

# MWIA ELECTION CAMPAIGNING PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

## PURPOSE

- To guide the conduct of any member who wishes to stand for any contested position at International level
- To ensure fair and open campaigning of candidates and dignified conduct reflecting the ethical standard of medical women
- To serve as guideline for the MWIA Executive Committee for any ruling concerning the proposed action of candidates or violations of campaigning principles

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

MWIA aims to encourage fair and open campaigning by members aspiring to International executive positions by providing a level playing field. This will be achieved by several means:

- (1) Specifying election related activities that are permitted or prohibited
- (2) Providing opportunities for candidates to educate their colleagues about the issues and what they can offer
- (3) Informing MWIA voters about profiles views, and experiences of candidates
- (4) Ensuring the maintenance of courteous and dignified conduct appropriate to the image of our profession

Candidates are encouraged to state their own positions on issues and their own plans for the MWIA directly and positively, but should not make personal attacks against their opponents, nor use any forms of inducement. Third party endorsements in campaign communications are not allowed.

Candidates are to inform members from whom they are requesting support about the principles and procedures by sending them a copy or calling attention to them on the MWIA website.

## PROCEDURES

### Nomination

- The Secretary General will indicate in the MWIA Newsletter and on the website the opening and receiving dates for nominations. Members should not circulate petitions to be nominated and may not use the nomination process for campaign/electioneering purposes beyond asking for signatures on nomination forms. This process should be carried out on an individual and personal basis.

### Campaigning (written or email solicitation of votes or support)

- This is not permitted until after the Executive Committee approves the nomination forms and releases the official list of nominees.
- Campaigning (written or email solicitation of votes or support) is not permitted at MWIA Regional meetings in order to avoid the situation where a candidate's ability to campaign will be a matter of their availability of funds allowing them to travel to different regions. This is to ensure a level playing field for all.

- Candidates should confine themselves to their personal philosophy, priorities and goals for the organization. There should be no personal or professional comments on their competitors.
- Members are advised to withhold commitments of their final support or votes until after all candidates are known and have presented themselves.
- Candidates will be given the opportunity to address delegates at General Assemblies prior to voting at the International Congress. Candidates should come to the General Assemblies prepared to answer questions from members.

### **Compliance**

- Each candidate will receive a copy of these guidelines and a statement to sign, certifying that she has read the guidelines, promises to abide by them, will immediately report any deviations of which she becomes aware to the Elections Committee and will notify and try to correct any supporter upon learning of an actual or potential deviation.
- The Executive Committee will investigate any potential violation by a candidate or supporter of which it becomes aware. The Executive Committee reserves the right to exclude any candidate on the basis of violations of the guidelines.
- If candidates or their supporters are unclear about whether an intended campaign action is permitted or not, they should seek the opinion of the Executive Committee before taking action. The Executive Committee will respond with a ruling concerning the proposed action.