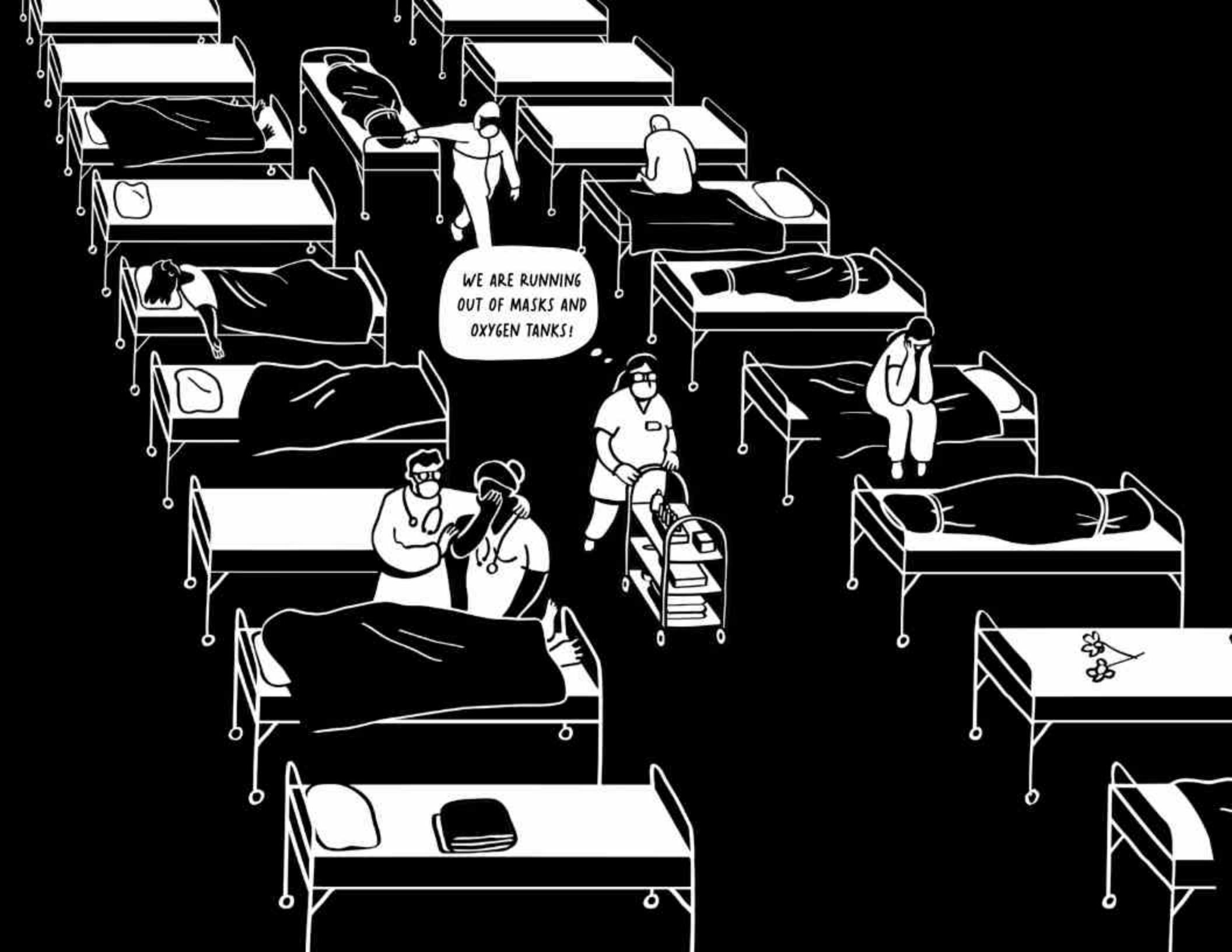


**THE POWER OF THE 99%
TO STOP CORPORATE CAPTURE
OF OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS**





WE ARE RUNNING
OUT OF MASKS AND
OXYGEN TANKS!

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS SHOWN THAT
OUR RIGHT TO HEALTH IS PARAMOUNT.



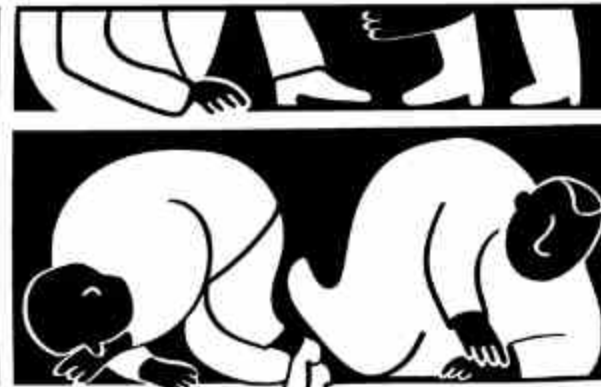


FOR MANY, THIS PANDEMIC ADDED TO DAILY
HARDSHIPS IN DIFFERENT WAYS.



ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE
LIVING IN CONFLICT-
AFFECTED AREAS...



