Statement from the Medical Women’s Federation UK (MWF) and the Medical Women’s International Association (MWIA)

The Medical Women’s Federation UK (MWF) and the Medical Women’s International Association (MWIA) strongly support Amnesty International in their new campaign ‘Occupational Hazards’, focusing on the threats that many Afghan women face just doing their jobs.

Violence against women and girls is a global challenge, affecting one in three women worldwide. Doctors and other health professionals are at the frontline in the provision of services in support of victims of violence, ensuring that violence is identified, documented and victims rehabilitated. It is an outrage that women doctors themselves, and their families, are targeted.

Violence against women is a manifestation of structural inequalities between women and men. There is a crucial need for policies specifically addressing violence from a gender perspective.

We urge the British government to play a role in protecting Afghan women doctors and other professionals, so that they are able to do their jobs effectively and without risk to themselves. It would be a great pity to squander all the progress that has been made in the last few years regarding women’s rights and opportunities.

Dr Sally Davies
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