

Life in a post Brexit world - Hamish McRae speaks at Lepra event

Recently, Lepra was honoured to hold an evening with Hamish McRae in JM Finn Offices in London.

Brexit, a divisive issue that has dominated much of the world's news for the past three years, was the topic of last night's wonderfully insightful talk by Hamish McRae. Hamish is one of the world's leading futurologists and an award-winning economic and financial commentator with the Independent Online, among other publications.

There is an important and often overlooked link, between the world's economy and the development sector. Brexit, regardless of the outcome, will affect this relationship. In times of economic and political uncertainty, there is a tendency to forget about charitable causes and the work of NGO's in the developing world.

He says, "We are very lucky in this room. We have drawn a very lucky hand of cards, all of us. We could not choose our race, our gender or the country we were born in – we got lucky. Lepra are doing something really useful for people that haven't had such a good hand of cards."

Charles Bland, Chair of Lepra, spoke at length about the ongoing battle to control leprosy cases across the world and the avoidable tragedy of the disease. He said, "The physical consequences of leprosy are only part of the picture. The prejudice surrounding leprosy causes social, and even economic, exclusion. This is the tragedy of leprosy.

"We have this disease that's completely curable, but because of ignorance, prejudice and inadequate social provision, it is continuing to destroy lives on a very large scale. If anything, the numbers are increasing at the moment."

We would like to thank Hamish for taking time out of his busy schedule and agreeing to speak, giving an interesting look at Britain in a post Brexit world.

ENDS

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Notes for Editors

About Lepra and leprosy

Lepra is a UK-based international specialist charity that has been working to beat leprosy since 1924. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became Patron of Lepra in 1952, shortly after the death of her father King George VI, who had been Lepra's Patron since the charity was founded in 1924.

Leprosy affects over 7 million of the most vulnerable people in the world, causing life-changing disabilities and attracting terrible prejudice and discrimination. **But there is a cure.**

Lepra works to beat leprosy in India, Bangladesh and Mozambique by finding, diagnosing and treating people affected by the disease. By raising awareness, pushing for early detection and supporting people living with disabilities caused by leprosy, Lepra works towards a day when this disease no longer destroys lives.

Last year, the charity reached 301,000 people through diagnosis, treatment and care. It reached a further 1.7 million people through health education and events to raise awareness of leprosy and other neglected diseases.

Find out more about Lepra on its website and social media channels:

Website: www.lepra.org.uk

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LepraUK>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LEPRAUK/>

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LEPRAHinA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/LepraUK/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/lepra/>