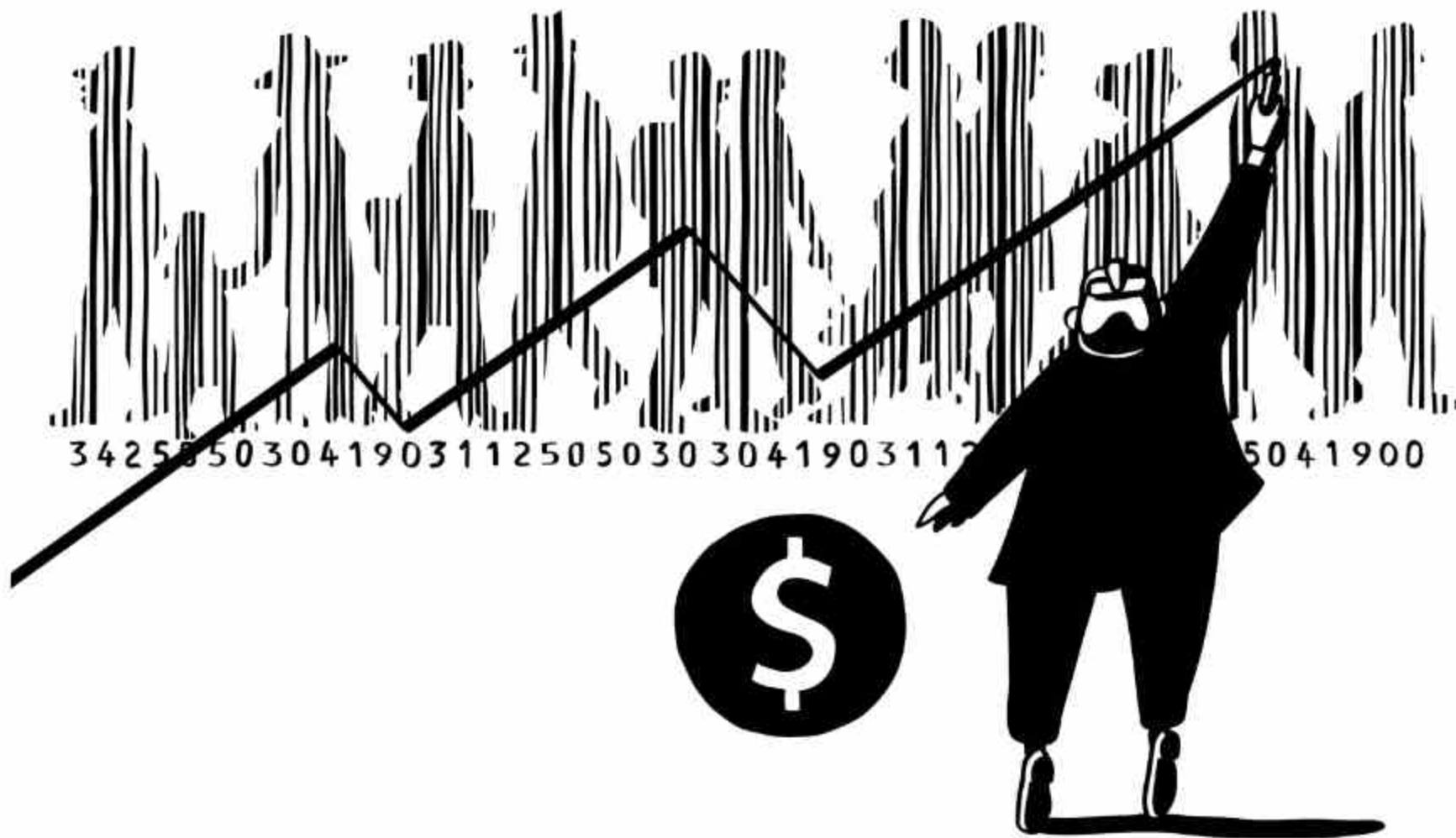




...AND FOR THOSE MOST AFFECTED BY STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES.



**FOR THE 99% OF US, OUR HEALTH IS A COMMON GOOD -
A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT BELONGING TO ALL!**

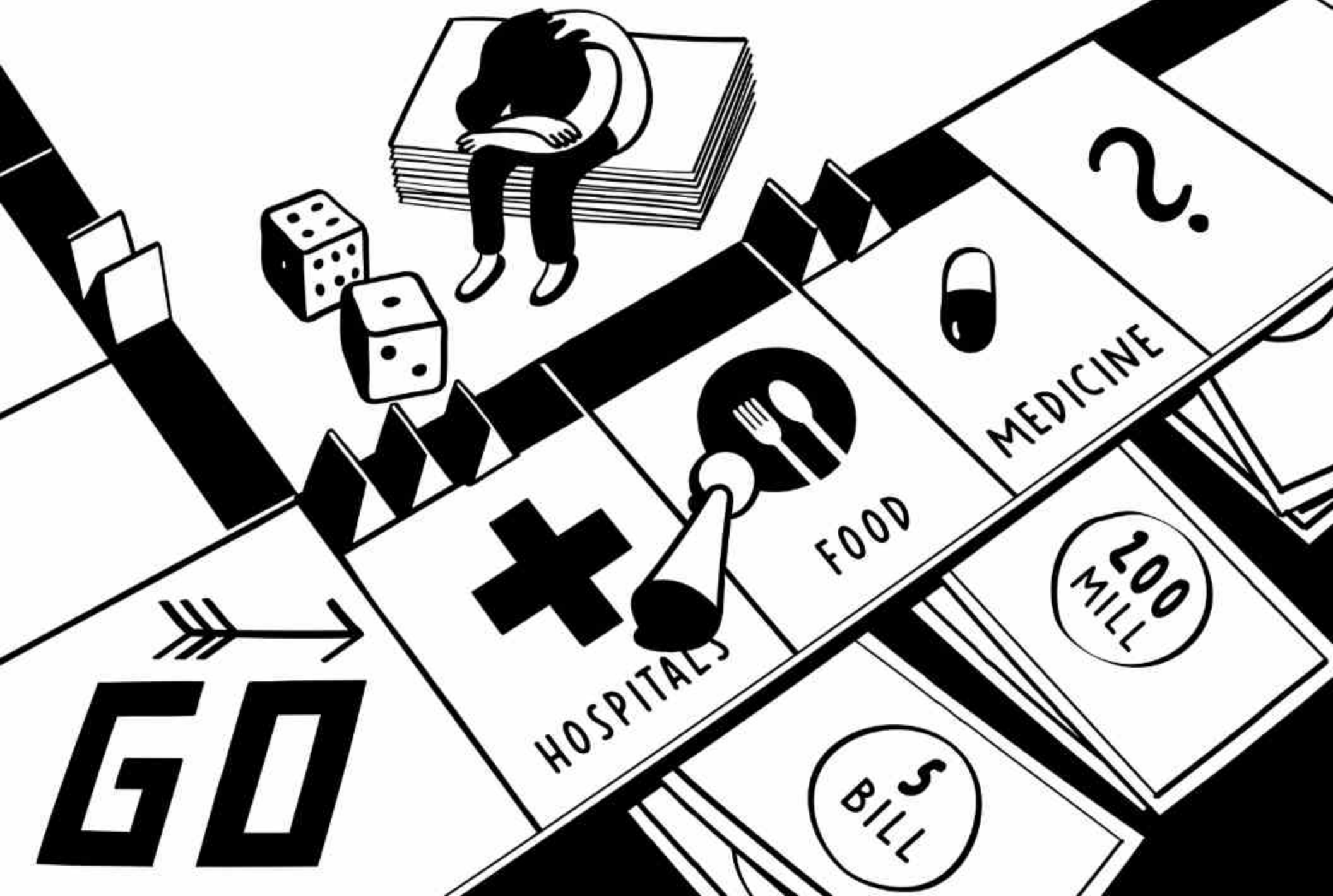


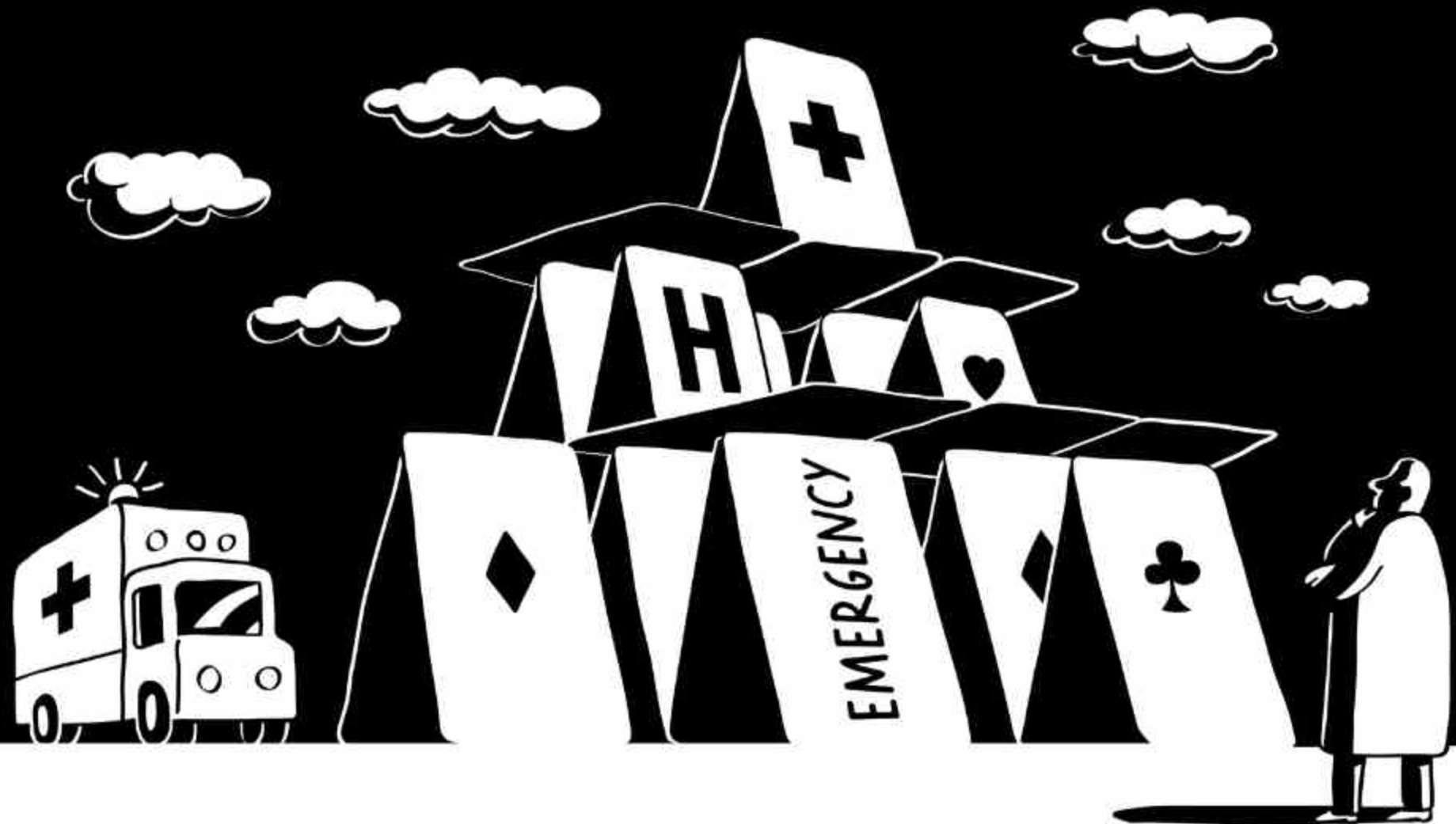
HOWEVER, FOR A FEW: OUR HEALTH IS A COMMODITY.



