

NHS liberalization 1979-2012

**a threat to the right to health
in England**

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IAHPE pre-conference | Istanbul 2017

1948

National Health Service - NHS is enacted

- Part of a major socioeconomic recovery plan based on social welfare, was favoured by the post World War II historical moment
- The NHS was enacted in England, Scotland and Wales. Named in Northern Ireland as Health and Social Care System (HSC)
- Between 1948 until 1979 no major changes to the NHS public service 'ethos'

The United Kingdom



STAGE I

1979 - 1990

gradual ideological and theoretical substitution

- transition from a public health perspective to a management and commercial rationale (1980s)
- the 'Market Reform' introduces the internal market in the NHS (1990)

STAGE II

1991 - 2004

public regulation and incipient market

- structuring a bureaucratic system focussed on administration and management of the internal market**
- expansion of pro-market policies**

1999

UK Devolution process

UK member countries are granted powers regarding national policies, including health and social care

National Assembly for Wales - NHS Wales

Northern Ireland Assembly - HSC Northern Ireland

Scottish Parliament - NHS Scotland

Greater London and combined authorities - NHS England

STAGE III 2005-2012

opening to the market, fragmentation and discontinuity of services

- **weakening of the territorial health model,
consolidation of healthcare as an open market of
public and private providers competing for
customers**

**The beginning
of
the end for
the right to
health in England?**