



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
March 27, 2019
18:00 hours EDST

Attendance (by teleconference):

Dr. Nahid Azad – Chair FMWC WPS Committee
Ms. Susan Dong – FMWC Committee, student rep.
Dr. Angel Foster – Member WPS Committee
Ms. Margaret Shkimba – Social Media Liaison FMWC
Dr. Patricia Warshawski – FMWC Committee member

Regrets:

Dr. Kathee Andrews -
Dr. Karen Breeck – FMWC Committee member
Ms. V. Gerber – FMWC student rep.
Dr. Edith Guilbert – Member SOGC; FMWC WPS Committee
Dr. Beverly Johnson – Past president FMWC and WPS Committee member
Dr. Anne Niec – Chair, FMWC Membership Committee; WPS Committee member
Dr. Charissa Patricelli -National Honourary Secretary; Chair, Communications Committee; WPS Committee member
Dr. Shelley Ross – Secretary General of MWIA and WPS Committee member
Dr. Catherine Savoie – SOGC rep.

1. Introduction and Welcome

The tele-meeting started at 18:00 hours and finished at 18:55 hours EDST.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 16, 2019 conference call were approved.

3. Updates –

- a. CSW63 in UN <https://www.ngocsw.org/>

Dr. Azad reported that she attended part of a two- week long meeting on the Committee on the Status of Women at the United Nations. This committee started 63 years ago. It promotes advocacy and networking. Governments have endorsed the resolutions created by this committee. National Action Committees in different organizations/countries have been formed to



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address the gender equity, pay gaps and create services that are needed. Proposals and attendance requests aimed at this NGO CSW/NY committee need to be submitted each October to MWIA General Secretary to be aired at the annual March meeting. There is no funding to send delegates and the cost is paid by the registrants. Dr. Azad said that MWIA had a lot of members present on certain days of this meeting and these members talked about advocacy projects that they were involved. She was asked to give a presentation to the MWIA group about our WPS committee. She suggested each country's medical women's association form a WPS committee, create a network, and work together to share information and resources.

- b. Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns (CDPG):
<http://www.doctorsforprotectionfromguns.ca/>

From the website: "The proliferation of guns represents a growing public health threat. Statistics Canada reports that firearm-related violent crime has increased 42% since 2013. Canada has the 5th highest rate of age adjusted, standardized firearm mortality among 23 peer countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (JAMA, 2018). Women and girls are particularly vulnerable. Shooting was the most common method of their killing in 2018 at 34% according to the Canadian Femicide."

CDPG calls for a comprehensive public policy response to this crisis in our communities, including preventative tools to reduce gun use and their consequences on youth violence, domestic abuse, and suicide.

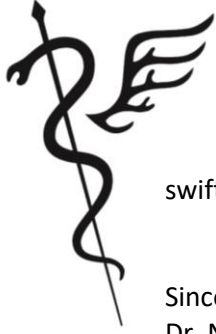
Dr. Azad on behalf of our WPS committee sent an e-mail in support of Bill C-71 to Senator McPhedran re this:

Dear Senator McPhedran,

Am writing today to thank you for your support and votes in favour for Bill C-71, An Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations in relation to firearms. As you and your colleagues on the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defense under take the important work of studying the Bill and its ramifications, I wanted to take a moment to share with you the support that the Federation of Medical Women of Canada's Women, Peace and Security Committee has for stronger gun control in Canada.

As you may know, gun violence is an ongoing issue affecting public health throughout the country. Just recently, I became aware of a new group named Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns. This group recently testified to your Committee, and we here at the FMWC Women, Peace and Security Committee agree wholeheartedly with their advocacy and position calling for tougher gun legislation in Canada, including a handgun ban.

As women physicians we know firsthand the dangers that firearms can present to our patients and their families. With members across the country and specialties, women physicians have been on the front lines tending to those affected by gun violence: operating on those affected, treating wounds, and counselling the victims and their families. From this perspective, we strongly support Bill C-71 and its



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swift passage and look forward to it receiving Royal Assent.

Sincerely,
Dr. Nahid Azad
Chair, FMWC Women, Peace and Security Committee

Apparently there is poor support for this Bill in Atlantic Canada. In response to a request by Senator McPhedran to find FMWC members to support the Bill, we contacted 10 of our members who reside in Atlantic Canada and were asked to support this Bill - but no one has responded. Dr. Warshawski will try to contact these members again.

April 3rd is a national day of action.
“a National Day of Action on April 3rd in support of Bill C-71 and a ban on assault weapons and handguns. The medical community is broadly united on this issue and Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns intends to ensure gun control is an issue in the upcoming federal election through a variety of campaign interventions.”

Margaret has drafted an article which can be sent to all the branch presidents to sign and send to the letters to the editor section of our newspaper.

4. Advocacy for abortion (MWIA resolution)

Dr. Azad will ask for an amendment of the following resolution to be inclusive of medical as well as surgical abortion at the next MWIA meeting .Dr. Azad said that she will ask that a list of abortion resources be available on the FMWC web-site.

