



World Kidney Day – 10 March 2016

“Kidney Disease & Children. Act Early to Prevent It!”

An opportunity to make a significant impact on kidney health awareness and disease prevention

Dear,

Keeping kidneys healthy can save lives.

We are contacting you to help us make chronic kidney disease (CKD) more prominent on the health and policy agenda in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As the incidence of CKD escalates, investing in preventive measures and educating the public and the medical community has never been more important. Worldwide the statistics are alarming – nearly one in 10 adults is affected by some degree of kidney damage. Statistical data CKD in Bosnia and Herzegovina are not available.

Unfortunately, CKD is not curable and can trigger other illnesses like heart attacks or stroke leading to premature death or disability. If not detected early enough, CKD may progress to kidney failure and require dialysis (which is expensive both for patients and national healthcare systems) or a kidney transplant to survive (for which there is an organ donor shortage). The best hope for reducing the human and economic toll related to CKD lies in prevention and early detection.

On 10th March 2016 **World Kidney Day (WKD) – the global awareness campaign dedicated to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys** - will be celebrated by millions of people around the world. This year's focus is **Kidney Disease & Children. Act Early to Prevent It!**

Kidney diseases affect millions of people worldwide, including many children who may be at risk of kidney disease at an early age. It is therefore crucial that policy makers and health authorities encourage and facilitate education, early detection and a healthy life style in children, , to combat the increase of preventable kidney damage including acute kidney injury and chronic kidney disease and to treat children with inborn and acquired disorders of the kidney.

In its 11th year, World Kidney Day encourages you to, join forces once again to inform parents, caregivers, young patients, and the general public of the importance of identifying and treating childhood kidney diseases, instilling an awareness of the risks for their future from kidney damage that originates in childhood, therefore building healthier future generations!

We would be honoured to have Bosnia and Herzegovina join the global medical and patient organizations in recognizing World Kidney Day. We encourage you to seize this opportunity to make a change in national health by developing national actions and policy initiatives that will reduce the burden of CKD in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Such actions may include among others:

- Better education on the prevention of kidney disease and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in general



- Improvement or promotion of organ donor schemes. Engage in a dialogue with faith and community leaders to encourage organ donation.
- Introduction of national registries on kidney disease
- Allocation of funds for training programs dedicated to kidney care health professionals. Empower primary healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses and others to implement effective kidney disease prevention and management programs.
- Work towards delivery of high-quality healthcare that is adequate for communities with higher risk
- Provide a statement to World Kidney Day expressing your endorsement of the cause
- Join the local World Kidney Day celebrations and give a speech to encourage people to adopt healthy lifestyles

The campaign marking World Kidney Day ISN has forwarded this letter to address, which is the association of doctors of Nephrology, Dialysis and kidney transplantation in Bosnia and Herzegovina translated. This letter will be delivered to all relevant institutions in the country in the name of UNDT BiH.

We are counting on you,

With best regards,