THE 1% HAS TURNED OUR RIGHT TO HEALTH INTO A PROFIT-MAKING MACHINE.

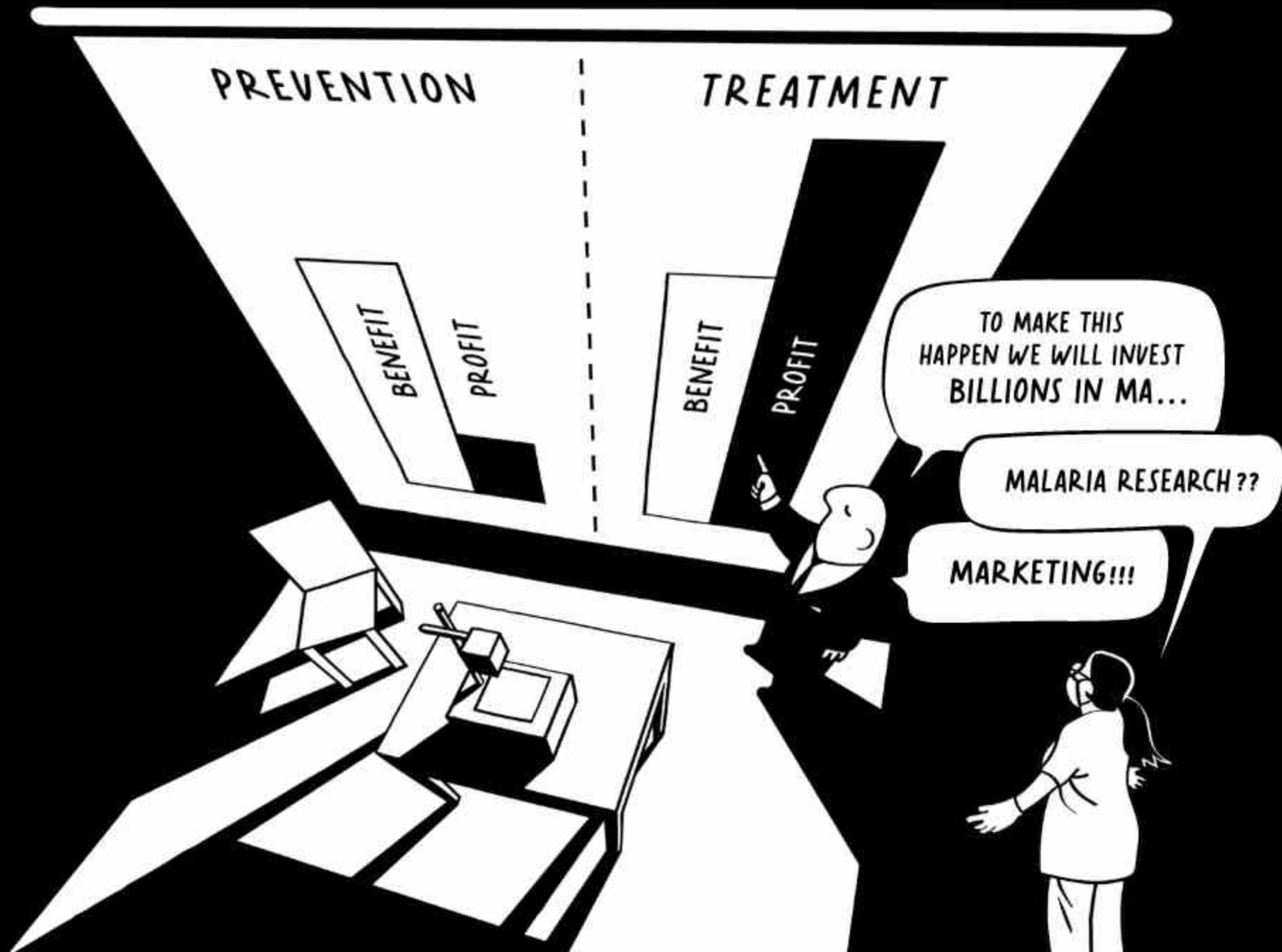
FOR DECADES, CORPORATIONS HAVE POURED BILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO INFLUENCING
REGULATIONS AND PUBLIC POLICIES TO PRIVATIZE ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES.

