



EUROPEAN MEDICAL ORGANISATIONS' JOINT STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST DOCTORS AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

The right to health is a fundamental pillar of human rights. It remains applicable in all circumstances and doctors have an ethical duty to ensure they treat the injured and sick.

European Medical Organisations reaffirm that physicians' safety at work is the basis of quality healthcare. European as well as international medical organisations observe that doctors and other health professionals, working in hospitals, general and private practice, are increasingly confronted with situations of violence, sometimes extreme, in their daily practice, outside any context of conflict.

European Medical Organisations are concerned that this worrying trend is contrary to international human rights and medical ethics. It may hinder or prevent the provision of care that must be protected as effectively as possible. It is urgent and capital to take concrete and urgent actions to protect European doctors from all forms of violence that occur during daily medical practice, be it physical, verbal and/or psychological. European Medical Organisations recognise the hugely negative impact violence has on the socio-psychological wellbeing of doctors and other health professionals, the care received by patients and its contribution to rising levels of burnout experienced by the health workers in their workplace.

European Medical Organisations call on governments and all stakeholders to show political commitment and to be aware of the urgent need to protect medical personnel in the performance of their work. We ask for the establishment of an effective reporting and assisting mechanism for victims across Europe, for the implementation of violence prevention programmes and for the enforcement of existing laws concerning violence against doctors and other health professionals in the workplace. We ask them to take all necessary measures to ensure access to quality care for all patients while protecting the freedom and safety of medical personnel and healthcare facilities.

European Medical Organisations commit to cooperating closely in the framework of the EMOs Joint Working group on violence against doctors and other health professionals under CEOM leadership, to ensure that the European medical profession is acting as one.

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