

Post meeting report from the

FIGO COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN'S SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS (WSRR)

Improving Women's Health through Human Rights implementation

By Professor Chiara Benedetto, *Committee Chair*

Our goal

To improve Women's Health by integrating scientific knowledge and technology with quality processes and the respect for Human Rights.

Our specific focus with regards to women's care is on the rights to health, life, non discrimination, privacy, confidentiality, benefit from scientific progress, information, autonomy and decision making, freedom from inhumane and degrading treatment.

The newly appointed Committee

Present members of the Committee are from 12 countries and represent all continents. Their commitment, enthusiasm, ideas and contributions made the first meeting held in Torino - Italy, on the 30th June and 1st July, most fruitful and inspiring.

Our plan of action

Humanitarian settings, including refugees and internationally displaced persons camps or allocations, are considered a priority. Specific curricula and **checklists** for professionals and **educational material** for women and men regarding life-saving life style, contraception, safe pregnancy and delivery, prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STI)/gender violence/unsafe abortions will be produced for these contexts.

More globally, the following **areas of priority** have been identified: implementing respectful behaviour toward women, access to contraception, adoption of a healthy lifestyle, fertility preservation, preconception counselling, safe pregnancy and delivery, raising awareness of the risks of pregnancy with advancing maternal age, prevention of STI/pre-term birth/gender-based violence/unsafe abortion.

Our objective is to develop a **communication campaign** to ensure that the information reaches the target groups: trainers, medical students, clinicians, midwives and women and men in general.

As other FIGO Committees and/or Working Groups are already active in some of these specific areas, we plan to collaborate with the pertinent groups in order to integrate the rights-based approach into their work.

Interactive **Workshops** are being organized around the world, to educate professionals towards a thinking approach where women's health and human rights are wholly integrated.

Championing Human Rights

Consideration is being given to a **change in the denomination** of our Committee from "Women's Sexual and Reproductive Rights" into "Committee for Women's Health and Human Rights" as the latter expresses more clearly our mission

We envisage to develop a **network** with medical training centres, international confederation of midwives, intergovernmental organisations, NGO's, international charitable organisations, national patient groups and local communities and to identify **ambassadors** willing and able to bridge our message to the general public in order to disseminate our project worldwide.

An **advocacy** strategy will also be developed to target policy makers and regulators to further the recognition, promotion and protection of girls and women's human rights globally and at country level as winning rights for women means investing in a more fair, equal society where health rights, access to education and freedom from violence are assured to each and every woman.

List of the Committee members

Professor Chiara Benedetto (Italy), *Chair*
Professor Lesley Regan (UK), *Immediate Past Chair*
Professor Sejia Grenman (Finland), *Ex-officio, FIGO Vice President*
Dr Jan Elizabeth Christilaw (Canada)
Professor Pio Ivan Gomez (Columbia)
Dr Shaimaa Ibrahim (Iraq)
Ms Silke Mader (Germany)
Dr Colleen McNicholas (USA)
Dr Paulo Felipe Meade Trevino (Mexico)
Professor Stephen Munjanja (Zimbabwe)
Professor Hemantha Senanayake (Sri Lanka)
Dr Rubina Sohail (Pakistan)

FIGO WSRR Committee Workshops in 2016

11-12 July 2016 – Colombo, Sri Lanka *A two day emergency obstetric course for midwives and nurses*
18-20 July 2016 - Baghdad, Iraq *Training on the main guiding principles and clinical management of Gender based violence/RAPE (MOH & UNFPA)*
3 August 2016 – Harare, Zimbabwe, *School of midwifery, Harare Hospital*
9 August 2016 – Colombo, Sri Lanka, *Annual Congress of the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka*
17 August 2016 – Harare, Zimbabwe, *First year postgraduate fellows*
20 October 2016 – Zimbabwe, *Annual Scientific Meeting, Zimbabwe Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists*
3 November 2016 - Turku, Finland, *National Meeting for Residents*
5-9 November 2016 - Cancun, Mexico, *Congreso Latinoamericano de Obstetricia y Ginecologia*
21 November 2016 - Torino, Italy, *School of Medicine, University of Torino*
23 November 2016 – Helsinki, Finland, *National Meeting of the Finish Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*
2 December 2016 - Toronto, Canada, *Regional Canadian Meetings*



Committee meeting in Torino, Italy



Professor Chiara Benedetto – Committee Chair