/2023)

Committees:

House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce

Latest Action:

House - 11/03/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker:

i

Introduced

Passed House

Passed Senate

To President

Became Law

More on This Bill

[Constitutional Authority and Single Subject Statements](#)
[CBO Cost Estimates \[0\]](#)

Subject — Policy Area:

Taxation
[View subjects >>](#)

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Cosponsors (11)	
Cosponsor	Date Cosponsored
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-12]	11/02/2023
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	11/08/2023
Rep. Baird, James R. [R-IN-4]	12/04/2023
Rep. Harris, Andy [R-MD-1]	12/07/2023
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	04/09/2024
Rep. Van Drew, Jefferson [R-NJ-2]	04/10/2024
Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-6]	04/11/2024
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-50]	04/11/2024
Rep. Rutherford, John H. [R-FL-5]	04/16/2024
Rep. Davids, Sharice [D-KS-3]	05/07/2024
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	05/15/2024

Official Title as Introduced

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable credit to individuals who donate certain life-saving organs

Latest Summary

Date 11/02/2023 11/02/2023 11/03/2023

Activity

This bill establishes a **refundable tax credit of up to \$5,000** for expenses related to the removal and donation of all or part of a kidney, liver, lung, pancreas, intestine, or bone marrow by a living individual for transplant into another individual. Expenses that may be included in the calculation of this tax credit include travel, lodging, medical expenses related to donation and follow-up care, paperwork and legal costs, lost wages, and any other costs paid by the taxpayer in connection with the transplant. Expenses related to the transplant that are reimbursed by any person or entity (public or private) may not be included in the calculation of the credit amount.

Pass the End Kidney Deaths Act

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Help Pass the End Kidney Deaths Act!

Should we offer a tax credit to encourage more people to donate kidneys, knowing only 2% complete the process, or let Americans continue to die from kidney failure due to the kidney shortage?

JOIN OUR TEAM
TODAY!

Over 90,000 Americans are currently on the kidney transplant waitlist.

Without action, around half will survive long enough to receive a life-saving kidney transplant. These patients aren't dying from kidney disease itself but from the prolonged and often fatal wait for a transplant.

The End Kidney Deaths Act offers a solution.

From 2010 to 2021, nearly 100,000 Americans died waiting for a kidney. Will we allow history to repeat itself—or will we take action to ensure up to 100,000 Americans *survive and thrive* with a new kidney?



98% of donors said they would have been as likely or even likelier to donate had they received a tax credit (NKDO Survey, 2024).

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Passing the End Kidney Deaths Act won't just save lives—it will save taxpayers up to \$37 billion over the next decade. Let's act now.

Click [HERE](#) to tell your leaders to vote YES on the End Kidney Deaths Act.

Check out the news stories about the EKDA. For media inquiries, contact ElainePerlman@modifynota.org Press Kit Link [here](#).

The medical system, policy makers, and the major kidney organizations have not yet developed a way to save the lives of the 9,000 Americans who needlessly suffer and die on the kidney waitlist every single year.

Our community has now stepped in to save those lives. We developed the End Kidney Deaths Act. Our movement is primarily comprised of donors and patients (people with skin in the game), 25 organ donation organizations, and top doctors around the country. We all know the kidney shortage is a solvable problem.

Donors are life-savers who know kidney donation is a WHOLE LOT of work. Donation is time consuming, stressful and painful work. And it's morally important to pay people for difficult work. We know that providing a tax credit will make it easier for Americans to say yes to saving the life of a stranger. 98% of kidney donors said they would have been as likely or even likelier to donate had they received a tax credit. Donors are experts in the donor experience.

Here's the reality: we already give tax credits to people who own racehorses. Each kidney donors' willingness to donate saves the life of one person and saves the taxpayer over \$500,000.

It's long past time to honor the courage and generosity of kidney donors while putting an end to the preventable kidney deaths of 25 Americans each day.

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The Details



END KIDNEY DEATHS ACT (EKDA) SUMMARY

RESPONSES TO OPPONENTS OF COMPENSATION

10 REASONS TO PASS THE EKDA

MEDIA COVERAGE & VIDEOS

LEGISLATIVE ACT

BIOETHICISTS

FAQS



00:00 / 00:11

„It's long past time to modify the 1984 National Organ Transplant Act“
Professor Alvin Roth, Nobel Laureate

Encourage organ donation through tax credits

The End Kidney Deaths Act is a ten year pilot program to provide to living kidney donors who give kidneys to strangers on the kidney waitlist, a refundable tax credit of \$10,000 per year for five years (\$50,000 total). Click [here](#) to read the legislative text.

Kidney donation is **safe**. Kidney donation is emotionally rewarding.

95% of surveyed donors report they would make the same decision again, largely because of the profound emotional reward of saving a life.

The future of organ transplantation holds incredible promise, with advancements like xenotransplantation and artificial kidneys on the horizon. In the meantime, the **End Kidney Deaths Act** will save lives by providing up to 10,000 Americans with life-saving kidney transplants each year over the next decade.

