

**Intervention on provisional agenda item 12.3 - Draft global plan of action on violence  
69<sup>th</sup> WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

Speaker: Ms Zuzana Kusynová, from the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), the global organisation representing three million pharmacists worldwide.

We welcome the draft global plan of action on violence. Violence against women is a serious issue worldwide, including in high-income countries, and must be eliminated with the help of all stakeholders.

Pharmacies provide easy access to advice on all health issues. Pharmacists are often ranked as the most trusted health care professionals. The majority of pharmacists are women,<sup>1</sup> making dialogue with the victims of violence — who are often women as well — easier. Community pharmacists can offer a place where victims feel comfortable and supported to take first steps to seek advice and help with reporting domestic violence. Since pharmacists' activities do not only refer to health care, it can be easier for the victims to approach them.

For example, pharmacists in Germany launched a programme “Red Card against Domestic Violence” that raised awareness on this issue among German community pharmacists. In Spain the pharmacists association collaborated with the ministry of health on a programme for pharmacists to screen, detect and report cases of gender violence, and to sensitise the public to this issue.

As outlined in the action plan, violence against children is widespread and constitutes a violation of their human rights. Some pharmacy regulators require pharmacists to report suspected cases of child abuse.

These activities show that pharmacists are committed and in good position to contribute to stopping interpersonal violence, in particular against women and children.

I thank you for your attention.

---

<sup>1</sup> Available from: 2012 FIP Workforce Report