

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party  
*for the South East of England*

Dr Manmohan Singh  
Prime Minister of India  
c/o Indian Embassy  
India House  
Aldwych  
London WC2B 4NA

April 30<sup>th</sup> 2010

Dear Prime Minister,

### **Justice for Bhopal gas victims**

On 15<sup>th</sup> April victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster and their supporters launched a sit-in protest in New Delhi. Their key demand was the launch of an Empowered Commission on Bhopal to plan and oversee long-pending rehabilitation measures for Bhopal survivors and their children. The decision to launch such a Commission was made by the Prime Minister in 2008 but is yet to be executed.

The International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal estimates that as many as 20,000 people are still drinking poisoned water; 10,000 gas victims who were promised jobs remain jobless; medical treatment for the indigent victims remains elusive; the site and its surroundings are polluted, and the culprit is freely doing business in India. The campaign group states that an Empowered Commission will address the health and welfare needs of the Bhopal survivors and monitor their environmental, social, economic and medical rehabilitation.

I urge you to take the necessary steps to launch the Empowered Commission.

One of the things that haunts me most about the 1984 Bhopal disaster is that some of the worst effects might have been avoided if Union Carbide had applied the same standards of safety in design or operations to Bhopal as it had in place in the USA.

To this day neither Union Carbide nor owners Dow Chemicals have taken action to properly compensate for this negligence and I fully support the campaign to make them pay - for cleaning up the site and local water supplies, for medical care for those still suffering as a result of the disaster, and for their continued disregard for both due legal process and the rights of Bhopal's victims.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing an update on progress.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.