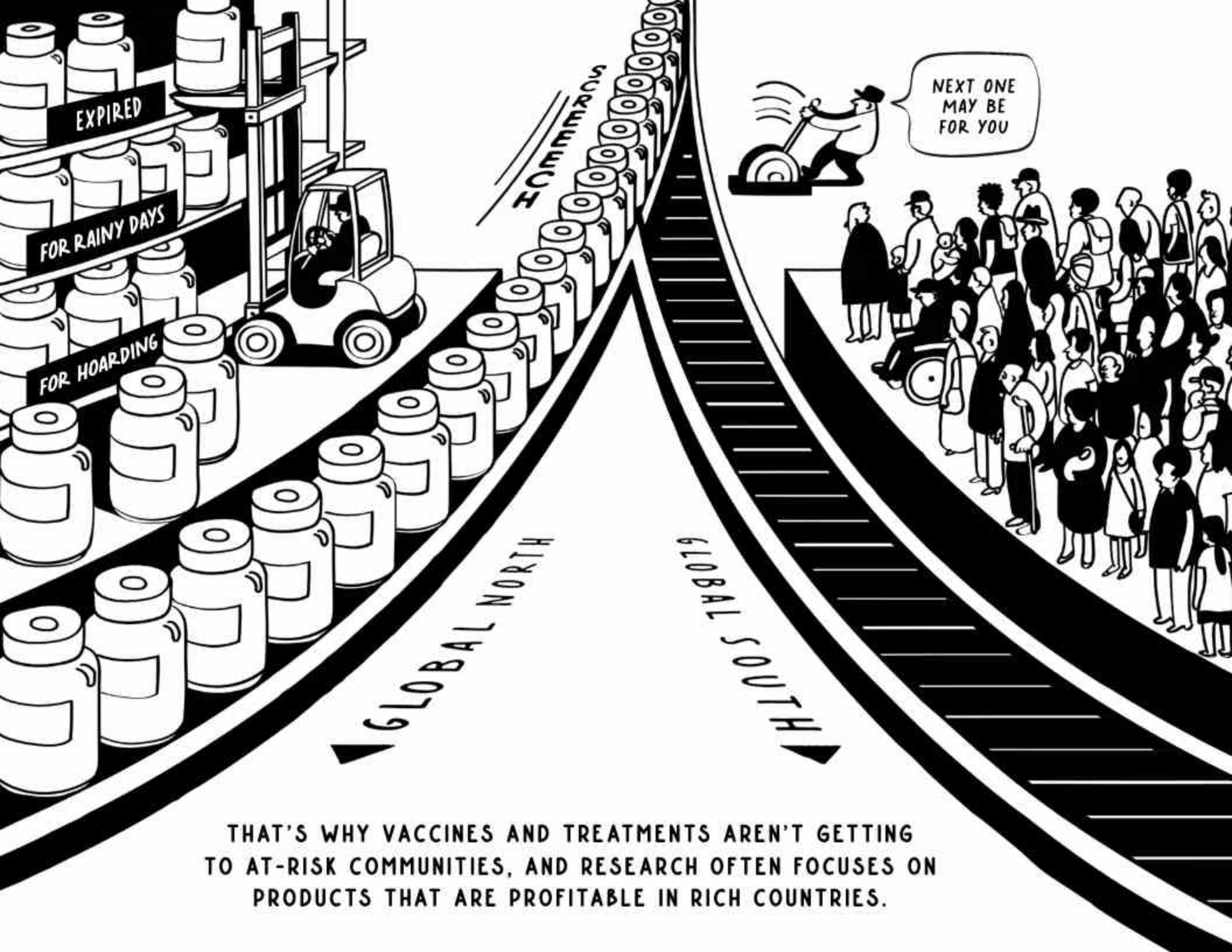




DUE TO CORPORATE CAPTURE OF OUR GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING,
OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE FRAGILE.

SINCE HEALTHCARE IS BEING RUN AS A PROFIT-MAKING MACHINE,
PHARMACEUTICAL CORPORATIONS OPERATE UNDER THE FREE MARKET.
ECONOMY LOGIC: NO PROFIT = NO INVESTMENT.



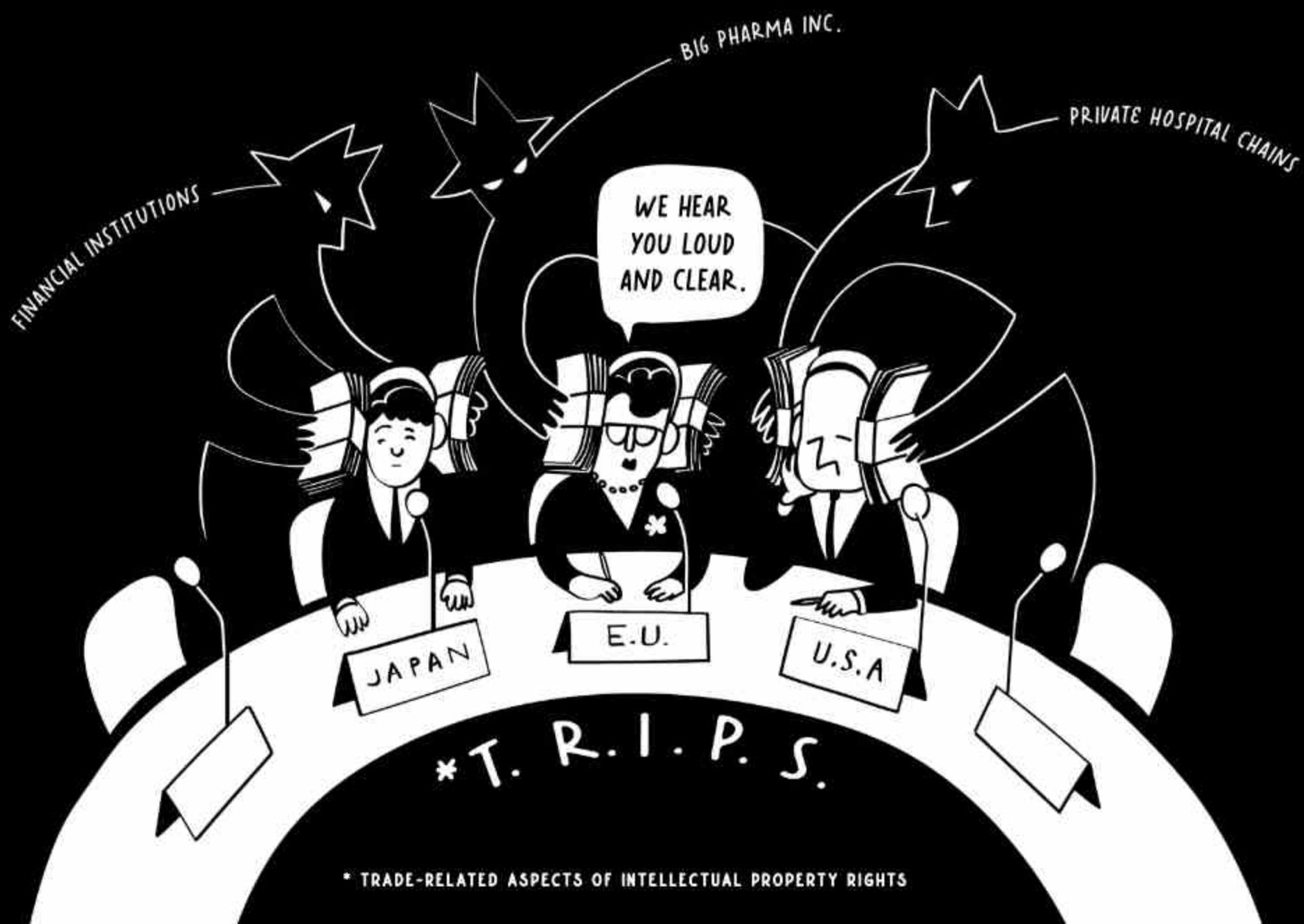


THAT'S WHY VACCINES AND TREATMENTS AREN'T GETTING TO AT-RISK COMMUNITIES, AND RESEARCH OFTEN FOCUSES ON PRODUCTS THAT ARE PROFITABLE IN RICH COUNTRIES.



DECADES AGO, CORPORATE CAPTURE WAS DESIGNED UNDER THE GUISE OF "LIBERALISATION" TO MONOPOLIZE AND MAXIMIZE PROFIT THROUGH FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS, STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS, THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND, AND OTHER MULTI-STAKEHOLDER BODIES.

FOR INSTANCE, TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO PFIZER AGGRESSIVELY LOBBIED RICHER GOVERNMENTS TO PUT IN PLACE REGULATIONS TO PROTECT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND PATENTS AT THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO).