Right now, approximately 10,000 eligible patients die annually—not because a transplant wasn't possible, but because the wait was too long. It's time to act and ensure these lives are no longer lost to a preventable shortage. The time for change is now.

Problem: Not Enough Donors



The kidney waitlist has ballooned to 90,000+.



\$1 out of every \$100 tax dollars pays for dialysis therapy (\$50+ Billion annually)



10,000 Americans are removed from the waitlist each year because they die or become too sick.

Solution: Incentivize Donors



Only ≈400 Americans donate kidneys to strangers annually.



The majority of American voters support incentivizing living kidney donors.**



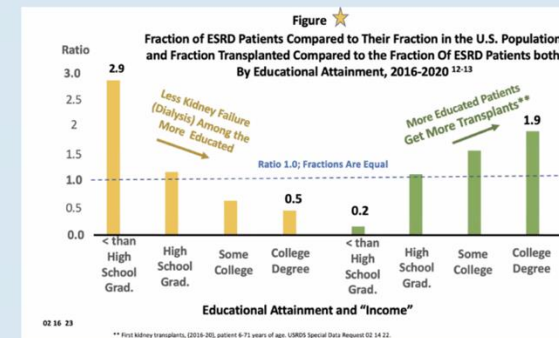
Kidney donation is safer than childbirth & appendectomies. 95% of donors surveyed would donate again if they could.

Living kidney donors live longer than the general population. Only those who pass a thorough rigorous mental & physical health screening qualify to donate.***

*A refundable tax credit can be accessed by both those who do and those who do not pay federal taxes.

** Views of US Voters on Compensating Kidney Donors, JAMA Surgery, 2016.

*** 1% of those who initially volunteer to donate actually donate, primarily due to medical disqualification



The number of living kidney donors has stagnated at ≈6,000 for the past 24 years.

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Declaration of Istanbul (DOI, 2018 update)

1. **Governments** should develop and implement ethically and clinically sound programs for the prevention and treatment of organ failure, consistent with meeting the overall healthcare needs of their populations.
2. The **optimal care** of organ donors and transplant recipients should be a primary goal of transplant policies and programs.
3. **Trafficking** in human organs and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal should be **prohibited and criminalized**.

4. Organ donation should be a **financially neutral act**, i.e. donors and their families neither lose nor gain financially as result of donation

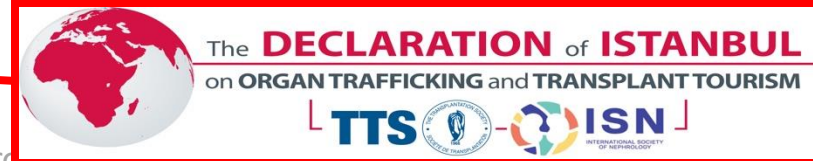
1. Each country or jurisdiction should develop and implement **legislation and regulations** to govern the recovery of organs from deceased and living donors and the practice of transplantation, consistent with **international standards**.
2. **Designated authorities** in each jurisdiction should ensure standardization, traceability, transparency, quality, and safety of organ donation and transplantation.
3. All residents of a country should have **equitable access** to organ transplantation.
4. Organs for transplantation should be **equitably allocated** within countries or jurisdictions, in conformity with objective, non-discriminatory, externally justified and transparent rules, guided by clinical criteria and ethical norms.
5. Health professionals and health care institutions should **assist in preventing** and addressing organ trafficking, trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, and transplant tourism.
6. Governments and health professionals should implement **strategies to discourage** and prevent the residents of their country from engaging in transplant tourism.
7. Countries should strive to achieve **self-sufficiency** in organ donation and transplantation.

The End Kidney Deaths Act Risks Irreversible Harm to Organ Donation,
JAMA, online March 26, 2025

Initiating a renewed discussion on ,Incentives‘



Collaboration



1. Governments should develop and implement ethically sound programs for the prevention and treatment of organ failure, consistent with overall healthcare policies for their populations.
2. The optimal health of donors and transplant recipients should be a primary goal of transplant policies and programs.
3. Trafficking in human organs and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal should be prohibited and criminalized.
4. Organ donation should be a financially neutral act.
5. Every country or jurisdiction should develop and implement legislation and regulations to govern the recovery of organs from deceased donors and the practice of transplantation, consistent with international standards.
6. Regulated authorities in each jurisdiction should oversee and be accountable for organ donation, allocation and transplantation practices to ensure standardization, traceability, transparency, quality, safety, fairness and public trust.
7. All citizens of a country should have equitable access to donation and transplant services and to organs procured from deceased donors.
8. Organs for transplantation should be equitably allocated within countries or jurisdictions, in conformity with objective, non-discriminatory, externally justified and transparent rules, guided by clinical criteria and ethical norms.
9. Health authorities should assist in preventing and addressing organ trafficking, trafficking in persons and related issues.
10. Governments should implement strategies to discourage organ trafficking and to protect the residents of their countries.
11. Countries should strive to achieve self-sufficiency in organ donation and transplantation.



Thank you