

## **FIGO COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS:**

### **Action Plan for Women's Day – A goal for All**

By Professor Chiara Benedetto-Committee Chair



Our Women's Health and Human Rights Committee has put together a communication campaign for the general population for the International Women's Day, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

The topics covered some aspects related to adoption of a healthy lifestyle, prevention of sexually transmitted infections, benefits of hormonal contraception, preconception counselling, safe pregnancy and delivery, fertility preservation in females and males with cancer, prevention of gender-based violence and respectful behaviour towards women.

These have been completed by links for those interested in having more detailed information on a specific question.

The content of the Communication Campaign has been translated into various languages and the different National Societies of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, which are members of FIGO, have been given the possibility to disseminate it as best they think in their Countries.

Our Campaign responds to the requisites of the right to information and of improving the health of the public at large. To this aim we have made the Campaign "user friendly" by adopting layman terms and slogans to get the messages over to as many people as possible, independently of culture and beliefs.

The material is being inserted into the FIGO social media and a universal format for a temporary Facebook page has been prepared so that each National Society may use it to disseminate the campaign contents.

Feedback will be collected from the "web population" to produce material that can be downloaded on line and printed, so that the information included in the campaign may be further disseminated throughout the world.

This is the heading of our temporary Facebook page for the information campaign.



We are grateful to all those who have given valuable contributions to make this campaign, in line with our mission, possible, including the Foundation Medicine Tailored to the Woman (*Fondazione Medicina a Misura di Donna*) – Onlus.

As is our custom, we are organizing Workshops around the world in both medical schools and during the national and international congresses. Cases of human rights violation will be discussed during the workshops in order to stimulate professionals towards a thinking approach where women's health and human rights are wholly integrated.

*Table of the Committee's Workshops on the Integration of Human Rights in Women's Health Care between February and June, 2017.*

February 20 - The University of British Columbia, Canada.

March 10 - SAFOG conference, Lahore, Pakistan

April 15 - Lahore Medical & Dental College, Lahore, Pakistan

May 31 - Allama Iqbal Medical College, Lahore, Pakistan

June 20-23 - SOGC national meeting, Ottawa, Canada.

I would like to conclude by embracing some statements made by the Scientific & Technical Advisory group & Gender & Rights Advisory Panel, of UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO WORLD BANK, in February 2017.

*There is a sustained lack of sufficient funding; stigmatisation of both users and providers of sexual and reproductive health services; continued support for harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation; paring down of legislation that protects women's rights; tolerance of violence against women and girls; increasing restrictions on access to, and provision of, scientifically accurate sexual and reproductive health information, including comprehensive sexuality education; unnecessary restrictions on the availability of contraceptive methods; and the imposition of legal barriers, such as third party consent requirements, to sexual and reproductive health services.*

*This situation harms women and threatens the capacity of states - in all regions of the world - to honour and fulfil their pledge, when launching the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to "respect, protect and promote human rights, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national and social origin, property", to "leave no one behind", and, in particular, their declaration to "first reach those who are furthest behind".*

**Stronger together!**