

**FOGSI Condemns the Heinous Assault on a Woman and Doctor
at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital – A Call to Action**

16th August 2024

To,
Hon President
Hon Prime Minister
Hon Health Minister
Hon Minister of Law and Justice
Chief Justice of India
Cabinet Secretary

Sad, Numb, Hurt, Disillusioned, Disbelief, Shock, Aching, Aggrieved, Agony, Indignant, Resentment, Anger, Frustration, - there are many adjectives for our emotions, and yet none to truly describe what we the Doctors and Members of the Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI.org) felt and continue to feel after the gruesome rape and murder of one of our own fraternity. A young Doctor - a Modern and “empowered” Woman - on the cusp of a promising life and career of service to humanity, assaulted, sexually battered, beaten to death in a way nightmares are made of, in her place of work, thus compounding - for all those who work in health care facilities - a hideous crime with a sense of dread and feeling unsafe in the place which should have been the safest place for her.

She was a woman, a health care provider, a friend, a daughter, a citizen and a human being.

We feel for the family and friends who will inevitably relive this trauma time and again, afresh every time, the wounds not able to form a scab, as they face and answer as best as they can and seek justice from the various agencies, courts, media, lawyers and the community as the wheels of justice grind ever so slowly.

*Doctors do not lose their human rights when they don the white coat.
Jaydeep Tank*

FOGSI considers violence perpetrated against Doctors as inexcusable. We demand zero tolerance against any form of violence and abuse against Doctors in any form. There is simply no justification and should not be any acceptance of physical violence or verbal abuse against Doctors.

Despite numerous petitions, representations and discussions Doctors are still working inhuman hours in the name of gaining clinical proficiency, living in subhuman conditions while in training, tolerating abuse from patients, administrators, the lack of support, stress - It is unfortunate that the burden of the failure of successive Governments, administration and the Public Health system to provide adequate infrastructure both in terms of Capacity and Human Resource is being borne by health care providers.

कालस्य कार्याणि निरीक्षेय
One should consider the right time for action.

The time for action is overdue. **Justice Delayed is Justice Denied**




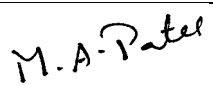



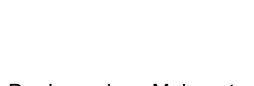
We stand firmly and resolutely with our entire fraternity, our Doctors in training in all specialities, and all our associations and their representatives and hope that this does not get relegated to just another statistic.

We seek the transformation of the social environment so that new incidences of violence become less frequent and ultimately no longer occur. Such a transformative agenda is by no means impossible – history has seen greater shifts – but it does require change at all levels of the socio-political system, along with holistic and sustained approaches from Governments (1).

Our first step is a simple one: we need to stop believing that this is just the way it is.

Melinda Gates

Besides speedy investigation and trial of the perpetrators of this heinous crime, We demand a Central Law for Violence against Doctors and adequate provisions to ensure a safe workplace for all those who provide healthcare in all forms at all places. We urge that the Central Government impose a law with stringent provisions towards the miscreants who currently indulge in violence against doctors and women with impunity and are hardly ever punished while the scars of their behaviour remain with Doctors and women, their families and friends for a lifetime. Amongst the actions to be taken immediately take include redesigning public and private spaces in healthcare institutes keeping women's safety in mind, providing robust, responsive and functional alarm, deterrence and support systems and providing basic facilities like clean duty rooms, functional toilets with doors which lock. Health care providers need to feel confident of their own safety to continue providing healthcare to our people.

 Dr. Jaydeep Tank President, FOGSI	 Dr. Sunita Tandulwadkar President Elect, FOGSI	 Dr. Hrishikesh D. Pai Immd. Pas President, FOGSI	 Dr. Madhuri Patel Secretary General, FOGSI
 Dr. Ajay Mane Vice President, FOGSI	 Dr. Charmila Ayyavoo Vice President, FOGSI	 Dr. Girija Wagh Vice President, FOGSI	 Dr. Janmejaya Mohapatra Vice President, FOGSI
Dr. Neerja Bhatla Vice President, FOGSI	Dr. Suvarna Khadilkar Deputy Secretary General, FOGSI	Dr. Parikshit Tank Treasurer, FOGSI	Dr. Niranjan Chavan Joint Treasurer, FOGSI
Dr. Kunal Doshi Joint Secretary, FOGSI			

CC:
Hon Members of Parliament
Hon Members of Legislative Assemblies
DG Police of States

1. <https://www.fokuskvinner.no/aktuelt/saker/what-causes-violence-against-women/>