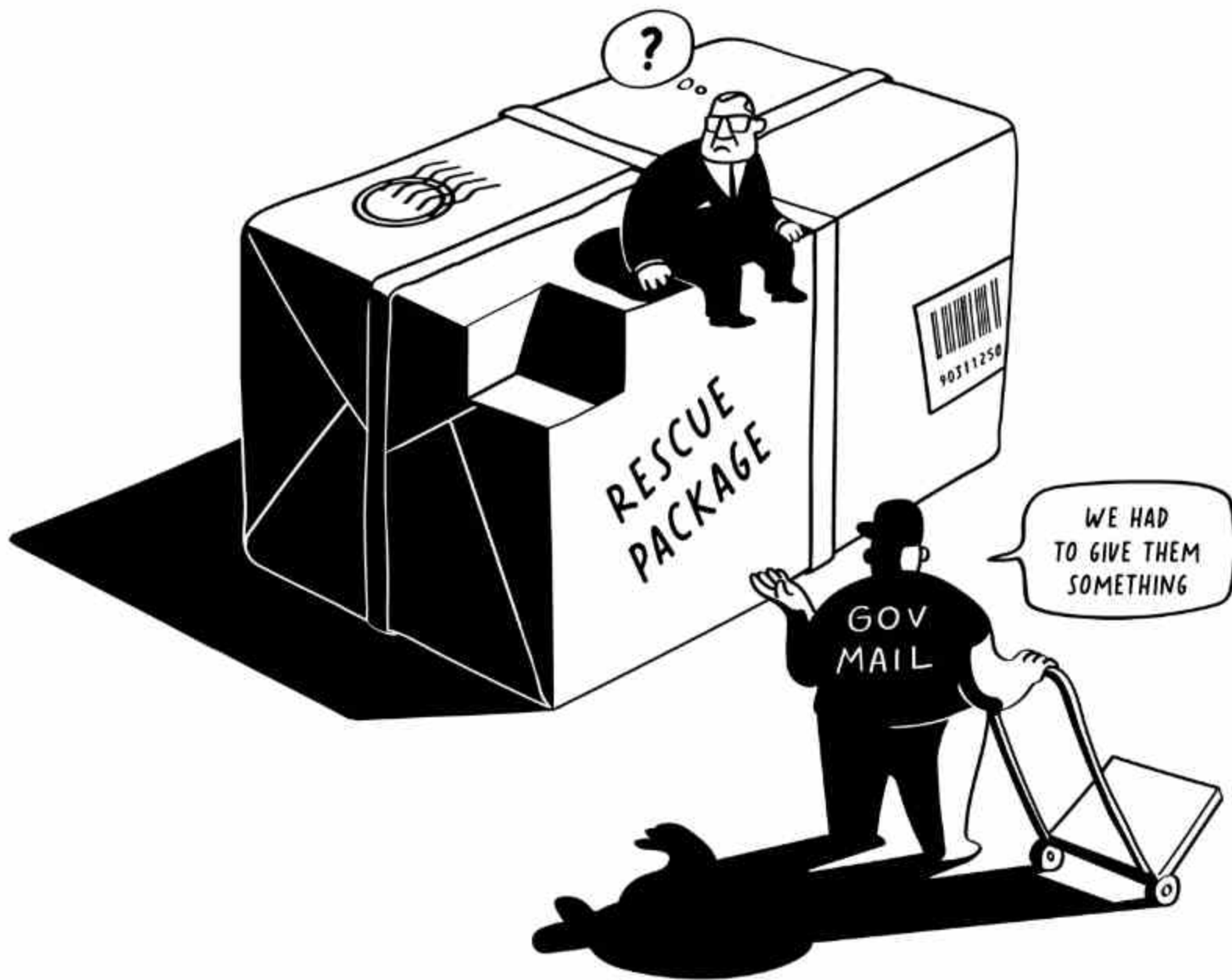
AS A RESULT, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PATENT PROTECTION POLICIES STARTED COSTING US OUR HEALTH. DURING THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS, **FOR EXAMPLE**, BIG PHARMA CAPTURED THE WTO AND BLOCKED THE RELEASE OF PATENTS FOR LIFE-SAVING ANTIRETROVIRAL MEDICATIONS, DEVASTATING MANY AT-RISK COMMUNITIES.

UNTIL CIVIL SOCIETY CHALLENGED CORPORATE ELITES TO PUT ACCESS
TO TREATMENT FOR HIV/AIDS ON THE GLOBAL POLITICAL AGENDA





TODAY, THE PROFIT-MAKING MACHINE
IS RUNNING AT FULL-SPEED!



AT TIMES OF CRISIS, PUBLIC EMERGENCY FUNDING IS PRIMARILY
ALLOCATED TO CORPORATE ELITES WHILE PUBLIC SERVICES REMAIN
UNDERFUNDED IN VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS!