Advocacy Abortion **Resolutions**

Name of proposer with email address

Dr. Nahid Azad - Nazad@toh.ca

Please indicate source of resolution

National association – FMWC, WPS Committee



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Subject matter

Abortion – medication and aspiration

Have you checked the previous Resolutions to know if there has been a resolution on this in the past? <http://mwia.net/about/resolutions/>

Yes/

If yes please state which Resolution –

1980.1 Every individual woman in every country should have the right to decide for herself if she wishes not to become pregnant. Reliable information and safe means to prevent pregnancy should be at her disposal.

1995.18 The MWIA believes an effective way to reduce the number of abortions is to prevent unwanted pregnancies by provision of appropriate family planning services and family life planning. The MWIA urges that : 1.safe and legal abortion services are available, affordable and accessible in all family planning servicing worldwide promotion of women's health safe abortion services are seen as an important issue. 2.Women should be encouraged to take leadership in advocating the legal and other changes, which may be required.

2007 Amendment It Is Further Resolved That safe abortion be available to all women to provide safe motherhood.

Is your proposed resolution an enhancement of the existing one?

Yes

Do you propose this replaces the existing resolution?

No - Amendment

Background

In recognition that for abortion, there are now two vastly separate and different safe and effective methods for early abortion are widely available throughout the world. The clinical procedure, instrument -based tissue aspiration abortion and the medication abortion where no clinical process or instrument or clinic facility is required. Especially for fragile state or humanitarian conditions where the formal medical care system may be disrupted or overwhelmed or conflict settings where systemic rapes are occurring, medication abortion is an important alternative option to clinic based surgical abortions.



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Suggested wording:

2019 Amendment : It is further resolved that the term “abortion” is specifically inclusive of both surgical/aspiration procedure abortion and medication abortion.

This resolution was send to: Dr Helen Goodyear Chair of the MWIA Ethics and Resolutions Committee

Email: Helengoodyear@btconnect.com

Cc: secretariat@mwia.net

3. WPS-Canada Network

Dr. Azad said that at the end of March the FMWC will pay an annual due to remain a member of the National Action Committee. We will also give a one-time donation of \$100. The WPS-Canada Network will be writing up it's terms of reference Dr. Breeck attended a meeting on March 5, 2019 regarding supporting women in uniform. This meeting was composed of representatives from the RCMP/VAC/DND/CAF/WPSN. Dr. Breeck represented our WPS Committee at this meeting. Dr. Breeck will also be at a March 24, 2019 panel discussion on “The U.N. Peacekeepers Sexual Abuse Crisis”.

4. Updates:

a. Women Deliver – <https://wd2019.org>

Dr. Azad talked about an upcoming conference in Vancouver June 3-6, 2019. It is the world's largest international conference on gender equality and the health, rights and wellbeing of girls and women. It is to deliver on the plans of action proposed in past meetings. It will feature some very well-known speakers. This conference costs \$700.00 U.S. to register.

b. MWIA centennial <https://www.amwa-doc.org/mwia100/>

Dr. Azad talked about the upcoming AMWA meeting in New York July 25-28, 2019 which is also the centennial of MWIA

c. “Make Gender Inequality History” <https://g7.gc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Recommendations-by-the-Gender-Equality-Advisory-Council.pdf>



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Dr. Azad brought to our attention about this report produced by the Gender Equality Advisory Council for Canada's G7 Presidency for the G7 summit meeting in Charlevoix in 2018

d. <http://webtv.un.org/live>

Dr. Azad informed us about the above website where proceedings from the UN can be viewed, including the CSW63 conference.

e. International Women's Day in Ottawa

Dr. Azad reported that there was an impressive presentation on abortion by Dr. Angel Foster. Dr. Azad asked Dr. Foster to give our committee a synopsis of her presentation.

f. Article in the Vancouver Sun page NP7 dated March 23, 2019 on abortion.

This article was sent to Dr. Azad but not to our committee. The article mentioned that Mississippi's governor has signed into law one of the strictest abortion bans in the US, making it even more difficult for women to get abortions in a state where only one clinic still operates. The bill bans abortions after a doctor can detect a fetal heartbeat during an ultrasound, unless the mother's health is at extreme risk. Dr. Foster stated that Mississippi is one of the states which has applied to ban abortion.

This has been a result of the Anti-Choice movement in the US. She said that so far no states have been allowed to ban abortion when this has been presented at the Supreme Court in the U.S. because of the Roe vs. Wade case. We should emphasize when any of the FMWC members join our organization they should be told that we are a pro-choice organization.

Actions:

- Dr. Warshawski will try to contact Atlantic members in support of Bill-C71
- Margaret has drafted an article which can be sent to all the branch presidents to sign and send to the letters to the editor section of our newspaper.
- Dr. Foster to give our WPS committee a synopsis of her presentation at IWD
- Dr. Azad will attend Women Deliver in Vancouver and report back