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ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Members of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada (FMWC) and its mother organization, the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) know what it is to be on the front line when women and girls are victims of violence. Dr Shelley Ross, Secretary General of MWIA and a member of the Canadian delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN, states that women doctors are trusted confidants of women who do not know where to turn when their partner abuses them physically, psychologically or verbally. The health impacts of violence do not end with the bruises and the broken bones but go on for years, affecting the mental health of women.

MWIA acknowledges the commitment of the Government of Canada under The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of State for the Status of Women, to ending violence against women. Examples are the work being done by Status of Women Parliamentary Secretary, Susan Truppe, in her local community of London West Centre and the support shown by members the House of Commons for the work she is doing in eliminating violence against women by wearing purple.

The Atlantic Canada ministers have joined together to tackle the safety of girls using the internet through their <http://cybersafegirl.ca> website for girls, parents and educators.

MWIA feels that is time that doctors, both female and male, be taught the appropriate cues to recognize women experiencing or at risk of violence and that they become an important part of the multidisciplinary team necessary to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. Women doctors need to be part of the discussion.