

March 12, 2024

New York, NY, USA

Solving Inequities in Women's Healthcare, A Statement of the Medical Women's International Association, the International Health Awareness Network and the American Medical Women's Association.

The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA), the International Health Awareness Network (IHAN) and the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) advocate for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. We emphasize that inequities in women's healthcare must be resolved to achieve these goals.

An official MWIA Statement (20 Dec 2023) describing health effects of and possible solutions to violence against women and girls was published on the Commission of the Status of Women website as Document E/CN.6/2024/NGO/151 and is accessible via <https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2024/NGO/151>

On March 12, 2024, MWIA, IHAN and AMWA co-sponsored a parallel event of the NGO CSW 68 Forum in New York City. We convened physicians and lawyers to discuss the adverse consequences of, and solutions for, violence against women and girls, poor access to evidence-based reproductive healthcare, and lack of recognition of sex and gender -based differences in disease.

We call for:

- Consideration of effects on women when public policies are developed.
- An end to violence against women and girls, greater investment in public education and evidence-based treatment of survivors of interpersonal violence.
- Education of healthcare providers, students of health professions, policymakers, and communities about violence against women, its impact on women and society, the location of treatment facilities and safe places, and trauma informed care.
- Education of healthcare professionals including those in training, on sex and gender differences in disease and the adverse consequences to patients when these differences are not recognized (misdiagnosis, delay in treatment, serious life-threatening illness).
- Government policies that commit to financial support for increasing the capacity of the healthcare system, education of healthcare providers and the community, intervention programs and programs to empower women economically.
- Laws and policies to increase access to reproductive healthcare services.
- Ratification by member states of a new Optional Protocol to CEDAW on violence against women and girls.
- Multistakeholder collaboration to achieve gender equity in healthcare.