**BILLIONAIRE DEALS ARE MADE,
LEFT AND RIGHT - WITH NO TRANSPARENCY.**



NO TO

GENERIC DRUG
DEVELOPMENT

NO TO

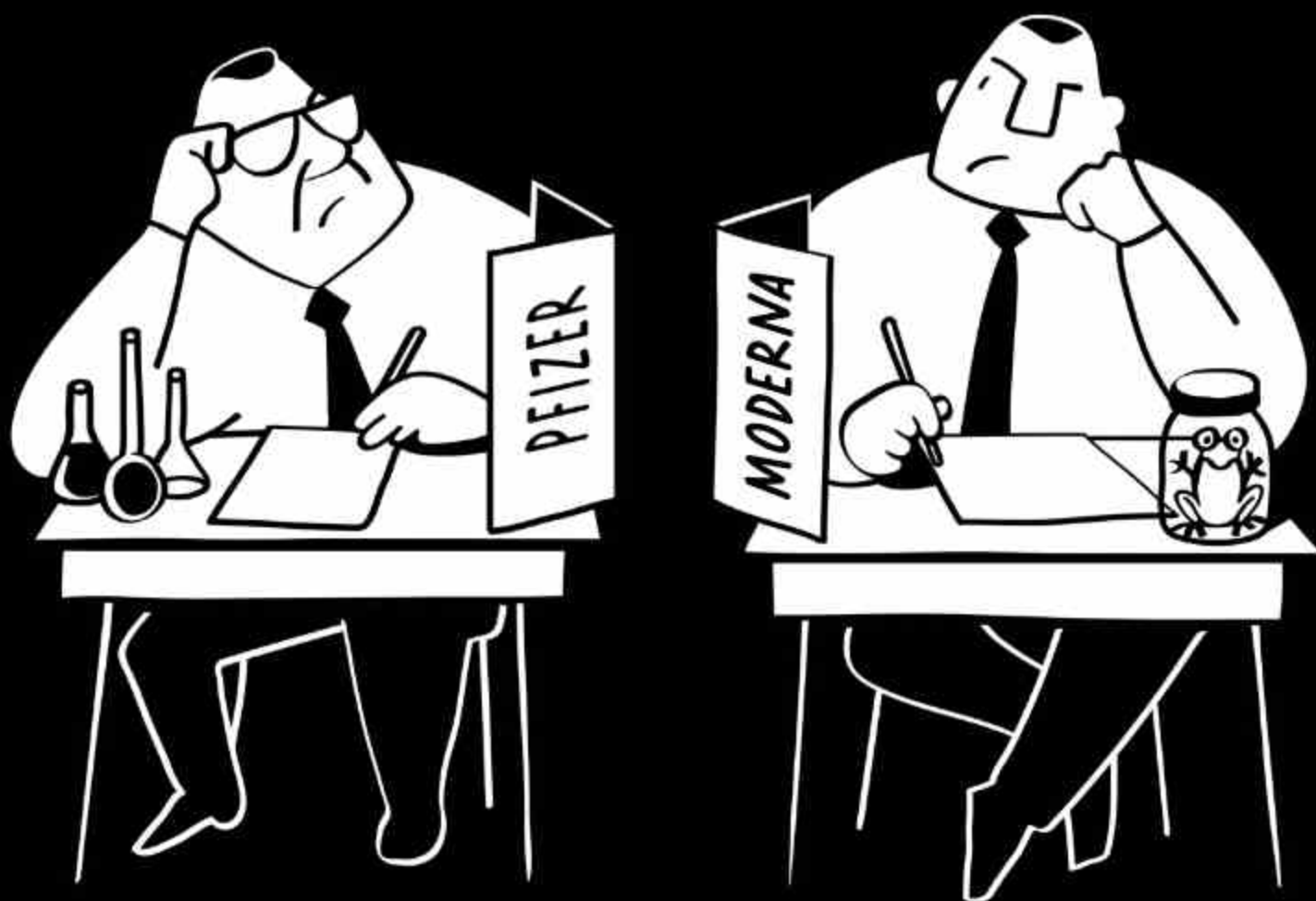
SHARING
TECHNOLOGY

AND
KNOW-HOW

WTO
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

AND ONCE AGAIN, CORPORATIONS DEPLOYED THEIR
ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY ARTILLERY AT THE WTO,
IGNORING GLOBAL CALLS TO WAIVE
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
FOR COVID-19 VACCINES
AND TREATMENTS...

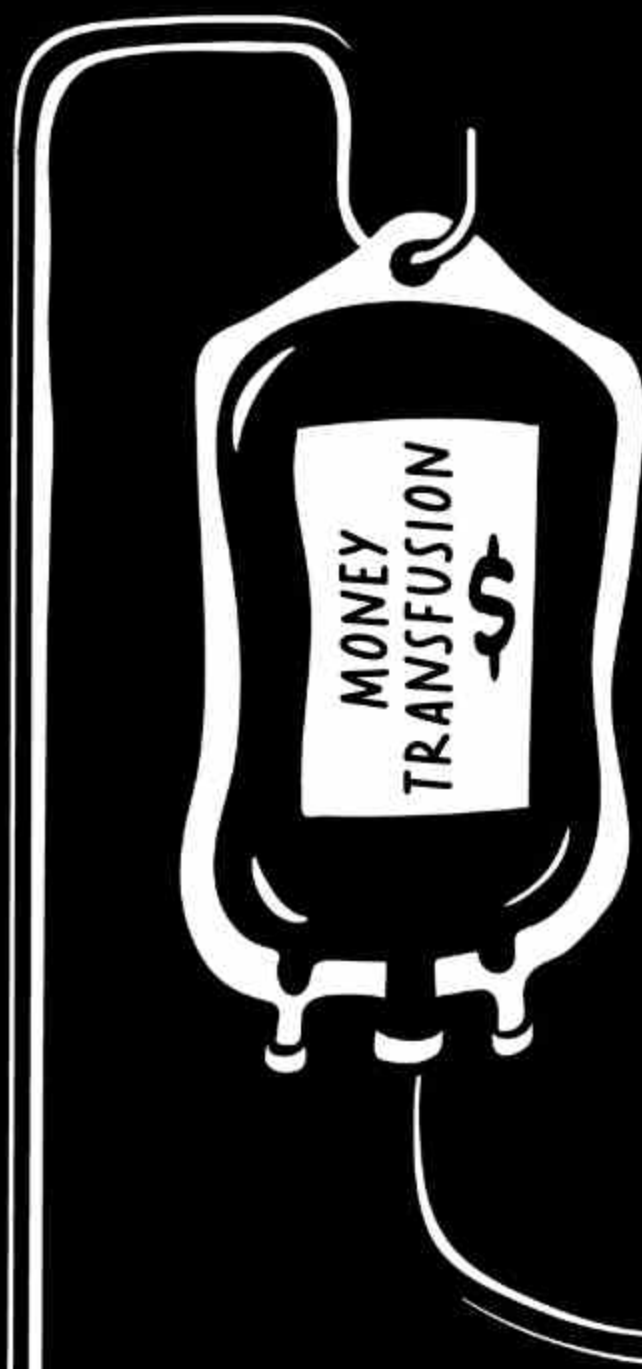
...REFUSING TO VOLUNTARILY SHARE THEIR KNOW-HOW AND
TECHNOLOGY THAT COULD EXPEDITE VACCINE MANUFACTURING.

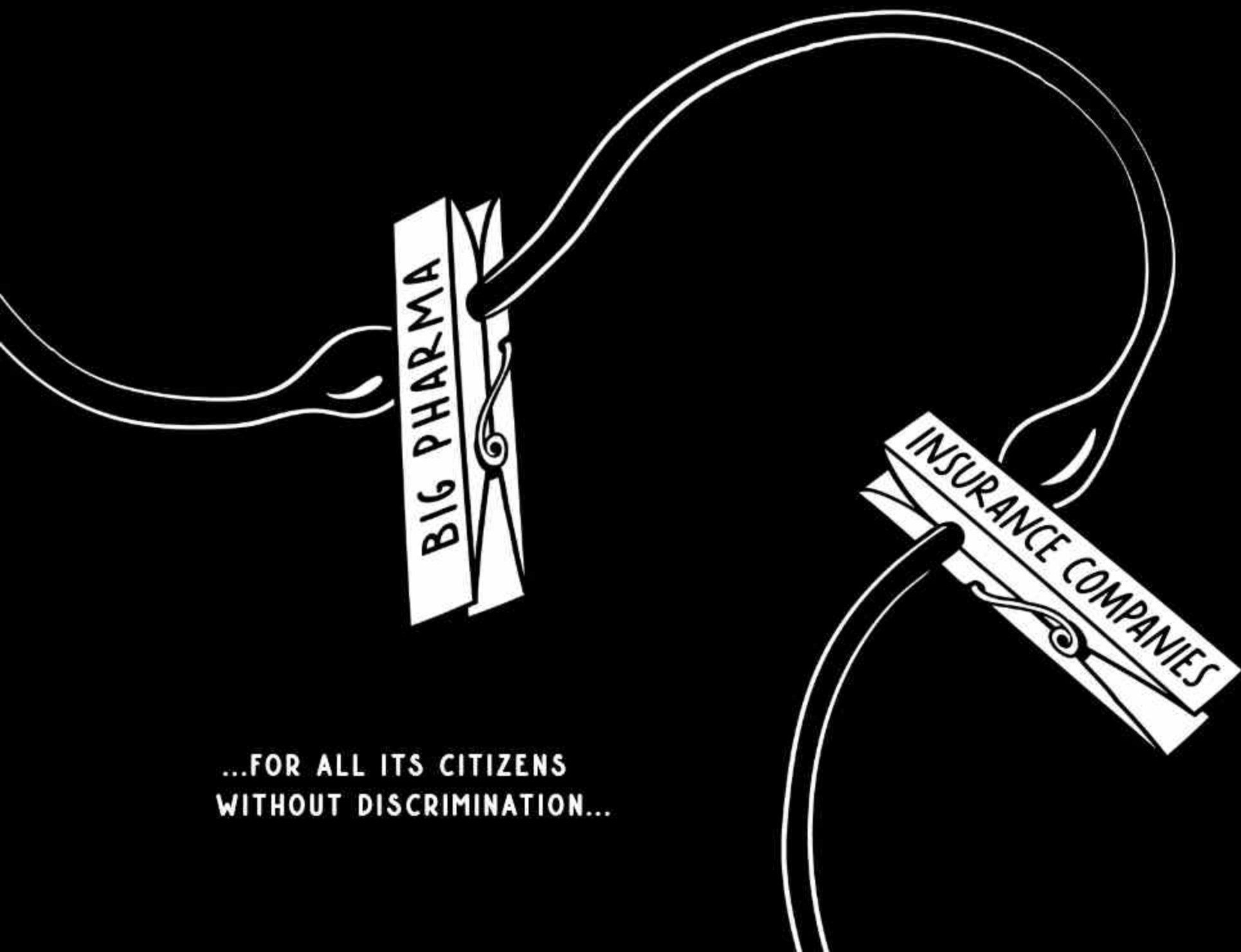


THE GRIM TRUTH IS THAT IF GOVERNMENTS
CONTINUE TO PRIORITIZE PROFIT OVER PEOPLE,
MANY AT-RISK COMMUNITIES MAY NEVER
BE VACCINATED

