

***Position Statement on “Violence against Women”
for FOGSI***

FOGSI recognizes that violence against women is a serious abuse of human rights besides being a public health issue. The violence commences even before birth with female foeticide and thereafter continues throughout life in various forms, which range from female infanticide, female genital mutilation, child marriage, dowry death, honour killing, acid-burning, trafficking, sexual abuse, domestic violence, gender discrimination, physical abuse in armed conflict and deliberate neglect of young girls and ageing women.

It needs to be stressed, that even though it is underreported, millions of women experience violence or are living with its consequences. As a leading Organization dedicated to women’s health, which includes physical, mental and sexual well being, FOGSI is extremely disturbed at the growing prevalence of violence against women.

Gender discrimination prevents optimal development and empowerment of women by depriving them of adequate nutrition, education and access to healthcare services. Gender violence leads to not only severe physical and mental health implications but also unwanted pregnancies, miscarriages, sexually transmitted infections including HIV / AIDS, adverse sex ratio in society and increased morbidity and mortality amongst women.

FOGSI is committed to empowering the youth by promoting sexual and reproductive health through education and advocacy. We believe that women should be made aware of their rights so as to make their own choices, should have access to health care services wherever they live, across the whole spectrum of needs and should be encouraged to be financially independent. As an Organization, we object to harmful traditional practices and improper use of modern technology. In India, as gynecologists, we must utilize every opportunity to empower women using various strategies, which will ultimately improve the status and health of women in India.