

Resolution on Supporting a Position Paper on Human Trafficking

WHEREAS studies have recognized that assistance to human trafficking victims by health care professionals (HCPs) in Canada is limited and uncoordinated (1)

WHEREAS several researchers, through their studies, have come to advocate for the recommendation that medical students be educated on the topic of human trafficking (2-13)

WHEREAS medical school curricula across Canada do not seem to be adequately addressing the topic of human trafficking

WHEREAS a study conducted at the University of Toronto Medical School reported that 94% of the surveyed students believed that they would be unlikely or only somewhat likely to encounter or identify a trafficked person in a Canadian clinical setting (3)

WHEREAS healthcare workers are some of the only professionals to come into contact with victims who are still in captivity (3, 13)

WHEREAS it is estimated that at least 28% of human trafficking victims come into contact with a healthcare professional (14)

WHEREAS the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) Global Health Program outlines 6 core competencies that medical students should possess upon graduation (15)

WHEREAS human trafficking relates to four of these competencies:

a) Health implications of travel, migration and displacement: victims of human trafficking are displaced from their communities;

b) Social and economic determinants of health: populations are made more vulnerable to human trafficking through poverty, racism, urbanization, and discriminatory markets in a competitive global economy;

c) Globalization of health and healthcare: the spread of both transplanetary and suprateritorial connections has created a global medical community in which human trafficking poses unique clinical challenges; and,

d) Human rights in healthcare: victims of human trafficking endure extreme and prolonged psychological, physical, and sexual trauma.

Be it resolved that the McMaster Medical Student Council (MMSC) support a position paper submission to the CFMS aiming to include in the curriculum of medical schools across Canada human trafficking statistics, validated screening methods, and potential interventions.

Be it resolved that the MMSC support the incorporation of such information into the McMaster curriculum.



Hrishikesh Suresh
MMSC President
Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine
McMaster University

Submitted by: Emma Herrington, c2018,

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