



FEDERATION OF MEDICAL WOMEN OF CANADA
Women, Peace and Security Committee

FÉDÉRATION DES FEMMES MÉDECINS DU CANADA
Comité sur les femmes, la paix et la sécurité

FMWC WPS Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2019

18:00 hours EST

Attendance (by teleconference):

Dr. Nahid. Azad – Chair FMWC WPS Committee

Dr. Kathee Andrews – President FMWC

Dr. Karen Breeck – FMWC WPS Committee member

Ms. Susan Dong – FMWC WPS Committee, student rep.

Dr. Edith Guilbert – Member SOGC; FMWC WPS Committee member

Dr. Anne Niec – Chair, FMWC Membership Committee; WPS Committee member

Ms. Catherine Savoie – SOGC rep.

Dr. Patricia Warshawski – FMWC WPS Committee member

Ms. Sugee Korale Liyanage – Member WPS Committee, student rep.

Regrets:

Dr. Shelley Ross – Secretary General of MWIA and WPS Committee Member

Ms. Margaret Shkimba – Social Media Liaison FMWC

Dr. Charissa Patricelli – National Honourary Secretary: Chair Communications Committee; WPS Committee Member

1. Introduction and Welcome

The conference started at 18:00 and finished at 18:55 EST

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the November 13, 2018 conference call were approved.

3. Updates:

a. FMWC website – Dr. Azad recommended that the members of the committee review the update WPS section on the FMWC website and send comments back to her. The web-site has a lot of links

b. March 8th International Women's Day – Dr. Azad said that the Ottawa branch organizes an event for that day. Dr. Bev Johnson is now the Ottawa branch president. Dr. Azad suggested proposal for having a speaker relevant to our committee's work. She suggested a presentation about the Rohingya women's plight and their inability to access birth control and abortion services especially after having been raped by the Myanmar soldiers. Dr. Breeck suggested a topic related to women's deployment in the military. She had recently heard a talk about peace-keeping in Columbia. Dr. Niec thought a talk on women in



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the military is a good idea, especially because members of the military give up their freedom to support Canadian values abroad. She suggested that members of our committee come up with ideas about how the FMWC can support the Canadian military with respect to our committee's work.

c. MWIA Centennial Meeting in New York city July 25 – 28, 2019 – Dr. Azad suggested we attend this event. Information and registration is available on the AMWA web-site.

d. IBM Report from the WPS Committee – This report was composed by Drs. Azad and Breeck. It will be presented by Dr. Azad at the IBM on January 20, 2019. Two motions were approved by our committee:

1. The FMWC should support the \$100 organization fee for annual membership to the Women, Peace and Security Network – Canada (WPSN -C)
2. The FMWC should give an additional \$100 one-time donation towards the start-up costs of the WPSN-C as a formal, transparent, accountable not-for-profit organization.

4. Medical Education – Abortion

a. Medical student survey – Ms. Susan Dong conducted a survey about abortion training in medical school. The survey was sent out to students in four medical schools in Ontario. She received 113 responses. The general consensus was that there was a lack of knowledge about the subject and the subject was not well taught. Most of the students were unaware of the SOGC module on abortion. Dr. Guilbert mentioned that she co-authored Canadian guidelines and the SOGC online Medical abortion training program put out by the SOGC on abortion. She said that abortion training was not taught in any medical school in Quebec. She is a member of the Canadian Abortion and Research Team (CART-GRAC: <http://cart-grac.ubc.ca/>). Information on abortion training has been added to the College of Family Physicians of Canada web-site: <https://www.cfpc.ca/ProjectAssets/Templates/Category.aspx?id=12368&terms=abortion+resources>. The fee of \$50 to take part in the SOGC online Medical abortion training program covers the cost of accreditation of the module. Catherine Savoie will speak to the representative person doing the web-site of the Canadian College of Family Physicians to make sure the web-site has up to-date information. Dr. Guilbert will look into the web-site of the Centre for Reproductive Health in San Francisco re abortion training. Ms. Dong commented that Medical Students for Choice is an organization that has information on abortion as well.

b. Letters to curriculum planners. - Dr. Azad said that Margaret Shkimba has compiled a list of deans, curriculum planners, ministers of health, etc. to whom we will send our advocacy abortion letter.

c. Abortion in U.S. Curricula – Dr. Azad included a link to an article in the November, 2018 - Maternal and Child Health Journal about abortion in the U.S. Curricula

5. WPS-C Network

Dr. Breeck reported on a December 17th 2018 announcement from the Canadian National Action Plan. It included a statement on gender perspectives on foreign policy which will make sure that women's



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voices in other countries are heard. She said that we should make sure that we, as health-care providers are involved in advising on reproductive care.

6. Updates

a. On January 19 women's marches are planned for several cities. Members can contact the website for further information.

b. Dr. Azad mentioned that she had spoken to Dr, Angel Foster who would like to join our committee. She is a professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Ottawa. She was the Endowed Chair of Women's Health Research at the Institute of Population Health at the University of Ottawa from 2011 – 2016. She has a very impressive resume and has done a lot of work regarding abortion and reproductive health. She doesn't have a Canadian license to practice medicine so she is not able to be a member of FMWC or MWIA, but we would like making her a honorary member in 2020. We will also recommend her to the AGM organizing committee as a speaker.

7. Next steps

a, Ms. Dong should consider giving her research on medical student education on abortion at the AGM as a poster presentation. Ms. Dong said that one of the students at Western University is interested in this topic as well.

The conference call ended at 18:55 hours.

Attachments:

1. Minutes of the November 13, 2018 Teleconference of the WPS Ctte.
2. Report to the WPS Committee to the FMWC IBM January 20, 2019
3. Link to article on Abortion in U.S. Curricula