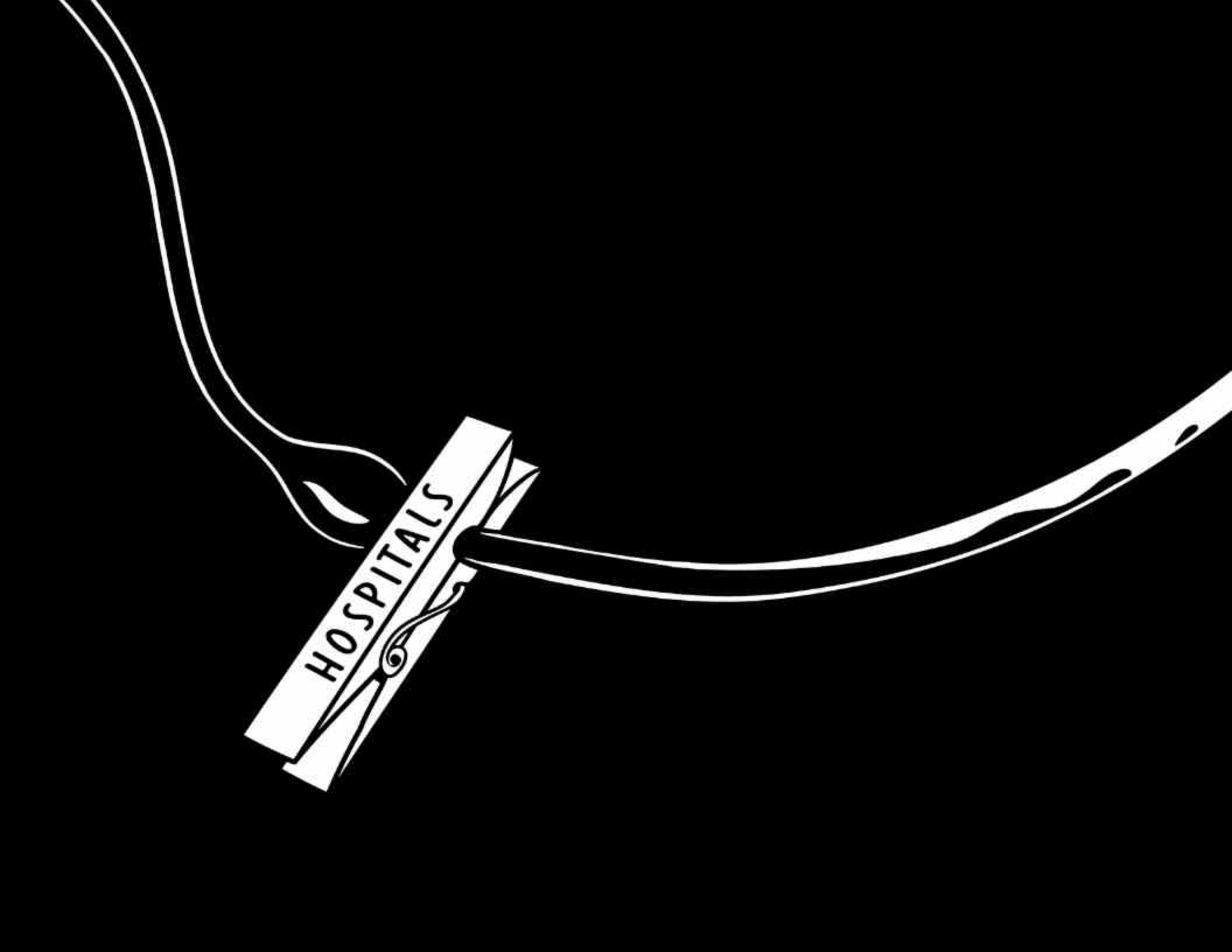


OUR GOVERNMENTS
ARE OBLIGATED TO ENSURE
THE RIGHT TO HEALTH...





...FOR ALL ITS CITIZENS
WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION...



BUT BECAUSE
OF CORPORATE
CAPTURE...

