

Gender Based Violence & Family Violence Committee

Terms of Reference

Preamble

Given the high rate of violence in our society (1 and 3 individuals experience or are exposed to violence), this advocacy group was developed in order to support initiatives in Canada at this time to educate and empower clinicians from various disciplines to have the tools to address this public health issue.

The role of such a committee was presented at the Interim Board Meeting in January 2019 in Toronto. The Board agreed to support the initiative of VEGA (violence, evidence, guidance and action) a public health initiative to address violence, by being a partner in distributing their resources and supporting their initiatives with our members. Additionally this committee will explore specific projects best suited to additionally leverage FMWC and its relationship with MWIA from such initiatives. One such area is Sex trafficking of females. If you are interested in joining the FMWC Gender Based Violence Committee please contact the National Office at fmwcmain@fmwc.ca.

VISION: The Gender Based Violence and Family Violence committee is dedicated to help eliminate gender based violence and family violence through increasing awareness, education and advocacy.

MISSION: To address violence and educate the FMWC members on topics of Gender Based Violence. To partner with VEGA and advocate within the FMWC and MWIA for actions concerned with the VEGA agenda and other violence related areas.

This committee will

1. Establish a strategic framework for the work of this committee in coordination with the experts at VEGA.
2. Educate FMWC members on topics of VEGA and Gender Based Violence especially in the area of Sex Trafficking.
3. Explore VEGA and Sex Trafficking issues for FMWC and MWIA for opportunities to spread this knowledge.
4. Advocate within FMWC and MWIA for actions concerned with the VEGA agenda and concerns regarding Sex Trafficking.
5. Communicate approved VEGA educational materials to membership.
6. Monitor FMWC actions and projects to support the success of VEGA and movement in advocacy regarding Sex Trafficking.
7. Report updates to the FMWC at the IBM and AGM.

GOALS for 2019- 2020:

1. Establish ourselves as a major partner with the VEGA group to support education of professionals. In order to do so we would propose having the VEGA experts provide a workshop during our AGM in September 2019. (Note this would be at no cost to our organization.)
2. Focus on disseminating information created by VEGA to our members in particular a focus on our medical students and early year physicians. We can do so in a number of ways including the development of a reservoir of resources/links on our website to further educate in the area of trauma and family violence; establish a working group to liaise with VEGA as examples.
3. Develop a cohort of member experts in this area as resource supports. Such resources persons may be available to provide presentations, workshops to our branches.
4. Develop a plan to educate our members in the area of Sex Trafficking.
5. Plan meetings every 2 months to establish the need to explore other areas of violence that require our action.

Terms of Reference

1. Committee Chair will be for a 2-year term appointed from the FMWC board.
 - Presently Drs. Kathee Andrews and Anne Niec will co-chair.
2. The committee will include one or more student representatives or a student representative and a Resident Representative.
3. Meetings will be held every 2-3 months. These will be usually be held by teleconference except in special circumstances. One of the committee chairs will take minutes with the help of student representative and circulate within one month the meetings.
4. Reporting: We would plan to submit a report to the board at the AGM and at the IBM. We would ask to have time allotted to present at the AGM during the Advocacy presentations.
5. Current areas of Interest:
 - VEGA project: Dr. Niec
 - Sex Trafficking: Dr. Andrews
6. Budget: This committee does not have a budget.

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If a consensus is not clear, decisions will be made by motion/vote process.
Only steering committee members are eligible to vote on motions.
Decisions are made by majority vote of members present at meeting.
A minimum of five (5) committee members must vote on a motion.

Meeting Minutes: Meeting minutes will be circulated within one month of a meeting.

Advocacy Declaration: All members will submit an Advocacy Declaration to identify membership in other advocacy groups.

Review of Terms of Reference: The terms of reference will be reviewed and updated annually by the committee. The revised document will be submitted to the board for approval at a subsequent annual meeting. The document must be circulated electronically at least 2 weeks before the annual meeting.

Present Members include:

Dr. Kathee Andrews
Dr. Anne Niec
Dr. Charissa Patricelli
Dr. Robin Kaloty
Stephanie Daoust
Meghan Kerr
Meera Mahendiran
Ariell Geist
Lauren Beales
Maria Leis
Vivien Gu
Iuliia Provieriena