

FMWC's WPS Committee Meeting Minutes:

Attendance:

Dr. Azad (Chair)
Dr. Johnson, FMWC President
Dr. Ross, MWIA Secretary General
Dr. Kalay, representing SOGC
Dr. Niec, representing MWIA to FMWC
Sarah Kennell from Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights
Victoria Gerber, medical student U.O.

Key Discussion Points:

1. The goal of this meeting was to gain a better understanding of what the WPS committee of female physicians can do to help Action Canada and SOGC with their existing projects both domestically or internationally – medical abortion accessibility being the primary focus.
2. In the past, sexual health and rights has been of low priority to the government
3. Recently, the governments focus has been on improving abortion access domestically and internationally (The Democratic Republic of the Congo specifically has been an area of interest to Canada). Unclear how long our current Feministic government will last.
4. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has no funded health care. Abortion is illegal and unsafe abortion is widespread. Birth control is legal, but there is very limited access and money to afford birth control especially for women and girls in rural communities.
5. Our current government has no women's health experts. However, Canadian aid has been given funding to fill gaps in women's health policies. As experts in women health issues,
6. It was suggested we reach out to abortion providers to discuss what we can do to help improve abortion access in their countries. In support, the committee can write a letter to our government to ensure that aid is being allocated to the most current and pertinent women's health issues.
7. SOGC Abortion Module → Once you do the module you can become a member of CAPS.
8. Discussion on the Canadian medical school's curriculum on abortion management:
 1. Currently at UOttawa, medical students have no clinical exposure and very limited training on abortion management unless students seek it out for themselves.
 2. Dr. Johnson and Dr. Azad suggested that we contact Dr. Moineau (UOttawa Faculty of Medicine Dean candidate) as she may have some insight into the abortion curriculum at Canadian medical schools. Also, improving clinical competency in abortion management could be an area that she may be willing to support.
 3. It was suggested that we create 2 surveys: (1) Canadian medical schools to fill out regarding their curriculum on abortion management and (2) medical students to fill out regarding how competent they feel about their knowledge and skills on abortion management and if they want more training.
 4. These surveys may be a way to advocate for medical schools to improve their abortion management curriculum.
 5. Surveys data will be added to FMWC website and presented as a poster at the MWIA congress in July 2019.

To does:

Shelley:

1. Please keep us updated regarding AMWA and the medical school curriculum on abortion.

Dr. Kalay (SOGC rep):

1. Join FMWC. Link is here: <https://fmwc.ca/membership/become-a-member/>
2. Join WPSN-C. Link is here: <https://wpsn-canada.org/become-a-member/>
3. Provide WPS committee with what is being done at SOGC on WPS topics (with a focus on abortion access) and what we can do to help.

Sarah (Action Canada):

1. Will send committee the Global Network of Abortion Providers (a list of international abortion providers).
2. Join FMWC as an "associate" member. Link is here: <https://fmwc.ca/membership/become-a-member/>
3. Provide WPS committee with what is being done on WPS related topics (with a focus on improving abortion access) and what we can do to help.

Victoria:

1. Recruit other student FMWC students to help create the survey. In the survey: test knowledge about abortion management, get an idea of how competent students feel with this topic and if they would want more training and/or exposure.
2. Will submit FMWC's WPS Committee poster for MWIA. **Due Sept 1.**

Dr. Azad:

1. Will prepare the first draft of the poster abstract on the medical school abortion curriculum in Canadian medical schools for MWIA Congress 2019 meeting in New York City. **Due Sept 1.**

Dr. Azad and Dr. Johnson:

1. Will prepare a letter for Dr. Moineau asking for her support and further insight into the abortion curriculum in Canadian medical schools.

Everyone:

1. Share the FREE SOGC abortion module. Note that this program has been accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for up to 6 Mainpro-M1 credits and with The Canadian Council on Continuing Education in Pharmacy (CCCEP) for 3 CEU credits.
2. All available SOGC courses here: <https://sogc.org/online-courses/courses.html>

Helpful Links:

- WHO Safe Abortion: Technical and policy guidance for health systems here: http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/unsafe_abortion/9789241548434/en/

July 5th, 2018

- Women Deliver conference June 2019 Vancouver. Link to conference information here: <http://womendeliver.org/conference/2019-conference/women-deliver-2019-faqs/>
- On-line course on contraception
<https://sogc.org/online-courses/courses.html>

Closing statement:

- Next meeting TBA.