



# MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

## President: Prof. Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer

20th of February 2019

### **MWIA condemns all forms of sexual harassment, sexism and bullying in medicine**

Lately, there were many global reports on sexual harassment, sexism and bullying of female physicians and female medical students. Commenting on this, MWIA president Prof. Bettina Pfleiderer said: "Those reports clearly show that the measures adopted so far have not solved this problem. Medical associations need to play an active part in tackling these human right violations!" At the last international congress held in Vienna in 2016, MWIA had already passed a resolution that clearly stated that "health workers are entitled to work free from occupational stress and threat (in a safe environment, free from harassment, discrimination, violence, verbal and physical bullying)". In response to this resolution, MWIA had conducted a member survey asking questions about harassment, discrimination, violence, verbal and physical bullying. MWIA's scientific committee is using the results of this survey to draft a policy and guideline document which serves as an advocacy tool and guide used in tackling this form of violence against female physicians and female students. It is planned to present this document at our coming MWIA Centennial Congress in July 2019.

### **Resolution Passed in Vienna 2016**

#### **Resolution No. 5. Violence against Health workers**

Whereas patient-initiated violence against health workers has serious health effects on the health workers and the community

MWIA resolves that health workers are entitled to work free from occupational stress and threat (in a safe environment, free from harassment, discrimination, violence, verbal and physical bullying).