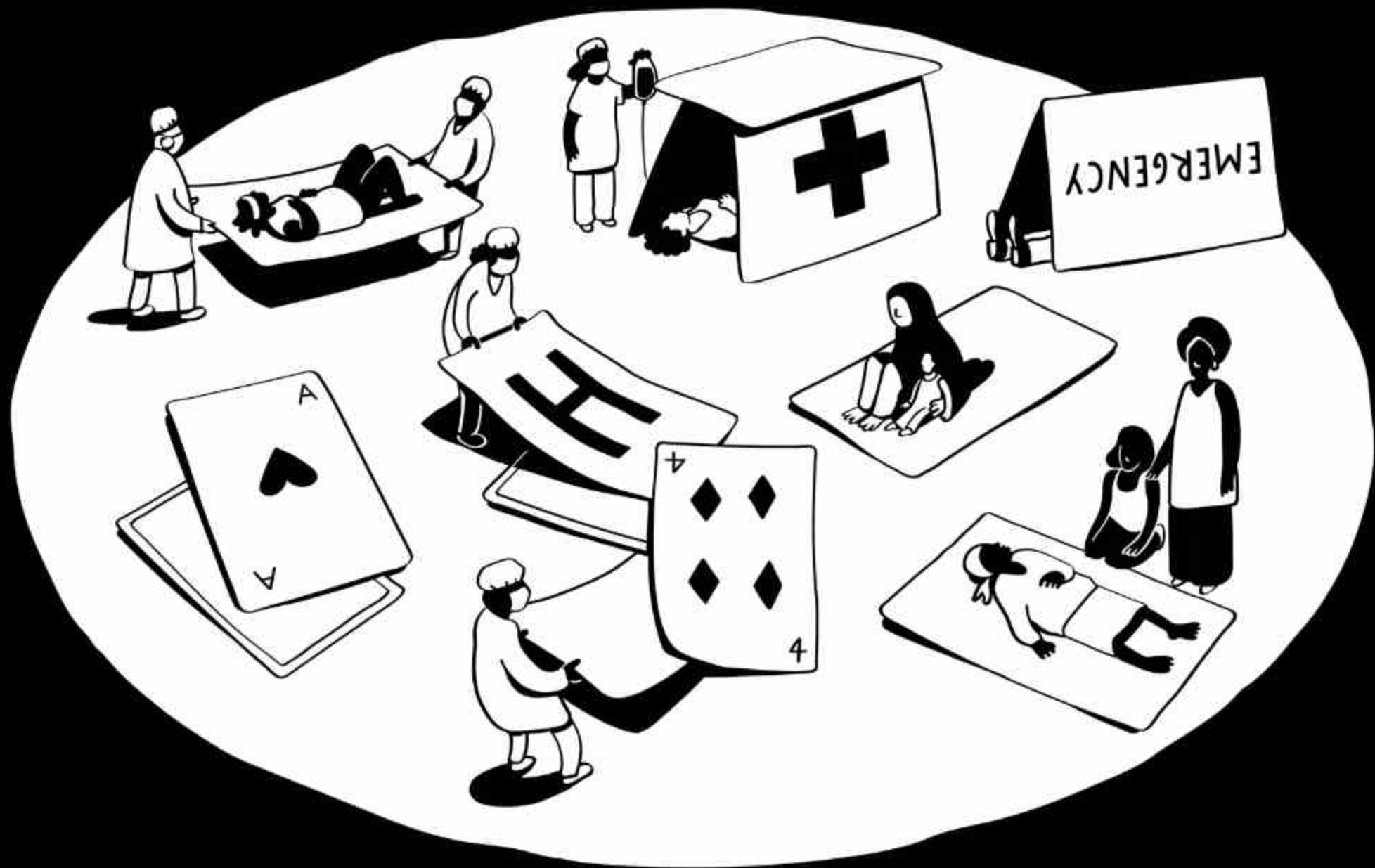




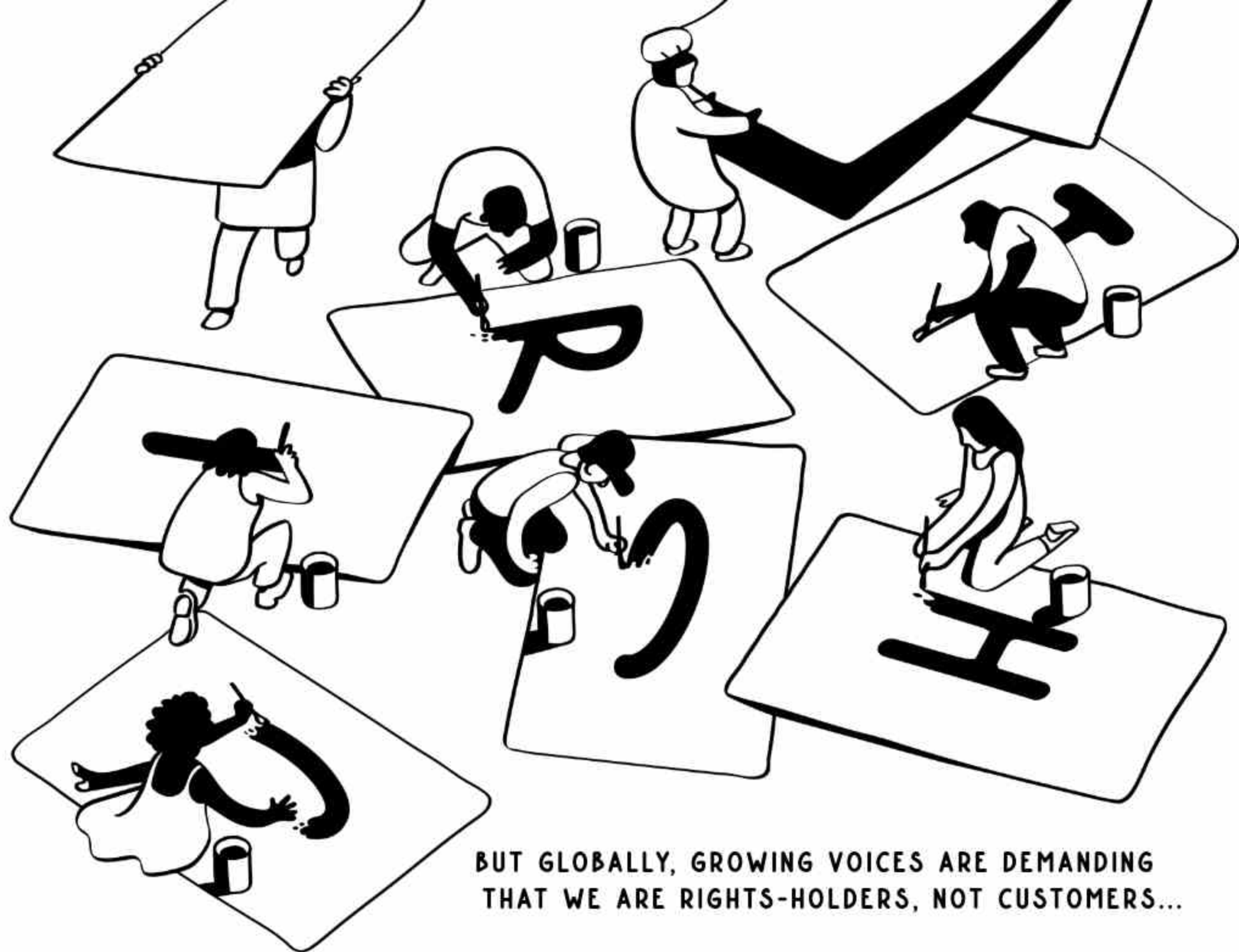
**...THEY HAVE ALLOWED CORPORATIONS TO BECOME POWERFUL
ACTORS MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT OUR HEALTH.**



MEANWHILE, THE INEQUALITY IN HEALTHCARE KEEPS
WIDENING AND SEGREGATING CITIZENS INTO THOSE WHO CAN
AFFORD HEALTH AND THOSE WHO CANNOT.



AROUND THE WORLD, THOSE MOST AFFECTED BY STRUCTURAL ECONOMIC, RACIAL, AND GENDER INEQUALITIES, ARE EVEN MORE VULNERABLE TO THE DEVASTATING HEALTH EFFECTS OF FRAGILE HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS, ESPECIALLY DURING A PANDEMIC.



BUT GLOBALLY, GROWING VOICES ARE DEMANDING
THAT WE ARE RIGHTS-HOLDERS, NOT CUSTOMERS...



...AND ARE ORGANIZING TO BUILD THE FOUNDATION FOR A SOCIETY IN WHICH THE WELL-BEING OF THE 99% IS AT THE CENTER OF PUBLIC POLICIES AND OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.

A black and white illustration. At the top, three flags are visible against a dark background. Below them, a horizontal line with a scalloped edge separates the top section from the main content. On the left, a person with glasses and a ponytail is walking towards the right, pulling a curtain that has been hung across the scene. The curtain is on the left side, and the person is holding its edge. To the right of the person, the text is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The text reads: "IF YOU TOO ARE FEELING SICK OF CORPORATIONS TURNING HEALTH INTO A COMMODITY JOIN US TO...". The background is dark with some light-colored, curved lines suggesting a night sky or a dark stage.

IF YOU TOO ARE FEELING
SICK OF CORPORATIONS
TURNING HEALTH
INTO A COMMODITY
JOIN US TO...



STAY TUNED FOR OUR NEXT EPISODES
ON CORPORATE CAPTURE AND VISIT
ESCR-NET.ORG TO LEARN MORE.

THANK YOU TO ESCR-NET MEMBERS CHALLENGING CAPTURE AROUND THE
WORLD, WHOSE COLLECTIVE ANALYSIS AND ACTIONS INFORM THIS COMIC.

ART BY ZAGO BROTHERS

الشبكة العالمية
للحقوق الاقتصادية
والاجتماعية والثقافية



ESCR-Net
Red-DESC
Réseau-DESC