

## **Minutes of the November 13, 2018 conference call of the Women, Peace and Security Committee of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada**

### Attendance (by teleconference):

Dr. N. Azad - Chair FMWC WPS Committee  
Dr. A. Niec - Chair, FMWC Membership Committee and WPS committee member  
Dr. S. Ross - Secretary General of MWIA and WPS Committee member  
Ms. C. Savoie - SOGC representative  
Ms. M. Shkimba - Social media liaison FMWC  
Dr. P. Warshawski - WPS Committee member  
Dr. A. Whitten - Family Medicine rep.

### Regrets:

Dr. K. Breeck - FMWC WPS Committee member  
Ms. S. Dong - FMWC WPS Committee student rep.  
Ms. V. Gerber - FMWC WPS committee student rep.  
Dr. B. Johnson - Past-President FMWC and WPS Committee member  
Dr. C. Patricelli - National Honourary Secretary, Chair Communications Committee and WPS committee member

### **1. Introduction and Welcome**

The conference started at 18:00 hours Eastern Standard Time and ended at 18:55 hours.

The Women, Peace and Security Committee was established in July 2018. Dr. Azad listed the terms of reference.

### **2. The minutes of the September 11, 2018 conference call were approved.**

### **3. Updates:**

#### ***a. WPS committee section of the FMWC web-site***

- i. Dr. Patricelli is working on the web-site update
- ii. Senator McPhedran's lecture should be added to this section
- iii. A link to the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security should be attached to the FMWC web-site. Recommendations on what Canada can do should be added.
- iv. The minutes of our meetings and conference calls should be posted on the web-site

#### ***b. Resolution to the MWIA 2019 meeting. Drs. Ross and Azad discussed the resolution. It should be as follows:***

#### **Medical women worldwide supporting Women, Peace and Security Initiatives**

**Whereas** Canada's National Action Plan (C-NAP) objective is to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) by:

- 1) recognizing that sustainable peace is more likely to be achieved when women are fully involved at all levels of civil society and government work;
- 2) promoting the Implementation of the WPS agenda through women's political and economic empowerment; and
- 3) encouraging women's full participation in conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict state building to create transformative solutions.

**Whereas** the existing FMWC WPS committee can leverage its voice by joining the Women, Peace, Security Network Canada with some 80+ other national groups and dedicated individuals to move forward in tandem to:

- 1) explore MWIA- Women, Peace, and Security Network (WPSN) connections in other countries by working within a network of other groups and organizations and
- 2) work within the existing framework of UN, WHO, and governments.

**Whereas** women are under-represented both as official negotiators and as technical advisors, despite clear evidence that they have often been critical to working across political divides, building grassroots support for long term sustainable peace and security, and providing essential expertise on both human rights and issues such as health and resource access. Required changes include:

- 1) improved representation of women in key decision-making positions, including in authority institutions;
- 2) integrations of women's concerns into key political processes; and
- 3) consulting women in shaping political or humanitarian responses in countries and ensuring women's and girl's needs are not overlooked.

**Be it resolved** that the chapter members of the MWIA establish Women, Peace and Security committee mandated to:

- 1) explore and educate its members regarding UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security;
- 2) communicate opportunities to its members to promote the development and implementation of their nations Women, Peace and Security Agenda;
- 3) promote peace through Women's Political and Economic Empowerment, and
- 4) contribute, monitor and report to MWIA all activities completed in support of the UN Security Council resolution 1325.
- 5) MWIA form an international Women, Peace and Security committee to act as a community of practice to collate and coordinate the activities of the various national Women, Peace and Security committees.

Dr. Ross said that there should be a link to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. She suggested forwarding this off to the president Dr. Andrews for approval prior to sending it out to all the MWIA members.

***c. Ms. Shkimba's blog on Rape as a War Crime was discussed.***

Dr. Niec suggested adding comments about diversity and inclusivity. Dr. Ross said that AMWA (American Medical Women's Association) has a video about women and war and how the American Medical Women's Hospital Association was formed when the American women were not able to participate in war. Dr. Azad said that our committee's mandate is to focus more on peace and security issues. <https://www.amwa-doc.org/wwi-film/>

#### **4. Medical Education - Abortion**

**a. *The survey to be given to medical students was discussed.***

The survey should have the following questions:

1. Do you think that full access to abortion services (medical or surgical) must be available to women throughout Canada? Yes, no or maybe
2. Do you think, as a potential future provider, that you are receiving an adequate quantity of training about abortion? Yes, no
3. Have you been introduced to an on-line learning module from the SOGC on abortion? Yes, no
4. Have you completed the SOGC's on-line module on abortion? Yes, no  
Did you use another module?
5. If you have not answered the above questions, do you have any comments?

Catherine said that the SOGC module on abortion only covers medical abortions, not surgical abortions. There is also now a fee of about \$50.00 to purchase the module. Surgical abortion training is best taught in a clinical setting. There are pro-choice organizations for both medical students and residents. Their organizations to host workshops on abortion.

**b. *Letter to curriculum-planners***

Nahid composed a letter to send to the curriculum planners. She would like some feedback. Also we need to create a list of people to send it to.

**c. *Rohingya women***

Dr. Azad gave a link to a CBC news article on rape and reproductive rights in the displaced Rohingya women. The article can be viewed at <https://www.cbc.ca/news/opinion/rohingya-women-1.4843335>. She said that the FMWC should play a role to advocate for abortion services in the Rohingya women. She suggested that we should contact Global Affairs Canada regarding this issue.

#### **5. WPS - Network – Canada**

Dr. Azad reported that the WPS Network (Women, peace and Security Network) - Canada is a large network comprising about 70 - 80 NGOs dedicated to this cause. She is looking into this organization, to which the FMWC would have to pay dues to join. She will look further into this and bring it up at the I.B.M.

#### **6. New Member**

Ms. Savoie said that another physician from Quebec wants to join our committee. Her name is Dr. Edith Guilbert.

#### **7. Action list:**

- a. Dr. Azad will look into adding Senator McPhedran's lecture to the blog of the web-site re Rape is a war crime.
- b. Dr. Azad will ask our web-site developer to add the minutes of our conference calls to the web-site
- c. Dr. Azad will forward our resolution entitled "Medical Women Worldwide Supporting Women, Peace and Security Initiatives" to Dr. Andrews for her information and with her approval Dr. Ross can present it at the MWIA meeting in 2019. A link to the UN Security

Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security should be attached to our resolution.

- d. Our student members Ms. Gerber and Ms. Dong will look into sending out our modified survey to medical students across Canada
- e. All committee members should review the letter on abortion going to medical educators and give their feedback to Dr. Azad. Dr. Warshawski will create a list of medical educators to send the letter.
- f. Dr. Azad will look into joining the WPS Network and bring this matter up at the IBM.
- g. Dr. Azad will discuss at IBM how FMWC can support the Rohingya women crisis.
- h. Ms. Savoie will add Dr. Guilbert's name to our committee.