



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

**Title: Young People, Contraception and Abortion: FIGO brings together obstetricians and gynecologists with reproductive health and advocacy groups to move the agenda forward regarding service quality, access, and partnership working in four south Asian countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.**

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### Objectives

Building on FIGO's experience delivering regional workshops on unsafe abortion and regional discussion groups between obstetricians and young people, this workshop aimed to bring together obstetricians/gynecologists with members of reproductive health and advocacy groups to generate practical and innovative strategies for improving adolescent sexual and reproductive health. By bringing representatives from these two groups together to share experiences and ideas, it was anticipated that they would be able to work together as part of a more joined-up approach to improving sexual and reproductive healthcare for young people, while also strengthening the capacity of obstetricians/gynecologists to be advocates in this area.

### Method

A two day interactive workshop was held in March 2015. Participants included FIGO delegates, young obstetricians/gynecologists from member associations, medical students, and delegates from youth advocacy and reproductive health organizations. The workshop had three aims: 1) increase knowledge, specifically regarding medical eligibility and quality of care considerations, 2) create awareness of and mutual understanding between the different groups represented with a view to future collaboration, 3) improve advocacy skills needed for the following: ensure young people are viewed as a priority group with specific needs, and increase young people's access to quality information, education, and safe contraceptive and abortion services.

### Results

The workshop was highly participatory and produced tangible results. These included a joint statement from the participants calling for action on increasing young people's access to safe abortion and contraception services, along with four SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely) action plans. These plans outlined collaborative activities to be conducted in the respective countries within the next 12 months. FIGO Unsafe Abortion focal points accepted mentoring roles to support the young obstetricians/gynecologists carry forward these plans. Delegates' feedback from the workshop was positive, indicating goals of increased knowledge, understanding and empathy as well as improved advocacy skills were achieved.

### Conclusions

Obstetricians/gynecologists and activists can and should work together to identify ways to increase young people's access to high quality and safe contraceptive and abortion services and information. From bringing together these two groups, activists are able to identify ways of including practitioners in their advocacy work and obstetricians/gynecologists are able to provide better sexual and reproductive care for young people as well as identify how they can advocate for increased attention on young people, and provision of improved and accessible services. By working together, obstetricians/gynecologists and activists can bring better coordination between information and health services to this priority group.

**Approval** Confirm

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